

PIEDMONT ROSELING

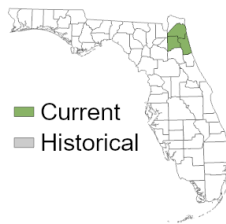
Cuthbertia rosea (Vent.) Small

Synonyms: *Callisia rosea* (Vent.) D. Hunt

Family: Commelinaceae (spiderwort)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S1S2

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Flower. Photo © Keith Bradley.

Field Description: Herbs, perennial, erect. **Roots** sparsely pubescent to glabrescent. **Stems** 20 - 55 cm. **Leaves** often laxly spreading; basal leaf sheaths \pm glabrous, margins ciliate; blade linear, 8 - 35 by 0.4 - 1.5 cm (distal leaf blades as wide as sheaths when sheaths opened, flattened). **Inflorescences:** bracts usually minute, 1 - 3 (-5) mm, scarious. **Flowers** pedicellate; pedicels 0.5 - 1.2 cm; petals pink to rose, 7 - 12 mm; stamens 6; filaments bearded. **Capsules** 3-locular, 2 - 4 mm. **Seeds** 1.5 - 2.0 mm. $2n = 12$. (FNA 2023).

Similar Species: Similar to the more common, grassleaf roseling (*Cuthbertia graminea*) and Florida roseling (*Cuthbertia ornata*), both of which also occur in sandhill but have much narrower leaves (1 - 5 mm wide compared to 4 - 15 mm wide in piedmont roseling (*Cuthbertia rosea*)).

Related Rare Species: No related rare species occur in Florida.

Habitat: Longleaf pine sandhills, other dry woodlands.

Best Survey Season: Flowers spring to early summer

Range-wide Distribution: North Carolina south to peninsular Florida, west to southern Alabama

Conservation Status: Very narrow distribution in sandhills in NE Florida. Only four extant occurrences as of 2024 and 2 of those protected on Conservation Land. Many mis-identified specimens and iNaturalist observations exist. Threatened by fire exclusion, development, and silviculture.

Protection and Management: Application of prescribed fire on a 1-3 year interval will restore maintain the open-structured sandhills habitat this element occurs in.

References: Flora of North America (FNA) 2023, Weakley, 2023