

# Florida's Native Bromeliads:

## Florida Strap Airplant

### Scientific name:

*Catopsis floribunda* (Brongn.) L.B. Smith

### Other common names:

Many-flowered catopsis, many-flowered airplant, Florida catopsis

### Status in Florida:

Endangered

### Threats to this plant in Florida:

Illegal collecting, habitat destruction,  
Mexican bromeliad weevil  
(*Metamasius callizona*)



### References

Distribution: Florida, Mexico, West Indies, Central and South America

Distribution in Florida: Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties

Occurrence in Florida: Rare

Habitat: Humid, shady habitats: terrestrial (rockland hammock), palustrine (strand swamp)

Description: Tank epiphyte; grows to 70 cm (28 in.) tall; long, bright green leaves, 20-40 cm (8-16 in.), with wide bases and narrowing at tip; flower stalk 25 cm (10 in.) or longer, with 5-15 lateral branches and 15-50 flowers; yellow or white petals; mature seed capsules up to 1.4 cm (1/2 in.) long; vegetative in every month

Time of flowering: Fall - winter

Coile, Nancy C. 2000. *Notes on Florida's Endangered and Threatened Plants*. FDACS/DPI, Bureau of Entomology, Nematology and Plant Pathology, Botany Section. Contribution No. 38, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Gainesville, FL.

<http://www.virtualherbarium.org/EPAC>

Flora of North America Association. 2000. *Flora of North America, Vol. 22*.

<http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/FNA>

Florida Natural Areas Inventory. 1997. *Matrix of Habitats and Distribution by County of Rare/Endangered Species of Florida*.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory/The Nature Conservancy. <http://www.fnai.org>

Long, Robert W. and Olga Lakela. 1976. *A Flora of Tropical Florida*. Banyan Books, Miami.