

LIVERWORT

Frullania donnellii Aust.

Synonyms: none

Family: Jubulaceae (liverwort)

FNAI Ranks: G3?/SNR

Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



No Image
Available

Field Description: This is a liverwort that is rather small, often delicate, forming rather thin, usually copper-red (in shade deep green with reddish tinges) patches on twigs and tree trunks. Leaves contiguous to imbricate, the lobe moderately convex, ovate-orbicular, rounded at the rather deflexed apex, the base arching across and often 1-1.5 stem diameters beyond the stem, not cordate at base. Lobule narrow, quite small, cylindrically helmet-shaped, inflated throughout, nearly twice as long as in diameter, lying nearly parallel to stem. Stylus small, short, obscure. Branch leaves considerably smaller than stem leaves, otherwise similar to stem leaves, never truly microphyllous. Underleaves distant, obovate to rotundate-obovate, somewhat cuneately narrowed at base, nearly plane, bilobed about 0.35-0.45 their length with erect to somewhat divergent, blunt to subacute lobes and sinus, the lateral margins entire to sinuously dentate

Similar Species: Superficially, *F. taxodiocola* is more similar to *F. donnellii* (subg.

Meteoriopsis), which is also a small, dark red species distributed in the southeastern United States. Although *F. donnellii* is an autoicous species, the androecia and gynoecia are sometimes distantly separated. Furthermore, *F. donnellii* has rounded, deflexed dorsal lobe apices; similarly narrow, galeate lobules; and toothed gynoecial bract margins like that of *F. taxodiocola*. The lobules, however, differ from those of *F. taxodiocola* in their orientation and position to the stem. In *F. donnellii*, the lobules are mostly parallel with the stem, and separated by a distance that is mostly less than or equal to the lobule width (Atwood, 2017).

Related Rare Species: *Frullania donnellii* may be superficially similar to other liverworts.

Habitat: On twigs and small branches, only on the trunks of young trees. Often occurs in margins of hammocks in the Everglades. Rarely occurs in moist, mature swampy evergreen forests. Can also be found in the central Florida sand scrub, where it occurs in exposed, dry and insolated sites.

Best Survey Season: Data unavailable.

Range-wide Distribution: Known from the outermost Coastal Plains of North Carolina to southern peninsular Florida, westward to Mississippi

Conservation Status: *Frullania donnellii* is a widely but often sporadically dispersed species. There is limited data on the distribution of this species.

Protection and Management: Little is known on the range, distribution, or requirements of this species.

References: Atwood, J. 2017, NatureServe 2019