

## EDISON'S ASCYRUM

*Hypericum edisonianum* (Small)

W.P. Adams & N. Robson

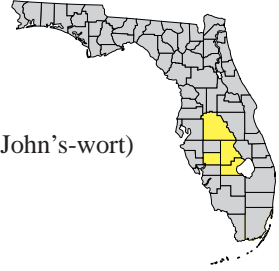
**Synonym:** *Ascyrum edisonianum* Small

**Family:** Clusiaceae (mangosteen) or Guttiferae (St. John's-wort)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2

**Legal Status:** US—Mgmt Concern FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—OBL FL—OBL



Gil Nelson



Billy B. Boothe

**Field Description:** Shrub to 5 feet tall, forming extensive thickets. **Stems** leafless except for upper branches, with smooth, tight, gray or black bark; **stems** appear jointed due to old leaf bases. **Leaves** 0.4 - 0.8 inch long, opposite, oval, waxy-green above, gland-dotted below, with conspicuous red glands at the base; margins thickened and inrolled; no leaf stalks. **Flowers** with 4 yellow petals and numerous stamens; 2 large sepals, with pointed tips and rounded bases, cover 2 narrow, tapered sepals. **Fruit** a dark brown, pointed capsule.

**Similar Species:** St. Andrew's-cross (*Hypericum crux-andreae*) and St. Peter's-wort (*Hypericum hypericoides*) leaves are green, not silvery, with gland dots on both surfaces but no glands at leaf bases. Four-petal hypericum (*Hypericum tetrapetalum*) has clasping, heart-shaped leaves. All three similar species have peeling, reddish-brown bark.

**Related Rare Species:** See Highlands scrub St. John's-wort (*H. cumulicola*) and smooth-barked St. John's-wort (*H. lissophloeus*) in this guide.

## Edison's ascyrum

## *Hypericum edisonianum*

**Habitat:** Depressions in scrub, cuthroat seeps, flatwoods ponds, lake margins, wet prairies.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers, leaves, and bark are identifiable year-round.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to central peninsular FL.

**Conservation Status:** Locally abundant due to thicket-forming habit, but found at only 25 sites, and only 5 conservation areas. Habitat has been lost to wetland drainage, fire suppression, pasture improvement, and grazing.

**Protection & Management:** Allow prescribed fires to burn into wetlands. Maintain natural hydrology in flatwoods. Exclude off-road-vehicles and cattle. Purchase and preserve scrub habitat.

**References:** Adams 1957, Adams and Robson 1961, Coile 2000, Godfrey and Wooten 1980, Nelson 1996, Tobe et al. 1998, Ward 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

