

NONE

Tillandsia fasciculata var. *densispica* Sw.

Synonyms: none

Family: Bromeliaceae (pineapple)

FNAI Ranks: G5T4T5/SNR

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-none



This green square is a
placeholder image

Field Description: **Leaves** arranged in a close spiral; **inflorescence** (3-) many-flowered; **leaves** broader, 6-35 mm wide when measured at mid-length; **leaf sheaths** flat or slightly and broadly channeled, the plant not pseudobulbous (cylindrical or broadened-flaring upwards); **floral bracts** imbricate, broad, covering all or most of the rachis (the rachis not visible at anthesis); **leaves** tough and leathery; **inflorescence** palmately to pinnately branched, with 3-15 branches; **floral bracts** 1.2-2.0 cm wide; fertile spikes of inflorescence < 10 cm long; **floral bracts** 2-3 cm long; **spikes** of inflorescence with short or absent sterile bases.

Similar Species: Spreading air-plant (*Tillandsia utriculata*) has leaf sheaths flat or slightly and broadly channeled, the plant not pseudobulbous (cylindrical or broadened-flaring upwards); floral bracts spreading and/or small, exposing most of the rachis at anthesis; leaves 20-75, not twisted, unicolored; corolla cream.

None

Tillandsia fasciculata var. *densispica*

Related Rare Species: Two other airplants are very similar: cardinal airplant (*Tillandsia fasciculata* var. *fasciculata*) and cardinal airplant (*T. fasciculata* var. *clavispica*). **T. fasciculata** var. **fasciculata:** floral bracts imbricate, broad, covering all or most of the rachis (the rachis not visible at anthesis); leaves tough and leathery; inflorescence palmately to pinnately branched, with 3-15 branches; floral bracts 1.2-2.0 cm wide; fertile spikes of inflorescence > 10 cm long; floral bracts often 3.0-4.8 cm long. **T. fasciculata** var. **clavispica:** leaves tough and leathery; inflorescence palmately to pinnately branched, with 3-15 branches; floral bracts 1.2-2.0 cm wide; fertile spikes of inflorescence < 10 cm long; floral bracts 2-3 cm long; spikes of inflorescence with elongate slender sterile bases covered with sterile bracts.

Habitat: Found as an epiphyte in strand swamp, hydric hammock, mesic hammock, dome swamp, cypress stringers and sometimes wet flatwoods edges on pine.

Best Survey Season: Flowering/fruitlet most of the year.

Range-wide Distribution: From c. and s. FL south through the West Indies, Mexico, and Central America.

Conservation Status: The most serious threats to this species are the Mexican bromeliad weevil and conversion of its habitat to urban, suburban, or agricultural uses.

Protection and Management: Protect natural communities where the element is commonly found (e.g. *Taxodium*-dominated swamps) from conversion to alternate land uses and eliminate invasive plant species, particularly old world climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*).

References: Weakley et al. 2023, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011