DEVIL'S SHOESTRING

Tephrosia angustissima Shuttlw. ex Chapman

Synonyms: *Tephrosia angustissima* Shuttlw. ex Chapman var. *angustissima*

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: GX/SX

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL

No Image Available

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with straggling or arching **stems**, 8 - 32 inches long. **Leaves** compound with 11 - 17 opposite leaflets, 0.6 - 1.6 inches long. **Leaflets** 10-20 times longer than wide, lacking reticulate venation. **Flower** tiny, 0.25 - 0.4 inch long, white to dark pink, typically pea-shaped with a large erect banner petal, with a hairless style (visible with magnification). **Fruit** an oblong, flat pod, 1.2 - 1.6 inches long. Plant minutely strigose.

Similar Species: Devil's shoestring is the only hoary-pea species with a hairless style. Coastal hoary-pea (*Tephrosia angustissima* var. *curtissii)* has narrower leaves with reticulate venation, and rockland hoary-pea (*Tephrosia angustissima* var. *corallicola)* is finely villous or canescent. Florida hoarypea (*Tephrosia florida*), common in Florida, has a barbed style, 7 - 13 leaflets, and a larger flower (about 0.5 inch long).

Related Rare Species: This is one of three varieties of narrowleaf hoary-pea, all endangered. Rockland hoary-pea (var. *corallicola*) is finely hairy throughout. Coastal hoary-pea (var. *curtissii*) has few scattered hairs and conspicuous veins on the leaflets.

Habitat: Pine rocklands.

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to FL. Devil's shoestring hoarypea was known from Dade County but has not been seen in decades.

Conservation Status: Devil's shoestring is probably extirpated.

Protection and Management: Protect coastal and rockland habitats from development and restore pine rocklands. Use fire to maintain a mosaic of rockland habitats. Re-introduce plants to historic sites. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Isely 1990, Wunderlin 1998, Wunder-lin and Hansen 2000a.