# Assessment of The Federally Endangered Small's Milkpea (*Galactia smallii*) and Candidate Sand Flax (*Linum arenicola*) at The Homestead Air Reserve Base, Homestead, Florida

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#### List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Homestead Air Reserve Base **HARB** HAFB Homestead Air Force Base **ESA Endangered Species Act** 

Standard Error SE **Standard Deviation** SD FID Feature Identification

Environmental Systems Research Institute **ESRI** 

Polyvinyl Chloride PVC

Meter(s)

 $\frac{m}{m^2}$ Square Meter(s) Centimeter(s) cm

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#### Introduction

The Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) is located in Miami-Dade County in southern Florida. The cantonment covers approximately 1,953 acres and is surrounded by agricultural lands to the northeast, east and south and by residential housing developments to the northwest and west of HARB.

Pine rocklands once dominated south Florida's coastal ridge. Pine rocklands are savanna-like forests dominated by a single canopy tree, slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), with a diverse hardwood and palm subcanopy. A rich herbaceous layer contains many endemic species. The pine rockland habitat is considered a fire climax community. Fire helps maintains pine rockland plant communities by controlling the amount of vertical structure, invasion and growth of hardwoods, species composition, and allows light to reach the understory and herbaceous plants. Anthropogenic habitat destruction has resulted in the loss of much of this habitat leaving only remnant patches of habitat making it one of the rarest habitats in the world.

In Miami-Dade County, the pine rocklands are associated with the Miami Rock Ridge, a formation of oolitic limestone. Pine rocklands occur on relatively flat limestone rock that is at or near the surface. Soils often accumulate in depressions and rock cavities and consist of sand, marl, and organic material.

The HAFB (Homestead Air Force Base) was built on the Miami Rock Ridge. The HARB (a portion of the original HAFB) contains some areas of the existing pine rockland fragments that could have populations of federally endangered species. The survey of the HARB cantonment area revealing the presence of two rare plant species, Small's milkpea (*Galactia smallii*) which is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and sand flax (*Linum arenicola*) which is a candidate for listing under the ESA. These species were found in many parts of HARB, at varying densities. The two species were growing in relictual pine rockland habitats that had formerly been cleared for the construction of the air base.

#### **Methods**

The scope of this project was to perform a baseline assessment of the Federally endangered Small's milkpea and federal candidate sand flax on the approximately 1000 acres of modified pine rockland habitat at the time of the study. The boundaries and polygons for HARB were obtained as ESRI ArcMap shape files from Christopher Mareska, GIS specialist. Polygons were numbered according to their feature identification (FID), which were created and labeled within ArcMap prior to obtaining the shapefiles and were used as references for our survey areas. The polygons are used solely for reference purposes which will enable land managers to find the areas were populations of Small's milkpea and sand flax are located. The entire parcel was walked to determine suitable habitat and to identify population locations.

Following the initial surveys to determine where the populations of Small's milkpea and sand flax were located, we returned to HARB to quantify the densities of the different populations. In areas where the populations were small (less than 10 meters (m) x 10 m), randomly placed 1 m x 1 m portable plots made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) were utilized within the population of plants to determine population size. In larger areas (greater than or equal to 10 m x 10 m), each species was quantified (Small's milkpea and sand flax) using randomly placed belt transects 1 m x 10 m up to 1 m x 50 m. Estimates of total population densities were derived from these data.

The quality of habitat for each of the polygons where either Small's milkpea and/or sand flax were found was determined. Habitat quality was recorded as poor, medium, or high. This was a qualitative assessment based on previous experience The Institution for Regional Conservation has had from working in various pine rockland ecosystems. Factors that were considered in assessing habitat quality were dominance of pine rockland plant species versus exotic or native weedy plant species (indicating a degraded natural habitat) and diversity of pine rockland plant species. The three habitat classes are defined as follows:

- <u>Poor quality habitat</u>: dominated by the exotic grasses St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) and Mascarene templegrass (*Zoysia tenuifolia*), which were originally planted as turf grasses on the base.
- <u>Medium quality habitat</u>: low dominance of pine rockland species with native weedy plants and smaller amounts of exotic grasses (St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass)
- <u>High quality habitat</u>: high dominance of endemic pine rockland species and other native species, lacking exotic grasses.

It should, however, be noted that Small's milkpea is often found growing in high densities within areas dominated by the exotic grass Mascarene templegrass. As this is an exotic grass species, this habitat is recorded as poor despite high densities of Small's milkpea. These turf grasses are exotic grasses which do not occur naturally within pine rockland ecosystems, and have an overall negative effect on the quality of the habitat.

Populations of Small's milkpea and sand flax, within the larger polygons, were created from data generated during the initial surveys and density quantifications. A trace density of either Small's milkpea and sand flax was determined when a species found during initial surveys was not found when quantifying the plants. In one instance where Small's milkpea was found in the initial survey, we returned to find the entire area freshly re-sodded with St. Augustine grass. Sand flax is a small thin plant, which can be very difficult to locate without its flower, therefore even though it may have been found during the initial survey, re-locating the plant may not be possible in all instances (especially in areas of very low abundance).

#### Results

During the surveys no other species considered as Endangered, Threatened, or Candidates by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were found other than Small's milkpea and sand flax. A total of 24 species listed by the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as Endangered, Threatened, or Commercially Exploited were found on the property (Table 1). These species are typical components of pine rocklands throughout southern Florida. Lists of all other native and exotic species (Table 2 and 3 respectively) are provided as a

reference for species mentioned in the results section of this report. The United States Department of Agriculture was referenced for plant listings.

Table 1: State-listed Endangered, Threatened, and Commercially Exploited Plant Species found on Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing
Angadenia berteroi	Pineland golden trumpet	Threatened
Bletia purpurea	Pinepink	Threatened
Byrsonima lucida	Locust berry	Threatened
Chaptalia albicans	White sunbonnets	Threatened
Coccothrinax argentata	Florida silver palm	Threatened
Crossopetalum ilicifolium	Quail berry	Threatened
Cynanchum blodgettii	Blodgett's swallowwort	Threatened
Galactia Smallii	Small's milkpea	Endangered
Ipomoea microdactyla	Man-in-the-ground	Endangered
Jacquemontia curtisii	Pineland cluster vine	Threatened
Lantana depressa	Rockland shrub verbena	Endangered
Linum arenicola	Sand flax	Endangered
Melanthera parvifolia	Pineland black anthers	Threatened
Odontosoria clavata	Wedgelet fern	Endangered
Phyla stoechadifolia	Southern fogfruit	Endangered
Psidium longipes	Long stalked stopper	Threatened
Pteris bahamensis	Bahama ladder brake	Threatened
Rhynchosia parvifolia	Small-leaf snoutbean	Threatened
Scutellaria havanensis	Havana scullcap	Endangered
Selaginella armata var. eatonii	Eaton's spike-moss	Endangered
Senna mexicana var. chapmanii	Bahama senna	Threatened
Smilax havanensis	Everglades greenbrier	Threatened
Spermacoce terminalis	Everglades false buttonweed	Threatened
Stylosanthes calcicola	Everglades key pencilflower	Endangered
Tetrazygia bicolor	West Indian-lilac	Threatened

Table 2: List of common native species encountered

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing
Acalypha chamaedrifolia	Three-seeded mercury	Native
Andropogon longiberbi	Hairy bluestem	Native
Anemia adiantifolia	Pine fern	Native
Aristida purpurascens	Arrowfeather threeawn	Native
Bidens alba var. radiata	Spanish-needles	Native
Centrosema virginianum	Spurred butterfly-pea	Native
Crotolaria pumila	Low rattlebox	Native
Dyschoriste angusta	Rockland twinflower	Native
Eragrostis elliottii	Elliott's love grass	Native
Ernodea littoralis	Beach-creeper	Native
Eustachys petraea	Common fingergrass	Native
Flaveria linearis	Narrowleaf yellowtops	Native
Galactia volubilis	Downy milkpea	Native
Heliotropium polyphyllum	Pineland heliotrope	Native
Indigofera miniata var. florida	Florida coastal indigo	Native
Morinda royoc	Yellowroot	Native
Muhlenbergia capillaris	Muhlygrass	Native
Paspalum caespitosum	Blue paspalum	Native
Paspalum setaceum	Thin paspalum	Native
Phyla nodiflora	Frogfruit	Native
Phyllanthus pentaphyllus var.	Florida five-petalled	
floridanus	leafflower	Native
Rhynchospora colorata	Starrush whitetop	Native
Rhynchospora floridensis	Florida whitetop	Native
Schizachyrium gracile	Wire bluestem	Native
Schizachyrium rhizomatum	Rhizomatous bluestem	Native
Schizachyrium sanguineum	Crimson bluestem	Native
Setaria parviflora	Knotroot foxtail	Native
Sida acuta	Common wireweed	Native
Stachytarpheta jamaicensis	Blue porterweed	Native
Vernonia blodgettii	Florida ironweed	Native
Vigna luteola	Cow-pea	Native

Table 3: List of common exotic species encountered

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing
Casuarina equisetifolia	Australian pine	Exotic
Eremochloa ophiuroides	Centipede grass	Exotic
Fimbristylis cymosa	Hurricane sedge	Exotic
Paspalum notatum	Bahiagrass	Exotic
Pteris vittata	China brake	Exotic
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazilian peppertree	Exotic
Stenotaphrum secundatum	St. Augustine grass	Exotic
Wedelia trilobata	Creeping wedelia	Exotic
	Mascarene	
Zoysia tenuifolia	templegrass	Exotic

A total of 56 populations of Small's milkpea were mapped and quantified. Small's milkpea was found in varying quantities throughout the base with the lowest average density of 0.008/ square meter (m<sup>2</sup>) and highest density of 3.12/ m<sup>2</sup>. The average density is  $0.379 \pm 0.051$  standard error (SE)/m<sup>2</sup>. The total population on HARB is estimated at  $404,779\pm7,442$  standard deviation (SD).

Fewer populations of sand flax were found on HARB. Nineteen populations were found with varying average densities; the lowest density 0.006/ m<sup>2</sup> and the highest 2.0/ m<sup>2</sup>. The average density of sand flax is  $0.213 \pm 0.058$  (SE)/m<sup>2</sup>. The population estimate for sand flax on HARB is estimated at  $31,399\pm2,271$  (SD) plants.

Reference polygons with FID numbers are highlighted in beige (Figures 2-9) and only polygons containing small's milkpea and sand flax are discussed in the results. Within each polygon, Small's milkpea and sand flax populations are outlined, numbered, and shaded purple for Small's milkpea and yellow for sand flax. Habitat descriptions are describing entire Polygons and are not specific to individual populations unless otherwise stated.

