GIANT WATER COWBANE
Tiedemannia filiformis ssp. *greenmanii* (Walter) M.A. Feist & S.R. Downie
Synonyms: *Oxypolis greenmanii* Mathias & Constance
Family: Apiaceae (parsley)
FNAI Ranks: G5T2/S2
Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered


Large leaves over 10 mm in diameter at leaf base. Taken at Tyndall Air Force Base. Photo by Hanna Rozner-Katz.

Field Description: Plants 0.4-2.5 (-3) meters tall; mature fruits with peripheral ribs progressively thinning away from the seed cavity, the fruit with a fusiform cross-section, distinctly thinner toward the ends of the ribs than at the center, 0.2 mm thick at the edge; plants with stout rhizomes or a caudex, not long stoloniferous; lower nodes generally retaining their leaves until flowering; umbellets/umbel (5-) 10-30; flowers maroon to pink; segments of phyllodia distinctly bulging between the partitions; phyllodes 4-17 mm in diameter at base; [of the FL Panhandle].

Similar Species: Morphologically intermediate and taxonomically puzzling populations of cowbane (*Oxypolis)* were discovered in the north eastern portion of Bay County and in adjacent areas of Gulf County. Judd determined that these populations represent hybrid material between water cowbane (*Oxypolis filiformis)* and giant water-dropwort (Judd, W. S. 1982b).

Related Rare Species: None.

Habitat: Marshes, cypress ponds, and wet flatwoods; and in ditches with water.

Best Survey Season: Flowering Jul-Sep; fruiting Aug-Oct

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to Panhandle FL (Bay, Calhoun, and Gulf counties)

Conservation Status: This species has a narrow range extent in the Florida panhandle and 42 extant occurrences as of 2025. Only one of the occurrences has good viability and most occurrences are on private property (8 are protected on conservation lands). Giant water cowbane is mostly restricted to roadsides and is threatened by ongoing habitat degradation (silviculture and fire exclusion) and fragmentation. The roadside populations are in continual threat by the roadside management techniques. Simple mowing may not be deleterious to the element outside of its flowering and fruiting periods. However, any use of herbicides would likely be deleterious to populations. Non-native invasive species can also be an ongoing threat.

Protection and Management: An effort should be made to work with managers (Tyndall Airforce Base and FDOT) to protect populations from mowing disturbance during flowering and fruiting. Many populations exist on roadsides so the management activities of these locations are intimately associated with their persistence.

References: Judd, W. S. 1982b, Weakley, A. S. and Southeastern Flora Team 2024, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.