

CARPENTER'S GROUND-CHERRY

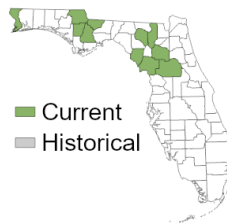
Calliphysalis carpenteri (Riddell) Whitson

Synonyms: *Physalis carpenteri* Riddell ex Rydb.

Family: Solanaceae (nightshade)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S1S3

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered



Leaf margins typically entire and pubescent; flowers yellow. Taken at Andrews Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: An upright, perennial **herb** 0.75 - 1.5 m tall from a taproot. 2 - 6 **flowers** per leaf axil. **Stem** covered with sticky hairs. **Berries** with spherical seed-like bodies intermixed with the flattened, reniform **seeds**.

Similar Species: Most readily distinguished from other groundcherries (*Physalis* sp.) when in flower, as it has 2 - 6 flowers per leaf axil.

Related Rare Species: There are 5 rare species of groundcherry in Florida: dune groundcherry (*Physalis walteri*), coastal groundcherry (*Physalis angustifolia*), sandhill groundcherry (*Physalis arenicola*), Elliott's groundcherry (*Physalis elliotii* var. *elliotii* and *Physalis elliotii* var. *glabra*), all with only one flower per leaf axil.

Habitat: Dry bluff forests, upland hardwood forest, sandhills, hammocks, and OHV roads through these areas. The species seems to favor forested communities with richer soil and limestone close to the surface.

Best Survey Season: Summer.

Carpenter's ground-cherry

Calliphysalis carpenteri

Range-wide Distribution: Uncommon endemic in the southeastern United States, occurring in FL, AL, GA, MS, and LA.

Conservation Status: While there are currently seven extant occurrences, and many on conservation lands, there is almost no information known about true population size, extent or viability. It is likely that the element is not as rare as the current rank, but more inventory is needed of current extant occurrences to better understand the species. Threatened by urban housing development, fire exclusion on the Conservation Lands where it occurs, and roadside maintenance and widening for roadside populations.

Protection and Management: Protect upland hardwood forests, dry bluff forests, sandhills, and hammocks from conversion to urban, suburban, and agricultural uses.

References: Weakley 2020, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Flora of North America 2023, Georgia Department of Natural Resources 2025.



Flowers yellow with two or more per leaf axil. Taken at Andrews Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Stems pubescent becoming slightly woody at base. Taken at Andrews Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Grows with branching pattern. Taken at Andrews Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.