

MOCK PENNYROYAL

Stachydeoma graveolens (Chapman ex Gray)

Small

Synonyms: *Hedeoma graveolens* Chapman ex Gray

Family: Lamiaceae (mint)

FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FACW*+ FL-FAC



Amy Jenkins

Field Description: Perennial herb or sub-shrub to 20 inches tall, with a short, woody stem and numerous upright, hairy branches. Leaves 0.5 inches long (smaller near tips of stems), aromatic, opposite, oval, lacking leaf stalks, margins entire or slightly toothed, surfaces hairy and with glistening amber glands. Flowers solitary or few in the angle of leaf and stem near the top of the plant; calyx tubular, 2-lipped, 10-ribbed, glandular, and hairy; flower 0.5 inch long, pink, 2-lipped, upper lip is 2-lobed and erect, lower lip is 3-lobed and spreads downward; flower has 2 fertile stamens, both with obvious anthers.

Similar Species: Toothed savory (*Calamintha dentata*), state-threatened, is another pink-flowering mint found in sandhills in the Panhandle; its lower leaves have small teeth, and flowers have 4 fertile stamens.

mock pennyroyal

Stachydeoma graveolens

Related Rare Species: Several rare mints occur in the Panhandle, including Apalachicola rosemary (*Conradina glabra*), Florida skullcap (*Scutellaria floridana*), and white-birds-in-a nest (*Macbridea alba*).

Habitat: Sandhills, upland pine, and drier areas in pine-palmetto-wiregrass flatwoods.

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall; May - September.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to FL Panhandle.

Conservation Status: About 50 populations of this species are known, most on the Apalachicola National Forest.

Protection and Management: Burn sandhills and flatwoods every 2 - 3 years. Avoid clearcutting and mechanical site preparation in these habitats.

References: Coile 2000, Godfrey 1988, Kral 1983, Ward 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.