

SPURRED NEOTTIA

Eltroplectris calcarata (Hook. f.) Garay & Sweet

Synonyms: *Centrogenium setaceum* (Lindl.)

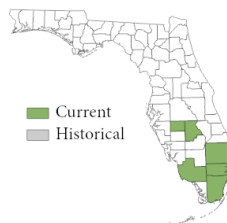
Schlechter; *Neottia calcarata* Sw.

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G4?/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-UPL



Chuck McCartney



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Field Description: Perennial **herb** with thick, fleshy, hairy roots. **Basal leaves** 1 - 3, oval, blue-green; leaf blades to 6 inches long and 3 inches wide; purple leaf stalks up to 5 inches long. **Flower stalks** to 20 inches tall, green to purple, hairy, partly sheathed with small, bract-like leaves. **Flowers** 3 - 10, greenish-white, widely spaced at top of the stalk; **sepals and petals** long, pointed, spreading widely; lower pair of sepals fused at base, forming a downward or backward pointing spur; upper sepal combines with 2 lateral petals to form a pointed hood over the white, fringed **lip**. **Fruit** a semi-erect capsule.

Similar Species: The flowers and basal leaves, with blue-green satiny blades and long purple stalks, resemble no other S FL orchid species.

Related Rare Species: More than 70 other species of native orchids are listed as

spurred neottia

Eltroplectris calcarata

threatened or endangered in FL.

Habitat: Mesic and rockland hammocks.

Best Survey Season: Winter-spring; but distinctive leaves are visible all year. Like many terrestrial orchids, this species may remain dormant for years between flowering times.

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

Conservation Status: Six populations are known, all on conservation lands.

Protection and Management: Purchase and protect remaining fragments of rockland. Protect mesic hammocks from clearing and grazing. Eradicate exotic pest plants and feral hogs.

References: Ackerman and Castillo 1994, Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 1999, Luer 1972, McCartney 1985b, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.