



Common Name: ALABAMA WARBONNET

Scientific Name: *Jamesianthus alabamensis* Blake & Sherff

Other Commonly Used Names: Jamesianthus

Previously Used Scientific Names: none

Family: Asteraceae/Compositae (aster)

Rarity Ranks: G3/S1

State Legal Status: Endangered

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: OBL

Description: Perennial **herb** with a leafy stem 2 - 5 feet (60 - 150 cm) tall, lower stem slightly 4-sided and hairless, upper branches with gland-tipped hairs. **Leaves** up to 3½ inches long and 1⅝ inches wide, opposite, lance-shaped with pointed tips, small “ears” at the base, and no (or very short) leaf stalks; margins have a few low, widely spaced teeth; upper surface may have short, rough hairs. **Flower head** about 1 inch (2.5 cm) broad, with a central disk of small, yellow **disk flowers**; 4 - 9 yellow **ray flowers**; and 3 whorls of green, glandular bracts. **Fruit** about ⅛ inch (3 - 4 mm) long, seed-like, oblong, purple-red.

Similar Species: Alabama warbonnet resembles sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.), beggar-ticks (*Bidens* spp.), tick-seeds (*Coreopsis* spp.) and other tall, yellow-flowered composites. It is most easily distinguished by its opposite leaves with the small “ears” that give the leaf bases a squared-off look.

Related Rare Species: Alabama warbonnet is the only species in the genus *Jamesianthus*.

Habitat: Coosa Valley flatwoods, shaded stream banks over shale or limestone in the Coosa River valley; also moist creek banks under a hardwood canopy in the Piedmont.

Life History: Alabama warbonnet is a perennial that dies back to the ground in late fall, developing small, overwintering buds on the root crown; in the spring, the buds produce leafy rosettes and a flowering stalk that lengthens throughout the summer. Flower buds appear in July and open in August; there are no reports of pollinators, but it is likely that Alabama warbonnet is pollinated primarily by bees. Fruits are produced in the late summer and fall; they are not equipped with bristles, teeth, or hairs and are therefore unlikely to be distributed by animals or wind; they do float and are thought to be dispersed by a combination of gravity and water. This limited method of dispersal contributes to its narrow range and habitat specificity.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (August–October).

Range: Northwest Georgia (Ridge and Valley and upper Piedmont) and northern Alabama.

Threats: Conversion of habitat to pine plantations, pasture, and developments; ditching and draining wetlands, clearcutting and other mechanical disturbances, cattle grazing and trampling, stream impoundment and channelization.

Georgia Conservation Status: Two populations occur on private land but are covered by a conservation easement; one population in the Piedmont occurs on state conservation land.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Protect streamside forests from clearcutting, development, cattle grazing and trampling. Avoid impounding streams.

Selected References:

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