



**Common Name:** PIEDMONT BARREN STRAWBERRY

**Scientific Name:** *Waldsteinia lobata* (Baldwin) Torrey & Gray

**Other Commonly Used Names:** lobed barren-strawberry

**Previously Used Scientific Names:** *Dalibarda lobata* Baldwin

**Family:** Rosaceae (rose)

**Rarity Ranks:** G2/S2

**State Legal Status:** Rare

**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** none

**Description:** Perennial **herb** spreading by underground stems and runners which form small patches of plants; there are no aboveground stems. **Leaves** in rosettes; **leaf blades** 1¼ - 3 inches (3 - 8 cm) long, divided into 3 - 5 rounded lobes, but not cut completely to the base of the leaf; hairy on both surfaces; margins coarsely and unevenly toothed. **Leaf stalks** 2¾ - 4¾ inches (7 - 12 cm) long, hairy. **Flower clusters** branched, on erect, hairy stalks. **Flowers** about ¾ inch (1 cm) wide, with 5 yellow **petals**; 5 green, triangular, spreading **sepals** that alternate with, and are often longer than, the petals; and many showy, yellow **stamens**. **Fruits** 4 - 6 per cluster, dry and seed-like.

**Similar Species:** Barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*) leaves are divided into 3 separate leaflets that are hairy primarily on the veins with only a few, scattered hairs between the veins. Basal leaves of some avens (*Geum* spp.) species are similarly lobed, but these plants have leafy, aboveground stems.

**Related Rare Species:** See three-toothed cinquefoil (*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*) on this website.

**Habitat:** Stream terraces, floodplain forests, and rocky, lower slopes with oak-hickory-pine forest; often with mountain laurel.

**Life History:** Piedmont barren strawberry is a perennial, evergreen herb that reproduces sexually as well as vegetatively by producing rosettes at the tips of spreading rhizomes, which may spread up to 3 feet. Nothing is known about pollination, breeding system, or seed dispersal.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during flowering (March–May) and fruiting (June–July). Leaves are evergreen, turning reddish in the winter, and are distinctive all year.

**Range:** Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

**Threats:** Logging and clearing on slopes and in floodplains. Conversion of habitat to pine plantations and developments. Competition from exotic pest plants such as Japanese honeysuckle.

**Georgia Conservation Status:** More than 30 populations are known, 11 on state conservation lands.

**Conservation and Management Recommendations:** Avoid clearing and logging on slopes and along streams. Eradicate exotic pest plants such as Japanese honeysuckle.

**Selected References:**

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**Author of Species Account:** Linda G. Chafin

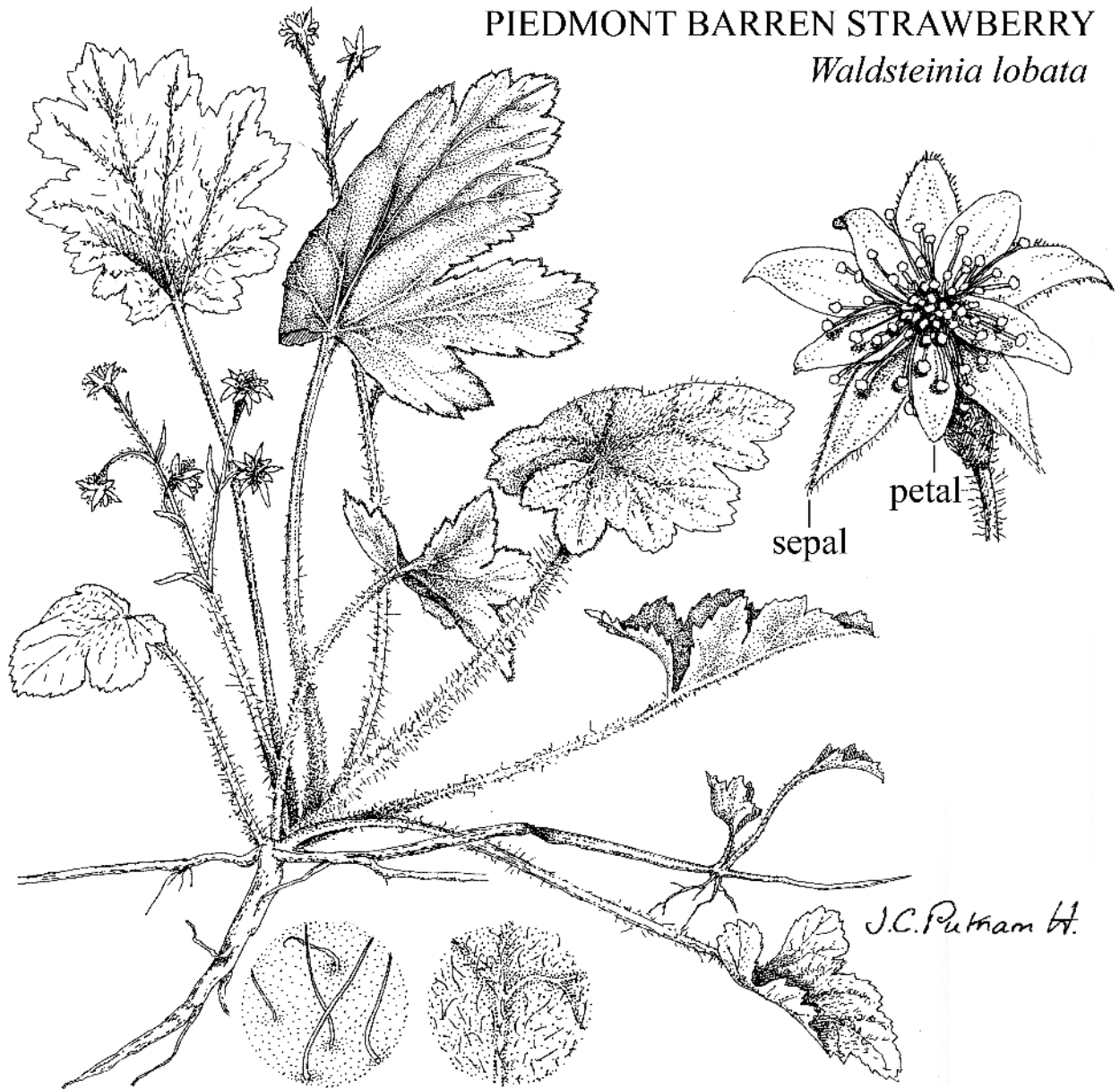
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L.Chafin, Feb. 2009: original account  
D.Weiler, Jan. 2010: added pictures



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PIEDMONT BARREN STRAWBERRY  
*Waldsteinia lobata*



upper and lower leaf surfaces