

CHAPMAN'S BUTTERWORT

Pinguicula planifolia Chapman

Synonyms: none

Family: Lentibulariaceae (butterwort)

FNAI Ranks: G3?/S3?

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-OBL



Amy Jenkins

Jenna Annis

Field Description: Perennial herb with a rosette up to 6 inches wide. Leaves oblong, elliptic, or oblanceolate, thin and flat when fully developed, and red to reddish green in color. Upper surface of leaves covered with short, glandular hairs that exude a "greasy" substance and capture insects. Flower stalks to 10 inches tall, leafless, with glandular hairs. Flowers to 1 inch across, violet to magenta, occasionally nearly white, the throat deeper violet. Petals deeply incised to nearly 1/2 their length. Palate (cylindrical structure protruding from flower center) exerted from the tube and covered with slender, yellow hairs.

Similar Species: Five other butterwort species occur in Florida. *Pinguicula planifolia* can be distinguished by its deeply incised petals and broad purplish-red to reddish-green leaves. Godfrey's butterwort (*P. ionantha*) has notched petals, a corolla tube with deep purple veins, and bright green leaves with inrolled edges and rounded tips. Primrose-flowered butterwort (*P. primuliflora*) has flowers with

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purple petals, a white ring above the throat, and a yellow tube with reddish veins. Blue butterwort (*P. caerulea*) has blue flowers and non-glandular flower stalks. Yellow-flowered butterwort (*P. lutea*) has bright yellow flowers. Small butterwort (*P. pumila*) has much smaller flowers (less than 1.5 cm long) and rosettes (rarely exceeding 3 cm broad).

Related Rare Species: Five of the six *Pinguicula* species known to occur in Florida, are designated as rare species. Godfrey's butterwort (*Pinguicula ionantha*), has bright green leaves with edges that are rolled inwards and tips rounded and has a pale purple to white corolla with a palate protruding from the throat. Primrose-flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula primuliflora*), has flowers with purple petals, a white ring above the throat, and a yellow tube with reddish veins. Blue butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea*), only occurs as far west as Liberty and Franklin Counties, but occurs throughout the majority of peninsular Florida except for a few south Florida counties. Blue butterwort has blue flowers that have distinct veins and non-glandular flower stalks. Chapman's butterwort (*Pinguicula planifolia*), has broad reddish leaves and purple flowers. Yellow-flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*), state-threatened, has yellow-green leaves that roll inwards and have acuminate tips and has yellow flowers. Small butterwort (*Pinguicula pumila*) is not a listed species and has only been documented as far west as Walton County. Smallest of the Florida butterworts with basal rosettes rarely wider than 3 cm and petals rarely greater than 1.5 cm wide.

Habitat: Seepage slopes, bogs, and depressions in wet pine flatwoods and wet prairies. Along ecotones between wet prairie and swamp edges. Often in shallow standing water. When roads are developed in these habitats, plants are often found thriving in adjacent roadside ditches or drainage canals.

Best Survey Season: Winter-spring; late January through April.

Range-wide Distribution: Restricted range along the southeastern Coastal Plain from the central panhandle of Florida, west to Louisiana.

Conservation Status: Chapman's butterwort is known to occur in 10 Florida panhandle counties. The restricted habitat of Chapman's butterwort often overlaps with the federally threatened Godfrey's butterwort (*Pinguicula ionantha*). Primary threats include fire suppression, logging, and urban development. Rare flora of these wet pinelands, prairies and bogs rely heavily on prescribed fire to reduce shrubby competition.

Protection and Management: Avoid habitat alterations such as ditching, draining,

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or mechanical disturbance. Avoid placing firebreaks in wetland ecotones. Burn grassy flatwoods and prairies on a 2-3 year rotation to promote flowering and prevent shrubby encroachment. Allow prescribed fires to burn into cypress edges.

References: Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Wunderlin et al. 2020, Gluch 2005, Godfrey and Stripling 1961, USFWS 2009, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.