



Common Name: HEARTLEAF BRICKELLIA

Scientific Name: *Brickellia cordifolia* Elliott

Other Commonly Used Names: Flyr's brickell-bush

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Coleosanthus cordifolius* (Elliott) Kuntze

Family: Asteraceae/Compositae (aster)

Rarity Ranks: G2G3/S2

State Legal Status: Threatened

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: none

Description: Perennial **herb** with slightly ribbed **stems**, 1½ - 5 feet (50 - 150 cm) tall, often fallen over during flowering. **Leaves** 2 - 4 inches (5 - 10 cm) long, with toothed margins, pointed tips, and rounded or squared-off bases; opposite at midstem, sometimes alternate near the top of the stem; lower surfaces of leaves slightly hairy and dotted with glands. **Flower heads** up to ¾ inch (2 cm) across, with long, purplish bristles and 35 - 45 purplish-pink **disc flowers**; no **ray flowers**, although long, pink style branches may resemble ray flowers. **Fruit** less than ¼ inch (5 mm) long, seed-like, surrounded by barbed, purplish bristles. **Bracts** surrounding the base of the flower heads are strongly ribbed.

Similar Species: Eastern false-boneset (*Brickellia eupatorioides*) leaves are narrow with wedge-shaped bases and flower heads with white bristles. Ageratum (*Ageratina aromatica*), with white flowers, and mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), with blue flowers, have similar leaves but smaller flower heads. Young sprouts of American beauty-berry (*Callicarpa americana*), with opposite, toothed leaves, resemble immature heartleaf brickellia, but beauty-berry leaves are wedge-shaped at the base.

Related Rare Species: None in Georgia.

Habitat: Moist pine-oak-hickory woods and flats; dry woods, often with southern red oak and loblolly pine; sandy, well drained riverbanks; upper ravine slopes with spruce pine, southern magnolia, and white oak; often in basic soils. Usually in sunny openings or along edges of roads and trails; may persist in shady, overgrown woods and disturbed areas.

Life History: Little is known about the life history of heartleaf brickellia. It is a perennial herb that dies back to the ground in the winter, producing new growth in the spring and flowering in late summer and fall. Its flowers are visited by a variety of insect pollinators, including butterflies, bees, and flies. The seeds are dispersed by wind, gravity, and animals; bristles surrounding the seeds probably aid in seed dispersal by both wind and animals.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (late August–October).

Range: Georgia, southeast Alabama, and north Florida.

Threats: Conversion of habitat to pine plantations, pasture, and developments, fire suppression in upland woods, logging and other mechanical clearing in ravines and on slopes.

Georgia Conservation Status: About 17 populations have been seen in the last 20 years; 15 of these occur on Fort Benning, the others on private land.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Apply prescribed fire every 3 - 5 years during the growing season in pine-oak woods, allowing fire to burn into upper slopes of ravines. Avoid clearcutting and conversion of upland woods to pine plantations.

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Author of species account: Linda G. Chafin

Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, Feb. 2008: original account

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

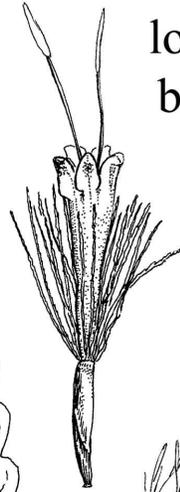


Inflorescence

HEARTLEAF BRICKELLIA
Brickellia cordifolia



J.C. Putnam det.



long style
branches



disk
flowers

ribbed
bracts



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Inflorescence



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Inflorescence