

# Florida's Native Bromeliads:

## Potbelly Airplant

Scientific name:

*Tillandsia paucifolia* Baker

Former names:

*Tillandsia circinnata*,

*Tillandsia bulbosa*

Status in Florida:

Not listed as threatened

Threats to this plant in

Florida:

Mexican bromeliad weevil  
(*Metamasius callizona*)



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

Distribution in Florida: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and St. Lucie Counties

Occurrence in Florida: Occasional

Habitat: Coastal strands and hammocks; brightly exposed habitats

Description: Tank epiphyte; grows to 10-35 cm (4-14 in.) tall, singly or in clusters; 5-10 leaves, silvery-gray, on long pseudobulbs, twisted and narrowing into curved ends; simple flower spike (5-8 cm [2-3 in.] long), may have 2-4 lateral spikes, with 2-15 flowers; floral bracts 2-3 cm (3/4 - 1 1/8 in.), leathery, pale pink; lavender-blue petals, 2-3 cm (3/4 - 1 1/8 in.) long; mature seed capsules up to 4 cm (1 1/2 in.) long, grayish brown, pointed

Time of flowering: Spring - summer

References

- Flora of North America Association. 2000. *Flora of North America*, Vol. 22. <http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/FNA>
- Long, Robert W. and Olga Lakela. 1976. *A Flora of Tropical Florida*. Banyan Books, Miami.
- Wunderlin, Richard P. 1982. *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central Florida*. University Presses of Florida, Tampa.
- Wunderlin, Richard P. and Bruce F. Hansen. 2000. *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*. Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa. <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>