Common Name: FEW-FLOWERED GOLDEN-ASTER

Scientific Name: *Pityopsis oligantha* (Chapman ex Torrey & Gray) Small

Other Commonly Used Names: coastal plain golden-aster, few-headed grass-leaved golden-aster

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Chrysopsis oligantha* Chapman ex Torrey & Gray, *Heterotheca oligantha* (Chapman ex Torrey & Gray) V.L. Harms

Family: Asteraceae/Compositae (aster)

Rarity Ranks: G3/S1S2

State Legal Status: Special Concern
**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** FAC

**Description:** Perennial herb with erect stems 8 - 20 inches (20 - 50 cm) tall, the lower stem covered with silky, silvery hairs; the upper stem with dark, knob-tipped, glandular hairs. **Lower leaves** 3 - 12 inches (8 - 30 cm) long and up to ½ inch (3 - 14 mm) wide, grass-like, silky-hairy. **Stem leaves** fewer than 7, much reduced in size and scattered along the stem. **Flower heads** about 1½ inches (4 cm) wide, 1 - 6 per plant, on long stalks. Each **flower head** composed of 11 - 16 yellow, strap-shaped **ray flowers** and 25 - 40 yellow **disk flowers** in a central disk; the base of the head is surrounded by several series of green **bracts** forming a cup (involucre) around the base, ½ inch (9 - 11 mm) high, covered with knob-tipped, glandular hairs. **Fruits** less than ¼ inch (4 - 5 mm) long, dry, seed-like, ribbed, and hairy.

**Similar Species:** Grass-leaved golden-aster (*Pityopsis graminifolia*) is abundant in dry habitats throughout Georgia. It has more than 7 stem leaves per plant and more than 6 flower heads per stem. The upper stem has few or no glandular hairs, and the lower leaves are usually wider than ¾ inch (2 cm).

**Related Rare Species:** See sandhill golden-aster (*Pityopsis pinifolia*) on this website.

**Habitat:** Dry to moist longleaf pine-wiregrass savannas and flatwoods, seepage slopes, bogs, edges of cypress ponds.

**Life History:** Few-flowered golden-aster is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually as well as vegetatively by the spread of rhizomes. Its flowers are pollinated by a variety of butterflies and bees and the seeds are dispersed by wind, gravity, and small animals.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during flowering (April–May, usually much earlier than other golden-asters) and fruiting (May–June).

**Range:** Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana.

**Threats:** Conversion of longleaf pine-wiregrass habitat to pine plantations, pastures, and developments. Ditching and draining of wetlands. Fire suppression.

**Georgia Conservation Status:** Three populations are known, none on conservation land.

**Conservation and Management Recommendations:** Apply prescribed fire every 2 - 3 years. Avoid clearcutting, ditching, and other disturbances to the ground cover.

**Selected References:**


**Author of Species Account:** Linda G. Chafin

**Date Compiled or Updated:**
L. Chafin, July 2008: original account
K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

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FEW-FLOWERED GOLDEN-ASTER

Pityopsis oligantha

upper stem with glandular hairs

disk flower

ray flowers

leaf surfaces

bracts

stem leaf

lower leaf