

Florida Leafwing

Anaea troglodyta floralis

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Florida Museum

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The **Florida Leafwing** (*Anaea troglodyta floralis*) is a federally endangered butterfly endemic to extreme South Florida. Adults have a brown, leaf-like appearance on the underside of their wings which aids in camouflage while at rest and gives the butterfly its distinctive name. In flight, however, they reveal the brilliant orange coloration of their wings above, making them easy to spot. The butterfly is closely associated with its sole larval host plant, Pineland Croton (*Croton linearis*), which is dependent on periodic fire or other disturbance to maintain suitable growing conditions. The Florida Leafwing shares its host and habitat preference with another federally endangered butterfly, Bartram's Scrub-Hairstreak. The two can occasionally be found together.

Historically, the Florida Leafwing occurred throughout pine rockland habitat in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Today, less than two percent of this globally imperiled ecosystem still exists in South Florida due to habitat loss and fragmentation, fire suppression and invasive species encroachment. Florida Leafwing populations have similarly declined over time throughout their historic range and now are extremely limited and teetering on the brink of extinction. Today, Everglades National Park is the only place in the world where the Florida Leafwing can be found.

- *Download the Libraries of Life app from the iTunes or Android store and install on your device.*
- *Launch the app and select the Florida Museum icon.*
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Cover photo by: Holly Salvato

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