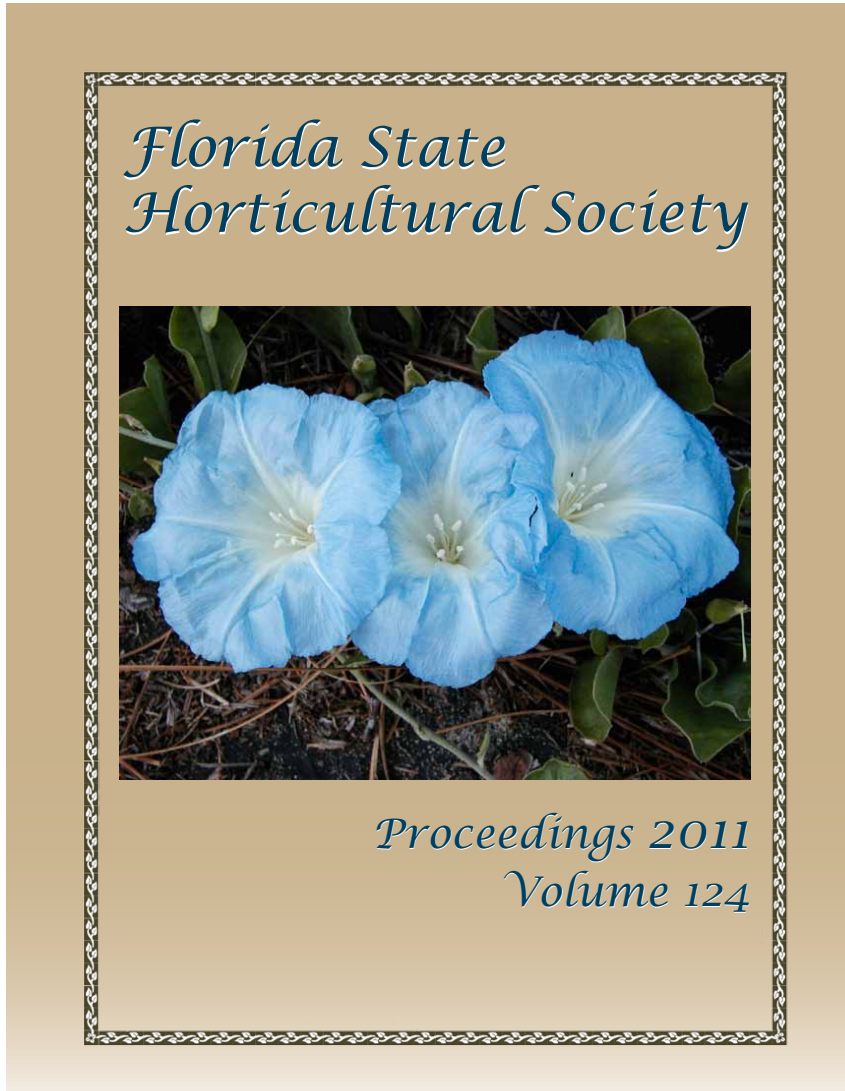


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Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society

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FRONT AND BACK COVERS: *Bonamia grandiflora* (Florida Bonamia) is a member of the Convolvulaceae (morning-glory) family. It is the only member of this genus in Florida. Its small, oval leaves with entire margins and shorter, trailing stems differentiate it from the more common morning-glories. Sturdy stems up to 3 feet long support this perennial trailing vine. The leaves are 1–2 inches long, grading into small bracts at the end of the stem; oval with pointed tips, entire margins, short, silky hairs, and very short leaf stalks. The flowers are 3–4 inches long, solitary, with 5 lobes and 5 leathery, unequal sepals in two series. The bright blue flowers sport a white throat in



the morning but quickly fade to pale blue by afternoon when they close. Flowering occurs May through August, but leaves and vines are distinctive most of the year. Wild populations of this plant are found only in white sand scrub on central Florida ridges. Historic records indicate that Florida bonamia once occurred from Volusia and Marion counties south to Highlands and Charlotte counties. Presently it is most abundant in the Ocala National Forest. Roughly one-third of the approximately 100 remaining known populations are located on protected managed areas. The Rare Plant Conservation Program at Bok Tower Gardens has been actively involved with the protection efforts for this species since 1986.

Photo credits: Cindy Campbell, Rare Native Plant Curator, Rare Plant Conservation Program*, Bok Tower Gardens, 1151 Tower Boulevard, Lake Wales, FL 33853-3412 (ph: 863-676-1408, ext. 2241).

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