BROOKSVILLE BELLFLOWER
Protocodon robinsiae (Small) Morin
Synonyms: *Rotantha robinsiae* (Small) Small; *Campanula robinsiae* Small
Family: Campanulaceae (bellflower)
FNAI Ranks: G1/S1
Legal Status: US-Endangered; FL-Endangered

Billy B. Boothe

Field Description: Annual **herb** to 15 cm tall, usually much smaller, inconspicuous, and sprawling. **Stems** smooth, angled, usually branched, rooting at nodes. **Leaves** 5 - 13 mm long, alternate, hairless, toothed, oval to lance-shaped but variable in both size and shape. **Flowers** less than 13 mm long, solitary, blue to purple, with 5 lobes spreading from a bell-shaped tube. **Fruit** small, rounded with low angles, and with a persistent calyx.

Similar Species: Florida bellflower (*Rotanthella floridana*) has similar growth habit and leaves, but its stems are more than twice as long as the small, inconspicuous Brooksville bellflower plants. Florida bellflower flowers, with narrow, pointed petals and conspicuous sepals, are nearly twice as large.

Related Rare Species: None in Florida.

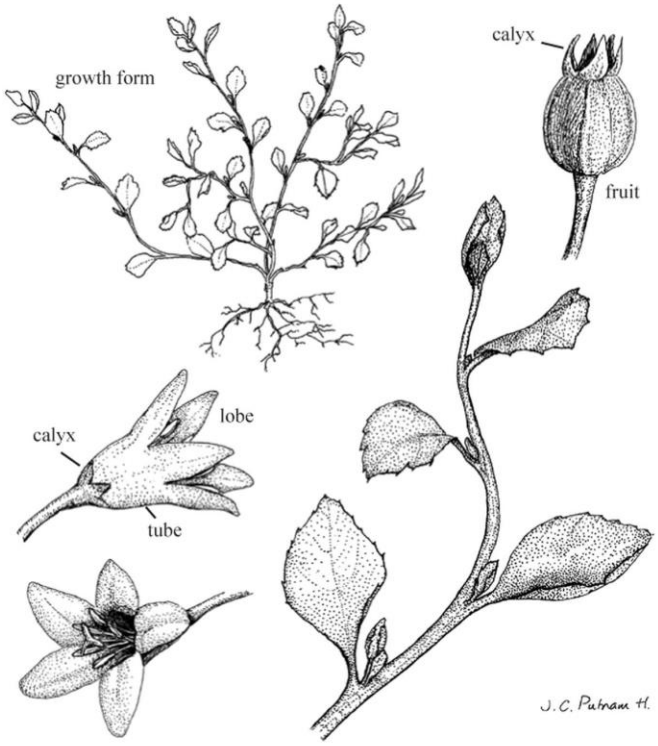
Habitat: Wet, grassy slopes and drying pond edges in vicinity of Chinsegut Hill, in Hernando County.

Best Survey Season: Spring; January - May, depending on water levels in ponds, usually March - April.

Brooksville bellflower ***Protocodon robinsiae***

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to Hernando County, FL.

Conservation Status: This species was known from three populations, two on conservation lands, but only one population has been seen recently.

Protection and Management: Monitor fluctuations in water level of ponds and the effect on germination. Limit cattle grazing and trampling. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

References: Coile 2000, Landry 1997, Small 1926d, USFWS 1993b, Ward 1978, Williams 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.