



**Common Name:** CATESBY'S BINDWEED

**Scientific Name:** *Calystegia catesbeiana* Pursh ssp. *catesbeiana*

**Other Commonly Used Names:** silky bindweed, Catesby's false bindweed

**Previously Used Scientific Names:** *Convolvulus sericata* House, *Calystegia spithamea* (Linnaeus) Pursh (in part)

**Family:** Convolvulaceae (morning glory)

**Rarity Ranks:** G3T2?Q/S1?

**State Legal Status:** Special Concern

**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** none

**Description:** Perennial **herb** with hairy, vining **stems** up to 2 feet (60 cm) long, rarely branched, usually twining at the tips but not strongly climbing. **Leaves** 1 - 2 inches long, arrowhead-shaped, alternate, smooth or hairy. **Flowers** 1½ - 2 inches (4 - 5 cm) wide, white, 5-lobed, funnel-shaped; with 5 small, green sepals and 2 oval, **leafy bracts**, about ¾ inches (2 cm) long, at the base of the flower; **flower stalks** hairy, solitary in the angles between the 2 lowest leaves and the stem. **Fruit** a rounded capsule, about ¾ inches (1 cm) wide, enclosed by the leafy bracts.

**Similar Species:** Low bindweed (*Calystegia spithamea*) has erect, finely hairy stems. Its leaves may be smooth or sometimes densely hairy on the lower surface, and the upper leaves overtop the tip of the stem; flowers are white or pink. Hedge bindweed (*C. sepium*) is a twining vine with hairless stems and leaves and white to pinkish-purple flowers.

**Related Rare Species:** Silky bindweed (*Calystegia catesbeiana* ssp. *sericata*, Special Concern) occurs in hardwood forests in the northeast Georgia mountains. Its slender stems are densely white-hairy and up to 6 feet long, and its densely hairy leaves may be up to 4 inches (10 cm) long and whitish in color. Its flowers are up to 2¾ inches (6 cm) wide with leafy bracts up to 1 inch (2.5 cm) long.

**Habitat:** Frequently burned longleaf pine-wiregrass woodlands.

**Life History:** Catesby's bindweed is a perennial herb, dying back to the ground in winter and producing new growth in early spring and flowers in mid- to late spring (if its habitat is burned in the spring, plants will re-sprout and flower later in the summer). The showy flowers of bindweeds attract a variety of insects, especially long-tongued bees such as the large bee, *Diadasia* sp., considered a specialist pollinator of bindweeds. Seeds are probably eaten by numerous animals including ground-dwelling birds such as bobwhite quail.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during flowering, April–June (possibly later, depending on timing of recent fire).

**Range:** Georgia and Florida Panhandle.

**Threats:** Fire suppression, logging, clearing, and conversion of habitat to pine plantations and development.

**Georgia Conservation Status:** Only one population is known; it occurs on private land.

**Conservation and Management Recommendations:** Apply prescribed fire to longleaf pine woodlands every 2 - 3 years, primarily in the growing season. Protect longleaf pine woodlands from clearing, logging, bedding, silvicultural site preparation, and development.

**Selected References:**

Austin, D.F. 2004. Convolvulaceae (morning glory family). In, N. Smith, S.A. Mori, A. Henderson, D.W. Stevenson, S.V. Heald, Flowering Plants of the Neotropics. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

Austin, D. F. 1997. Convolvulaceae (morning glory family). Conservation and Science Department, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona.

Austin, D.F. 1992. Studies of the Florida Convolvulaceae - V - *Calystegia*. Florida Scientist 55(1): 58-60.

Chafin, L.G. 2007. Field guide to the rare plants of Georgia. State Botanical Garden of Georgia and University of Georgia Press, Athens.

NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer. Arlington, Virginia.  
<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>

Nelson, G. 2005. East Gulf Coastal Plain wildflowers. Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Connecticut.

Ushimaru, A. and K. Kikuzawa. 1999. Variation of breeding system, floral rewards, and reproductive success in clonal *Calystegia* species (Convolvulaceae). American Journal of Botany 86(3): 436-446.

Weakley, A.S. 2007. Flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and surrounding areas. University of North Carolina Herbarium, Chapel Hill.

Wunderlin, R.P and B.F. Hansen. 2003. Guide to the vascular plants of Florida, 2nd edition. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

**Author of species account:** Linda G. Chafin

**Date Compiled or Updated:**

L. Chafin, Nov. 2007: original account

K. Owers, Jan. 2010: updated status and ranks, added pictures

Z. Abouhamdan, April 2016: removed broken link

CATESBY'S BINDWEED  
*Calystegia catesbeiana* ssp. *catesbeiana*



