

## SMALL'S JOINTWEED

*Polygonella myriophylla* (Small) Horton

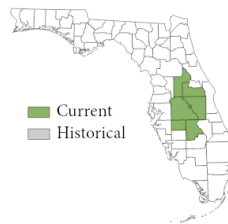
**Synonyms:** *Dentoceras myriophylla* Small

**Family:** Polygonaceae (buckwheat)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S3

**Legal Status:** US-Endangered FL-Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US-none+ FL-UPL



Gil Nelson



Billy B. Boothe

**Field Description:** Low **shrub** with sprawling, zigzag **branches**, rooting at nodes and forming low mats; branches with reddish-brown, cracked bark. **Leaves** tiny, needle-like, with **ocrea** (papery sheaths) surrounding the stems; **ocrea** without bristles. **Flowers** very small, with 5 showy, white sepals and no petals, in clusters at ends of erect branches.

**Similar Species:** Tall jointweed (*Polygonella gracilis*) is erect, unbranched, and leafless most of the year. October flower (*Polygonella polygama*) is also erect, although lower stems may be spreading. Large-flowered jointweed (*Polygonella robusta*) has bristly ocrea and large, pinkish flowers.

**Related Rare Species:** Large-leaved jointweed (*Polygonella macrophylla*), state-threatened, is a small, erect shrub with broad, spoon-shaped leaves found in Panhandle coastal scrub; its flowers may be red or white. Also see Florida jointweed

## Small's jointweed

*Polygonella myriophylla*

(*Polygonella basiramia*) in this guide.

**Habitat:** Open, sandy areas within scrub; mostly on white sands.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers and fruits all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to ridges of central FL.

**Conservation Status:** Scrub habitat has been greatly reduced, and fewer than 150 populations remain; many of these are protected in 10 parks and conservation areas.

**Protection and Management:** Small's jointweed requires large-scale natural disturbance, such as catastrophic fire, every 10 - 40 years, to create openings in scrub for seed germination.

**References:** Coile 2000, Hawkes and Menges 1996, Kral 1983, Lewis and Crawford 1995, Menges and Kohfeldt 1995, USFWS 1998, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.