**Polygon 0. (Figure 2)** Area: 14.3 acres Small's milkpea: 3,132 sand flax: 3,985

Habitat description: Medium quality habitat along the northern and western boundary. The interior of the polygon contains some small populations of Small's milkpea. Polygon 0 has native grasses (*Schizachyrium sanguineum*, *Paspalum caespitosum*) intermingled with Mascarene templegrass. Other native species associated with this polygon are *Stylosanthes calcicola*, *Jacquemontia curtisii*, *Psidium longipes*, *Scutellaria havanensis*, *Spermacoce terminalis*, *Tetrazygia bicolor*.

**Management recommendations**: continue mowing height and frequency; managing the height of weed whacking; spot treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 10.				
Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
0	1.141	0.462	0.45	2,063
1	0.316	0.128	0.30	384
2	0.141	0.057	0.03	18
3	0.011	0.005	0.07	3
4	0.007	0.003	0.26	7
5	0.008	0.003	0.15	5
159	1.140	0.461	0.14	646
6	0.007	0.003	0.20	6
			Total	3,132
Figure 27. sand flax populations				
0	1.13	0.458	0.75	3,439
30	1.18	0.481	0.11	545
			Total	3,985

**Polygon 6. (Figure 2)** Area: 1.4 acres Small's milkpea: 240 sand flax: Trace

**Habitat description:** A narrow band of medium quality habitat. Sand flax occurs as a trace in this polygon. Other plants found are St. Augustine, *Psidium longipes, Scutellaria havanensis, Smilax havanensis, Pteris bahamensis, Crossopetalum ilicifolium, Lantana depressa, Angadenia berteroi, Spermacoce terminalis.* 

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing frequency. St. Augustine is not yet growing within the populations of Small's milkpea and sand flax and should therefore be kept from encroaching into the areas containing Small's milkpea and sand flax.

Figure 10.				
Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
7	0.148	0.060	0.40	240
			Total	240

**Polygon 7. (Figure 2)** Area: 8.8 acres Small's milkpea: 347 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** An area of poor quality habitat dominated by the exotic Mascarene templegrass, with two small populations of Small's milkpea and a larger population north of the tennis courts.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 11.

Small's milkpea			<b>Density</b>	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
15	0.119	0.048	0.09	43
16	0.295	0.119	0.25	298
17	0.016	0.006	0.08	5
			Total	347

**Polygon 99.** (**Figure 3**) *Area:* 7.8 *acres* Small's milkpea: 2,366 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Area with poor quality habitat dominated by Mascarene templegrass. Population 22 was covered over with St. Augustine sod and no plants were found when quantifying the population.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Prevent the spread of St. Augustine into the populations as there are large patches to the south and west of the Small's milkpea.

Figure 12.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
populations 22	0.194	0.079	per m	Delisity
23	1.193	0.483	0.49	2,366
			Total	2,366

**Polygon 101. (Figure 3)** Area: 7.8 acres Small's milkpea: 2,391 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. Habitat dominated by Mascarene templegrass with some native grasses, *Schizachyrium sanguineum*, *Schizachyrium gracile* and *Paspalum* spp. The population has high densities of Small's milkpea. This polygon has the potential for expansion of the Small's milkpea population throughout the area. Although the extent of population was 0.5 acres it could expand throughout this polygon. Other species found are *Anemia adiantifolia*, *Chaptalia albicans*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat exotic grasses.

Figure 12.

Small's milkpea			<b>Density</b>	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
24	0.568	0.230	1.04	2,391
			Total	2,391

Habitat description: The habitat quality is medium. A very small population of Small's milkpea occurs in this polygon. Small's milkpea could potentially grow throughout this polygon and it could potentially be an area where sand flax could grow on the exposed limestone that traverse this polygon. This polygon has *Jacquemontia curtisii*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Scutellaria havanensis*, Mascarene templegrass, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, *Phyllanthus pentaphyllus var. floridanus*, *Acalypha chamaedrifolia*, *Rhynchospora floridensis*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Heliotropium polyphyllum*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat exotic grasses.

Figure 10.				
Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
18	0.039	0.016	0.17	27
			Total	27

**Polygon 112. (Figure 2)** Area: 2.4 acres Small's milkpea: 2,902 sand flax: 123

Habitat description: Variable quality habitat. The peripheral edges have St. Augustine sod but improves towards the center of the polygon with medium quality habitat. Dominated by Mascarene templegrass with some native grasses *Paspalum caespitosum* and *Schizachyrium* spp. Other species in the polygon *Psidium longipes*, *Angadenia berteroi*, *Scutellaria havanensis*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, sand flax, *Spermacoce terminalis*, *Pteris bahamensis*, *Smilax havanensis*, *Jacquemontia curtisii*, *Galactia volubilis*, *Phyla stoechadifolia*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Eliminate spreading of St. Augustine sod and Treat exotic grasses.. Weed whacking the canal edge down to the ground is not advisable and could potentially reduce the sand flax population.

Figure 10.				
Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
19	1.793	0.725	0.40	2,902
			Total	2,902
Figure 27.				
sand flax				
5	0.146	0.059	0.07	43
6	0.493	0.199	0.04	80
			Total	123

**Polygon 126.** (Figure 2) Area: 7.9 acres Small's milkpea: 618 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat along the periphery where St. Augustine is dominant around structures and center of this polygon is dominated by Mascarene templegrass. Other species found include *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis and Setaria parviflora*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Eliminate spreading of St. Augustine sod and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 12.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
20	0.143	0.058	0.13	77
21	0.558	0.226	0.24	542
			Total	618

**Polygon 191.** (**Figure 3**) *Area: 1.9 acres* Small's milkpea: 68 sand flax: Trace

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat along the periphery and around structures where St. Augustine is dominant, to medium quality habitat towards the center and west of the polygon. Small's milkpea is found growing in Mascarene templegrass with some native grasses *Paspalum spp.* and *Schizachyrium* spp.

**Management recommendations**: Continue moving height and frequency. Eliminate spreading of St. Augustine sod and treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 25.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
25	0.063	0.026	0.27	68
			Total	68

**Polygon 194**. (**Figure 4**) Area: 5.3 acres Small's milkpea: 2,711 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. Small's milkpea growing in Mascarene templegrass some native grasses *Paspalum spp.* and *Schizachyrium* spp. This population could expand from its current location throughout the polygon. Other species found *Chaptalia albicans*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat exotic Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 25.

Small's milkpea			<b>Density</b>	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
27	0.799	0.323	0.64	2,700
28	0.028	0.011	0.06	7
29	0.019	0.008	0.05	4
			Total	2,711

**Polygon 200**. (Figure 2) Area: 2.9 acres Small's milkpea: 1,848 sand flax: 190

Habitat description: Medium quality habitat. The interior of the polygon contains populations of Small's milkpea and sparse populations of sand flax. The edges of the canal hold populations of sand flax. The polygon is dominated by native grasses (Schizachyrium sanguineum, Paspalum caespitosum) and Mascarene templegrass. Other species found are; Psidium longipes, Angadenia berteroi, Scutellaria havanensis, Crossopetalum ilicifolium, Spermacoce terminalis, Pteris bahamensis, Vernonia blodgettii, Galactia volubilis, Selaginella armata var. eatonii, Odontosoria clavata, Anemia adiantifolia, Pteris bahamensis, Smilax havanensis, Bletia purpurea.

Management recommendations: Continue mowing height and frequency. Weed whacking the canal edge down to the ground or too frequently is not advisable and could potentially reduce the sand flax population. Treat Mascarene templegrass

Figure 10.

118410101				
Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
8	1.825	0.739	0.25	1,848
			Total	1,848
Figure 27. sand flax populations				
31	0.189	0.076	0.15	111
32	0.071	0.029	0.16	46
33	0.989	0.4	0.01	33
			Total	190

**Polygon 201**. (**Figure 2**) *Area: 11.3 acres* Small's milkpea: 9,694 sand flax: 3,379

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. The north and western edges of the polygon contains populations of Small's milkpea and populations of sand flax. The edges of the canals are high quality habitat for sand flax due to the scarcity of exotic grasses and patchiness of exposed rock. The polygon has native grasses (*Schizachyrium* spp. and *Paspalum* spp.) and Mascarene templegrass. Other species found are; *Casuarina* 

equisetifolia, Angadenia berteroi, Psidium longipes, Chaptalia albicans, Pteris bahamensis, Smilax havanensis, Stylosanthes calcicola, Crossopetalum ilicifolium, Vernonia blodgettii, Byrsonima lucida, Jacquemontia curtisii, Spermacoce terminalis, Wedelia trilobata, Odontosoria clavata, Selaginella armata var. depressa, Scutallaria havanensis.

Management recommendations: Continue mowing height and frequency. Managing the timing of mowing and weed whacking when sand flax is not flowering and setting seed would help this population. Weed whacking the canal edge down to the ground or too frequently is not advisable and could potentially reduce the sand flax population. Remove the exotic *Casuarina equisetifolia*. Currently the HARB ground maintenance subcontractor stores equipment at the north west corner this is very close to good quality sand flax habitat and should perhaps be moved to a different area to avoid any accidental damage to this population. Spot treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 13.
------------

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
8	1.825	0.739	1.01	7,460
9	0.021	0.008	0.03	3
11	1.325	0.536	0.39	2,090
12	0.248	0.100	0.39	140
			Total	9,694
Figure 27.				
sand flax				
populations				
34	0.918	0.371	0.82	3,046
1	2.055	0.832	0.04	333
			Total	3,379

**Polygon 202. (Figure 2)** Area: 0.75 acres Small's milkpea: 11 sand flax: 944

Habitat description: Medium quality habitat. A small patch of Small's milkpea grows it the south east corner of the polygon. Sand flax is growing throughout this polygon with high densities near the canal edge. Other species; Angadenia berteroi, Psidium longipes, Pteris bahamensis, Chaptalia albicans, Smilax havanensis, Byrsonima lucida, Tetrazygia bicolor, Senna mexicana var. chapmanii, Crotolaria linearis, Mascarene templegrass. Management recommendations: Continue mowing height and frequency. Weed whacking the canal edge down to the ground or too frequently is not advisable and could potentially reduce the sand flax population. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 13.				
Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
10	0.013	0.005	0.22	11
			Total	11
Figure 27. sand flax populations	0.720	0.205	0.22	044
2	0.729	0.295	0.32	944
			Total	944

**Polygon 203. (Figures 2 and 5)** Area: 7.6 acres Small's milkpea: 58 sand flax: 85

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. Polygon 203 has areas of Mascarene templegrass with native grasses (*Schizachyrium* spp. and *Paspalum* spp.). Other species include; *Phyla stoechadifolia*, *Trema lamarkiana*, *Angadenia berteroi*, and the exotic *Casuarina equisetifolia*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Weed whacking the canal edge down to the ground or too frequently is not advisable. Remove the exotic *Casuarina equisetifolia* and spot treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 14.				
Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
13	0.229	0.093	0.06	58
			Total	58
Figure 28.				
sand flax				
populations				
3	0.101	0.041	0.20	82
4	0.010	0.004	0.07	3
			Total	85

