

## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

### Leaf tip morphology does not support species status for the seagrass, *Halodule beaudettei* in Florida, USA

Michael E. Wheeler, Bradley T. Furman, and Margaret O. Hall



**Figure S1.** We designed a fully submersible device to gently suction surficial sediments from within *Halodule wrightii* beds, retain them with minimal loss, and then return them to the excavated area without disturbance to roots and rhizomes – all while minimizing sediment plumes that might otherwise be generated during excavation. The device, hereafter referred to as the Wheeler Sampling Unit or WSU, was needed for repeated observation of fragile *H. wrightii* pistillate flowers and fruits. It was used in the current study to excavate intact *H. wrightii* runners or connected sets of shoots from shallow, sandy sediments in Point Pinellas, St. Petersburg, FL, USA. The sampling unit uses a one-way, modified TRDP14 Siphon Manual Hand Liquid Transfer Pump to draw liquified sediment into a glass reservoir (946 ml, Anchor) fit with a 4 mm rubber mesh window to allow excurrent flow. Sediments trapped by the reservoir are then freed by opening the lid – resetting the device. Extraction of plant material using the pump is more precise, creates fewer plumes of sediment, and minimizes risk of damage to seagrass roots, rhizomes, fruits and flowers.