



**Common Name:** DIXIE MOUNTAIN BREADROOT

**Scientific Name:** *Pedimelum piedmontanum* J.R. Allison, M.W. Morris, and A.N. Egan

**Other Commonly Used Names:** Georgia breadroot, Piedmont buckroot

**Previously Used Scientific Names:** none

**Family:** Fabaceae/Leguminosae (pea)

**Rarity Ranks:** G1?/S1

**State Legal Status:** Endangered

**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** none

**Description:** Perennial **herb** up to 3 feet (1 meter) tall with erect, branching stems covered with tiny, stiff hairs and glandular dots. **Leaves** with 3 (rarely 4 - 5) oval leaflets up to 2 inches (5 cm)

long and 1 inch (2.7 cm) wide, more than twice as long as wide; leaf stalks shorter than the leaflet stalks or lacking. **Flower clusters** about 1 - 2 inches (2.5 - 5.7 cm) long, crowded, held at the tips of branches. **Flowers** about ½ inch (1.4 cm) long, cream-colored with purple tinge, with an upper banner petal and 2 smaller wings enclosing the keel petals; calyx hairy, gland-dotted, with 5 long, pointed lobes and a rounded base. **Fruit** about ½ inch (1.5 cm) long, including a curved beak; covered with amber or brown gland dots. **Seed** about ⅛ inch (3.5 - 5 mm) long, smooth, slightly kidney-shaped, gray-brown.

**Similar Species:** Buckroot (*Pedimelum canescens*) occurs in dry, sandy soil in the Coastal Plain. Its leaves have 1 - 3 leaflets, and the pale yellow flowers are loosely arranged so the stem is easily seen within the cluster.

**Related Rare Species:** Nashville breadroot (*Pedimelum subacaule*, Special Concern) occurs on limestone glades in Catoosa and Walker Counties. It lacks an aboveground stem; its leaves have long stalks with 5 - 7 leaflets.

**Habitat:** Sunny openings in dry, rocky woods over serpentine, phyllite, or other rock high in magnesium (mafic rock); also in roadsides and rights-of-way through these habitats. Grows with blackjack and post oak, shortleaf and longleaf pine, little bluestem, and cream false indigo.

**Life History:** Dixie Mountain breadroot is a perennial herb adapted to living in a dry, fire-maintained habitat; it thrives in full sun and its large root provides stored resources for drought-resistance and quick re-sprouting after a fire. Dixie Mountain breadroot reproduces sexually; its flowers are visited by, and probably pollinated by, a variety of insects, including bees and butterflies.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during flowering (late May–July) and fruiting (July–September).

**Range:** Endemic to 1 county in Georgia and 2 counties in South Carolina, just north of the Fall Line.

**Threats:** Conversion of habitat to pine plantations, pasture, and development; use of herbicides in utility rights-of-way; encroachment by woody plants in absence of fire or other management.

**Georgia Conservation Status:** One population is known; it occurs on private land. Two populations are known from South Carolina.

**Conservation and Management Recommendations:** Apply prescribed fire every 3 - 5 years, preferably during the growing season. Avoid use of herbicides in rights-of-way. Limit access to prevent over-collection. Prevent clearing and development.

#### **Selected References:**

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**Date Compiled or Updated:**

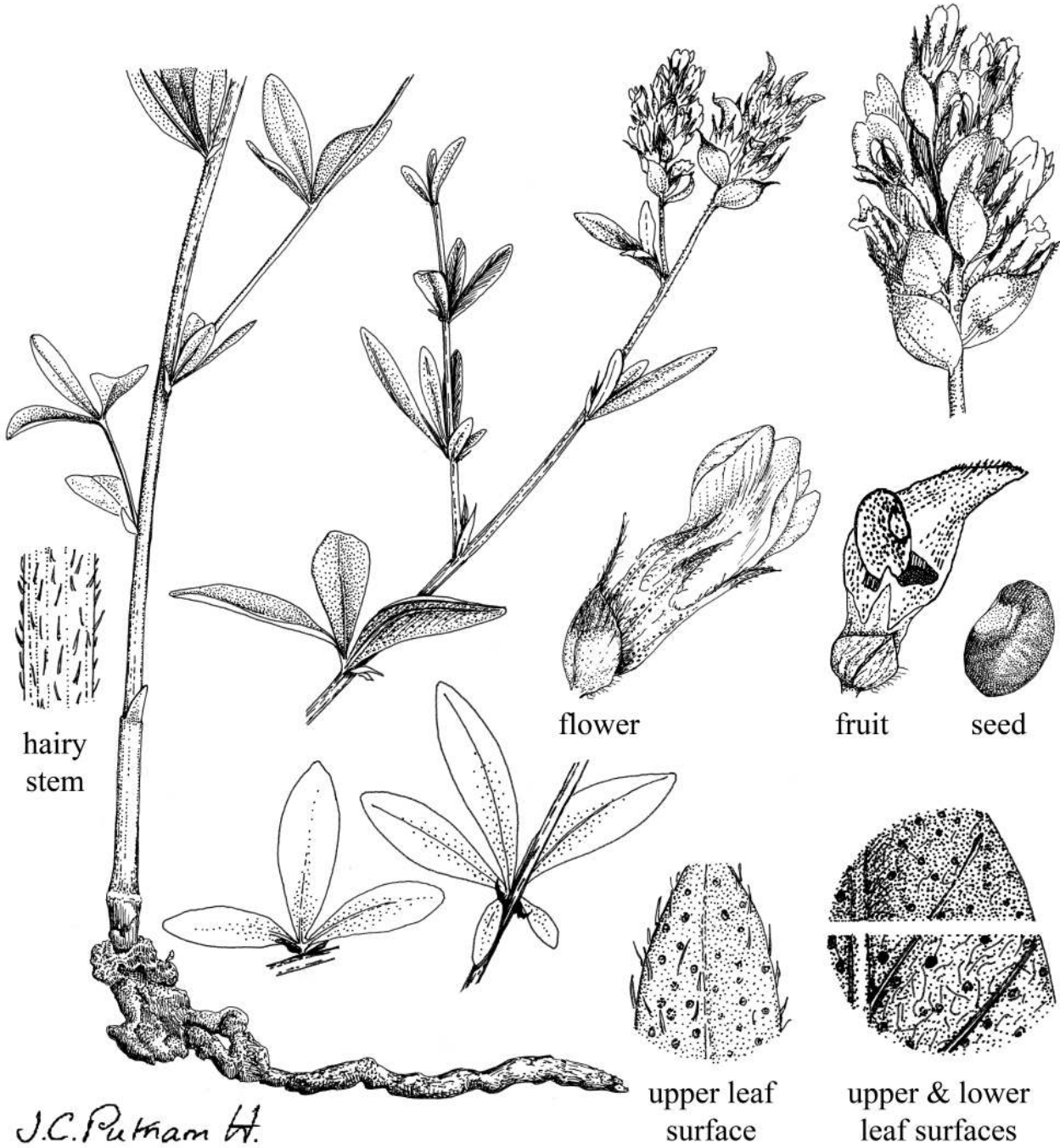
L. Chafin, July 2008: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures



©James R. Allison  
Inflorescence

DIXIE MOUNTAIN BREADROOT  
*Pediomelum piedmontanum*







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Fruit