**Polygon 204. (Figures 4 and 5)** Area: 3.1 acres Small's milkpea: 80 sand flax: 194

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. There is a small population of Small's milkpea. This polygon is intermingled with *Paspalum caespitosum*, *Paspalum setaceum*, *Schizachyrium sanguineum* and the exotic Mascarene templegrass. *Chaptalia albicans* are also found in the polygon.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Spot treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 16.				
Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
46	0.004	0.002	0.35	6
48	0.073	0.029	0.25	74
			Total	80
Figure 29 sand flax populations				
7	0.224	0.090	0.10	90
8	0.073	0.030	0.20	59
10	0.051	0.021	0.15	31
11	0.013	0.005	0.09	5
12	0.156	0.063	0.01	6
13	0.008	0.003	0.06	2
			Total	194

**Polygon 205**. (**Figure 5**) *Area: 4.5 acres* Small's milkpea: 110 sand flax: 898

Figure 16

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. Strong populations of sand flax cover most of this polygon. Several small population of Small's milkpea grow throughout the area. This polygon is intermingled with *Paspalum caespitosum*, *Paspalum setaceum*, *Schizachyrium sanguineum* and the exotic Mascarene templegrass. *Chaptalia albicans*, *Stylosanthes calcicola* are also found in the polygon.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Spot treat Mascarene templegrass.

rigure 10.				
Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
49	0.072	0.029	0.35	102
50	0.009	0.004	0.13	5
160	0.003	0.001	0.26	3
			Total	110
Figure 29.				
sand flax				
populations				
15	1.090	0.444	0.10	444

37	0.550	0.255	0.20	445
16	0.036	0.015	0.06	9
		-	Total	898

**Polygon 206.** (**Figure 4**) *Area: 31.7 acres* Small's milkpea: 44,284 sand flax: 13,074

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. Both species are found throughout the polygon. Polygon 206 is dominated by *Paspalum caespitosum*, *Paspalum setaceum*, *Schizachyrium sanguineum* with sparse areas of exotic Mascarene templegrass. Small areas with St. Augustine sod. Other species found here are; *Ipomoea microdactyla*, *Spermacoce terminalis*, *Scutellaria havanensis*, *Jacquemontia curtisii*, *Chaptalia albicans*, *Psidium longipes*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Stylosanthes calcicola*, and *Angadenia berteroi*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Managing the height of weed whacking will help sand flax population. Spot treat Mascarene templegrass.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
158	29.300	11.857	0.37	44,267
47	0.033	0.013	0.13	17
			Total	44,284
Figure 29. sand flax populations				
14	0.039	0.016	0.02	3
29	26.917	10.893	0.12	13,071
			Total	13,074

**Polygon 207**. (**Figure 4**) Area: 1.7 acres Small's milkpea: 8 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Populations are close to the road in areas with the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Though small, these populations should persist and grow. Other plants found are; *Angadenia berteroi*, and *Spermacoce terminalis*. **Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 20.

Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density

41	0.010	0.004	0.05	2
42	0.011	0.004	0.14	6
		-	Γotal	8

**Polygon 208.** (Figure 4) Area: 1.4 acres Small's milkpea: 79 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Several low density populations throughout the polygon associated with the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Though small, these populations should persist and grow.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 20.

Small's milkpea			Density	
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Density</b>
38	0.124	0.050	0.14	70
39	0.009	0.004	0.14	5
40	0.009	0.004	0.06	2
43	0.003	0.001	0.15	2
			Total	79

**Polygon 209.** (Figure 4) Area: 1.1 acres Small's milkpea: 86 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Two low density populations associated with the exotic Mascarene templegrass. These small populations should persist and grow. *Spermacoce terminalis* is also found in this polygon.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 20.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
44	0.003	0.001	0.75	8
45	0.055	0.022	0.35	78
			Total	86

**Polygon 210**. (**Figure 4**) Area: 1.5 acres Small's milkpea: 39 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Three small populations found close to the canal associated with the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Other plants found are; *Pteris bahamensis*, and *Selaginella armata* var. *eatonii*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. St. Augustine sod is found at several locations in the polygon 210 and could pose a threat to Small's milkpea population 35. Treat St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 15.

Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
35	0.020	0.008	0.27	22
36	0.012	0.005	0.25	12
37	0.005	0.002	0.26	5
			Total	39

**Polygon 211**. (**Figure 4**) Area: 1.4 acres Small's milkpea: 919 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Polygon 211 is mostly Mascarene templegrass with some native grasses (*Schizachyrium* spp. and *Paspalum* spp.) and sparse St. Augustine sod.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 15.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
26	0.379	0.153	0.60	919
			Total	919

**Polygon 212.** (Figure 5) Area: 0.2 acres Small's milkpea: 0 sand flax: 12

Habitat description: Medium quality habitat. This is a small population of sand flax but it should persist and grow as it is surrounded by other populations in adjacent polygons. This polygon is intermingled with *Paspalum caespitosum*, *Paspalum setaceum*, *Schizachyrium sanguineum* and the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Other plants found; *Psidium longipes*, *Angadenia berteroi*, *Scutellaria havanensis*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Spermacoce terminalis*, *Phyla stoechadifolia*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Scutelaria havanensis*, and *Jacquemontia curtisii*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 29.

sand flax			Density	Estimated
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
9	0.043	0.017	0.07	12

Total 12

**Polygon 213**. (**Figure 5**) *Area: 113.4 acres* 

Small's milkpea: 172,552 sand flax: 583

Habitat description: Varied habitat quality, mostly poor habitat, though in the south of the polygon the habitat is classified as medium. The polygon is mostly dominated with the exotic Mascarene templegrass but the periphery also has natives *Paspalum caespitosum*, *Paspalum setaceum*, *Schizachyrium sanguineum*. Several small scattered populations of sand flax occur to the north and one larger population to the north east of the polygon. All populations have low densities of sand flax. The whole of Polygon 213 is potential habitat for Small's milkpea except in areas with St. Augustine sod often associated with the structures in this polygon. Densities of Small's milkpea do vary throughout the polygon but there are large populations. Other plants found; *Pteris bahamensis*, *Spermacoce terminalis*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Cynanchum blodgettii*, *Byrsonima lucida*, *Chaptalia albicans*, *Psidium longipes*, *Angadenia berteroi*, *Smilax havanensis*, *Jacquemontia curtisii*, *Bletia purpurea*, *Stylosanthes calcicola*, *Ipomoea microdactyla*, *Tetrazygia bicolor*, *Selaginella armata var. eatonii*, *Pteris vittata*, *Senna mexicana var. chapmanii*, *Ernodea littoralis*, *Vernonia blodgettii*, and *Bletia purpurea*.

Management recommendations: Continue mowing height and frequency. Eliminate

Management recommendations: Continue mowing height and frequency. Eliminate spreading of St. Augustine sod. Managing the height of weed whacking for sand flax. Due to the high amount of pine rockland species this is a good area to preserve however there are also large areas of the exotic Mascarene templegrass and St. Augustine sod, and given the use of the land (ammunition storage) it could be difficult to restore. Treat St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 16.

0				
Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
55	8.190	3.315	0.39	12,761
56	0.021	0.008	0.52	43
57	1.296	0.525	0.20	1,049
58	2.037	0.824	0.38	3,133
59	5.873	2.377	0.90	21,390
60	3.364	1.361	0.22	2,995
61	0.061	0.024	0.24	59
62	0.036	0.015	0.34	50
63	2.853	1.155	0.20	2,309
64	0.016	0.006	1.51	97
65	7.598	3.075	0.85	26,137
68	0.048	0.020	0.37	72
74	0.015	0.006	0.18	11
76	7.913	3.202	0.70	22,416

77	4.822	1.951	0.59	11,513
78	0.644	0.260	0.31	808
79	0.018	0.007	1.45	104
80	3.327	1.346	0.91	12,251
81	0.120	0.049	1.12	543
86	6.225	2.519	1.54	38,797
87	0.051	0.021	0.63	130
88	4.217	1.707	0.81	13,824
89	1.467	0.594	0.30	1,781
90	0.275	0.111	0.25	278
			Total	172,552
Figure 29.				
sand flax				
populations				
17	0.209	0.085	0.05	45
18	0.542	0.219	0.03	65
19	0.384	0.156	0.02	29
23	2.741	1.109	0.04	444
			Total	583

**Polygon 214**. (**Figure 5 and 6**) Area: 16.9 acres Small's milkpea: 875 sand flax: 2

Habitat description: Poor quality habitat. Only the northern part of Polygon 214 is suitable for Small's milkpea and sand flax. A very small population of sand flax exists in the northern part of the polygon while Small's milkpea is found sparsely but scattered throughout this area. Ground cover is a mixture of *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, *Eragrostis elliottii*, *Andropogon longiberbis*, *Aristida purpurascens*, and Mascarene templegrass. Other species found; *Chaptalia albicans*, *Vernonia blodgettii*, *Cyanchum blodgettii*, *Senna mexicana var. chapmanii*, *Angadenia berteroi*, *Phyla nodiflora*, and *Pteris bahamensis*.

Management recommendations: Continue mowing height and frequency. Prevent the spread of shrubs and canopy trees from spreading further into the north of this polygon. Spot treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 17. Small's milkpea **Density Estimated** populations **Acres Hectares** per m<sup>2</sup> **Density** 92 0.24 875 0.901 0.365 875 Total Figure 32.

sand flax **populations** 

35	0.006	0.003	0.08	2
			Total	2

**Polygon 216**. (**Figure 5 and 6**) *Area: 7.2 acres* Small's milkpea: 813 sand flax: Trace

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. This polygon has a mixture of *Muhlenbergia capillaris, Eragrostis elliottii, Andropogon longiberbis, Aristida purpurascens*, and the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Other species found; *Pteris bahamensis, Chaptalia albicans*, and *Vernonia blodgettii*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 17.

Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m²	Density
91	1.004	0.406	0.20	813
			Total	813

**Polygon 226.** (Figure 5) Area: 9.9 acres Small's milkpea: 40,112 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Small's milkpea associated with the exotic Mascarene templegrass and occurs in high densities. Other species also found are *Chaptalia albicans*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. St. Augustine grows around the storage areas and should be kept from expanding into the Small's milkpea population. Treat St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 16.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
66	7.288	2.949	1.36	40,112
			Total	40,112

**Polygon 227.** (Figure 5) Area: 14 acres Small's milkpea: 17,334 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Small's milkpea associated with the exotic Mascarene templegrass. The majority of the polygon has potential for Small's milkpea to occur. Other species also found are; *Chaptalia albicans, Angadenia berteroi, Psidium longipes, Spermacoce terminalis*, and *Pteris bahamensis*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. St. Augustine grows around the storage areas and should be kept from expanding into the Small's milkpea population. Treat St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 16.				
Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
67	7.260	2.938	0.59	17,334
			Total	17,334

**Polygon 228**. (**Figure 4**) *Area: 5.8 acres* Small's milkpea: 8,056 sand flax: 1,406

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. This polygon has a mixture of native grasses *Schizachyrium sanguineum*, *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, *Aristida purpurascens*, *Andropogon longiberbis*, *Paspalum caespitosum* and the exotic Mascarene templegrass and *Eremochloa ophiuroides*. Other species found in this polygon are *Ipomoea microdactyla*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Stylosanthes calcicola*, *Chaptalia albicans*, *Jacquemontia curtisii*, and *Scutellaria havanensis*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 16. Small's milkpea populations	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
51	3.828	1.549	0.52	8,056
			Total	8,056
Figure 29. sand flax populations 20	4.342	1.757	0.08 Total	1,406 1,406

**Polygon 229**. (**Figure 4**) *Area: 3.3 acres* Small's milkpea: 2,363 sand flax: 0

Habitat description: Varied habitat with medium habitat in the south and poor habitat in the North of the polygon. There is a mixture native grasses *Schizachyrium sanguineum*, *Aristida purpurascens*, *Andropogon longiberbis*, *Paspalum caespitosum* and the exotic Mascarene templegrass and *Eremochloa ophiuroides* in the southern part of the polygon. In the northern part of the polygon Mascarene templegrass becomes more dominant. Management recommendations: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 20.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
52	2.246	0.909	0.26	2,363
			Total	2,363

**Polygon 230**. (Figure 4) Area: 1.7 acres Small's milkpea: 2,392 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat for both Small's milkpea and sand flax. Polygon 230 is dominated by Mascarene templegrass.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Control and treat any spreading of exotic St. Augustine sod and *Wedelia trilobata* which is an excluder and will out compete Small's milkpea when it grows thick and in dense mats.

Figure 25.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
33	0.683	0.276	0.86	2,377
34	0.066	0.027	0.06	15
			Total	2,392

**Polygon 252.** (Figure 7) Area: 9.8 acres Small's milkpea: 3,847 sand flax: 499

**Habitat description:** Medium quality habitat. Sand flax populations are sparse in the south of the polygon on an area slightly raised and with more native grasses. The Polygon is mixed native grasses *Andropogon longiberbis*, *Eustachys petraea* and *Paspalum caespitosum* with a drainage ditch running through the middle in an east-west direction with sparse Mascarene templegrass. Other species include *Chaptalia albicans*. **Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Spot treat *Zyosia tenuifolia*.

Figure 20.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
53	4.188	1.695	0.16	2,712
54	2.806	1.135	0.10	1,135
			Total	3,847

# Figure 31. sand flax populations 21 0.184 0.075 0.07 50 22 1.850 0.749 0.06 449 Total 499

**Polygon 253.** (Figure 6) Area: 4.0 acres Small's milkpea: 5,523 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Most of Polygon 253 is covered by Mascarene templegrass. Other species found are *Chaptalia albicans*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Control spread and treat St. Augustine sod and Mascarene templegrass from around bunkers and structures.

Figure 16.

Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
69	0.291	0.118	3.12	3,676
70	1.047	0.424	0.25	1,059
73	0.260	0.105	0.75	789
			Total	5,523

**Polygon 254.** (Figure 6) Area: 1.0 acres Small's milkpea: 5,693 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Polygon 254 is covered by Mascarene templegrass. Other species found are *Chaptalia albicans*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 16.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
71	1.005	0.407	1.40	5,693
			Total	5,693

**Polygon 255.** (Figure 6) Area: 5.1 acres Small's milkpea: 37,649 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Polygon 255 is dominated by the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Other species found are *Chaptalia albicans*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. There are several large areas of St. Augustine sod in the north and east of the polygon. Control spread and treat St. Augustine sod and Mascarene templegrass from these areas.

<b>Figure</b>	16
riguit	10.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
72	3.813	1.543	2.44	37,649
			Total	37,649

**Polygon 256.** (Figure 6) Area: 3.5 acres Small's milkpea: 9,378 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The polygon is covered by the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Other species found are *Spermacoce terminalis*. **Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Control spread of St. Augustine sod which occurs around the building and parking lot in the northeast and east of the polygon. Treat St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 16.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
75	2.107	0.853	1.10	9,378
			Total	9,378

**Polygon 260**. (**Figure 6**) *Area:* 47.2 *acres* Small's milkpea: 11,727 sand flax: 4,306

Habitat description: Varied habitat with poor habitat near the runway and medium quality habitat in the south-east. This polygon has native grasses *Schizachyrium* sanguineum, *Schizachyrium gracile*, *Andropogon longiberbis*, *Paspalum caespitosum* and the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Other rare and threatened species found; *Bletia purpurea*, *Selaginella armata var. eatonii*, *Byrsonima lucida*, *Jacquemontia curtisii*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Psidium longipes*, *Stylosanthes calcicola*, *Smilax havanensis*, *Spermacoce terminalis*, *Cynanchum blodgettii*, *Tetrazygia bicolor*, *Chaptalia albicans*, *Pteris bahamensis*, *Angadenia berteroi*, *Vernonia blodgettii*, *Senna mexicana var. chapmanii*, and *Melanthera parvifolia*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 18 and 19.

Small's milkpea			<b>Density</b>	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density

93	0.054	0.022	0.01	3
94	0.138	0.056	0.01	5
95	0.311	0.126	0.02	20
96	0.114	0.046	0.03	15
97	0.570	0.230	0.16	369
98	0.063	0.025	0.01	3
99	0.878	0.355	0.46	1,635
100	2.094	0.847	1.14	9,658
101	0.208	0.084	0.02	19
			Total	11,727
Figure 30. sand flax populations				
27	2.128	0.861	0.50	4,306
			Total	4,306

**Polygon 261.** (Figure 6) Area: 16.9 acres Small's milkpea: 36 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Varied habitat with poor quality habitat in the east and south, and medium quality habitat in the west of the Polygon. The major part of the polygon (East and south) has dense stands of exotic grasses *Pennisetum purpureum and Paspalum notatum* (bahia grass). Small's milkpea is found in several small populations scattered throughout the Polygon. Other rare and threatened species found (mainly in the eastern part of the polygon); *Selaginella armata var. eatonii, Pteris bahamensis, Byrsonima lucida, Senna mexicana var. chapmanii, Crossopetalum ilicifolium.* 

**Management recommendations**: mowing is currently too high. This area has large areas of exotics grasses that should be controlled.

<b>Figure</b>	18.

Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
82	0.031	0.013	0.02	3
83	0.317	0.128	0.02	24
84	0.021	0.009	0.02	2
85	0.044	0.018	0.04	7
			Total	36

**Polygon 262**. (**Figure 6**) *Area: 20.9 acres* Small's milkpea: 3,530 sand flax: 1,717

**Habitat description:** Variable quality habitat with the majority of the polygon poor habitat however medium quality habitat in the eastern part of the Polygon. The polygon

ground cover is mainly the exotic grasses Mascarene templegrass, *Pennisetum purpureum*, *Paspalum notatum*. The eastern part of the polygon has more native species like *Schizachyrium rhizomatum*, *Paspalum caespitosum*, *Rhynchospora colorata*, *Morinda royoc*, *Flaveria linearis*, and *Eragrostis elliottii*. Other rare and threatened species found; *Selaginella armata var. eatonii*, *Pteris bahamensis*, *Bletia purpurea*, sand flax, *Senna mexicana var. chapmanii*, *Angadenia berterori*, *Bletia purpurea*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Psidium longipes*, *Spermacoce terminalis*, *Stylosanthes calcicola*, *Jacquemontia curtisii*, *Byrsonima lucida*, *Cynanchum blodgettii*, *Smilax havanensis*, and *Chaptalia albicans*.

**Management recommendations**: The eastern part of the polygon where both Small's milkpea and sand flax populations exist should be continued to be mowed at the same frequency and a reduced mowing height. Managing the timing of mowing and weed whacking especially along canals to times when sand flax is not flowering. The exotics in this polygon should be managed to prevent infestation of the medium quality eastern area.

Figure 18.				
Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
161	1.407	0.569	0.62 Total	3,530 3,530
			10tai	3,330
Figure 30.				
sand flax <b>populations</b>				
24	0.073	0.029	0.35	103
25	0.008	0.003	2.00	66
36	1.224	0.495	0.30	1,486
26	0.026	0.010	0.60	62
			Total	1,717

**Polygon 277**. (**Figure 9**) *Area: 1.2 acres* Small's milkpea: 70 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. This polygon is dominated by exotic St. Augustine sod and *Eremochloa ophiuroides*. This population could be out competed by St. Augustine grass.

**Management recommendations**: Continue moving height and frequency and remove exotic grasses.

Figure 25.

Small's milkpea

populations

32

0.070

Density

per m<sup>2</sup>

Density

Density

0.028

0.25

70

Total 70

**Polygon 280**. (Figure 7) Area: 12.5 acres Small's milkpea: 893 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The peripheral areas of the Polygon have small scattered populations of Small's milkpea. The ground cover is St. Augustine, Mascarene templegrass, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium, Rhynchospora colorata, Fimbristylis cymosa* and *Bidens alba* var. *radiata*. Other rare and threatened species found; *Chaptalia albicans, Scutellaria havanensis, Angadenia berteroi*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 21.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
130	0.011	0.004	0.05	2
131	0.009	0.004	0.03	1
132	0.007	0.003	0.10	3
133	0.006	0.002	0.04	1
134	0.098	0.040	0.12	49
135	0.053	0.021	0.06	12
136	0.009	0.004	0.08	3
137	0.010	0.004	0.05	2
138	0.015	0.006	0.18	11
139	1.297	0.525	0.14	735
142	0.009	0.004	0.08	3
143	0.072	0.029	0.24	69
144	0.004	0.001	0.14	2
			Total	893

**Polygon 281.** (Figure 7) Area: 16.9 acres Small's milkpea: 9,195 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The Small's milkpea population is found around the east, south and west of the polygon perimeter. The ground cover is Mascarene templegrass, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, *Setaria parviflora*, *Rhynchospora colorata*, and *Fimbristylis cymosa*.

**Management recommendations**: This is a highly impacted area. Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 21 and 22.

Small's milkpea			<b>Density</b>	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density

145	6.054	2.450	0.34	8'329
146	0.475	0.192	0.45	865
			Total	9,195

**Polygon 282.** (Figure 7 and 8) Area: 52.9 acres Small's milkpea: 530 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The peripheral areas of the Polygon have small scattered populations of Small's milkpea. The ground cover consists of St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass *Paspalum notatum* with some natives *Eustachys petraea*, *Eragrostis elliottii*, *Rhynchospora floridensis*, *Phyla nodiflora*, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, and *Dyschoriste angusta*.

