

WEDGE-LEAVED BUTTON-SNAKEROOT

Eryngium cuneifolium Small

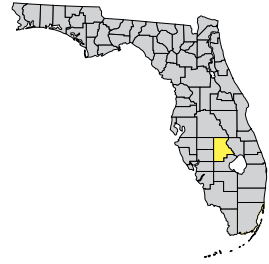
Synonyms: none

Family: Apiaceae (parsley)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US–Endangered FL–Endangered

Wetland Status: US–UPL FL–UPL



Alfred R. Schotz



Billy B. Boothe

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with several erect, ribbed, branching stems 10 - 20 inches tall. **Basal leaves** about 1.5 inches long, numerous, long-stalked and narrowly wedge-shaped with thickened margins and 3 - 5 large, bristle-tipped teeth or lobes at the tip. **Stem leaves** deeply divided into pointed, bristle-tipped lobes and reduced in size and number upward along the stem. **Flowers** in small, rounded, compact, bristly heads topping loosely clustered stalks. **Petals** are white or blue with powdery blue or yellowish-white anthers.

Similar Species: Fragrant button-snakeroot (*Eryngium aromaticum*) has aromatic leaves evenly and closely spaced along the stems; the main stem is erect but lower branches spread along the ground. Other *Eryngium* species in FL are wetland plants.

Related Rare Species: None in Florida.

Wedge-leaved button-snakeroot *Eryngium cuneifolium*

Habitat: Sand pine scrub, usually in gaps on rosemary balds.

Best Survey Season: Flowers August–October, but the basal rosette of toothed, wedge-shaped leaves is distinctive all year.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to the southern Lake Wales Ridge in Highlands County, FL.

Conservation Status: About 20 populations exist, most on 3 preserves.

Protection & Management: Use prescribed fire to maintain large gaps between shrubs in sand pine scrub. Prevent foot trampling and access by offroad-vehicles. Purchase and protect remaining Lake Wales Ridge scrubs, and manage with prescribed fire.

References: Coile 2000, Menges and Kimmich 1996, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a, Wunderlin and Richardson 1981.

