

FLYR'S BRICKELL-BUSH

Brickellia cordifolia Elliott

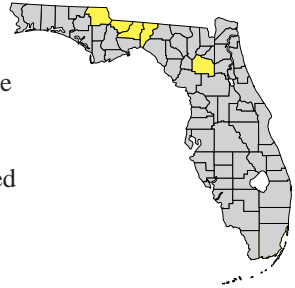
Synonyms: *Coleosanthus cordifolius* (Ell.) Kuntze

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2

Legal Status: US—Mgmt Concern FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—none FL—UPL



W. Wilson Baker

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with one to several erect, faintly ribbed **stems**, 1.5 - 5 feet tall but often fallen over during flowering. **Leaves** 2.5 - 4 inches long, opposite at midstem, subopposite or alternate upward, toothed, triangular with rounded or squared-off bases; lower surfaces of leaves gland-dotted and slightly hairy. **Flower heads** at the top of stems, with long, purplish bristles and about 45 purplish-pink **disc flowers**; **ray flowers** absent although long, pink style branches may look like ray flowers. **Bracts** of the flower heads are strongly ribbed and in several overlapping series.

Similar Species: Ageratum (*Ageratina aromatica*) with white flowers and mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) with blue flowers have similar leaves but smaller flower heads. Sprouts of American beauty-berry (*Callicarpa americana*) resemble Flyr's brickell-bush; its leaves are opposite and toothed, but are wedge-shaped at the base rather than squared-off.

Related Rare Species: See Florida brickell-bush (*Brickellia mosieri*), state-endangered, in this guide.

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Brickellia cordifolia

Habitat: Dry, upland pine-oak woods, often with southern red oak and loblolly pine; ravine slopes with spruce pine, white oak, and southern magnolia. Usually in sunny openings or along edges of trails, but may persist in shady, overgrown woods.

Best Survey Season: Flowers late August–late October.

Range-wide Distribution: SW GA, SE AL, and N FL.

Conservation Status: Five of FL's 7 populations are protected.

Protection & Management: Avoid clearcutting and conversion of upland woods to pine plantations; allow prescribed fire in pine stands to enter edges of oak woods or manually create sunny openings.

References: Coile 2000, Cronquist 1980, Kral 1983, Ward 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