**Management recommendations**: This is a highly impacted area. Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat St. Augustine and Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 22 and 23.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
147	0.019	0.008	0.01	1
148	0.277	0.112	0.20	224
149	0.231	0.093	0.30	280
150	0.032	0.013	0.01	1
151	0.015	0.006	0.02	1
152	0.011	0.005	0.07	3
153	0.018	0.007	0.03	2
154	0.009	0.004	0.03	1
155	0.117	0.047	0.01	5
156	0.033	0.013	0.03	4
157	0.071	0.029	0.02	7
			Total	530

**Polygon 289.** (Figure 8) Area: 4.4 acres Small's milkpea: 11 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat containing one small population of Small's milkpea. The ground cover is mainly St. Augustine, *Paspalum notatum, Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, and *Dyschoriste angusta*.

**Management recommendations**: This area has poor habitat and the population may persist but given the low numbers could be extirpated in the long term. Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat St. Augustine.

Figure 24.

Small's milkpea			<b>Density</b>	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density

121	0.133	0.054	0.02	11
		Total		11

**Polygon 291.** (Figure 7) Area: 13.1 acres Small's milkpea: 29

sand flax: Trace

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The peripheral areas of the Polygon have small scattered populations of Small's milkpea. The ground cover consists of Mascarene templegrass, *Setaria parviflora*, *Sida acuta*, *Phyla nodiflora*, and *Indigofera miniata* var. *florida*.

**Management recommendations**: This is area has poor habitat and the population may persist but given the low numbers could be extirpated in the long term. Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 21.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
105	0.010	0.004	0.08	3
106	0.010	0.004	0.05	2
107	0.013	0.005	0.06	3
108	0.050	0.020	0.04	8
109	0.004	0.002	0.12	2
110	0.002	0.001	0.10	1
111	0.007	0.003	0.17	5
112	0.001	0.001	0.37	2
114	0.001	0.001	0.17	1
113	0.001	0.001	0.33	2
			Total	29

**Polygon 294**. (**Figure 6 and 7**) Area: 13.3 acres Small's milkpea: 2,091 sand flax: 6

Habitat description: Poor quality habitat. The western portion of the polygon is dominated by St. Augustine, *Paspalum notatum*, and Mascarene templegrass. Small's milkpea *and* sand flax are found in the east of the Polygon with native grasses *Schizachyrium sanguineum*, *Schizachyrium gracile*, *Andropogon longiberbis*, *Paspalum caespitosum* and the exotic Mascarene templegrass. Though still poor habitat, the eastern part of the polygon has more native species and is generally better than the rest of the polygon. Other rare and threatened species found; *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Jacquemontia curtisii*, *Pteris bahamensis*, and *Selaginella armata* var. *eatonii*.

Management recommendations: Continue mowing frequency and reduce mowing height to prevent organic matter build up and prevent spread of exotic grasses. Treat exotic grasses.

Figure 19.				
Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
102	0.328	0.133	0.02	29
103	0.059	0.024	0.02	4
104	2.119	0.857	0.24	2,058
			Total	2,091
Figure 30.				
sand flax <b>populations</b>				
28	0.116	0.047	0.01	6
			Total	6

**Polygon 296.** (Figure 7) Area: 10.1 acres Small's milkpea: 37 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The peripheral areas of the Polygon have small scattered populations of Small's milkpea. The ground cover consists of St. Augustine, *Paspalum* s *notatum*, Mascarene templegrass, *Fimbristylis cymosa*, *Eustachys petraea*, *Bidens alba* var. *radiata*, *Pennisetum purpureum*, and *Centrosema virginianum*. Other rare and threatened species found; *Chaptalia albicans*, *Ipomoea indica* var. *acuminate*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing frequency and reduce mowing height to prevent organic matter build up. Treat exotic grasses.

Figure 21 and 22.

Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
115	0.039	0.016	0.05	8
116	0.124	0.050	0.05	23
117	0.008	0.003	0.15	5
118	0.003	0.001	0.08	1
			Total	37

**Polygon 304.** (Figure 8) Area: 1.4 acres Small's milkpea: 327 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The peripheral areas of the Polygon have two small populations of Small's milkpea. The ground cover is dominated by St. Augustine, *Paspalum notatum*, Mascarene templegrass and includes *Bidens alba* var. *radiata*, *Vigna luteola*, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, *Eustachys petraea*, *Schinus terebinthifolius*, and *Pennisetum purpureum*.

**Management recommendations**: This area has poor habitat and the population may persist. Continue mowing frequency and reduce mowing height to prevent organic matter buildup. Treat exotic grasses.

Figure 22 and 24.

Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
119	0.010	0.004	0.05	2
120	0.670	0.271	0.12	325
			Total	327

**Polygon 307**. (**Figure 7**) *Area: 0.6 acres* Small's milkpea: 4 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The peripheral areas of the Polygon have two small populations of Small's milkpea. The ground cover is St. Augustine, Mascarene templegrass, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* and *Bidens alba* var. *radiata*.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat St. Augustine, Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 20.

Small's milkpea			Density	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
140	0.009	0.004	0.03	1
141	0.003	0.001	0.3	3
			Total	4

**Polygon 325.** (Figure 9) Area: 0.4 acres Small's milkpea: 13 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. The ground cover is dominated by Mascarene templegrass. This is a small population but should persist.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 26.

Small's milkpea			<b>Density</b>	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
122	0.006	0.003	0.50	13
			Total	13

**Polygon 327. (Figure 9)** Area: 0.7 acres Small's milkpea: 14 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Polygon 327 is dominated by Mascarene templegrass. These are small populations with other small populations in close proximity and should persist.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 26.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
123	0.003	0.001	1.05	13
162	0.001	0.001	0.10	1
			Total	14

**Polygon 329. (Figure 9)** Area: 0.7 acres Small's milkpea: 47 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Polygon 329 is dominated by Mascarene templegrass but also contains some native grasses (*Schizachyrium* spp., *Andropogon* spp.). Several small populations should persist in this location.

**Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 26.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
124	0.005	0.002	0.5	12
125	0.006	0.002	0.6	15
126	0.003	0.001	0.9	13
127	0.003	0.001	0.6	7
			Total	47

**Polygon 330. (Figure 9)** Area: 0.9 acres Small's milkpea: 27 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Ground cover is mainly Mascarene templegrass but also contains some native grasses (*Schizachyrium* spp., *Andropogon* spp.). **Management recommendations**: Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 26.

Small's milkpea			<b>Density</b>	<b>Estimated</b>
populations	Acres	Hectares	per m <sup>2</sup>	Density
128	0.041	0.017	0.15	25

129	0.003	0.001	0.2	2
		,	Total	27

**Polygon 344. (Figure 9)** Area: 1.1 acres Small's milkpea: 61 sand flax: 0

**Habitat description:** Poor quality habitat. Polygon 344 is dominated by Mascarene templegrass some and St. Augustine sod which occurs around the structures. **Management recommendations:** Continue mowing height and frequency. Treat Mascarene templegrass.

Figure 20.

Small's milkpea <b>populations</b>	Acres	Hectares	Density per m <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Density
30	0.041	0.017	0.35	58
31	0.001	0.000	0.67	3
			Total	61

Table 4. Quick reference table listing polygons with population estimates and habitat quality

Dolargon	Small's	Cand flav	Habitat
Polygon	milkpea	Sand flax	quality
0	3,132	3,985	Medium
6	240	Trace	Medium
7	347	0	Poor
99	2,366	0	Poor
101	2,391	0	Medium
111	27	0	Medium
112	2,902	123	Low-Medium
126	618	0	Poor
191	68	Trace	Poor-Medium
194	2,711	0	Medium
200	1,848	190	Medium
201	9,694	3,379	Medium-High
202	11	944	Medium
203	58	85	Medium
204	80	194	Medium
205	110	898	Medium
206	44,284	13,074	Medium
207	8	0	Poor
208	79	0	Poor
209	86	0	Poor

	Small's		Habitat
Polygon	milkpea	Sand flax	quality
210	39	0	Poor
211	919	0	Poor
212	0	12	Medium
213	172,552	583	Poor-Medium
214	875	2	Poor
216	813	Trace	Medium
226	40,112	0	Poor
227	17,334	0	Poor
228	8,056	1,406	Medium
229	2,363	0	Poor-Medium
230	2,392	0	Poor
252	3,847	499	Medium
253	5,523	0	Poor
254	5,693	0	Poor
255	37,649	0	Poor
256	9,378	0	Poor
260	11,727	4,306	Poor-Medium
261	36	0	Poor-Medium
262	3,530	1,717	Poor-Medium
277	70	0	Poor
280	893	0	Poor
281	9,195	0	Poor
282	530	0	Poor
289	11	0	Poor
291	29	Trace	Poor
294	2,091	6	Poor
296	37	0	Poor
304	327	0	Poor
307	4	0	Poor
325	13	0	Poor
327	14	0	Poor
329	47	0	Poor
330	27	0	Poor
344	61	0	Poor

## **Management Recommendations**

All areas once a part of the original pine rockland ecosystem that were surveyed have been previously disturbed. They were all mechanically scraped with a blade and all understory palms

and shrubs, and all trees, were removed given the principle purpose of HARB as an active base. Following clearing, native grasses, some shrub and herbaceous species were able to persist and/or recolonize. In more natural settings, Small's milkpea and sand flax grow in full sun under a sparse canopy and are dependent on fire to keep the understory and canopy open. Several pine rockland species have managed to persist at HARB despite it being a highly managed system.

The mowing regime at HARB has greatly assisted in maintaining the pine rockland species. Mowing has acted as a surrogate for periodic fires, a necessary disturbance for this community, and due to the height of mowing has allowed certain pine rockland species, including some woody species (e.g. *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*) to persist.

The frequency of mowing and weed whacking should be continued as it has allowed the continued persistence of both Small's milkpea and sand flax. Timing of mowing when sand flax is in flower and setting seeds could impact populations but more research is need to confirm this. Along the canal and ditch banks the vegetation is often weed whacked to ground level and will have adverse effects on the sand flax populations growing there. Preliminary data from a different project (sand flax demography) suggests that cutting the plant too low, 2 centimeters (cm), kills the plant. Raising the cutting height of the weed whacking would benefit sand flax in these areas. We recommend that weed whacking does not go below 5 cm.

Exotic grasses are the major threat to Small's milkpea and sand flax. In areas densely covered with St. Augustine, and *Pennisetum purpureum*, Small's milkpea and sand flax did not occur. However, there was an affinity of Small's milkpea to occur with the exotic sod Mascarene templegrass. Even in dense monocultures of Mascarene templegrass, Small's milkpea occurred and thrived. Sand flax did not occur with any exotic grasses.

