

## VARIABLE-LEAF CROWNBEARD

*Verbesina heterophylla* (Chapman) Gray

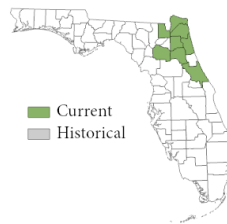
**Synonyms:** *Pterophyton heterophyllum* (Chapm.) Alexander

**Family:** Asteraceae (composite)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2

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

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



Jenna Annis

**Field Description:** **Perennial herb** with **stems** 16 - 32 inches tall, rough-hairy, winged, usually leafless above the middle when plant is in flower. **Leaves** 1.2 - 3.2 inches long, opposite, oblong to oval, rough-hairy, with small blunt teeth; no leaf stalks but leaf tissue continues onto the stems as wings. **Flowers** in solitary heads on stiff, slender stalks; disk flowers few, yellow; ray flowers 5 - 10 per head, spreading, yellow. **Fruits** brown, winged.

**Similar Species:** Coastalplain crownbeard (*Verbesina aristata*) has yellow ray flowers, rough-hairy stems, and opposite, toothed leaves, but the stems lack wings.

**Related Rare Species:** Chapman's crownbeard (*Verbesina chapmanii*), state-threatened and a Panhandle endemic, has wingless stems, rough-hairy leaves, and heads with large disk flowers and no ray flowers.

## variable-leaf crownbeard

*Verbesina heterophylla*

**Habitat:** Mesic flatwoods, dry woods.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer; June - August.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Variable-leaf crownbeard is restricted to northeast FL and southeast GA

**Conservation Status:** Variable-leaf crownbeard has a narrow range, known from 2 conservation areas and 2 military bases. Conversion of habitat to pine plantation is a major threat to this species.

**Protection and Management:** Avoid clearcutting and disturbance to the ground layer in wet and mesic flatwoods. Burn every 2 - 3 years.

**References:** Coile 2000, Cronquist 1980, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Kral 1983, Small 1933, Tobe et al. 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.