

HAMPTON FALSE FOXGLOVE

Agalinis flexicaulis Hays

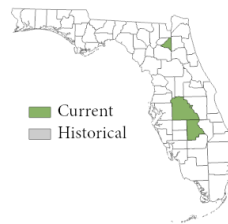
Synonyms: none

Family: Orobanchaceae (broomrape)

FNAI Ranks: G1G2/S1S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-none



Scott Ward



Field Description: Herbaceous, hemiparasitic annual with a diffuse, spreading form up to 0.6 m tall. **Stems** are single from the base of the plant, many-branched, strongly four-angled throughout upper portions, and glabrous except on the angles which may have hairs. **Leaves** are spreading, linear to linear-spatulate in shape and opposite but may become sub-opposite or alternate on upper branches. The upper surfaces of leaves are scabrous while the lower surfaces are glabrous except for the midveins which may have hairs. **Inflorescence** is a panicle. **Sepals** form a tube often two-toned: upper purplish-maroon, lower surfaces green. The rose-purple **corolla** tube is made up of 5 spreading lobes, 1.5-2.0 mm long, with guidelines absent. **Fruit** is an oblong 4-sided capsule about 0.4 cm long producing minute brown triangular to quadrangular **seeds**.

Similar Species: Penell's false foxglove (*A. tenella*) also has a spreading form but has longer corolla tubes, anthers, and styles, leaves that are more filiform in shape,

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ovoid-globular capsules, and yellow seeds. Ten-lobed false foxglove (*A. obtusifolia*) has a more erect general form, has leaves that are erect or ascending, and has corolla tubes with 2 yellow guidelines present.

Related Rare Species: Pine barren false foxglove (*A. georgiana*) is a state-endangered species with pedicels shorter than the subtending bract, compared with this species which has pedicels longer than or equal to the length of the subtending bract.

Habitat: Mesic pine flatwoods, dry prairie, wet prairie.

Best Survey Season: Flowers in fall from late September into November.

Range-wide Distribution: This species is endemic to Florida; its current documented distribution is disjunct, with occurrences known from the north-central peninsula in Bradford County and in Polk and Highlands counties in the south-central peninsula. Undiscovered populations are likely between these two centers.

Conservation Status: This Florida endemic species was only described in 2010 and is known only from five populations in the northern part of its range in Bradford County and five populations in the southern part of its range in Polk and Highlands counties. In the former where populations are known only along roadsides and pine plantation edges, threats include pine plantation management and roadside maintenance. In the latter, populations are protected within Avon Park Air Force Range. Additional populations may occur between these two population centers and simply have gone undetected up to this point due to the species' drooping habit among thick surrounding vegetation.

Protection and Management: Populations in the northern part of this species' range would benefit from additional protection, as all exist along roadsides and/or on the edge of pine plantations. Ground disturbance from machinery should be avoided.

References: Hays 2010, Wunderlin 2011.