

ONESEED BURR CUCUMBER

Sicyos angulatus L.

Synonyms: none

Family: Cucurbitaceae (squash)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S1S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-none



Corolla 5-lobed; stem and leaves with conspicuous sticky short hairs.

Photo © Alan Cressler.

Field Description: **Leaves:** thin, 5-lobed, up to 25 cm across and borne on stout, pubescent petioles 2.5 to 10 cm long; alternate, broadly heart-shaped and finely toothed. **Stems:** hairy and form a creeping vine up to 6 m long, with numerous branched tendrils; new vines can form by growth from axillary buds. **Flowers:** monoecious with 5-petaled, green and white **Corollas:** white with green striations, and consist of five petals fused at the base into an open bowl, and free and spread at the tips **Calyx:** green, five-toothed, and pubescent **Staminate flowers:** either paniculate or racemose inflorescences. The anthers unite to form a central column **Pistillate flowers:** borne on a compact cyme, in a globose cluster of 8-20 flowers. The pistil consists of a superior ovary, a slender style, and 3 stigmas **Fruits:** bur-like; small and spiny, 1.0-1.5 cm long, one-seeded, produced in clusters of 3-20, initially green, turning brown, indehiscent, containing a single brown flattened seed **Seed:** 15 mm by 10 mm, dark brown to black, compressed, smooth, and covered with a crustaceous pericarp **Pericarp:** covered with four types of “hairs” consisting of barbed prickles (8 to 10 mm long), long jointed hairs, short pointed conical hairs, and unicellular conical hairs

oneseed burr cucumber

Sicyos angulatus

Similar Species: There are no other closely related species of oneseed burr cucumber in the state of Florida.

Related Rare Species: Oneseed burr cucumber is the only member of its genus (*Sicyos*) in the state of Florida.

Habitat: Floodplains.

Best Survey Season: Flowering: May-Nov

Range-wide Distribution: S. ME west to MN and se. ND, south to Panhandle FL and c. TX.

Conservation Status: This species is only known from one location in Florida, but based on its relatively common, but not easily accessible, habitat along river edges it is likely more common in the state than current data represents.

Protection and Management: The only occurrence in the state occurs on a floodplain adjacent to managed land, but not on it, below a dam.

References: Mann et al 1981. Weakley 2024.



Fruit one seeded. Photo © Scott Ward.