

CRAIGHEAD'S NODDING-CAPS

Triphora craigheadii Luer

Synonyms: none

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-FACW



No Image
Available

Field Description: Terrestrial, perennial herb to 3.2 inches tall. Stem purple, succulent, usually less than 1.5 inches tall. Leaves 1 - 4, less than 0.5 inch long, dark green above, purple below, clasping the stem, oval or heartshaped with finely wavy margins. Flowers 1 - 3, tubular, opening only at tips, opening at night and closing by noon of the next day. Sepals and petals greenish-white with pink tips; lip white with purple spots and 3 parallel, entire crests. Fruit an oval capsule, at first nodding then becoming erect.

Similar Species: Rickett's nodding-caps (*Triphora rickettii*), a species of federal management concern, has yellowish white flowers with pale yellow, toothed crests on the lip and wavy-margined leaves that are green below. Broad-leaf nodding-caps (*Triphora latifolia*), state-endangered, has entire leaf margins and a single white flower with pale green crests on the lip. Three-birds (*Triphora trianthophoros*), statethreatened, is a more robust plant, to 10 inches tall, with purplish sepals and

petals and green, toothed crests on the lip.

Related Rare Species: Rickett's nodding-caps (*Triphora rickettii*), a species of federal management concern, has yellowish white flowers with pale yellow, toothed crests on the lip and wavy-margined leaves that are green below. Broad-leaf nodding-caps (*Triphora latifolia*), state-endangered, has entire leaf margins and a single white flower with pale green crests on the lip. Three-birds (*Triphora trianthophoros*), statethreatened, is a more robust plant, to 10 inches tall, with purplish sepals and petals and green, toothed crests on the lip.

Habitat: Found on surface of rotting logs, shaded rock outcrops in mesic hardwood hammocks.

Best Survey Season: Summer; late June.

Range-wide Distribution: Craighead's and Rickett's nodding-caps: endemic to FL. Broad-leaved nodding-caps: FL, Puerto Rico. Three-birds: central and eastern US.

Conservation Status: Craighead's nodding-caps occurs in 1 state park. None of the other rare species of nodding-caps are known to occur on conservation lands.

Protection and Management: Protect hardwood hammocks from development, logging, and grazing.

References: Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Johnson et al. 1997, Luer 1966, Luer 1969, Luer 1972, Medley 1990, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.