

FAKAHATCHEE GUZMANIA

Guzmania monostachia (L.) Rusby ex Mez

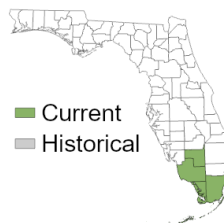
Synonyms: *Renealmia monostachia* L.;

Tillandsia monostachia (L.) L.

Family: Bromeliaceae (pineapple)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S1S2

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered



Gil Nelson

Field Description: "Air plant" (epiphyte) attached to tree trunks and branches. **Stem** short and thick, topped with many strap-like, non-spiny, bright green (occasionally striped) **leaves**, 25.4 - 30.5 cm long, overlapping at the base and forming a cup that holds water. **Flower stalk** 10.2 - 15.2 cm long, erect, stout, covered with green bracts below and pink bracts above, rising from the center of the leaves. **Flowers** 3 cm long, 3 white petals fused into a tube, protruding slightly from upper bracts. **Fruit** a narrow capsule; **seeds** with a plume-like appendage.

Similar Species: Fakahatchee guzmania can be distinguished from other airplants and bromeliads by its short, dense, unbranched flower spike with broad, conspicuous bracts covering the flower stalk.

Related Rare Species: See many-flowered catopsis (*Catopsis floribunda*) and fuzzy-wuzzy airplant (*Tillandsia pruinosa*) in this guide.

Habitat: Branches and tree trunks in swamps and wet hammocks; will survive on the ground for a while if it falls from tree.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, West Indies, South America.

Conservation Status: Loss of habitat and overcollecting has led to near-extirpation of this species, which is now known from only 5 conservation areas in FL. All "tank bromeliads" in FL, including those once common, are threatened with destruction by an exotic weevil (*Metamazius callizona*).

Protection and Management: Protect swamps and hammocks from clearing and development. Deter and prosecute plant poachers. Fund research into methods of controlling exotic weevil.

References: Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, FNA 2000, Frank 2000, IRC 1999, Langdon 1980, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

