

CARTER'S ORCHID

Basiphyllaea corallicola (Small) Ames

Synonyms: *Basiphyllaea angustifolia* Schlechter

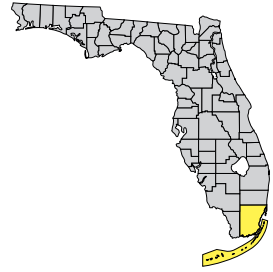
Carteria corallicola Small

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G1G3/S1

Legal Status: US—none FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—none FL—UPL



Chuck McCartney

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with 1 - 2 linear, **basal leaves** to 5.5 inches long; **stem leaves** small, sheathing the stem. **Flower stalks** 4 - 16 inches tall, leafless but with small scattered bracts. **Flowers** 3 - 10, widely spaced at top of the stalk, small and inconspicuous; **sepals and petals** yellow-green, nearly enclosing a bright pink, 3-lobed **lip**. **Fruit** an erect capsule.

Similar Species: In flower, Carter's orchid is distinctive. Non-flowering plants, consisting of only 1 or 2 fleshy leaves, are nearly impossible to identify.

Related Rare Species: Over 70 species of orchid are listed as threatened or endangered in FL.

Carter's orchid

Basiphyllaea corallicola

Habitat: Solution holes in grassy openings in pine rockland; leaf litter in rockland hammock.

Best Survey Season: Flowers in late fall. May lie dormant for years between flowering times.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, West Indies.

Conservation Status: Seven populations of Carter's orchid have been described in FL since 1903, only 4 recently, all these on conservation lands.

Protection & Management: Burn pine rockland every 3 - 7 years to create a mosaic of habitats. Eradicate exotic pest plants. Purchase and protect remaining fragments of rockland.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, Hammer 1992, IRC 1999, Luer 1972, McCartney 1985b, McCartney 1985c, McCartney 1991, McCartney 1992a, McCartney 1992b, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

