

SMALL-HEADED LANTANA

Lantana canescens Kunth

Synonyms: *Lantana microcephala* A. Rich.

Family: Verbenaceae (vervain)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Gil Nelson

Field Description: **Shrub** to 4 feet tall, with gray or white, 4-angled stems. **Leaves** 1 - 2.5 inches long, opposite, simple, lance-shaped, densely hairy on both surfaces, with shallowly toothed margins, long-pointed tips, and wedge-shaped leaf bases. **Flowers** white, tubular with 5 spreading, irregular lobes, in flattened clusters at the ends of long stalks arising in the angle of leaf and stem. **Fruit** small, one-seeded, hard, dry.

Similar Species: Buttonsage (*Lantana involucrata*) has white flowers in a dense, flat-topped head with many bracts; it has yellowish stems, oval leaves with broadly pointed tips, and purple, fleshy fruit; it grows in coastal hammocks and dunes. The common landscape plants in the genus *Lantana* have yellow, orange, purple, or multi-colored flower heads.

Related Rare Species: See Florida lantana (*Lantana depressa*) in this guide.

small-headed lantana

Lantana canescens

Habitat: Transition zones between rockland hammocks and pine rocklands.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, West Indies.

Conservation Status: Small-headed lantana is known from only 3 sites, all on conservation areas.

Protection and Management: Protect remaining rocklands from development. Use prescribed fire in rocklands to create a mosaic of habitats; allow fire to burn from pinelands into hammock transition zones. Manually remove hardwoods if fire is not practical. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Coile 2000, Hammer 1997, IRC 1999, Nelson 1996, Small 1933, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.