

## PINKROOT

*Spigelia loganioides* (Torr. & Gray ex Endl. & Fenzl) A. DC.

**Synonyms:** *Coelostylis loganioides* Torr. & A. Gray

**Family:** Loganiaceae (strychnine)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2

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

**Wetland Status:** US-none+ FL-FACW



Billy B. Boothe



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**Field Description:** Glabrous perennial herb. The erect stems are one to several, sparingly branched, up to 30 cm tall, and slightly woody at the base. The leaves are sessile, opposite, entire, oval to lanceolate, and 13 to 38 mm long and 15 mm wide. Flowers are in a terminal, few-flowered leafy cyme. The corolla is 15 mm long, funnellform with 5 triangular lobes, and white with pale lavender lines. Fruit is a 2-lobed capsule about 5 mm wide (Chafin 2000, Herring and Schultz 2003, NatureServe 2017a, Ward 1979).

**Similar Species:** Pinkroot is distinguished from the other 3 *Spigelia* species that occur in Florida by its white-pink bract-less flowers that are 1.5 cm long that occur in forks of leafy branches and have anthers included in the flower (not exerted), and the middle of the styles are jointed. Similar plants occur in Texas, but are

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## *Spigelia loganioides*

considered to be a separate species – Texas *Spigelia* (*Spigelia texana*) based on differences in flower length and habitat (Gould and Jansen 1999).

**Related Rare Species:** Gentian pinkroot (*Spigelia gentianoides*) is both Federal and State Listed Endangered and only occurs in a few northwest Florida counties.

**Habitat:** Floodplain forests, upland and hydric hardwood hammocks over limestone.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring; April - June.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Probably Florida endemic, known from a few central Florida counties (Levy, Marion, Sumter, and Volusia counties).

**Conservation Status:** Ten populations are known, 6 on state parks and preserves.

**Protection and Management:** Protect forests from disturbance by controlling exotic plant species, avoiding soil disturbance, limiting pedestrian and bicycle traffic to designated trails. Avoid logging in hardwood hammocks and floodplains. Avoid hydrologic alterations in river corridors.

**References:** Chafin, L.G. 2000. Field guide to the rare plants of Florida. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida. Gould, K.R. and R.K. Jansen. 1999. Taxonomy and Phylogeny of a Gulf Coast disjunct group of *Spigelia* (Loganiaceae sensu Lato). *Lundellia* 2:1-13. Herring, B. J. and G. E. Schultz. 2003. Rare plant survey of the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway – Year 1. Unpublished report submitted to the Office of Greenways and Trails. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida. NatureServe. 2017a. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. . Accessed 06 June 2017. Ward, D.B. 1979. Rare and Endangered biota of Florida: Vol. 5-plants. University Presses of Florida. Gainesville, Florida. Coile 2000, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Gould 1996, Henrickson 1996, Kral 1983, Wunderlin 1983, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.