



Common Name: SOUTHERN BOG-BUTTON

Scientific Name: *Lachnocaulon beyrichianum* Sporleder ex Koernicke

Other Commonly Used Names: hairy pipewort, hairy bog-button

Previously Used Scientific Names: none

Family: Eriocaulaceae (pipewort)

Rarity Ranks: G3/S1

State Legal Status: Special Concern

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: OBL

Description: Perennial **herb**, forming large clumps; **roots** dark, thin, and branching from a thick, semi-woody rootstalk. **Leaves** up to ½ - 1½ inches (1.5 - 4 cm) long, narrow, grayish-green, hairy, with very pointed (almost folded) tips; leaf bases are solid, without air chambers. **Flower stalks** 6 - 9 inches (15 - 23 cm) long, twisted, hairy except near the base; base of the stalk loosely wrapped by a **sheath** that is shorter than, or equal in length to, the leaves. Mature **flower heads** less than $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (0.5 cm) across, round or slightly flattened, brownish- or grayish-

white, tightly packed with many **female and male flowers** less than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (0.2 - 0.3 cm) long. **Seeds** tiny, glossy, and red-brown, appearing smooth with 10x magnification (fine ribs are visible at higher magnification).

Similar Species: Brown bog-button (*Lachnocaulon minus*) also has grayish-brown heads, but its flower stalks are only $2\frac{3}{8}$ - 6 inches (6 - 15 cm) tall. Common bog-button (*L. anceps*) has larger flower heads, usually more than $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (0.4 - 0.7 cm) across; its flower stalks and leaves are hairier, and the seeds are finely ribbed when seen at 10x magnification; common bog-buttons prefers somewhat drier soils. Yellow pipewort (*Syngonanthus flavidulus*) has pale, spongy, unbranched roots and yellowish flower heads. Bog-buttons (*Lachnocaulon* spp.) can be distinguished from hatpins (*Eriocaulon* spp.) by their hairy flower stalks and leaves.

Related Rare Species: See dwarf hatpin (*Eriocaulon koernickianum*) on this website.

Habitat: Dry to moist pine flatwoods, wet depressions in sandhills and scrub, transition zones between sandy rims and wet areas in Carolina Bays.

Life History: Southern bog-button is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually as well as vegetatively by producing offshoots from the base of the plant, thus forming clumps of several plants. Each flower head contains both female and male flowers. Although little is known about reproduction in this species, the flowers of other species of bog-button are wind- and, occasionally, insect-pollinated. The seeds are dispersed by gravity and water.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (May–August).

Range: Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Threats: Conversion of habitat to pine plantations and pasture. Ditching and draining of wetlands. Fire suppression.

Georgia Conservation Status: Six populations are known, only one on conservation land.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Apply prescribed fire every 2 - 3 years. Avoid plowing firebreaks through wetlands. Protect wet pinelands and sandhills from conversion to pine plantations. Restore natural hydrology to pinelands.

Selected References:

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L. Chafin, Apr. 2007: original account

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Lachnocaulon beyrichianum

