

GODFREY'S BUTTERWORT

Pinguicula ionantha Godfrey

Synonyms: none

Family: Lentibulariaceae (butterwort)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S2

Legal Status: US-Threatened; FL-Endangered



White flower form. © Robert Gundy

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with a rosette up to 15 cm wide. **Leaves** fleshy, oblong, bright green, with inrolled edges and rounded tips, upper surfaces covered with short, glandular hairs that exude a "greasy" substance and capture insects. **Flower stalks** 10 - 15 cm tall, leafless, with glandular hairs. **Flowers** nearly 2.5 cm across when fully open, lavender to white, with 5 spreading, notched petals; **throat and tube** darker purple with deep purple veins; **spur** 5 mm long, yellow to olive; **palate** (cylindrical structure protruding from flower center) yellow with purple base, covered with yellow hairs.

Similar Species: See related rare species. All similar species are state-listed butterworts.

Related Rare Species: Chapman's butterwort (*Pinguicula planifolia*), state-threatened, has broad reddish leaves and purple flowers. Other butterworts are hard to identify without flowers. Primrose-flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula primuliflora*), state-endangered, has flowers with purple petals, a white ring above the throat, and a yellow tube with reddish veins. Blue butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea*), with blue flowers and non-glandular flower stalks, and yellow-flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*) are also state-threatened and occur in better drained, rarely inundated habitats. The pale purple to white corolla with a palate protruding from the throat is distinctive for *P. ionantha*.

Habitat: Seepage slopes, bogs, transition zones between flatwoods/wet prairies and cypress stringers, roadside ditches, and depressions in wet pine flatwoods and wet prairies. Often in shallow standing water.

Best Survey Season: Spring; late February to April, difficult to identify otherwise.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to 6 counties in the central Florida Panhandle

Conservation Status: Over half of the known populations are on the Apalachicola National Forest. Lack of prescribed fire or prescribed fire during the dormant season is detrimental to much of the pineland and savannah flora.

Protection and Management: Prescribed fire every 2-3 years is required to prevent shrubby encroachment and to promote flowering in this species. Avoid using heavy machinery that can rut and compact soils in wetlands. Allow prescribed fires to burn into cypress edges and avoid placing firebreaks in wetland ecotones.

References: Coile 2000, Folkerts 1982, Garland 1993, Godfrey and Stripling 1961, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Kral 1983, Tobe et al. 1998, USFWS 1993a, USFWS 1994c, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.



White flower close-up. Note purple throat © Robert Gundy



Note purple tube and throat. © Nicole Zampieri

