

## MANY-FLOWERED CATOPSIS

*Catopsis floribunda* L.B. Smith

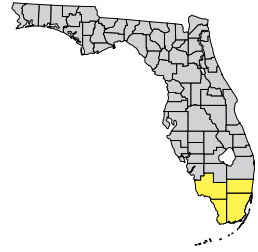
**Synonym:** *Pogospermum floribundum* Brong.

**Family:** Bromeliaceae (pineapple)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S1

**Legal Status:** US—none FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



*Catopsis floribunda*

Gil Nelson



*Catopsis nutans*

Gil Nelson

**Field Description (photo, left):** A large “airplant” (epiphyte) or “tank bromeliad,” growing on tree trunks and branches. **Leaves** 8 - 16 inches long, bright green (not chalky), with long pointed tips, erect to spreading, forming an upright rosette, overlapping at the base and forming a cup that holds water. **Spikes** of 15 - 50 **flowers** with green sepals and erect, white petals emerge from the center of the plant; flowers open during the day. **Fruit** an oval capsule.

**Similar and Related Rare Species (photo, right, and drawing):** All of FL’s catopsis species are endangered. Nodding catopsis (*Catopsis nutans*) has 3 - 10 yellow flowers opening at night on a nodding, unbranched stalk; leaves are somewhat chalky and 3 - 6 inches long. Powdery catopsis (*Catopsis berteroniana*, see drawing) has yellow-green leaves covered with chalky powder. Also see fuzzywuzzy airplant (*Tillandsia pruinosa*) and Fakahatchee guzmania (*Guzmania monostachya*) in this guide.

## Many-flowered catopsis

## *Catopsis floribunda*

**Habitat:** All three species of catopsis grow on trees in tropical hammocks and cypress swamps in south FL. Powdery catopsis prefers strong light at the tops and outer branches of trees.

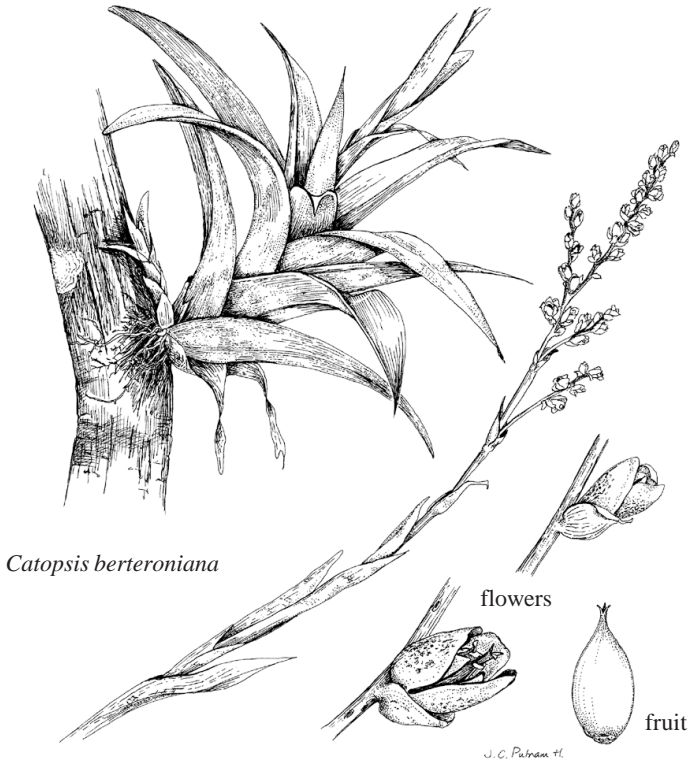
**Best Survey Season:** All three catopsis species flower fall–winter, but may be identified by leaves all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, West Indies, Central and South America.

**Conservation Status:** Many-flowered and powdery catopsis occur in 9 parks and preserves; nodding catopsis is known only from the Fakahatchee Strand. Tank bromeliads are seriously endangered by a Mexican weevil (*Metamazius callizona*) for which there is no known control. Plant poachers have also decimated native populations.

**Protection & Management:** Fund research into control of invasive weevils. Protect remaining fragments of tropical hammock. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers.

**References:** Coile 2000, Creel 2000, Frank 2000, Frank and Thomas 1996, Luther and Brown 2000, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.



*Catopsis berteroniana*

flowers

fruit

J. C. Palmgren 46