FLYR’S BRICKELL-BUSH
Brickellia cordifolia Elliott

Synonyms: Coleosanthis cordifolius (Ell.) Kuntze

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2

Legal Status: US–Mgmt Concern FL–Endangered

Wetland Status: US–none FL–UPL

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.
Flyr’s brickell-bush  

**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.


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[Image of botanical illustration showing growth form, toothed leaf margin, long style branches, bristles, disk flowers, and bracts of flower head.]