

Florida's Native Bromeliads:

Ball Moss



Scientific name:

Tillandsia recurvata L.

Former name:

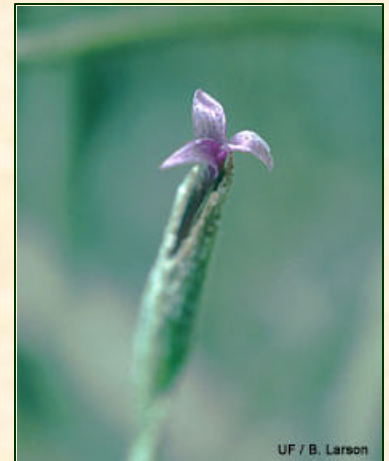
Diaphoranthema recurvata (L.) Beer

Status in Florida:

Not listed as threatened

Threats to this plant in Florida:

None



Distribution: Southern U.S. (Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas), Mexico, Central America, West Indies, Argentina, Chile

Distribution in Florida: All counties

Occurrence in Florida: Common

Habitat: Hammocks (usually on broad-leaved trees), pinelands and scrub; usually in brightly exposed habitats

Description: Epiphytic; grows to 12-18 cm (5-7 in.) tall, 15-18 cm (6-7 in.) in diameter; rooted crown with cluster of curving stems and compact mass of leaves resulting in ball-like growth; leaves stiff, narrow, gray-green, not dilated at base (4-8 mm [1/8 - 1/3 in.] wide); 2-5 flowers, with blue to violet petals, on long stem growing from central mass of leaves; seed capsule up to 2 cm (3/4 in.) long; several plants often grow together in masses

Time of flowering: Spring-summer

References

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- Wunderlin, Richard P. 1982. *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central Florida*. University Presses of Florida, Tampa.
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