

## DOLLAR ORCHID

*Encyclia boothiana* (Lindl.) Dressler  
var. *erythronioides* (Small) Luer

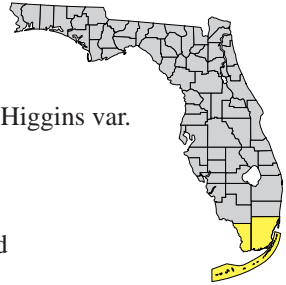
**Synonym:** *Prosthechea boothiana* (Lindl.) W. E. Higgins var.  
*erythronioides* (Small) W. E. Higgins

**Family:** Orchidaceae (orchid)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4T4/S1

**Legal Status:** US—Mgmt Concern FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—none FL—UPL



*Encyclia boothiana*

Gil Nelson



*Encyclia boothiana*

FNAI



*Encyclia pygmaea*

Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** **Orchid** attached to tree trunks by white **aerial roots**.

**Leaves** 2.4 - 7.2 inches long and up to 1.5 inches wide, bright green, with a strong midrib, rising from the top of a round, flattened stem

(**pseudobulb**). **Flowers** in narrow clusters of 1 - 12 waxy, showy flowers.

**Petals and sepals** widely spreading, yellow-green with irregular purplish-brown blotches, **lip** white to pale yellow. **Fruit** a nodding capsule, 1 inch long, with 3 wings.

**Similar Species:** Although clumps of dollar orchid leaves resemble other *Encyclia* plants, no other species has the flat, "silver dollar" pseudobulbs.

**Related Rare Species:** Dwarf butterfly orchid (*Encyclia pygmaea* [Hook.] Dressler, synonym: *Prosthechea pygmaea* [Hook.] W.E. Higgins) is state-endangered. This small, epiphytic orchid with diminutive yellow-green flowers occurs only in pond apple swamps in Collier County.

## Dollar Orchid

## *Encyclia boothiana*

**Habitat:** Trunks and low limbs of hardwood trees in rockland hammocks and coastal buttonwood forests.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers July–October.

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

**Conservation Status:** Only 7 populations of dollar orchid are known, all in parks or preserves. This orchid has been decimated by plant poachers and by destruction of habitat.

**Protection & Management:** Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers. Protect wetlands from logging and draining. Purchase and protect remaining fragments of rocklands

**References:** Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 1999, Luer 1972, McCartney 1985a, McCartney 1985b, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

