

## DARK-HEADED HATPINS

*Eriocaulon nigrobracteatum* Bridges & Orzell

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Eriocaulaceae (pipewort)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-Endangered



**Field Description:** Perennial **herb**, forming **rosettes** of small, pointed leaves, usually in clumps of several rosettes. **Leaves** up to 3.8 cm long, very narrow, all basal, radiating outward from the center of the plant, dark green above, whitish below. **Flowering stem** 5 - 20 cm long, delicate, strongly twisted, and 4-angled. **Sheath** at the base of the stem 1.3 - 5 cm long, much longer than the leaves. **Flower heads** white above by many white hairs on the flower parts, and dark below from gray or black bracts.

**Similar Species:** To distinguish hatpins (*Eriocaulon* spp.) from other members of the pipewort family, look for obvious air spaces in the leaves and fleshy, unbranched roots with cross-partitions. Dark-headed hatpins may be confused with *Eriocaulon lineare* or *Eriocaulon ravenelii* in the Panhandle. It is distinguished by heads white above and dark below; by sheaths much longer than the leaves; and by strongly twisted, four-sided flowering stems. Both similar species flower in summer or fall, rather than spring.

**Related Rare Species:** None in Florida.

**Habitat:** Open, wet, mucky bogs at stream heads or on open, grassy seepage slopes.

**dark-headed hatpins**

*Eriocaulon nigrobracteatum*

**Best Survey Season:** Spring; March, and flowers go to seed in April and May; flower heads and stems then disappear.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to Bay, Calhoun, and Gulf counties, FL.

**Conservation Status:** All populations are on private timber company lands.

**Protection and Management:** Avoid altering the hydrology of seepage slopes by logging, draining, rutting, or compacting soils. Burn every 2 - 3 years.

**References:** Coile 2000, Godfrey and Wooten 1979, Orzell and Bridges 1993, Tobe et al. 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

