

SNAKEROOT ASTER

Eurybia eryngiifolia (Torr. & Gray) Nesom

Synonyms: *Aster eryngiifolius* Torr. & Gray

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S3S4

Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-FACW



Amy Jenkins



Kim Gullede

Field Description: Perennial herb with a basal rosette of grass-like leaves whose margins are often spinose (resembling the leaves of *Eryngium*). Flower heads have white ray flowers and are held at the ends of stalks 1 - 2 feet tall. Typically only 1 flower is open at a time. The involucral bracts are reflexed at maturity.

Similar Species: Pinewoods aster (*Eurybia spinulosa*) has multiple flowers open at a time, thinner basal leaves that lack spinose margins, and loosely erect involucral bracts.

Related Rare Species: Pinewoods aster (*Eurybia spinulosa*), state-endangered, has multiple flowers open at a time, loosely erect involucral bracts, and thinner basal leaves lacking spiny teeth. Southern pine aster (*Eurybia hemispherica*), state-endangered, has spreading involucre bracts and is restricted to only two known populations in Washington and Escambia counties, in dry upland woods.

Snakeroot Aster*Eurybia eryngiifolia*

Habitat: Mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods, wet prairie, and seepage slopes.

Best Survey Season: Basal rosettes begin appearing in spring, flowers from May-July. Flower stalks persist at least through November.

Range-wide Distribution: Florida panhandle, southern Alabama, and southern Georgia.

Conservation Status: Fairly common throughout the Florida panhandle. Protected on several managed areas including Apalachicola National Forest, Tate's Hell State Forest, and St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve.

Protection and Management: This species lives in fire-maintained communities. Burn every 2 - 5 years; avoid changes to hydrology such as draining, ditching, or firebreak construction; avoid mechanical clearing, bedding, and soil disturbance.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Chafin 2000