

VARIABLE-LEAVED INDIAN-PLANTAIN

Arnoglossum diversifolium (Torr. & Gray) H.E.

Robins.

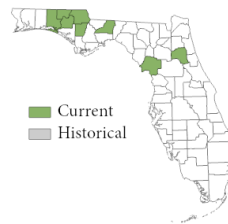
Synonyms: *Cacalia diversifolia* Torr. & Gray

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-FACW-+ FL-FACW



Population of *A. diversifolium* in flower. © Floyd A. Griffith

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with primarily a single stem extending from 70 to 150 cm tall. Lower portion of **stem** purplish, angled, ridged or grooved; upper portion of stem green and ribbed. **Leaves** are in rosettes and on stems, have palmate venation, and are triangular to arrow shaped with squared-off bases (truncate). Rosette and basal leaves to 10 cm long with blades comprising one-third and petioles making up two-thirds of the entire leaf, and margins have a few outward pointing teeth, are shallowly lobed, wavy or smooth. Stem leaves are reduced in size up the stem, with much shorter petioles and the upper-most ranging from subsessile to sessile; stem leaf margins are coarsely toothed and lobed (FNA 2006, Godfrey and Wooten 1981). **Flowers** born in a flat-topped arrangement (corymb) with few to numerous heads that are enclosed by a series of bracts (involucre) that have winged mid-ribs and five white/cream to lavender petals per head. The **fruit** is an achene topped with many bristles

Similar Species: *Arnoglossum diversifolium* differs from the other five *Arnoglossum* species that occur in Florida with the following combination of characters: Stem angled or grooved, floral bracts with winged mid-ribs, lower stem leaves triangular to arrow shaped with squared-off bases (truncate). *A. ovatum* has terete stems instead of strongly angled and *A. floridanum* and *A. album* have leaves that are cuneate at the base, instead of truncate/subcordate as in *A. diversifolium*.

Related Rare Species: Chalky Indian-plantain (*Arnoglossum album*), state-endangered, has phyllaries with a median scarious wing, conspicuously angled stem, and basal leaves with the lateral veins appressed to the midrib for 2-4 cm, then spreading well about the base of the blade. This species is found in wet savannas in Gulf and Bay counties.

Habitat: Found in hydric hammock and bottomland forest openings and on streambanks.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer; May-August

Range-wide Distribution: *A. diversifolium* is known to occur in several Florida panhandle counties and in Levy and Putnam counties. Populations of this species also extend north into southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia.

Conservation Status: Listed state-threatened, this species is known from 31 occurrences in several Florida panhandle counties and in Levy and Putnam counties. Six occurrences are believed to be extirpated or historic. Approximately 21 are found in conservation areas.

Protection and Management: Avoid alterations to the natural hydrological regime. Monitor populations for invasive species entry such as feral hog (*Sus scrofa*) and taro (*Colocasia esculenta*).

References: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+; Godfrey and Wooten 1981; Weakley 2022.