

PIEDMONT JOINTGRASS

Mnesithea tuberculosa (Nash) de Koning & Sosef

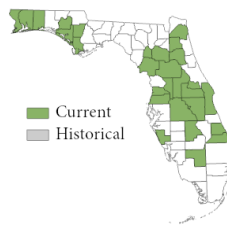
Synonyms: *Coelorachis tuberculosa* (Nash) Nash

Family: Poaceae (grass)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-FACW



John Bradford



Field Description: Perennial grass with culms solitary or in small tufts (0.8-1.5 m tall). Numerous internodes are green to pale purple (4-5 mm thick). Collar is a narrow purplish band. Leaf blades erect or ascending, narrowly linear, to 60 cm long. The sheaths are flattened and strongly keeled (folded sharply). Ligule is a thin, erect, ragged margined scale (1.5-2 mm high). Inflorescence a raceme composed of thickly jointed cylindric spikes (3-6 cm long) often not wholly exerted from their sheaths. Each base of the joints is sculptured out with the hollow area fitting a fertile spikelet, and a thickly stalked, rudimentary spikelet beside it. The first glume or bract below the spikelet is firm and smooth or with a few low, rounded tubercles or knobs scattered on the surface.

Similar Species: Three other jointgrasses occur in Florida. Carolina jointgrass (*Coelorachis cylindrica*) has a rounded sheath and the first glume has round small pits along the nerves. Lattice jointgrass (*Coelorachis tessellata*) has a flattened and

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keeled sheath and the first glume has rectangular pits on the lower half. Wrinkled jointgrass (*Coelorachis rugosa*) has a flattened and keeled sheath and the first glume has prominent coarse ridges usually evident to the naked eye.

Related Rare Species: No other jointgrasses are considered rare in Florida.

Habitat: Ephemeral ponds and margins of sandhill upland lakes or depression marshes where soils are sandy peat or sandy peat-muck.

Best Survey Season: Summer-fall; June through September.

Range-wide Distribution: Southern Alabama, east through the panhandle and central peninsula of Florida.

Conservation Status: Species may be locally abundant where habitat is available. Many known occurrences within Florida are on protected lands. Plants may be difficult to locate during times of extreme drought or flooding, making surveys difficult.

Protection and Management: Avoid heavy soil disturbance from logging and/or pine planting. Avoid any alteration to hydrology from ditching, bedding, etc.

References: Kral 1983, Godfrey and Wooten 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.