

PURPLE HONEYCOMB-HEAD

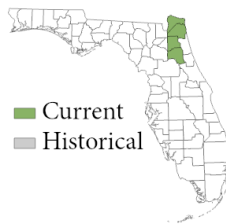
Balduina atropurpurea Harper

Synonyms: *Endorima atropurpurea* (R.M. Harper) Small

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Bruce A. Sorrie

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with one to several erect **stems** to 1.2 m tall, each stem with a single, large flower head. **Stems** ridged and angled (but not winged) and purplish at the base. **Leaves** somewhat fleshy, alternate, entire, and narrowly spoon-shaped; largest leaves at the base of the stem, up to 13 cm long, becoming smaller and more widely spaced up the stem. Flower **heads** with 10 - 20 deep yellow **ray flowers**, each ray with 3 - 5 teeth at the tip, and numerous purplish-brown **disk flowers**. **Fruits** held on the rounded, "honeycombed" **receptacle**; the honeycomb pattern is most obvious when the fruits are shed in the fall. *Balduina* flowers are the only composite flowers with honeycombed receptacles.

purple honeycomb-head

Balduina atropurpurea

Similar Species: Coastal honeycomb-head (*Balduina angustifolia*) has yellow disk flowers and grows on sand ridges and dunes. Yellow honeycomb-head (*Balduina uniflora*) has similar leaves and heads, but yellow disk flowers. Some sneezeweeds (*Helenium* spp.) have purple disk flowers, but have winged stems and no "honeycomb." Tickseed (*Coreopsis gladiata*) has dark disk flowers, 5 - 8 ray flowers, and no "honeycomb."

Related Rare Species: None

Habitat: Wet pine flatwoods and savannas, seepage slopes, pitcherplant bogs, and wet ditches.

Best Survey Season: Fall; August to early November.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, GA, and SC, with historic or unconfirmed populations in NC and AL.

Conservation Status: Seven populations are known in FL, 3 in state forests, the remainder on timber company lands.

Protection and Management: Burn every 2 - 3 years; avoid draining, ditching, or firebreak construction in wetlands; avoid mechanical clearing, bedding, and soil disturbance.

References: Coile 2000, Cronquist 1980, Kral 1983, Parker and Jones 1975, Patrick et al. 1995, Smith 1994, USFWS 1983c, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

