

## DOLLAR ORCHID

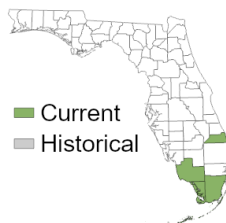
*Prosthechea boothiana* var. *erythronioides*  
(Lindl.) W.E. Higgins

**Synonyms:** *Epidendrum erythronioides* Small;  
*Encyclia boothiana* (Lindl.) Dressler var.  
*erythronioides* (Small) Luer; *Encyclia*  
*boothiana* (Lindl.) Dressler

**Family:** Orchidaceae (orchid)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4?T4?Q/S1

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-Endangered



**Field Description:** Orchid attached to tree trunks by white **aerial roots**. **Leaves** 6 - 18 cm long and up to 3.8 cm wide, bright green, with a strong midrib, rising from the top of a round, flattened stem (**pseudobulb**). **Flowers** in narrow clusters of 1 - 12 waxy, showy flowers. **Petals and sepals** widely spreading, yellow-green with irregular purplish-brown blotches, **lip** white to pale yellow. **Fruit** a nodding capsule, 2.5 cm long, with 3 wings.

**Similar Species:** Although clumps of dollar orchid leaves resemble other *Encyclia* plants, no other species has the flat, "silver dollar" pseudobulbs.

**Related Rare Species:** Dwarf butterfly orchid (*Encyclia pygmaea* [Hook.] Dressler, syn: *Prosthechea pygmaea* [Hook.] W.E. Higgins) is state-endangered. This small, epiphytic orchid with diminutive yellow-green flowers occurs only in pond apple swamps in Collier County.

**dollar orchid**

*Prosthechea boothiana* var. *erythronioides*

**Habitat:** Tropical hammocks, trunks and low limbs of hardwood trees in rockland hammocks, mangroves and coastal buttonwood forests; epiphytic.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer; July - October.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, West Indies, Mexico, Central America.

**Conservation Status:** Only 7 populations of dollar orchid are known, all in parks or preserves. This orchid has been decimated by plant poachers and by destruction of habitat.

**Protection and Management:** Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers. Protect wetlands from logging and draining. Purchase and protect remaining fragments of rocklands

**References:** Coile 2000, Correll and Correll 1982, IRC 1999, Luer 1972, McCartney 1985a, McCartney 1985b, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

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