

YELLOW FLOWERED BUTTERWORT

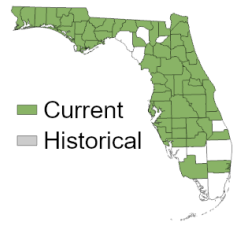
Pinguicula lutea Walt.

Synonyms: none

Family: Lentibulariaceae (butterwort)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S3

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Threatened



Solitary yellow flower; leaves are lime green with curled edges and digestive glands giving the leaves a slimy appearance. Wet flatwoods at Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: Perennial, carnivorous **herb** with fleshy, yellow-green **leaves**, forming a basal rosette. Glandular hairs on the upper **leaves**, **flower stalks**, and **calyx** exude a sticky substance that traps small insects such as ants. **Flowers** bright yellow with a distinct spur.

Similar Species: Yellow flowered butterwort is the only Florida butterwort with yellow flowers.

Related Rare Species: This species is one of six butterwort plant species known to occur in Florida. Three of these species are restricted to the Florida panhandle and are listed as rare - Godfrey's butterwort (*Pinguicula ionantha*) has bright green leaves with edges that are rolled inwards, tips rounded, and has a pale purple to white corolla with a palate protruding from the throat; primrose-flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula primuliflora*) has flowers with purple petals, a white ring above the throat, and a yellow tube with reddish veins; and Chapman's butterwort (*Pinguicula planifolia*), has broad reddish leaves and purple flowers. Three butterworts are more wide-ranging in the

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state. The other two wide-ranging butterworts in the state, yellow and blue flowered butterworts, are considered threatened. Yellow flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*) has yellow-green leaves that roll inwards and have acuminate tips and has yellow flowers. Blue flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea*) only occurs as far west as Liberty and Franklin Counties, but occurs throughout the majority of peninsular Florida except for a few south Florida counties. Blue flowered butterwort has blue flowers that have distinct veins and non-glandular flower stalks.

Habitat: Pine flatwoods and wet prairies.

Best Survey Season: (Late December-) February - May.

Range-wide Distribution: Southeastern NC (Pender and New Hanover counties) south to southern FL, west to eastern LA.

Conservation Status: Yellow flowered butterwort occurs throughout Florida except for a few south and north Florida counties.

Protection and Management: Burn mesic flatwoods every 2-4 years to reduce shrub cover and promote sunny openings.

References: Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.



Solitary yellow flower with five notched petals and five sepals. Wet flatwoods at Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Carnivory via the slimy upper leaf surface. Edge of upland and forested wetland in a restoration natural community at L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Growing in wet flatwoods at J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.