

CHAFFSEED

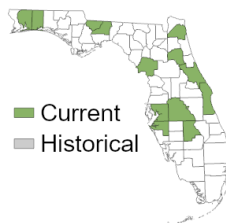
Schwalbea americana L.

Synonyms: *Schwalbea australis* Pennell

Family: Orobanchaceae (broomrape)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S1

Legal Status: US-Endangered; FL-Endangered



Field Description: Perennial **herb** with an erect, usually unbranched, hairy **stem** to 0.6 m tall. **Leaves** 2 - 4 cm long, largest at the base, gradually decreasing in size upwards, entire, alternate, lance-shaped, without leafstalks, overlapping in a spiral up the stem. **Flowers** about 2.5 cm long, two-lipped, yellow suffused with purple, especially near the lips, in a spike at the top of the stem. **Fruit** a capsule, splitting into 4 sections.

Similar Species: Lousewort (*Pedicularis canadensis*) leaves are deeply lobed and cut, and the flowering stem is less than 30 cm tall.

Related Rare Species: See hummingbird flower (*Macranthera flammea*) in this guide.

Habitat: Moist, grassy ecotones around ponds in longleaf pine sandhills; longleaf pine savannas, sandhills, and flatwoods. Plants are semi-parasitic on the roots of gallberry, huckleberry, St. John's-wort, silk grass, and others.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer; April - June, depending on timing of recent fire. Without fire, plants remain short and inconspicuous. Brown, dead stems with old fruits are conspicuous for about a year after flowering.

chaffseed

Schwalbea americana

Range-wide Distribution: Historically found from MA to LA, chaffseed is now known primarily from NC, SC, and GA.

Conservation Status: Historically known from 9 counties in north and central FL, only 2 populations, in Leon and Walton Counties, are extant.

Protection and Management: Burn every 2 - 3 years during the growing season. Avoid mowing, soil disturbance, and cutting fire lanes around ponds.

References: Coile 2000, Determann et al. 1997, Federal Register 1991, Federal Register 1992a, Helton et al 2000, R.T. Johnson 1993, Johnson and Russell 1993, Kirkman et al. 1998, Musselman and Mann 1977, USFWS 1995, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

