

FLORIDA BELLWORT

Uvularia floridana Chapm.

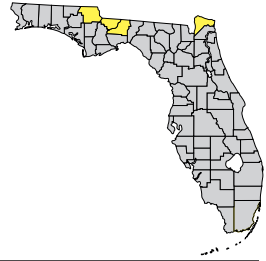
Synonym: *Oakesiella floridana* (Chapm.) Small

Family: Liliaceae (lily)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S1

Legal Status: US—none FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—FACW FL—FACW



Alfred R. Schotz

Field Description: Erect, perennial **herb** to 16 inches tall, with a single, once-branched, angled stem (non-flowering plants are unbranched).

Leaves 1.6 - 2.8 inches long, without leaf stalks, alternate, narrowly oval with pointed tips, smooth, dull green, somewhat fleshy and waxy; margins with tiny teeth visible with magnification. **Flowers** up to 1 inch long, 1 per stem, nodding, pale yellow, with 6 long-pointed **tepals** (3 sepals + 3 petals), with a leafy **bract** on the flower stalk just below the flower. **Fruit** to 1 inch long, 3-angled, drooping.

Similar Species: Perfoliate bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*) has stems that appear to pass through the middle of the leaves. Sessile-leaved bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*) tepals are blunt-tipped, and the flower stalk lacks the leafy bract. Both occur in upland hammocks in the Panhandle.

Related Rare Species: Florida bellwort is the only species of *Uvularia* listed in FL.

Florida bellwort

Uvularia floridana

Habitat: Bottomland and floodplain forests, moist ravines.

Best Survey Season: Flowers and fruits March–April.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, AL, GA, SC.

Conservation Status: Only 8 populations are known in FL, most of these are not on conservation lands.

Protection & Management: Prevent clearcutting and establishment of pine plantations in slope forests, ravines, and floodplains. Control exotic pest plants, especially Japanese honeysuckle.

References: Clewell 1985, Coile 2000, Radford et al. 1968, Small 1933, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

