

**Common Name:** ASHE'S SAVORY

**Scientific Name:** *Calamintha ashei* (Weatherby) Shinnery

**Other Commonly Used Names:** Ohoopee wild basil, Ashe's calamint, Ashe's wild savory

**Previously Used Scientific Names:** *Clinopodium ashei* (Weatherby) Small, *Satureja ashei* Weatherby

**Family:** Lamiaceae/Labiatae (mint)

**Rarity Ranks:** G3/S2

**State Legal Status:** Threatened

**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** none

**Description:** Compact, evergreen **shrub** less than 20 inches (50 cm) tall with peeling, gray bark and many stiff, erect, slightly 4-angled branches. **Leaves** 1/4 - 1/2 inch (0.5 - 1 cm) long, in opposite clusters, gray-green, covered with fine hairs and tiny glistening glands; edges tightly inrolled. **Flower** 1/2 inch (1 cm) long, tubular with a nearly erect **upper lip** and a spreading, 3-lobed **lower lip**; pale pink to lavender-blue with purple dots on the lower lip. All parts of the plant smell strongly of basil.

**Similar Species:** Scarlet wild basil (*Calamintha coccinea*) also grows in the Ochopee Dunes. It is a taller shrub (20 - 30 inches/50 - 76 cm tall) with a straggly growth form, nearly hairless leaves, and tubular, red or yellow flowers.

**Related Rare Species:** See Radford's mint (*Dicerandra radfordiana*) on this website.

**Habitat:** Scrub on sand dunes along the Ochopee River, with scarlet wild basil, woody goldenrod, and sandhill rosemary (see account on this website).

**Life History:** Ashe's savory is an evergreen shrub, flowering throughout the growing season. Flowers of *Calamintha* are pollinated by bees, their lower lips providing a sturdy landing platform for this large insect. Ashe's savory often grows in otherwise unvegetated patches of sand, releasing allelopathic compounds that prevent germination of other species' seeds, thus reducing competition in their vicinity.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during flowering (spring–fall).

**Range:** Georgia and central Florida.

**Threats:** Fire suppression. Conversion of habitat to pine plantations, developments, and agriculture.

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

**Conservation and Management Recommendations: Protection & Management:** Apply prescribed fire in scrub every 10 years. Ashe's savory is killed by fire but re-seeds abundantly afterwards.

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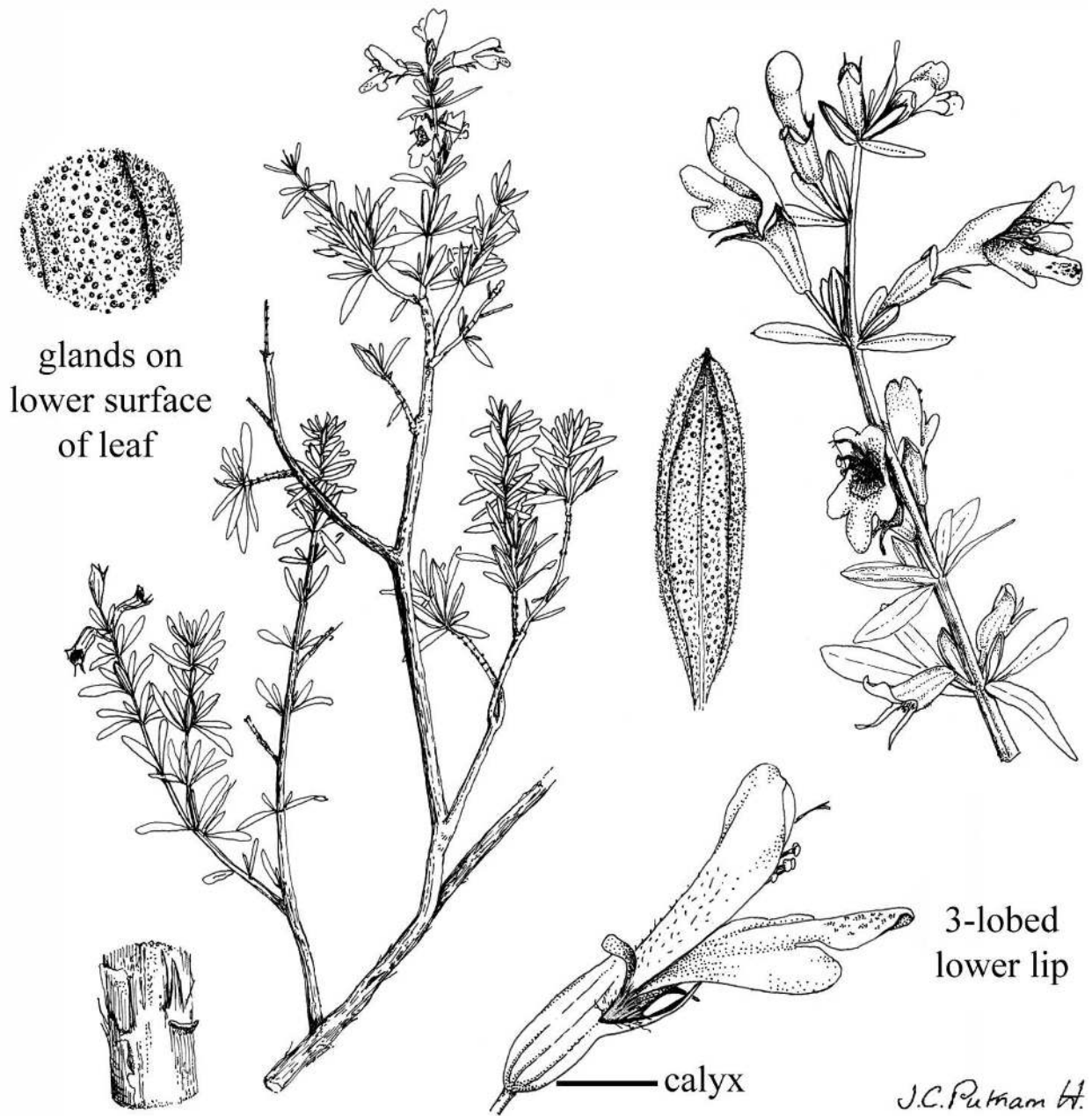
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**Date Compiled or Updated:**

L. Chafin, Dec. 2007: original account

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

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