ANGLE POD
Gonolobus suberosus (L.) R. Br.

Synonyms: Matelea gonocarpos (Walt.) Shinners
Family: Apocynaceae (dogbane)
FNAI Ranks: G5/SNR
Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened
Wetland Status: US-FACW+ FL-FACW

Field Description: Herbaceous, perennial, twining vine with milky sap and opposite, ovate-oblong Gonolobus suberosus leaves, 3-4 inches long, on leaf stems up to 2 inches long. Leaf bases heart-shaped. Flowers maroon in center and greenish toward tips of the petals, star-shaped, about ½ inch long, held in umbels in the axils of the leaves. Fruit a long pod with a smooth surface (Radford et al. 1968).

Similar Species: Fruit capsules without fleshy protuberances (spines) found in similar members of Matelea. Flowers also differ from these species in being bi-colored, rather than one solid color throughout. Vegetative plants of Matelea and Gonolobus are difficult to distinguish, and the state-threatened status of this species is justified by the possibility of confusion between the more common angle pod and the other much rarer Matelea species. Gonolobus can be distinguished from Matelea floridana by having leaves with an odor described by some as burnt popcorn. Smaller leaves of angle pod may also resemble the invasive skunkvine (Paederia foetida), but are easily distinguished by their milky sap

Related Rare Species: None in FL.
**angle pod**  
*Gonolobus suberosus*

**Habitat:** Rich hydric hammocks, upland hardwood forests and bottomland forests; often where limestone is near the surface.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring-summer; from May - October in Florida.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Found from Virginia to Mississippi and ranges south to central Florida in Lee and Glades counties.

**Conservation Status:** Listed state-threatened, this species is vouchered from the panhandle of Florida south to Lee and Glades counties.

**Protection and Management:** Angle pod prefers shaded habitats but requires openings with sunlight in order to flower. Ecotones to hardwood hammocks should be kept open with fire, and hammocks should be protected from canopy disturbance and rooting by feral hogs. Since reproductive individuals are more likely to be found along trails where they may receive more sunlight, care should be taken while maintaining vehicle and foot trails to avoid damage to these plants.

**References:** Radford, Ahles, and Bell 1964, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.