



Common Name: ALABAMA SNOW-WREATH

Scientific Name: *Neviusia alabamensis* Gray

Other Commonly Used Names: none

Previously Used Scientific Names: none

Family: Rosaceae (rose)

Rarity Ranks: G2/S1

State Legal Status: Threatened

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: none

Description: **Shrub** forming colonies of arching branches to 6 feet (2 meters) tall, with reddish-brown, zigzag twigs and shredding bark. **Leaves** $\frac{3}{4}$ - 2.5 inches (2 - 6.6 cm) long and $\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1 - 4 cm) wide, alternate, deciduous; upper surface with scattered stiff hairs, lower surface more densely hairy, especially along the veins; margins sharply toothed, each large tooth with a smaller tooth, each tooth tipped with a round, red gland. **Leaf stalks** to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm) long with a pair of small, pointed, green or brown bracts (**stipules**) at the base. **Flowers** about 1 inch (2.5 cm) across with no petals, 4 - 5 greenish-white sepals, and many showy, white stamens; flower stalks hairy, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.5 - 2 cm) long. **Fruit** less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (5 mm) long, oval, lopsided, hairy, surrounded by a low rim that holds withered stamens and sepals; seeds rarely develop.

Similar Species: Other rose family shrubs such as sweet-spire (*Spiraea* spp.) and nine-bark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) have showy white flowers and toothed leaves, but their flowers have 5 white petals.

Related Rare Species: None in Georgia.

Habitat: Moist, hardwood forests over rocky, limestone-based soils, often along streams below sandstone caprocks.

Life History: Alabama snow-wreath reproduces primarily from root sprouts, forming thickets; although fruits are occasionally set, seeds rarely if ever mature, and seedlings have never been seen.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (late March–April) and fruiting (June–October).

Range: Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri.

Threats: Conversion of habitat including logging, clearing, and development. Invasion by exotic pest plants, especially Japanese honeysuckle and kudzu.

Georgia Conservation Status: Five populations are known, four on state-owned conservation land. One site on private land is threatened by mining.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Avoid logging, clearing, and development on ridges and in streamside zones. Eradicate exotic pest plants, especially Japanese honeysuckle and kudzu. Research the causes of poor reproduction.

Selected References:

Chafin, L.G. 2007. Field guide to the rare plants of Georgia. State Botanical Garden of Georgia and University of Georgia Press, Athens.

Clark, J. 2004. Wildflowers of Pigeon Mountain, Lookout Mountain, Cloudland Canyon State Park, and Chickamauga National Military Park in northwest Georgia. Waldenhouse Publishers, Walden, Tennessee.

Foote, L.E. and S.B. Jones, Jr. 1989. Native shrubs and woody vines of the southeast. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.

Kral, R. 1983. A report on some rare, threatened, or endangered forest-related vascular plants of the South. Technical Publication R8-TP2. United States Forest Service, Atlanta.

Lance, R. 2004. Woody plants of the southeastern United States: a winter guide. University of Georgia Press, Athens.

NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer. Arlington, Virginia.

<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>

Patrick, T.S., J.R. Allison, and G.A. Krakow. 1995. Protected plants of Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program, Social Circle.

Schotz, A.R. 1997. Status survey report on *Neviusia alabamensis* in Alabama. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Jackson, Mississippi.

Weakley, A.S. 2008. Flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, northern Florida, and surrounding areas. University of North Carolina Herbarium, Chapel Hill.

<http://www.herbarium.unc.edu/flora.htm>

Author of Species Account: Linda G. Chafin

Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, July 2008: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

ALABAMA SNOW-WREATH

Neviusia alabamensis



