



Common Name: ROSY TWISTED-STALK

Scientific Name: *Streptopus lanceolatus* (Aiton) Reveal var. *lanceolatus*

Other Commonly Used Names: eastern twisted stalk, eastern rose mandarin

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Streptopus roseus* Michaux

Family: Liliaceae (lily)

Rarity Ranks: G5/S1

State Legal Status: Threatened

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: FAC

Description: Perennial **herb** with erect, usually branched, zigzag **stems** 6 - 30 inches (15 - 80 cm) tall. **Leaves** 2 - 4 inches (5 - 10 cm) long and $\frac{3}{4}$ - $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches (2 - 4.5 cm) wide, oval with pointed tips and rounded bases, clasping the stem, alternate; margins glandular-hairy. **Flowers** hang from delicate, jointed flower stalks that arise at the junction of leaf and stem, with 1 - 2 flowers per stalk; flowers up to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm) long, bell-shaped with 6 rosy pink tepals (3 petals + 3 sepals) streaked or dotted with darker pink. **Fruit** less than $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm) long, round or oval, red.

Similar Species: Yellow mandarin (*Disporum lanuginosum*, synonym = *Prosartes lanuginosa*) has orange fruits and its flowers occur only at the tips of branches. Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum* spp.) has one unbranched stem, 2 white or yellow flowers per flower stalk, and black fruits. Solomon's plume (*Smilacina racemosa*, synonym = *Maianthemum racemosum*) has one unbranched stem with a cluster of white flowers at the tip of the stem. Bellworts (*Uvularia* spp.) usually have 1 yellow flower per plant, or, if more, then flowers are separated by several leaves.

Related Rare Species: White twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*) is rare in North Carolina and Virginia but does not occur in Georgia.

Habitat: Rich, moist, high-elevation coves and boulderfields.

Life History: Rosy twisted-stalk is a perennial herb that reproduces by seed and also vegetatively by the spread of rhizomes. Little else is known about reproduction in this species. The flowers are probably pollinated by bees and flies. The bright red fruit is undoubtedly eaten and its seeds dispersed by animals.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (April–mid-May) and fruiting (June–July).

Range: Variety *lanceolatus* occurs from Georgia north along the Appalachians to Newfoundland and Labrador. Variety *longipes* occurs in the Midwest, and variety *curvipes* in the Pacific Northwest.

Threats: Logging and clearing in mountain coves and boulderfields.

Georgia Conservation Status: Plants are known from only two sites, both in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Avoid logging and mechanical clearing. Direct hikers away from boulderfields and other sensitive botanical areas.

Selected References:

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L.Chafin, Sep. 2008: original account

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Streptopus lanceolatus

