

BALDWYN'S SPINY-POD

Matelea baldwiniana (Sweet) Woodson

Synonyms: *Matelea baldwyniana* (Sweet) Woods.

Family: Apocynaceae (dogbane)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S1

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered



Twining vine with white flowers. Photo by Gary Knight.

Field Description: Plant a twining herbaceous **vine**, with **stems** 1 - 2 m long at maturity; **leaf blades** 7 - 27 cm long; cymes borne on peduncles; **flowers** (2-) 9 - 19 (-53) per inflorescence; upper (inner) surface of the petals glabrous; **inflorescence** with 2 - 53 flowers, averaging 9 - 19; corona 10-lobed (5 short broad lobes alternating with 5 narrower 2-toothed lobes); **corolla lobes** 6 - 15 mm long, corolla lobes ascending; flower buds conical, greater than 2 times as long as wide; **corolla lobes** 2.4 - 6.2 times as long as wide, corolla white (or fading or drying cream); corona 2.2 - 2.7 mm in diameter, cream or creamy-yellow.

Similar Species: See Related rare species section

Related Rare Species: There are multiple rare species of spiny-pod (*Matelea* sp.) in Florida, most of which can only be identified by flower. Baldwyn's spiny-pod is easily differentiated from the other species as it is the only one with a white corolla. The other rare species are Alabama spiny-pod (*Matelea alabamensis*), yellow spiny-pod (*Matelea flavidula*), and Florida milkvine (*Matelea floridana*).

Baldwyn's spiny-pod

Matelea baldwiniana

Habitat: Found in upland hardwood forest, slope forest, and on roadsides on calcareous soil; bluff forests.

Best Survey Season: Flowering: Spring.

Range-wide Distribution: Panhandle FL and southwestern GA west to MO, AR, OK, and TX

Conservation Status: This species has a small range, a specific and vulnerable habitat, and a low number of populations occurring on Conservation Lands.

Protection and Management: Actively manage invasive plant species, like Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), which may favor canopy gaps and upturned rootballs in upland hardwood and slope forest.

References: Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024. Singhurst & Holmes 2021.



A scrambling vine with finely hairy heart-shaped leaves and stems. Photo
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