SPOON-LEAVED SUNDEW
Drosera intermedia Hayne
Synonyms: none
Family: Droseraceae (sundew)
FNAI Ranks: G5/S3
Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened
Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-OBL

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Field Description: Perennial, insectivorus herb that forms rosettes of spatulate or spoon-shaped leaves that can reach up to 10 cm long. Plants attract small insects by way of stalked glands on the leaves that exude sticky and sugary mucilage in which the insects get entangled in and then other glands produce enzymes that allows the plant to absorb the insects. Flower stalks smooth, typically up to 15 cm tall with up to 8 white flowers.

Similar Species: Large rosettes of glistening spoon-shaped leaves with white flowers. Most closely resembles pink sundew (*Drosera capillaris*), but differs in the latter has much smaller leaves and rosettes and the flowers are pink. Both species can occur together.

Related Rare Species: The rare thread-leaf sundew (*Drosera filiformis*) is only known to occur in Bay, Jackson, and Washington Counties, whereas the spoon-

leaved sundew occurs in the above counties, west to Escambia County and within several central Florida counties as well. The thread-leaf sundew has filiform leaves with no blades and pink flowers and the spoon-leaved sundew has definite leaf blades and white flowers.

Habitat: Pond margins, seepage stream banks and in drainage ditches. Can occupy hummocks on bases of cypress trees.

Best Survey Season: Spring.

Range-wide Distribution: Eastern United States. Northern counties south to central Florida.

Conservation Status: Many populations are known from 17 Florida counties within 28 managed areas. Silviculture, wetland draining and filling for development, and fire exclusion have reduced habitat on private lands.

Protection and Management: This species can be impacted from hog digging and animal trampling. Fire exclusion allows woody encroachment of baygall species blocking out light. Continued prescribed burning of every 2-3 years should promote the open, habitat.

References: Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Tobe et al. 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin, et al. 2020