



Common Name: CATESBY'S BINDWEED

Scientific Name: *Calystegia catesbeiana* Pursh ssp. *catesbeiana*

Other Commonly Used Names: silky bindweed, Catesby's false bindweed

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Convolvulus sericata* House, *Calystegia spithamea* (Linnaeus) Pursh (in part)

Family: Convolvulaceae (morning glory)

Rarity Ranks: G3T2?Q/S1?

State Legal Status: Special Concern

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: none

Description: Perennial **herb** with hairy, vining **stems** up to 2 feet (60 cm) long, rarely branched, usually twining at the tips but not strongly climbing. **Leaves** 1 - 2 inches long, arrowhead-shaped, alternate, smooth or hairy. **Flowers** 1½ - 2 inches (4 - 5 cm) wide, white, 5-lobed, funnel-shaped; with 5 small, green sepals and 2 oval, **leafy bracts**, about ¾ inches (2 cm) long, at the base of the flower; **flower stalks** hairy, solitary in the angles between the 2 lowest leaves and the stem. **Fruit** a rounded capsule, about ⅜ inches (1 cm) wide, enclosed by the leafy bracts.

Similar Species: Low bindweed (*Calystegia spithamea*) has erect, finely hairy stems. Its leaves may be smooth or sometimes densely hairy on the lower surface, and the upper leaves overtop the tip of the stem; flowers are white or pink. Hedge bindweed (*C. sepium*) is a twining vine with hairless stems and leaves and white to pinkish-purple flowers.

Related Rare Species: Silky bindweed (*Calystegia catesbeiana* ssp. *sericata*, Special Concern) occurs in hardwood forests in the northeast Georgia mountains. Its slender stems are densely white-hairy and up to 6 feet long, and its densely hairy leaves may be up to 4 inches (10 cm) long and whitish in color. Its flowers are up to 2⅜ inches (6 cm) wide with leafy bracts up to 1 inch (2.5 cm) long.

Habitat: Frequently burned longleaf pine-wiregrass woodlands.

Life History: Catesby's bindweed is a perennial herb, dying back to the ground in winter and producing new growth in early spring and flowers in mid- to late spring (if its habitat is burned in the spring, plants will re-sprout and flower later in the summer). The showy flowers of bindweeds attract a variety of insects, especially long-tongued bees such as the large bee, *Diadasia* sp., considered a specialist pollinator of bindweeds. Seeds are probably eaten by numerous animals including ground-dwelling birds such as bobwhite quail.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering, April–June (possibly later, depending on timing of recent fire).

Range: Georgia and Florida Panhandle.

Threats: Fire suppression, logging, clearing, and conversion of habitat to pine plantations and development.

Georgia Conservation Status: Only one population is known; it occurs on private land.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Apply prescribed fire to longleaf pine woodlands every 2 - 3 years, primarily in the growing season. Protect longleaf pine woodlands from clearing, logging, bedding, silvicultural site preparation, and development.

Selected References:

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Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, Nov. 2007: original account

K. Owers, Jan. 2010: updated status and ranks, added pictures

Z. Abouhamdan, April 2016: removed broken link

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