

CARTER'S WAREA

Warea carteri Small

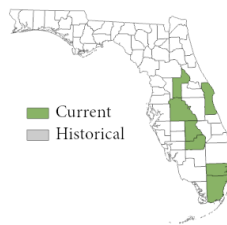
Synonyms: none

Family: Brassicaceae (mustard)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-Endangered FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-none



Field Description: Annual **herb** with many slender, branching stems, up to 40 inches tall, forming a rounded crown. **Leaves** to 2 inches long near the base of the stem, decreasing upwards to tiny bracts; alternate, pale yellow-green, with wedge-shaped bases, rounded tips, and entire margins; lower leaves shed by flowering time. **Flower clusters** numerous, rounded, with up to 60 flowers. **Flowers** about 0.5 inch wide, white, with 4 paddle-shaped petals and 6 long stamens. **Fruit** up to 2.5 inches long, in clusters of narrow, down-curving pods that split lengthwise.

Similar Species: Wedge-leaf warea (*Warea cuneifolia*) and sessile-leaf warea (*Warea sessilifolia*) occur only in the Panhandle. Clammyweed (*Polanisia tenuifolia*) resembles Carter's mustard at the end of the growing season, except it has single, upturned pods in the leaf axils. The flowers and fruit of the common garden spiderflower (*Cleome hassleriana*) resemble Carter's warea's although they are much larger.

Related Rare Species: See clasping warea (*Warea amplexifolia*), whose range slightly overlaps Carter's mustard, in this guide.

Habitat: Sandhill, scrubby flatwoods, inland and coastal scrub.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to south and central FL.

Conservation Status: Carter's mustard appears only after fire, making population estimates difficult. Large populations are known in 3 or 4 managed areas.

Protection and Management: Protect privately owned sandhill and scrub by purchase or conservation easement. Manage sites with prescribed fire, and prevent trampling and ORV use. Eradicate invasive exotic grass species.

References: Coile 2000, Kral 1983, USFWS 1996, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.