



**Common Name:** BOG ST. JOHN'S-WORT

**Scientific Name:** *Hypericum adpressum* Barton

**Other Commonly Used Names:** creeping St. John's-wort

**Previously Used Scientific Names:** *Hypericum fastigiatum* Elliott

**Family:** Clusiaceae (mangosteen) or Hypericaceae/Guttiferae (St. John's-wort)

**Rarity Ranks:** G3/S2?

**State Legal Status:** Special Concern

**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** OBL

**Description:** Perennial **herb** with erect, hairless stems, 16 - 32 inches (40 - 80 cm) tall, forming colonies by **rhizomes**. **Stems** thick and spongy when growing in water. **Leaves** ½ - 3 inches (1.5 - 8 cm) long and up to ¾ inch (1 cm) wide, narrowly oblong or lance-shaped, hairless, with strongly inrolled edges, opposite or in whorls of 3 leaves. **Flower cluster** at the top of the stem, with several forking branches. **Flowers** about ½ inch (1.6 cm) wide, with 5 yellow **petals**, 5 **sepals** with brown midribs, and many showy **stamens**. **Fruit** an oval, pointed capsule, up to ³/₁₆ inch (4.5 mm) long, with a single, straight, pointed beak at the tip.

**Similar Species:** Other non-woody, herbaceous St. John's-wort species in Georgia's Coastal Plain have hairy stems (*Hypericum setosum*), or narrow or needle-like leaves (*H. drummondii*, *H. denticulatum*), or few stamens and flat (not inrolled) leaves (*H. canadense*, *H. mutilum*).

**Related Rare Species:** Two Special Concern species, glade St. John's-wort (*Hypericum dolabriforme*) and barrens St. John's-wort (*H. sphaerocarpum*), grow on limestone glades in northwest Georgia; both are slender, erect shrubs to 18 inches (45 cm) tall. Also see Blue Ridge St. John's-wort (*Hypericum buckleii*) and Georgia St. John's-wort (*Hypericum erythraeae*) on this website.

**Habitat:** Open, shallow depression ponds; marshes, bogs, and sunny edges of cypress ponds.

**Life History:** Bog St. John's-wort is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually as well as vegetatively by the spread of underground rhizomes. No studies of the reproductive biology of bog St. John's-wort have been carried out, but its flowers are likely pollinated by bees that are attracted to its showy flowers and abundant pollen since, like most members of this genus, bog St. John's-wort probably does not produce nectar. It depends on insect visitors to effect cross-pollination in order to produce fruit.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during flowering (July–August), although its hairless, lance-shaped, inrolled leaves distinguish it from most herbaceous species of S. John's-wort throughout the growing season.

**Range:** Georgia, north to Massachusetts, and west to Missouri.

**Threats:** Ditching and draining of ponds, bogs, and marshes; fire suppression; logging and other mechanical clearing in wetlands.

**Georgia Conservation Status:** Nine populations have been documented, but only 3 have been seen in the last 20 years.

**Conservation and Management Recommendations:** Allow prescribed fire to burn across ponds and bogs. Avoid placing roads and fire breaks around ponds and marshes. Protect wetlands from ditching, draining, and conversion.

**Selected References:**

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Godfrey, R.K. and J.W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and wetland plants of southeastern United States, Vol. 2, dicotyledons. University of Georgia Press, Athens.

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Radford, A.E., H.E. Ahles, and C.R. Bell. 1968. Manual of the vascular flora of the Carolinas. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Sorrie, B.A. 1998. Noteworthy collections: Georgia. Castanea 63: 496-500.

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**Date Compiled or Updated:**

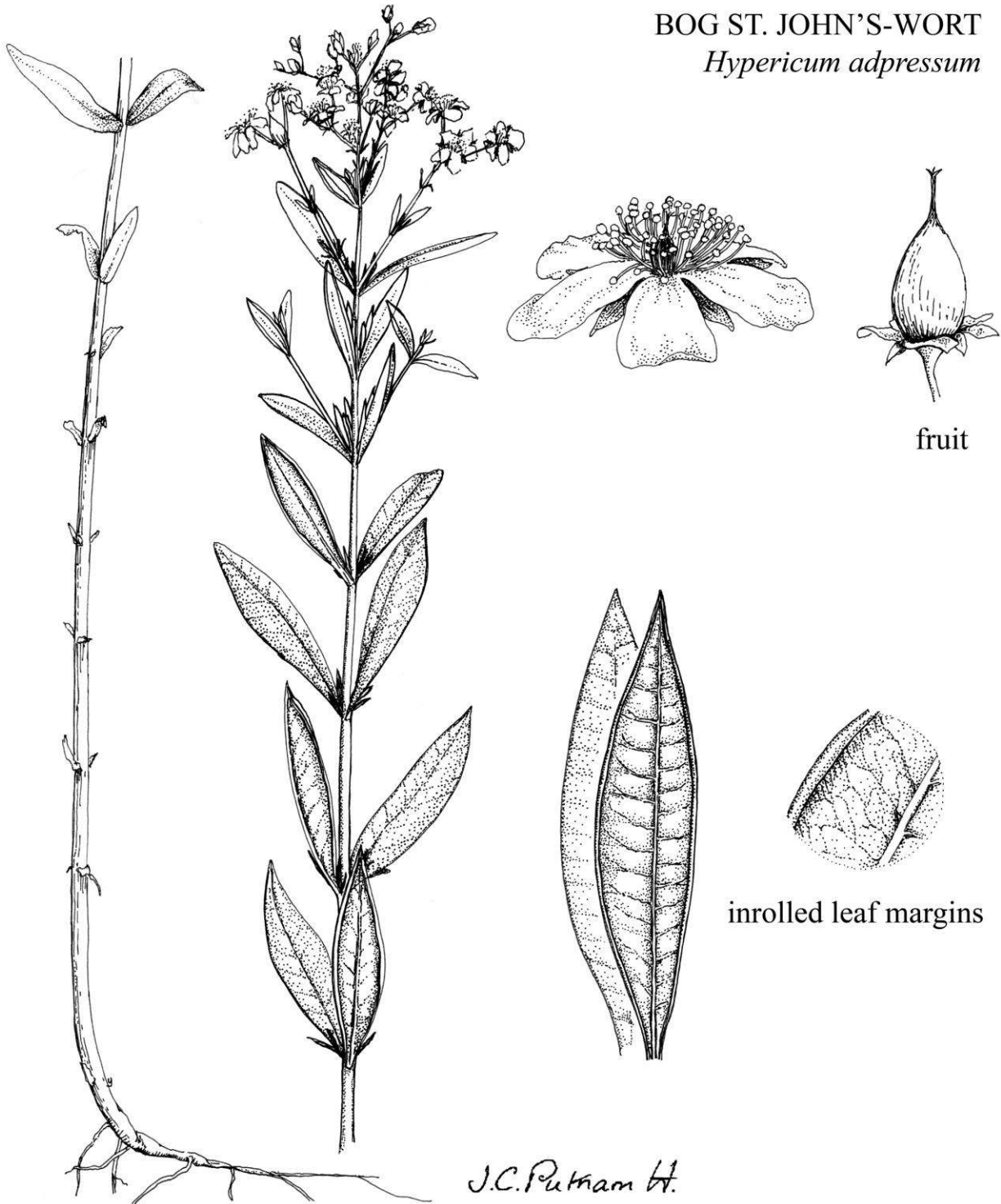
L. Chafin, Mar. 2007: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

G. Krakow, Apr. 2016: updated link to New England Wildflower Society



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*Hypericum adpressum*





Infructescence