Pine rocklands are generally low nutrient ecosytems. Mowing too high and the extent of some exotic grasses, like *Pennisetum purpureum*, which grows rapidly, could adversely affect Small's milkpea and sand flax. This is particularly prevalent in the south western part of HARB, in Polygons 261 and 262. A controlled fire through this area would eliminate the accumulation of duff and provide better habitat for both Small's milkpea and sand flax in this area. However, we do realize that current management of grass height along the runways is to dissuade avian presence and minimize collisions and therefore may not be feasible.

It is recommended in areas where St. Augustine and *Pennisetum purpureum* occurs in proximity to Small's milkpea and sand flax populations that these exotics be controlled to avoid outcompeting the populations. In order to improve the pine rockland habitat of HARB, treatment and management of Mascarene templegrass is advised where Small's milkpea grows. There are higher densities of Small's milkpea growing in some areas of Mascarene templegrass than would naturally occur in pine rocklands. The total population density may drop with treating Mascarene templegrass as Small's milkpea will be forced to compete with native grasses after the Mascarene templegrass is removed; however, given the densities on HARB this will not adversely affect the viability of the total population. We are currently restoring a pine rockland adjacent to HARB at the Special Operations Command South property where we are successfully restoring a pine rockland containing both Small's milkpea and sand flax in areas covered in Mascarene templegrass. We understand Mascarene templegrass is a cultivar species

and removing the grass would be costly and time consuming, therefore these are only our recommendations to improve the pine rockland habitat in which endemic rare plants occur.

## Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge Keith Bradley and Sarah Martin for their assistance with surveying for plants at Homestead Air Reserve Base. Their assistance was invaluable. Thanks to George Gann, who reviewed the document and gave management recommendations. We would also like to thank Steve Woodmansee from management recommendations. Photographs of Small's milkpea and sand flax were taken by James Johnson.

## **Figures**

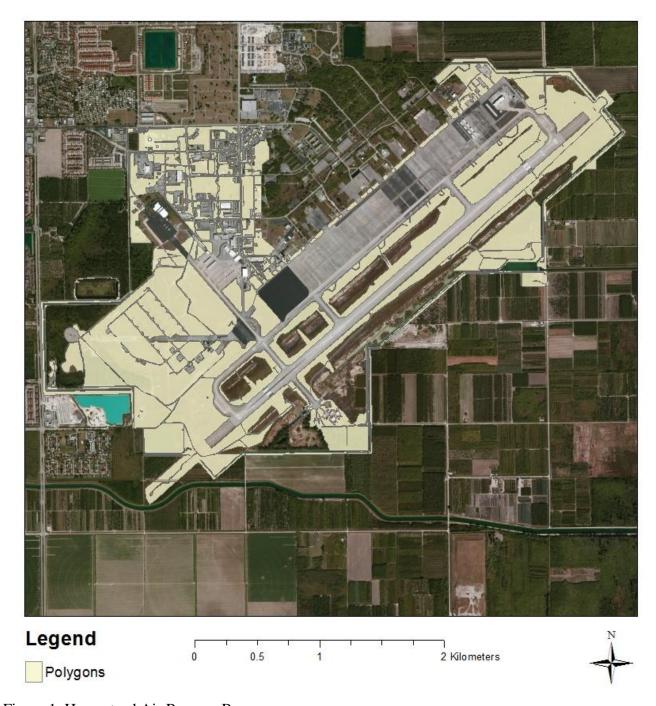


Figure 1. Homestead Air Reserve Base.



Figure 2. Map showing survey polygon locations.

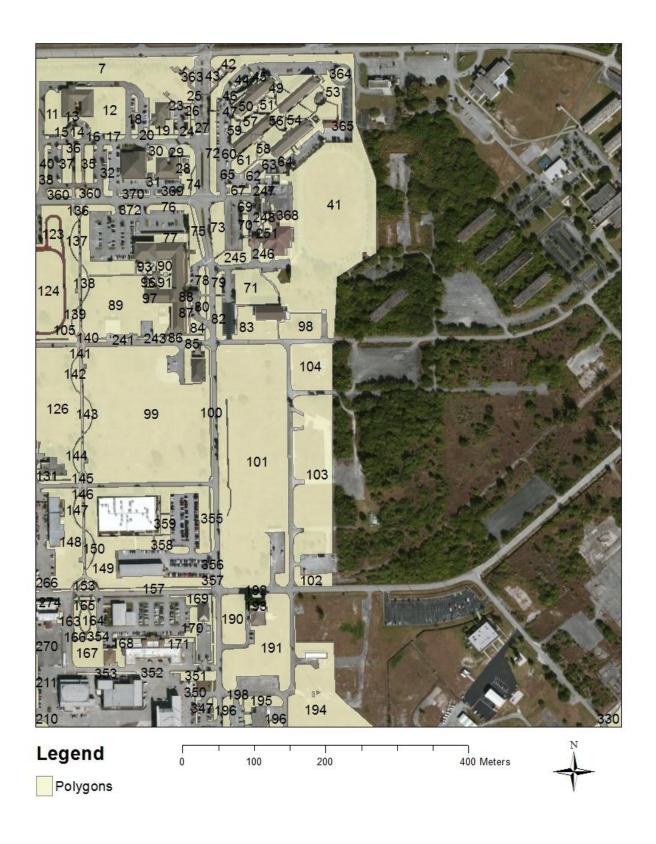


Figure 3. Map showing survey polygon locations.



Figure 4. Map showing survey polygon locations.



Figure 5. Map showing survey polygon locations.



Figure 6. Map showing survey polygon locations.



Figure 7. Map showing survey polygon locations.



Figure 8. Map showing survey polygon locations.



Figure 9. Map showing survey polygon locations.

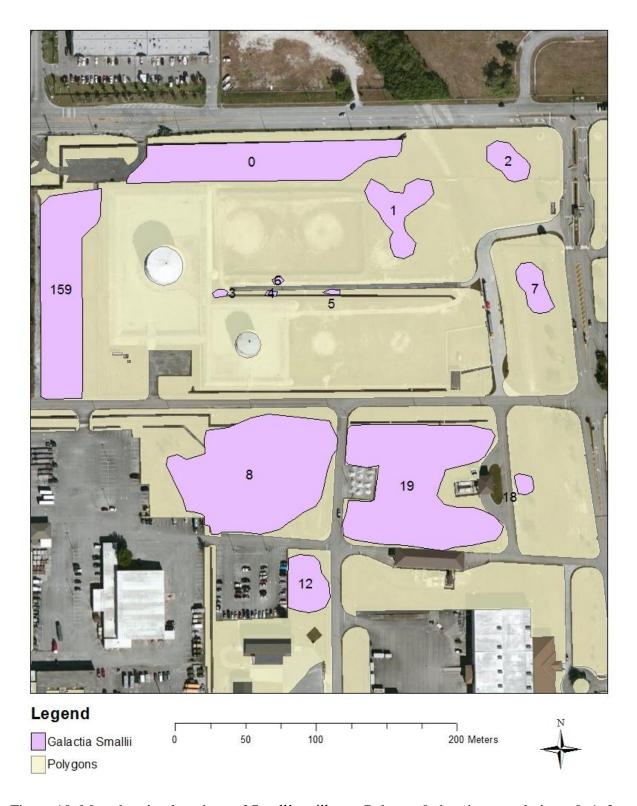


Figure 10. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 0 showing populations 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 159; Polygon 111 has population 18; Polygon 112 has a single large population 19; Polygon 200 has population 8.

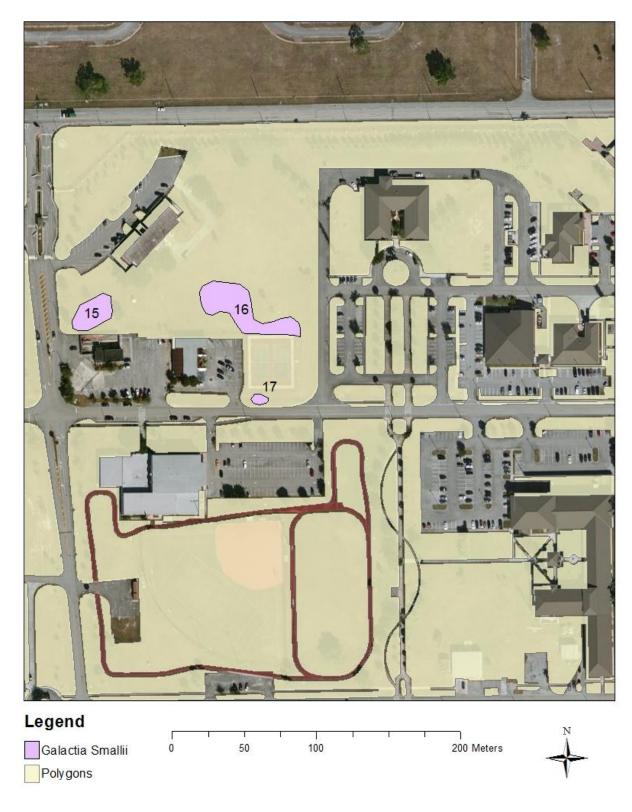


Figure 11. Polygon 7 showing Small's milkpea populations 15, 16, and 17.

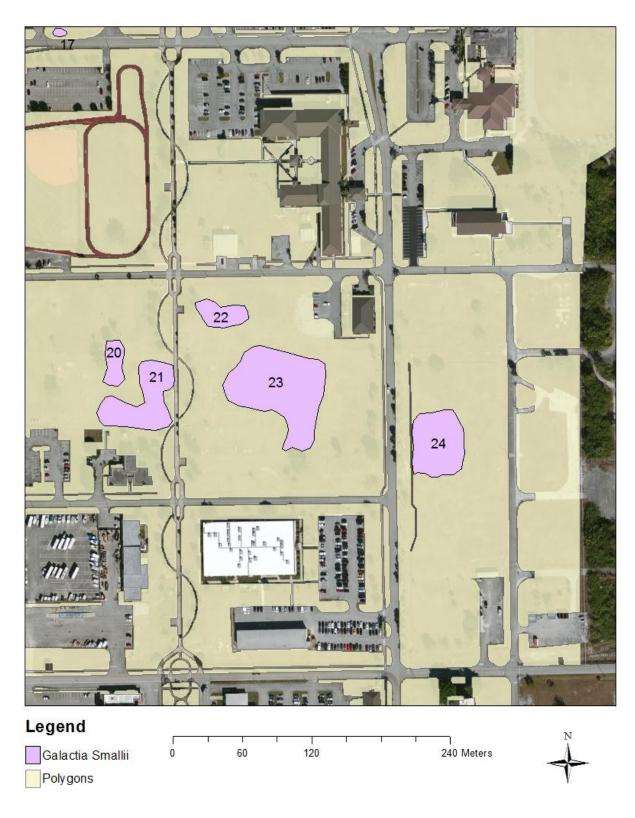


Figure 12. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 99 showing populations 22 and 23; Polygon 101 showing population 24. Polygon 126 showing populations 20 and 21.



