

## APALACHICOLA DRAGON-HEAD

*Physostegia godfreyi* Cantino

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Lamiaceae (mint)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S3

**Legal Status:** US-none FL-Threatened

**Wetland Status:** US-OBL+ FL-OBL



Jenna Annis

**Field Description:** Small, short-lived perennial up to 1.5 ft tall. This species develops networks of underground rhizomes, which allows for it to put up many above ground flowering stems, forming extensive colonies. The plant is thin in stature and can be indistinguishable among grasses when not in flower. The leaves are extremely narrow, linear, and alternate along the stem. The flowers are a pale pink to lavender color with dark venation within the throat.

**Similar Species:** There are a few species of *Physostegia* that may look similar, including *P. leptophylla*, and *P. purpurea*. *Physostegia leptophylla* grows in large clusters, often in water, and has wider and more robust leaves. *Physostegia purpurea* is commonly found and has much larger flowers, with robust flower stalks of many flowers. Apalachicola dragon-head is more diminutive than other species of *Physostegia* with very narrow leaves that are longer near the base of the plant. The flower heads are less robust, with smaller and less flowers. It can also be easily

## Apalachicola dragon-head

*Physostegia godfreyi*

distinguished by habitat - Apalachicola dragon-head is only found in the open, wet savannas of the Florida panhandle.

**Related Rare Species:** No related rare species.

**Habitat:** Wet flatwoods, longleaf pine/wiregrass savannas, bogs and swamps.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to the southern Florida panhandle, from Walton to Wakulla counties.

**Conservation Status:** This species is narrowly endemic in the Florida panhandle with few documented locations. However, where it is found it may be extremely frequent.

**Protection and Management:** Little is known about this species and its full extent is unknown. It is likely sensitive to certain land disturbances such as drainage and site preparation for silviculture activities. It likely requires the hydrology to be maintained.

**References:** Huegel 2013, Weakley 2015