

Restoration of *Jacquemontia reclinata* to the South Florida Ecosystem

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The biology of this federally listed endangered plant species is being studied in a multidisciplinary way with a focus on immediately applying new biological understanding to the successful restoration of the species and its eventual delisting. This member of the morning glory family (Convolvulaceae) grows along the southeast coast of Florida and is close to extinction because of habitat loss with a continuing decline in numbers of plants and population sites. We have mapped all known plants in a GIS data base, are following phenology and demography, quantifying seed banks and seed germination (and dormancy), clarifying the breeding system, the reproductive biology, and the genetic variation of remaining populations by DNA variation, and demonstrating the requirement of mycorrhizal fungi for successful establishment and growth of seedlings. We will soon initiate experimental habitat manipulation (increased soil moisture, decreased shading by vegetation, fire) and measure the effects on plant growth and recruitment. *Ex situ* collections supply the large numbers of seed and plants needed for our research. We are coordinating the work of botanists and graduate students from three institutions who are carrying out the scientific research needed to implement this species recovery plan.

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