

LITTLE BROWN JUG

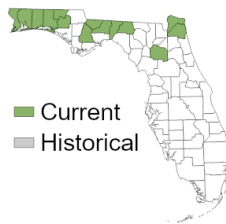
Hexastylis arifolia (Michx.) Small

Synonyms: *Asarum arifolium* Michx.

Family: Aristolochiaceae (None)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S3

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Threatened



Leaves evergreen and variegated with pale green spots. Taken at Eglin Air Force Base. Photo by Brenda Herring.

Field Description: A small spreading **herb** with triangular-sagittate to subhastate **leaves** and fleshy, earth-tone **flowers** borne below the leaves on separate stems; **style** 2-cleft to the stigma; calyx tube 13 - 18 mm long, 6 - 10 mm wide; calyx lobes 2.5 - 8 mm long, 3 - 9 mm wide across the base. **Flowers** often underneath leaf litter.

Similar Species: See Related rare species section

Related Rare Species: Gulf little brown jug (*Hexastylis callifolia*) is very similar and differs by its calyx tube 20 - 25 mm long, 10 - 12 mm wide; calyx lobes 12 - 20 mm long, 8 - 15 mm wide across the base.

Habitat: Mesic hammocks, upland hardwood forests, slope forest, upland mixed woodland, and seepage stream banks.

Best Survey Season: Flowering (Late February) March - May; vegetative all year.

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Hexastylis arifolia

Range-wide Distribution: An endemic species of the southeastern United States found from VA south to north FL and west to eastern LA.

Conservation Status: Roughly 70% of the known populations occur on protected land and are under active management, the remaining stands are threatened by silviculture.

Protection and Management: Protect mesic hammocks, upland hardwood forests, slope forest, upland mixed woodland, and seepage stream banks from conversion to urban, suburban, and agricultural uses.

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



Flower inconspicuous and singular located at plant base. Flower varies in color from purple, tan, to brown with pubescent tube 13 - 18 mm long, 6 - 10 mm wide. Upland hardwood forest at Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.