

## PURPLE HONEYCOMB-HEAD

*Balduina atropurpurea* Harper

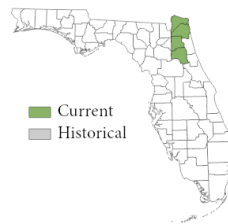
**Synonyms:** *Endorima atropurpurea* (R.M. Harper) Small

**Family:** Asteraceae (composite)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S1

**Legal Status:** US-none FL-Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US-FACW+ FL-FACW



Bruce A. Sorrie

**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with one to several erect **stems** to 4 feet tall, each stem with a single, large flower head. **Stems** ridged and angled (but not winged) and purplish at the base. **Leaves** somewhat fleshy, alternate, entire, and narrowly spoon-shaped; largest leaves at the base of the stem, up to 5 inches long, becoming smaller and more widely spaced up the stem. Flower **heads** with 10 - 20 deep yellow **ray flowers**, each ray with 3 - 5 teeth at the tip, and numerous purplish-brown **disk flowers**. **Fruits** held on the rounded, "honeycombed" **receptacle**; the honeycomb pattern is most obvious when the fruits are shed in the fall. *Balduina* flowers are the only composite flowers with honeycombed receptacles.

**Similar Species:** Coastal honeycomb-head (*Balduina angustifolia*) has yellow disk flowers and grows on sand ridges and dunes. Yellow honeycomb-head (*Balduina uniflora*) has similar leaves and heads, but yellow disk flowers. Some sneezeweeds

## purple honeycomb-head

*Balduina atropurpurea*

(*Helenium* spp.) have purple disk flowers, but have winged stems and no "honeycomb." Tickseed (*Coreopsis gladiata*) has dark disk flowers, 5 - 8 ray flowers, and no "honeycomb."

**Related Rare Species:** None

**Habitat:** Wet pine flatwoods and savannas, seepage slopes, pitcherplant bogs, and wet ditches.

**Best Survey Season:** Fall; August to early November.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, GA, and SC, with historic or unconfirmed populations in NC and AL.

**Conservation Status:** Seven populations are known in FL, 3 in state forests, the remainder on timber company lands.

**Protection and Management:** Burn every 2 - 3 years; avoid draining, ditching, or firebreak construction in wetlands; avoid mechanical clearing, bedding, and soil disturbance.

**References:** Coile 2000, Cronquist 1980, Kral 1983, Parker and Jones 1975, Patrick et al. 1995, Smith 1994, USFWS 1983c, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.