



Common Name: MOHR'S BARBARA'S BUTTONS

Scientific Name: *Marshallia mohrii* Beadle & F.E. Boynton

Other Commonly Used Names: Coosa Barbara's Buttons

Previously Used Scientific Names: none

Family: Asteraceae/Compositae (aster)

Rarity Ranks: G3/S2

State Legal Status: Threatened

Federal Legal Status: Threatened

Federal Wetland Status: FACW

Description: Perennial **herb** with erect stems, 1 - 2¼ feet (70 cm) tall, often branching near the top of the plant. **Leaves** 3 - 8 inches (8 - 20 cm) long and about ¾ inch (2 cm) wide, lance-shaped, alternate, with 3 conspicuous veins; mostly clustered near the base of the plant, decreasing in size and number upward on the stem. **Flower heads** 1 - 10 per plant, held at tips of branches, each head about 1 inch across, with a whorl of pointed bracts surrounding the underside of the head. Heads with many pale pink or white **disk flowers**, each with 5 lobes; there are no ray flowers. **Fruit** about ⅛ inch (4 mm) long, seed-like, oblong, ribbed, hidden among the sharp-pointed bracts (**chaff**) of the flower head.

Similar Species: Spoon-leaved Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia obovata*) commonly occurs in colonies, sometimes with Mohr's Barbara's buttons. It is a single-stemmed plant with one flower head per stem, blooming April–early May, usually before Mohr's Barbara's buttons. The bracts surrounding the underside of the flower head have bluntly rounded tips. Leaves are widest above the middle with rounded tips.

Related Rare Species: Broadleaf Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia trinervia*, Special Concern) occurs on sand bars, natural levees, and shady, streamside woods in Harris, Bartow, and Walker Counties. The stem is up to 2½ feet (40 - 80 cm) tall, with 10 - 20 leaves of equal size scattered along the stem, not clustered at the base of the plant. Its flower heads are similar to Mohr's Barbara's buttons. Also see pineland Barbara's buttons (*M. ramosa*) on this website.

Habitat: Shale outcrops along streams and in small, prairie openings in the Coosa Valley; artificial openings, such as roadsides and utility rights-of-way, through these habitats.

Life History: Mohr's Barbara's buttons is a perennial herb. Its flowers are pollinated by beetles, butterflies, and other small insects, and must be cross-pollinated in order to set viable fruit. As a means of avoiding self-pollination, flowers on a given plant produce pollen before that plant's stigmas become receptive. Its seeds are probably dispersed by birds and other small animals.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (mid-May–June).

Range: Georgia and northeast Alabama plus one population in central Alabama.

Threats: Fire suppression, encroachment and competition from woody plants, herbicide applications in utility rights-of-way, conversion of habitat to pine plantations.

Georgia Conservation Status: Fewer than 30 populations are known, about half protected by a conservation easement.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Conduct frequent prescribed fires to control woody competition. Protect plants in powerline rights-of-way from herbicides and vehicle traffic. Avoid mechanical clearing and bedding.

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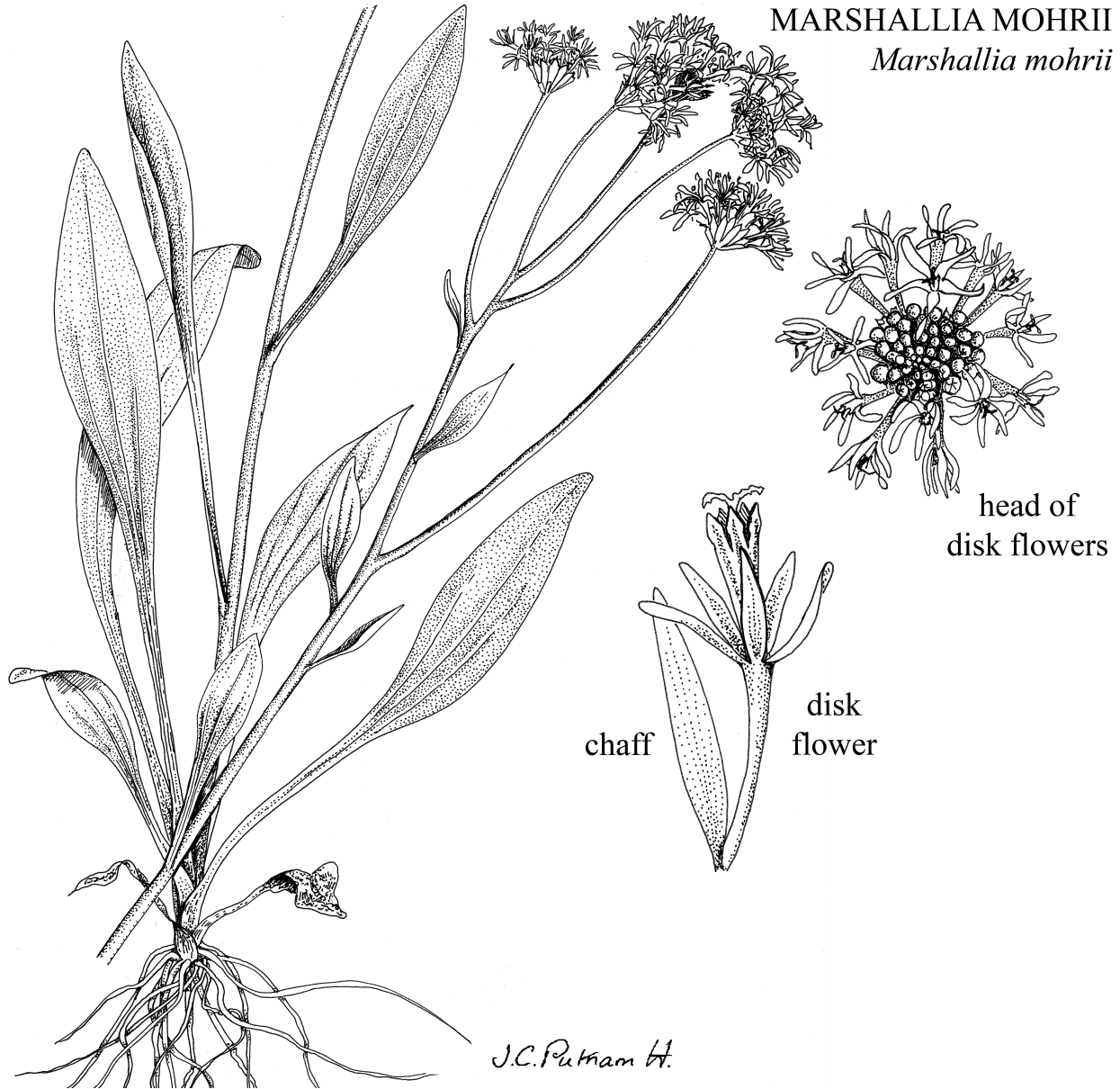
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Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, June 2008: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

MARSHALLIA MOHRII
Marshallia mohrii



head of
disk flowers

chaff
disk
flower

J.C. Putnam H.



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