

CHAPMAN'S SKELETONGRASS

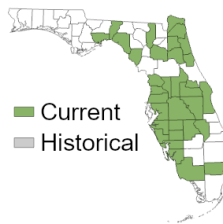
Gymnopogon chapmanianus A.S. Hitchc.

Synonyms: none

Family: Poaceae (grass)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Leaves typically occur in one plane. Dry prairie at Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: Perennial **grass**; **awn** of the lemma (0.3-) 0.8 - 2.2 (-3.5) mm long; **inflorescence branches** with spikelets distributed from the tip nearly to the base; **spikelets** 2 - 3 (-4)- flowered, (2.5-) 4.5 - 5 (-6) mm long; first glume 3.8 - 5 mm long; **leaves** 2 - 8 mm wide.

Similar Species: Shortleaf skeleto grass (*Gymnopogon brevifolius*) is similar and characterized by inflorescence branches with spikelets distributed from the tip to roughly the midpoint, the basal portion naked (or some branches rarely with a few spikelets); leaves 2 - 8 mm wide.

Related Rare Species: There are no other closely related rare species in Florida.

Habitat: Scrubby flatwoods, sandhill, dry, sandy flatwoods, dry prairies, and scrub.

Best Survey Season: August - December.

Range-wide Distribution: Southeastern GA south to South FL.

Conservation Status: Vulnerable, this species is vouchered from 28 counties scattered throughout peninsular Florida, where it is mainly threatened by silviculture and fire suppression. In good quality fire-maintained scrubby flatwoods the species may be common.

Protection and Management: Maintain natural fire intervals in sandhills (1 - 3 years), scrubby flatwoods (5 - 15 years), and mesic flatwoods (2 - 4 years).

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



Lemma awn under 3.5 mm long; inflorescence branches with spikelets distributed from the tip nearly to the base. Scrubby flatwoods at Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Leaf blades about 2 - 8 mm wide. Mesic flatwoods at Tide Swamp Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Growing in mesic flatwoods at Tide Swamp Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.