Figure 13. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 201 containing populations 8, 9, 11, 12; polygon 202 containing population 10.



Figure 14. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 203 contains population 13.



Figure 15. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 210 showing populations 35, 36, 37; Polygon 211 showing population 26.

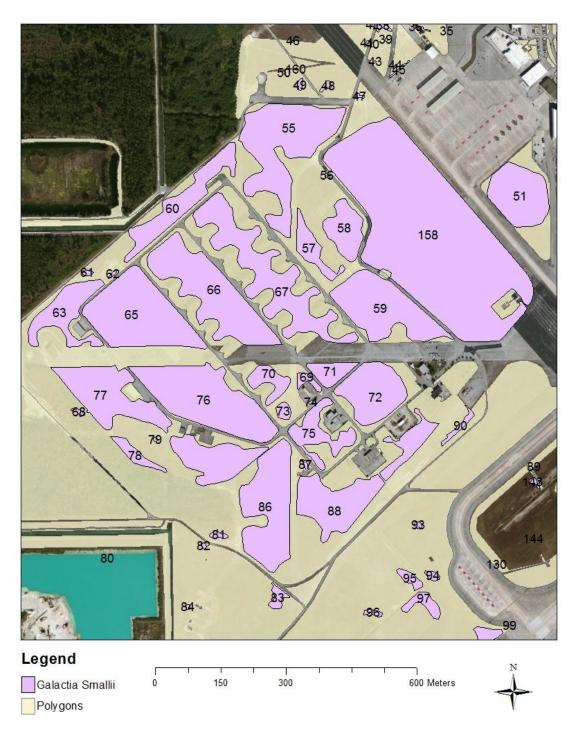


Figure 16. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 204 containing populations 46 and 48; Polygon 205 containing populations 49, 50, 160; Polygon 206 showing populations 158 and 47. Polygon 213 showing populations 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90; Polygon 226 showing population 66; Polygon 227 showing population 67; Polygon 228 showing population 51; Polygon 253 showing populations 69, 70, 73; Polygon 254 showing population 71; Polygon 255 showing population 72; Polygon 256 showing population 75.

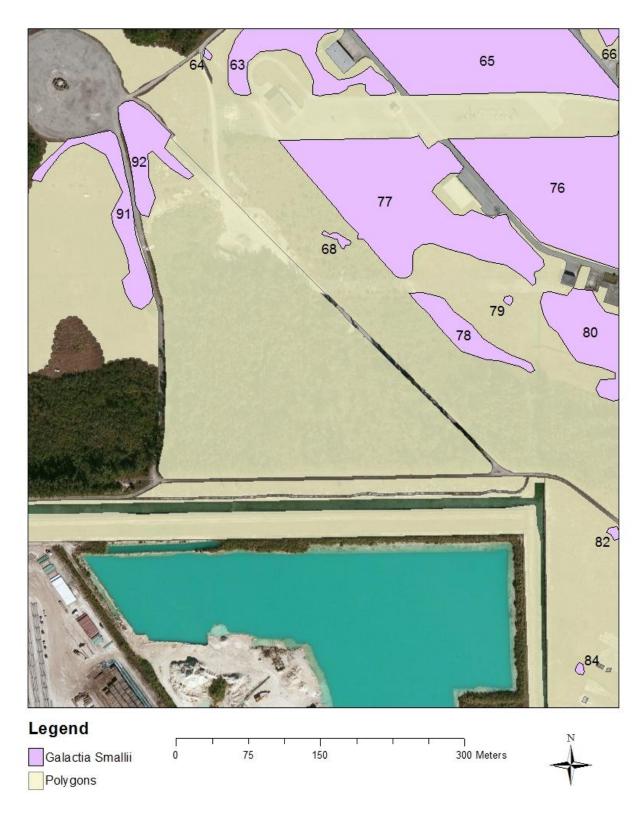


Figure 17. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 214 showing population 92; Polygon 216 showing population 91.

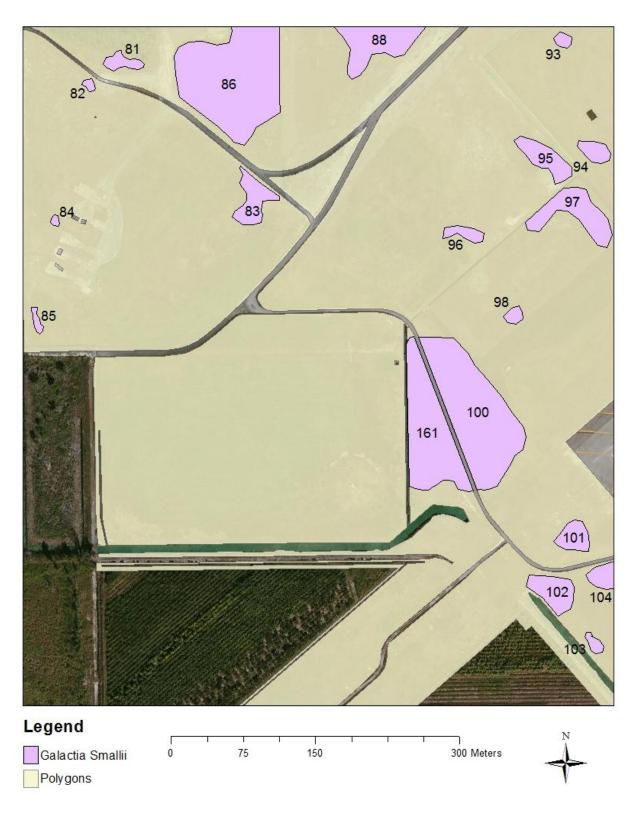


Figure 18. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea. Polygon 260 showing populations 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 100, 101; Polygon 261 showing populations 82, 83, 84, 85; Polygon 262 showing population 161.

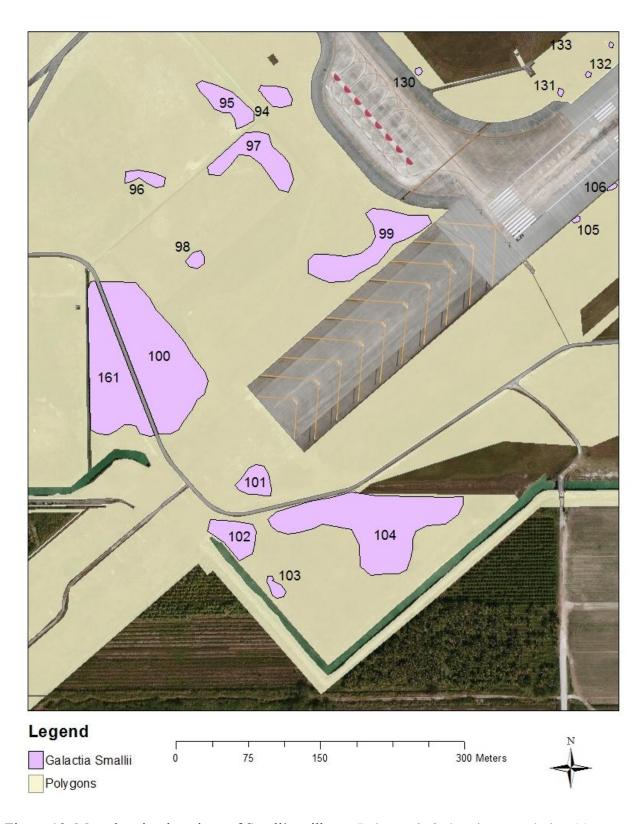


Figure 19. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea. Polygon 260 showing population 99; Polygon 294 showing populations 102, 103, 104.

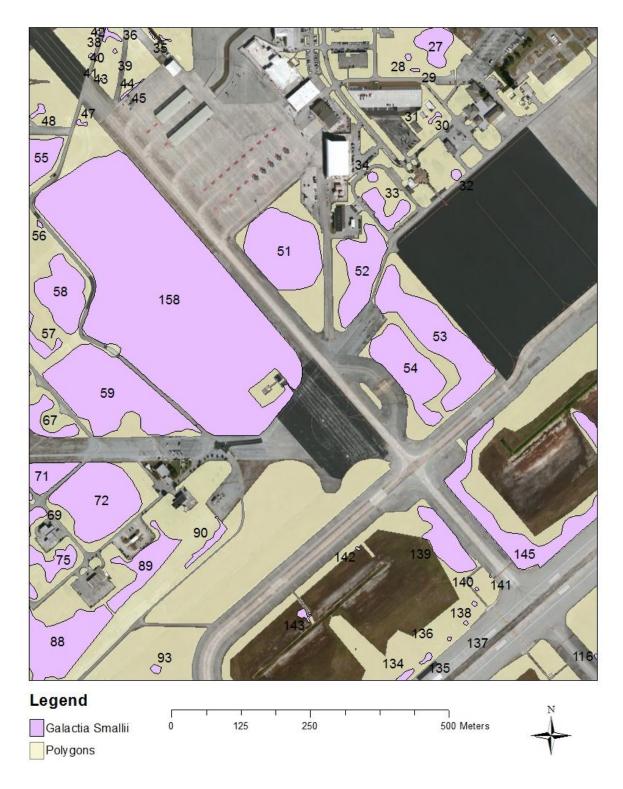


Figure 20. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 207 showing populations 41 and 42; Polygon 208 showing populations 38, 39, 40, 43; Polygon 209 showing populations 44 and 45. Polygon 229 showing population 52; Polygon 252 showing populations 53, 54; Polygon 307 showing populations 140, 141; Polygon 344 showing populations 30 and 31.



Figure 21. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea. Polygon 280 showing populations 130, 131, 132 1333, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 142, 143, 144; Polygon 281 showing populations 145, 146; Polygon 291 showing populations 105, 106, 107, 108,109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114; Polygon 296 showing populations 115, 116, 117.



Figure 22. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea. Polygon 281 showing populations 145, 146; Polygon 282 showing populations 147, 148, 149,150, 151, 152 153, 155; Polygon 296 showing population 118; Polygon 304 showing population 119.



Figure 23. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea. Polygon 281 showing populations 154, 155, 156, 157.

