ANGLE POD
Gonolobus suberosus var. *suberosus* (L.) R. Br.
Synonyms: *Matelea gonocarpos* (Walt.) Shinners var. *2* ; *Matelea gonocarpos* (Walt.) Shinners; *Gonolobus suberosus* (L.) R. Br.
Family: Apocynaceae (dogbane)
FNAI Ranks: G5T5/SNR
Legal Status: US-none; FL-Threatened

Vine with opposite leaves and cordate leaf base. Crushed young leaves with burnt popcorn fragrance and milky sap. Hydric hammock at Tide Swamp Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: Sprawling **vine;** Pubescence of internodes general, not in lines; **calyx** colleters 1 per sinus, calyx lobes 0.2 - 1.0 mm wide; corolline corona (faucal annulus) glabrous; **follicles** ovoid, greater then 2 times as long as wide; upper surface of **corolla lobes** multi-colored, generally dark maroon to brownish near the base and green to yellowish near the tips at anthesis (or uniformly yellowish-green to neon green in rare mutants), pubescent or glabrous; laminar dorsal anther appendage darkly purplish or maroonish tinted, apex bilobed to emarginate; f**ruits** large, smooth, green, and angled.

Similar Species: Smaller leaves of angle pod may resemble the invasive skunkvine (*Paederia foetida*), but are easily distinguished by their milky sap.

Related Rare Species: All spiny-pod (*Matelea* sp.) species within Florida are rare and have flowers of a single color, fruit capsules with fleshy protuberances (spines), and new leaves, when crushed, lack the burnt popcorn smell.

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: Eastern MD south to southern peninsular FL (Lee, Glades), west to southern MS, inland to Northwest GA and central KY; disjunct in central AR (Saline County).

Conservation Status: The species occurs somewhat commonly in the appropriate habitats and is found within many protected areas throughout Florida, where it mainly is threatened by alterations to hydrology and forestry practices, such as logging in bottomlands.

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: Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.

Flower star-shaped with deep purple center and yellow-green tips. Taken at Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Fruit is a smooth and ridged follicle. Upper leaf surface with rough pustulate hairs. Hydric hammock at Aucilla Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Growing in light gap of hydric hammock at Tide Swamp Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.