



Common Name: SHOALS SPIDER-LILY

Scientific Name: *Hymenocallis coronaria* (J. LeConte) Kunth

Other Commonly Used Names: Cahaba lily, Catawba lily

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Hymenocallis caroliniana* (L.) Herbert (misapplied name)

Family: Amaryllidaceae (amaryllis)

Rarity Ranks: G2/S2

State Legal Status: Threatened

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: OBL

Description: Perennial **herb** with a large, round bulb that lodges among rocks in rocky shoals. **Leaves** 15 - 37 inches (38 - 95 cm) long, erect, leathery, strap-like, deciduous. **Flower stalk** 15 - 49 inches (40 - 125 cm) tall, stout, two-edged, topped with 3 - 12 buds that usually open one per day. **Flowers** showy, fragrant, consisting of a green **tube**; 6 narrow, white **segments** (tepals), up to 4 inches long and radiating up and outward; and a showy **corona**, 2 - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches (5 - 8.5 cm)

across, white with yellow-green eye, broadly funnel- or cup-shaped, toothed, with 6 attached stamens. **Fruit** about 1¼ inch (3 cm) broad, rounded, green, one-seeded.

Similar Species: Several similar species of spider-lily grow in floodplains, tidal marshes, and on riverbanks, but no other similar species occurs in rocky shoals of large Piedmont streams. Swamp-lily (*Crinum americanum*), a common wetland plant in the Coastal Plain, has 2 - 6 flowers per stalk, flowers with long white tepals but no corona, and tiny teeth along the leaf margins.

Related Rare Species: See Simpson's rain-lily (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*, Special Concern) on this website.

Habitat: Rocky shoals of large streams and rivers in the lower Piedmont.

Life History: Shoals spider-lily is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually as well as vegetatively by production of bulbs, which results in large, clonal patches of plants. One flower opens per day on a given plant, prolonging the potential pollination period. The flowers are probably pollinated by night-flying hawk moths but are also visited by honeybees, bumble bees, and hummingbirds. Large, heavy fruits drop into the water when mature and are carried by water currents and lodged in crevices among rocks.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (late May–June) although plants are conspicuous throughout the growing season.

Range: Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina. This species is known as Cahaba lily in Alabama and Catawba lily in South Carolina.

Threats: Stream impoundment; degradation of water quality by erosion, sedimentation, and pollution runoff into streams.

Georgia Conservation Status: Twelve populations are known; although 3 are on conservation lands, they are vulnerable to off-site disturbances, such as pollution, erosion, sedimentation, and dam building.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Avoid damming streams and prevent erosion, sedimentation, and pesticide runoff into streams.

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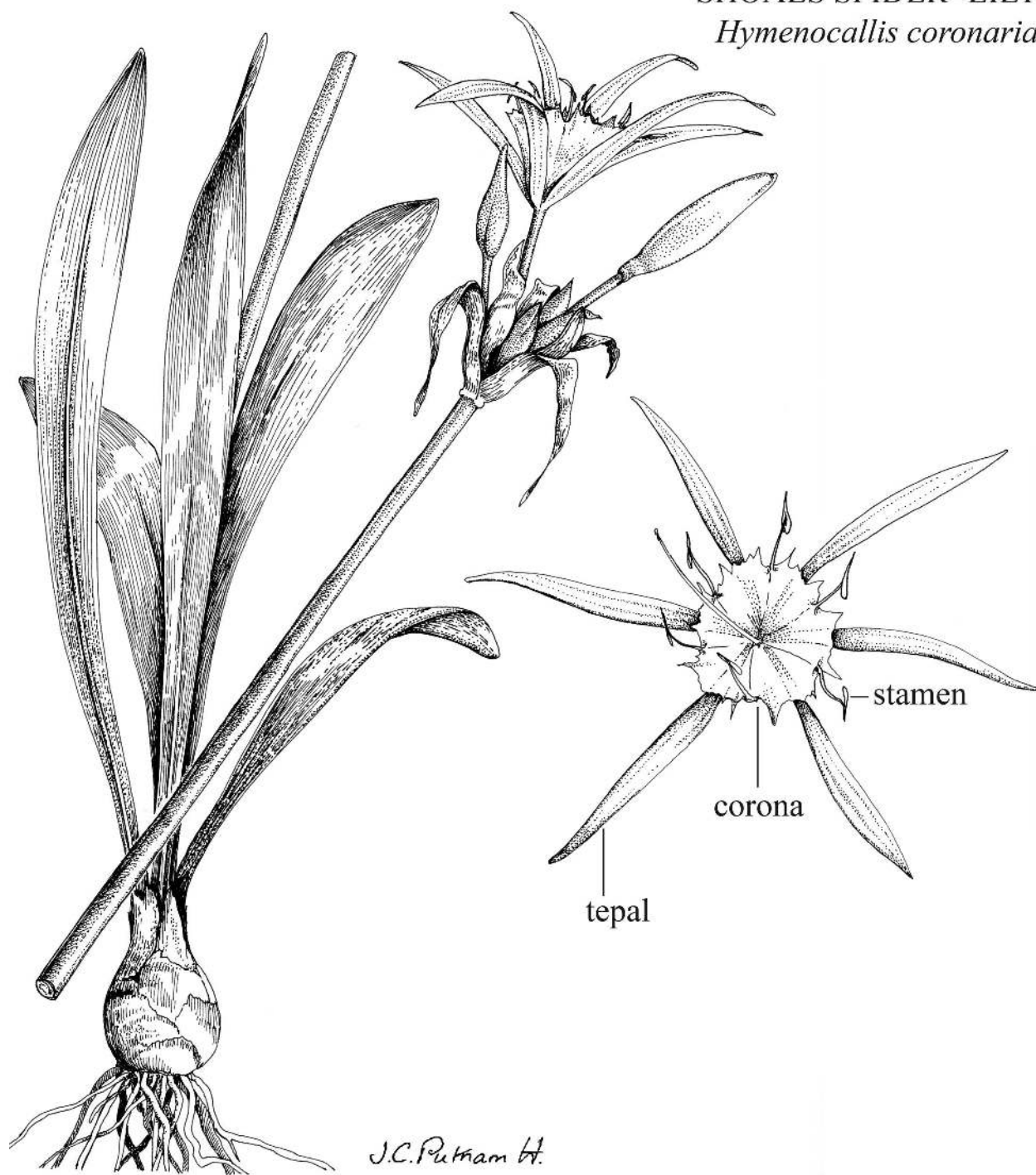
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L. Chafin, Mar. 2007: original account

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