

Florida's Native Bromeliads:

balbisiana x *fasciculata* (Crow's nest)

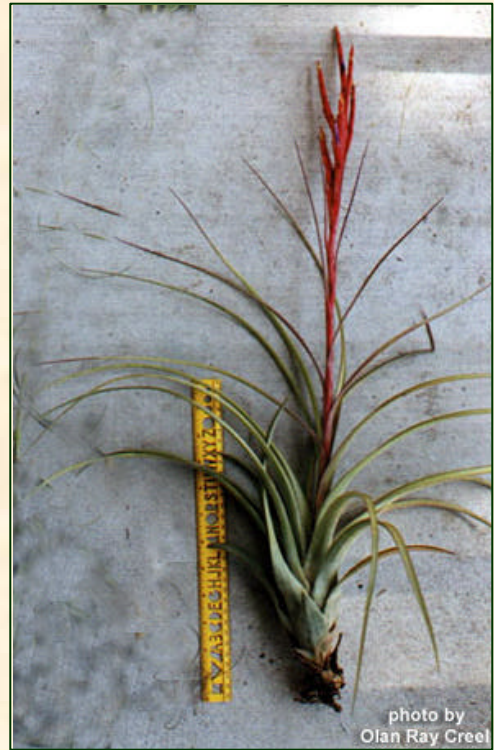
Natural hybrid of *Tillandsia balbisiana* (northern needleleaf) and *Tillandsia fasciculata* (cardinal airplant)

Scientific name: *Tillandsia* x *smalliana* H. Luther

Former name: *Tillandsia* x *smalliana* has been misdetermined as *Tillandsia polystachia* (L.), a Caribbean species not found in Florida

Status in Florida: Thought to be precinctive (found nowhere else)

Threats to this plant in Florida:
Parent species are threatened by Mexican bromeliad weevil (*Metamasius callizona*), habitat destruction, and illegal collection



Distribution: Florida

Distribution in Florida: Broward, Collier, Hendry, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe (mainland), and Palm Beach Counties

Occurrence in Florida: Occasional

Habitat: Cypress swamps and well-lit hammocks; often on *Taxodium*

Description: Epiphytic; grows singly or in clusters, to 55 cm (22 in.) when flowering; 20-40 grayish leaves in large rosettes, spreading and narrowing abruptly at end; sheath rust-colored and forming small pseudobulb, 3-4 cm (to 1 ½ in.) wide; flower spike straight, usually 15-35 cm (6-14 in.) tall; bracts erect to spreading, like leaves but smaller; floral bracts red, 2-2.5 cm (1 in.); 5-40 flowers; petals violet; seeds in capsules 3-4 cm (to 1 ½ in.) long

Time of flowering: Winter - 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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