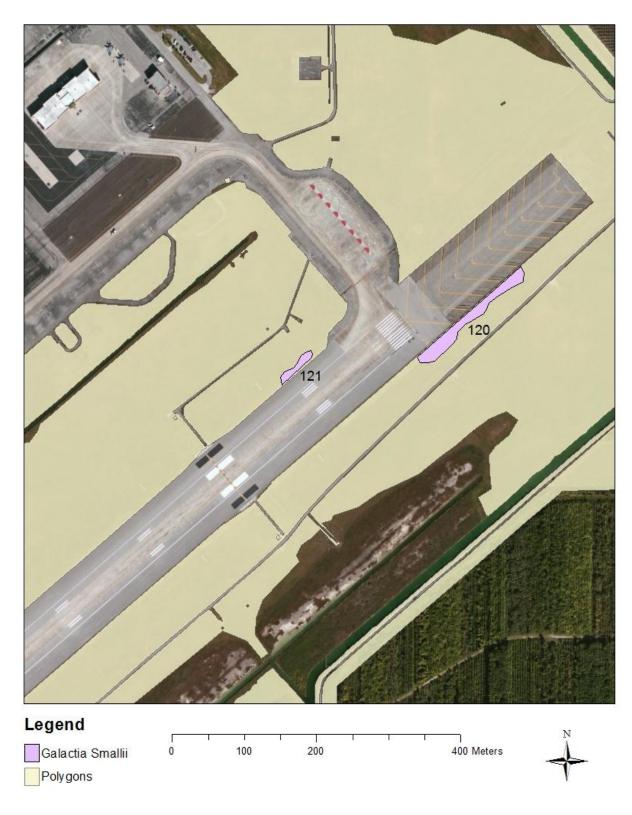


Figure 24. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea. Polygon 289 showing population 121; Polygon 304 showing population 120.



Figure 25. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea: Polygon 25 has a single population 25; Polygon 194 with populations 27, 28 29; Polygon 226 showing population 66; Polygon 230 showing populations 33,34; Polygon 277 showing population 32.

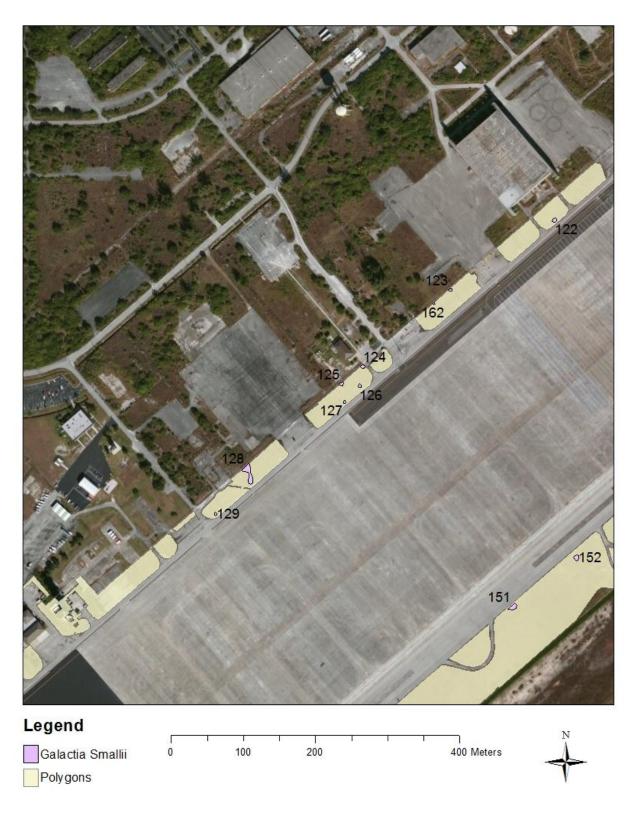


Figure 26. Map showing locations of Small's milkpea. Polygon 325 showing population 122; Polygon 327 showing populations 123, 162; Polygon 329 showing populations 124, 125, 126, 127; Polygon 330 showing populations 128, 129.

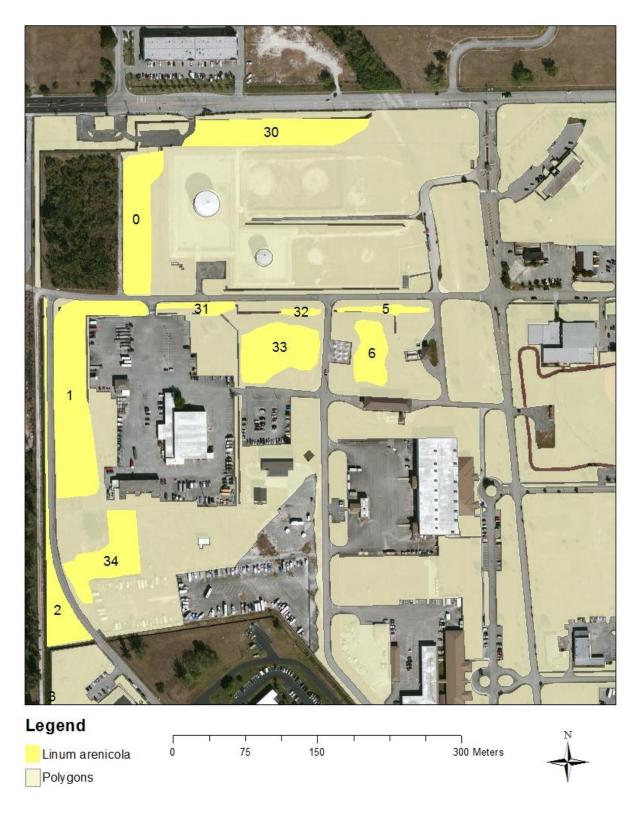


Figure 27. Map showing locations of sand flax: Polygon 0 showing populations 0 and 30; Polygon 112 contains populations 5 and 6; Polygon 200 contains populations 31, 32 33; Polygon 202 containing population 2.



Figure 28. Map showing locations of sand flax: Polygon 203 showing populations 3and 4.

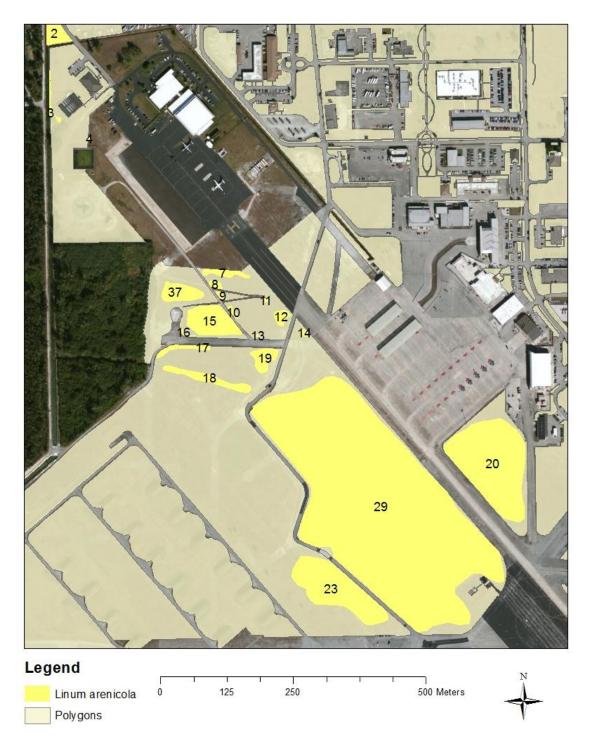


Figure 29. Map showing locations of sand flax populations: Polygon 203 showing populations 3 and 4; Polygon 204 containing populations 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13; Polygon 205 showing populations 15, 37, 16; Polygon 206 showing populations 14 and 29; Polygon 212 showing population 9; Polygon 213 showing populations 17, 18, 19, 23; Polygon 228 showing population 20.

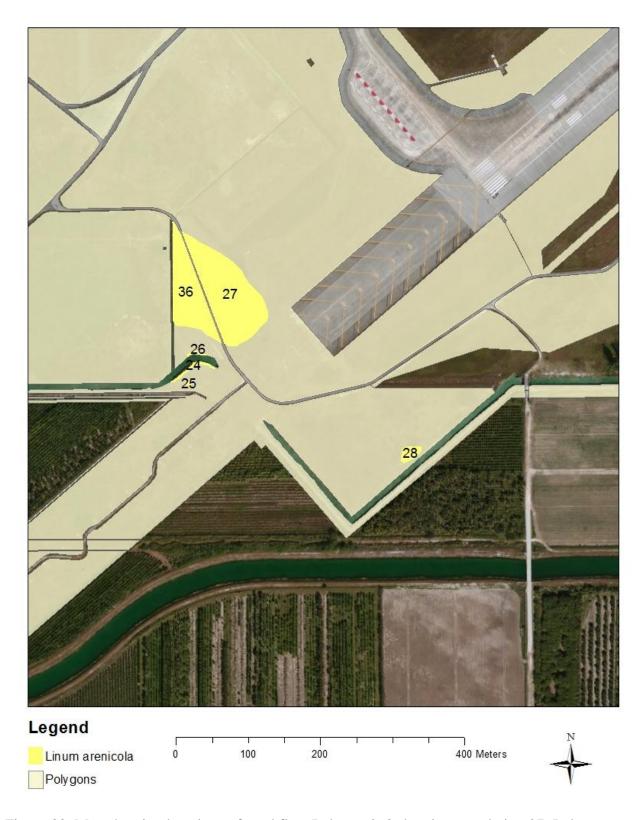


Figure 30. Map showing locations of sand flax: Polygon 260 showing population 27; Polygon 262 showing populations 24, 25, 26, 36; Polygon 294 showing population 28.

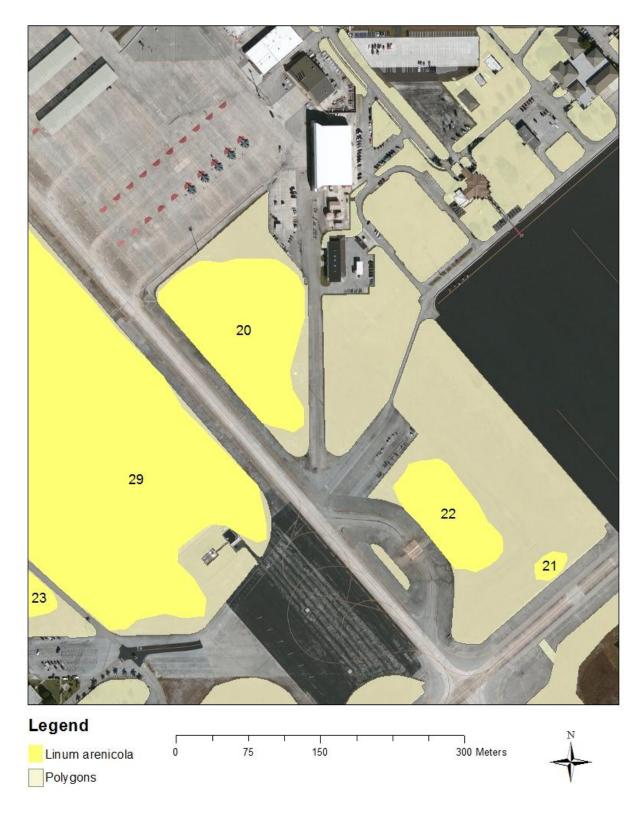


Figure 31. Map showing locations of sand flax: Polygon 252 showing populations 21, 22.



Figure 32. Map showing locations of sand flax: Polygon 214 showing population 35.