

Florida's Native Bromeliads:

Broad Needleleaf

Scientific name: *Tillandsia simulata* Small

Status in Florida: Precinctive (found nowhere else);
Not listed as threatened

Threats to this plant in Florida:
Possibly Mexican bromeliad weevil
(*Metamasius callizona*)



Distribution: Florida

Distribution in Florida: Citrus, DeSoto, Flagler, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia Counties

Occurrence in Florida: Frequent

Habitat: Moist hammocks and swamps, usually in strong light

Description: Epiphytic; plants single or in clusters; grows to 20-40 cm (8-16 in.) tall; pointed, leathery, grayish leaves; simple flower spike with reddish floral bracts; 5-30 violet flowers (4.5 cm [1 3/4 in.] long); seed capsules up to 3 cm (1 1/8 in.) long

Time of flowering: Spring - summer

References

- Flora of North America Association. 2000. *Flora of North America*, Vol. 22. <http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/FNA>
- Hall, David W. 1993. *Illustrated Plants of Florida and the Coastal Plain*. Maupin House, Gainesville, FL.
- 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>