

Florida's Native Bromeliads:

Fuzzywuzzy Airplant

Scientific name:

Tillandsia pruinosa Swartz

Former name:

Tillandsia breviscapa

Other common names:

Hoary airplant, tropical airplant

Status in Florida:

Endangered

Threats to this plant in Florida:

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



Photo by
J.H. Frank/UF

References

Distribution: Florida, West Indies, Central and South America

Distribution in Florida: Collier County

Occurrence in Florida: Rare

Habitat: Shady, humid hammocks; palustrine (strand swamp); on dead trees

Description: Tank epiphyte; plants usually grow singly, rarely clustered; grows to 25 cm (10 in.) tall; 5-10 leaves; scales give leaves a silvery-white, fuzzy appearance; stem is within a pseudobulb, from which leaves emerge; flower spike simple; floral bracts are pink, with 5 to many flowers; violet petals 3 cm (1 1/8 in.) long; seed capsule pointed and 3-sided, up to 4.5 cm (1 3/4 in.) long

Time of flowering: All year, especially winter to spring (mainly spring)

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