EASTERN SHOOTING STAR
Primula meadia (Linnaeus) Mast & Reveal
Synonyms: *Dodecatheon meadia* L.;
Dodecatheon meadia L. var. *meadia*
Family: Primulaceae (primrose)
FNAI Ranks: G5/SX
Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered
Wetland Status: US-FACU+ FL-UPL

Close up of flowers of eastern shooting star (*Primula meadia*), © Gary P. Fleming.

Field Description: Plants 10–50 cm; scape mostly glabrous. **Caudices** not obvious at anthesis; roots whitish to tan or brownish; bulblets absent. **Leaves** 8–30 × 2–8 cm; petiole winged; blade (usually suffused with red at base even when dry), usually oblanceolate to oblong or spatulate, rarely ovate, base decurrent onto stem, gradually tapering to petiole, margins usually entire, rarely coarsely toothed, surfaces glabrous. **Inflorescences** 1–25(–125)-flowered; bracts lanceolate, 3–10 mm, usually glabrous, rarely glandular-pubescent. **Pedicels** (1.5–)3–7 cm, usually glabrous, rarely glandular-pubescent. **Flowers**: calyx light green to green, 5–12 mm, glabrous, tube 2–3.8 mm, lobes 5, (2.5–)3–7(–9) mm; corolla tube maroon and yellow with dark maroon, ± thick, wavy ring, lobes 5, white or lavender to magenta, (10–)12–25(–27) mm; filaments usually connate, tube yellow, 0.5–3 × 1–2 mm; anthers (4–)5.5–10 mm; pollen sacs yellow, sometimes speckled with red or

maroon, connective purple, dark maroon, or black, smooth; stigmas not enlarged compared to style. **Capsules** dark reddish brown, valvate, cylindric-ovoid, 7–18(–21) × 4–6(–9) mm, glabrous; walls thick, firm. (FNA 2023).

Similar Species: Flowers of plants in the Solanum genus looks somewhat similar to flowers of this species but they do not have a basal rosette of leaves with flowers on a scape.

Related Rare Species: There are no closely related rare species in Florida.This was the only species in the Primula genus in the state.

Habitat: Eastern shooting star (*Primula meadia)* grows in calcareous prairies, glades, and upland mixed forest edges.

Best Survey Season: In Florida, this species would flower in the spring, typically in late March to early April.

Range-wide Distribution: This species has a large range outside of Florida, occurring throughout the southeastern U.S.

Conservation Status: Due to heavy logging at the one known site for this species, it appears to now be extirpated from the state.

Protection and Management: Determine specific habitat requirement (occurs on edge of woods near upland glades?).

References: FNA 2023, Reveal 2009, Weakley 2023