

SMALLCUP SPIDERLILY

Hymenocallis puntagordensis Traub

Synonyms: *Hymenocallis punta-gordensis*
Traub

Family: Amaryllidaceae (amaryllis)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Growing in wet/mesic flatwoods. Photo by Amy Jenkins.

Field Description: **Bulb** non-rhizomatous, narrowly ovoid, 5 - 8 by 2 - 4.5 cm; basal plate 1 - 2 cm; neck (5-) 8 - 12 cm; tunic dark brown; **Leaves** evergreen, 5 - 8, suberect, 3.5 - 7.5 dm by 1.5 - 3 cm, highly coriaceous; blade shiny green, narrowly liguliform, channeled proximally, apex acute; **Scape** 5 - 6 dm, distinctly 2-edged, glaucous; scape bracts 2; **Flowers** 3 - 5, opening sequentially, fragrant; perianth tube green, (6-)7.5 - 12 cm; tepals ascending, green on keel, (7-)9.5 - 11.5 cm by 4 - 6 mm; corona white with small, yellowish green eye, funnelform, 2 - 2.8 by 2 - 3 cm, margins between free portions of filaments with 1 or 2 prominent lacerate projections; free portions of filaments inserted on flat base, slightly curved, green in distal 1/2, fading to white proximally, (2.5-)3.5 - 4.5 cm; anthers 1.3 - 2 cm, pollen yellow; ovary pyriform, 1.5 - 2.4 cm by ca. 10 mm, ovules 5 - 9 per locule; style green in distal 1/2, fading to white proximally, 13 - 22 cm; **2n** = 46. (FNA 2023).

Similar Species: Alligator-lily (*Hymenocallis palmeri*) grows in similar habitats, but the tepals are yellowish-green to pale green throughout (Weakley 2023).

Related Rare Species: There are several species in this genus occurring in Florida that are very rare, including: cow creek spiderlily (*Hymenocallis franklinensis*) endemic to the Ochlockonee River (Franklin and Wakulla counties) in the FL Panhandle; Gholson's spiderlily (*Hymenocallis gholsonii*) endemic to Liberty County in the FL panhandle; Godfrey's spiderlily (*Hymenocallis godfreyi*) endemic to Wakulla County in the FL Panhandle; spiderlily (*Hymenocallis henryae* var. *glaucofolia*) endemic to Liberty County in the FL Panhandle; Henry's spiderlily (*Hymenocallis henryae* var. *henryae*) endemic to Bay, Gulf, and Walton counties in the FL Panhandle; and Florida panhandle spiderlily (*Hymenocallis choctawensis*) western FL panhandle.

Habitat: Pine flatwoods; commonly in wet flatwoods to dry prairie ecotone.

Best Survey Season: Flowers summer, May-August.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to southwest peninsular FL (Charlotte County).

Conservation Status: Occupying a very limited range and predominantly on a large well-managed conservation area, Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area. Two occurrences protected on conservation lands as of 2024: Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area and Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve. Occurs in mesic flatwoods and threatened by fire exclusion and silviculture activities. At Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area this species may be threatened by roller chopping which occurs frequently as part of land management. It would benefit this species to evaluate the impact of roller-chopping on smallcup spiderlily (*Hymenocallis puntagordensis*) and encourage managers to utilize fire, because of the potential for roller chopping to negatively impact bulbs.

Protection and Management: Burn every 2-4 years in growing season; avoid disking, chopping, or other soil disturbance activity. Evaluate the impact of roller-chopping on smallcup spiderlily (*Hymenocallis puntagordensis*).

References: Flora of North America (FNA) 2003, Garland et al. 2013, Weakley 2023, Wunderlin 2017

smallcup spiderlily

Hymenocallis puntagordensis



Closeup of the flower. Photo by Nicole Zampieri



Flatwoods habitat. © Jessica DeYoung.