

VARIABLE-LEAF CROWNBEARD

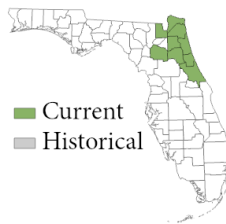
Verbesina heterophylla (Chapman) Gray

Synonyms: *Pterophyton heterophyllum* (Chapm.) Alexander

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S2

Legal Status: US-none; FL-none



Jenna Annis

Field Description: Perennial herb with stems 40 - 50 cm tall, rough-hairy, winged, usually leafless above the middle when plant is in flower. **Leaves** 3 - 7 cm long, opposite, oblong to oval, rough-hairy, with small blunt teeth; no leaf stalks but leaf tissue continues onto the stems as wings. **Flowers** in solitary heads on stiff, slender stalks; disk flowers few, yellow; ray flowers 5 - 10 per head, spreading, yellow. **Fruits** brown, winged.

Similar Species: Coastalplain crownbeard (*Verbesina aristata*) has yellow ray flowers, rough-hairy stems, and opposite, toothed leaves, but the stems lack wings.

Related Rare Species: Chapman's crownbeard (*Verbesina chapmanii*), state-threatened and a Panhandle endemic, has wingless stems, rough-hairy leaves, and heads with large disk flowers and no ray flowers.

variable-leaf crownbeard

Verbesina heterophylla

Habitat: Mesic flatwoods, dry woods.

Best Survey Season: Summer; June - August.

Range-wide Distribution: Variable-leaf crownbeard is restricted to northeast FL and southeast GA

Conservation Status: Variable-leaf crownbeard has a narrow range, known from 2 conservation areas and 2 military bases. Conversion of habitat to pine plantation is a major threat to this species.

Protection and Management: Avoid clearcutting and disturbance to the ground layer in wet and mesic flatwoods. Burn every 2 - 3 years.

References: Coile 2000, Cronquist 1980, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Kral 1983, Small 1933, Tobe et al. 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.

