

DIVERSELEAF CROWNB Beard

Verbesina heterophylla (Chapm.) A.Gray

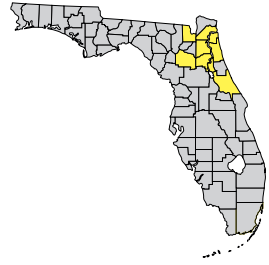
Synonym: *Pterophyton heterophyllum*
(Chapm.) Alexander

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S2

Legal Status: US—Mgmt Concern FL—none

Wetland Status: US—FACW FL—FACW



Verbesina heterophylla

Bruce A. Sorrie



Verbesina chapmanii

FNAI

Field Description (photo, left, and drawing): Perennial herb with stems 16 - 32 inches tall, rough-hairy, winged, usually leafless above the middle when plant is in flower. **Leaves** 1.2 - 3.2 inches long, opposite, oblong to oval, rough-hairy, with small blunt teeth; no leaf stalks but leaf tissue continues onto the stems as wings. **Flowers** in solitary heads on stiff, slender stalks; **disk flowers** few, yellow; **ray flowers** 5 - 10 per head, spreading, yellow. **Fruits** brown, winged.

Similar Species: Coastalplain crownbeard (*Verbesina aristata*) has yellow ray flowers, rough-hairy stems, and opposite, toothed leaves, but the stems lack wings.

Related Rare Species (photo, right): Chapman's crownbeard (*Verbesina chapmanii*), state-threatened and a Panhandle endemic, has wingless stems, rough-hairy leaves, and heads with large disk flowers and no ray flowers.

Diverseleaf crownbeard

Verbesina heterophylla

Habitat: Diverseleaf crownbeard: Mesic flatwoods, dry woods. Chapman's crownbeard: wet flatwoods and prairies.

Best Survey Season: Flowers June–August.

Range-wide Distribution: Diverseleaf crownbeard: endemic to northeast FL. Chapman's crownbeard: endemic to FL Panhandle.

Conservation Status: Diverseleaf crownbeard is known from 2 conservation areas and 2 military bases. Many populations of Chapman's crownbeard are protected on several conservation areas, primarily the Apalachicola National Forest.

Protection & Management: Avoid clearcutting and disturbance to the ground layer in wet and mesic flatwoods. Burn every 2 - 3 years.

References: Coile 2000, Cronquist 1980, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Kral 1983, Small 1933, Tobe et al. 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

