

WHERRY'S REDFLOWER PITCHERPLANT

Sarracenia alabamensis ssp. *wherryi* Case & R.B.

Case

Synonyms: *Sarracenia rubra* Walt. ssp. *wherryi*

(F.W. & R.B. Case) Schnell

Family: Sarraceniaceae (pitcherplant)

FNAI Ranks: G3T1?/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-OBL



No Image
Available

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with hollow, tubular **leaves (pitchers)** 11 - 17 inches tall and 1.5 - 2 inches across at the mouth. **Pitchers** clumped, erect, red or pale green with a dark red network of veins; a narrow **wing** runs the length of the pitcher and a small, pointed **hood** curves over the mouth. **Flowers** solitary, nodding at top of a leafless stalk 2.5 feet tall; **petals** 5, maroon, drooping; **sepals** 5, green to maroon, horizontal or turned upwards, persisting long after petals drop. Green, five-pointed **style disk** in the center of the flower lasts all summer.

Similar Species: Gulf Coast redflower pitcherplant (*Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *gulfensis*), state-threatened, is endemic to Florida and found in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties, and is generally taller and with a narrower mouth than Wherry's redflower pitcherplant. Four other species of pitcherplant are listed

Wherry's redflower pitcherplant

Sarracenia alabamensis ssp. *wherryi*

in FL. Hooded pitcherplant (*Sarracenia minor*) resembles sweet pitcherplant but has yellow-green flowers and white patches near the top of the pitcher. Purple pitcherplant (*Sarracenia purpurea* or *S. rosea*) has pink or maroon flowers and inflated pitchers resting on the ground with erect, wavy-margined hoods. Parrot pitcherplant (*Sarracenia psittacina*) has maroon flowers; very wide wings; and small, deeply hooded pitchers pressed against the ground. White-topped pitcherplant (*Sarracenia leucophylla*) has maroon flowers and white hoods with red or purple veins.

Related Rare Species: Gulf Coast redflower pitcherplant (*Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *gulfensis*), state-threatened, is endemic to Florida and found in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties, and is generally taller than Wherry's redflower pitcherplant.

Habitat: Openings in thickets along spring-fed or seepage streams, wet prairies, bogs.

Best Survey Season: Flowers April - May. Pitchers identifiable until fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Sweet pitcherplant occurs from NC to MS; subspecies *wherryi* occurs in FL, AL, MS.

Conservation Status: Possibly extirpated. Only 2 known populations in Florida. One on protected land has not been updated since 1983, and the second was last seen not on protected land in 2000 in suppressed conditions.

Protection and Management: Burn wet prairies every 2 - 3 years. Allow upland fires to burn into stream thickets. Avoid soil disturbance in wetland ecotones. Prevent siltation into streams from roads and logging.

References: Case and Case 1976, Coile 2000, Folkerts 1982, Hermann 1995, McDaniel 1971, Schnell 1976, 1977, 1979; Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.