

FLORIDA BUTTERFLY ORCHID

Encyclia tampensis (Lindl.) Small

Synonyms: none

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S3S4

Legal Status: US-none FL-Commercially Exploited



Leaves linear-lanceolate in shape. Epiphytic on live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) at Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: This epiphytic orchid forms clusters of pear-shaped **pseudobulbs**, each with one to three long, narrow, rigid leaves; **flowers** are borne on a long raceme or panicle; lip white, middle lobe suborbiculate with dark purple spot; **capsules** to to 4 cm long and 1.5 cm wide; **inflorescences** with up to 30 flowers

Similar Species: Florida butterfly orchid can be recognized by its well-developed pseudobulbs, rigid, singular, leaves, and large purplish white and bronze flowers.

Related Rare Species: None in FL.

Habitat: Hammocks, hardwood swamps, mangroves, and palm groves; epiphytic.

Florida butterfly orchid

Encyclia tampensis

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer.

Range-wide Distribution: Northern peninsula of FL south to the Bahamas and Cuba. One of the most common epiphytic orchids in FL.

Conservation Status: Although not a rare species, populations are often small and may be vulnerable to collection.

Protection and Management: Protect from collection.

References: Weakley et al. 2023, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.



Lip white with purple spot. Epiphytic on Cuban water ash (*Fraxinus cubensis*). Growing in depression marsh at Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Fruit a capsule lacking prominent wings; epiphytic on red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) in a mesic hammock at Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Epiphytic on live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) along edge of slough marsh at Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest. Photo by Kelly Anderson.