

Common Name: NEVIUS'S STONECROP

Scientific Name: Sedum nevii Gray

Other Commonly Used Names: none

Previously Used Scientific Names: none

Family: Crassulaceae (stonecrop)

Rarity Ranks: G3/S1

State Legal Status: Threatened

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: none

Description: Perennial, succulent **herb** forming a ground-hugging network of stems bearing rosettes of evergreen leaves at the ends of the stems. **Rosette leaves** small, flat, spoon-shaped, evergreen. **Stem leaves** usually less than ½ inch (0.7 - 1.5 cm) long, narrow, pointed, slightly flattened, with a spur at the base curving away from the stem, alternate, spirally arranged around the stem, deciduous, gray-green. **Flowering stems** erect, up to 6 inches (15 cm) long. **Flowers** about ¾ inch (1 cm) across with 4 or 5 pointed, white petals, 4 or 5 sepals, and 8 - 10 red-tipped stamens. **Fruit** about ¼ inch (6 - 8 mm) wide, cross-shaped, with 4 (occasionally 5) segments.

Similar Species: Wood stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*) has whorled stem leaves with broad, rounded tips. Cliff stonecrop (*S. glaucophyllum*) has oval, waxy leaves, and occurs in North Carolina and Virginia, but not Georgia.

Related Rare Species: See granite stonecrop (*Sedum pusillum*) on this website.

Habitat: Shallow soils on steep bluffs of gneiss (an acidic, granite-like rock) above the Chattahoochee River.

Life History: Nevius's stonecrop is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually as well as vegetatively, when rosettes are separated from the parent plant and become established.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (May–June) and fruiting (June–July), although the mats of evergreen rosettes are conspicuous all year.

Range: Georgia, Alabama (growing on limestone and shale), and Tennessee (on quartzitic slate).

Threats: Loss of tree cover, erosion, invasion by exotic pest plants, especially Japanese honeysuckle.

Georgia Conservation Status: Only 4 populations are known, 3 are protected by a management agreement with Georgia Power Company.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Eradicate exotic pest plants, especially Japanese honeysuckle. Preserve tree cover at sites. Prevent erosion.

Selected References:

Calie, P.J. 1981. Systematic studies in *Sedum* section Ternata (Crassulaceae). Brittonia 33(4): 498-507.

Chafin, L.G. 2007. Field guide to the rare plants of Georgia. State Botanical Garden of Georgia and University of Georgia Press, Athens.

Clausen, R.T. 1949. Distribution and variation of *Sedum nevii*. Cactus and Succulent Journal of America 21(6): 180-185.

Kral, R. 1983. A report on some rare, threatened, or endangered forest-related vascular plants of the South. Technical Publication R8-TP2. United States Forest Service, Atlanta.

NatureServe. 2008. NatureServe Explorer. Arlington, Virginia. http://www.natureserve.org/explorer

Patrick, T.S., J.R. Allison, and G.A. Krakow. 1995. Protected plants of Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program, Social Circle.

Weakley, A.S. 2008. Flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, northern Florida, and surrounding areas. University of North Carolina Herbarium, Chapel Hill. http://www.herbarium.unc.edu/flora.htm

Author of Species Account: Linda G. Chafin

Date Compiled or Updated:L.Chafin, Aug. 2008: original account
D.Weiler Jan. 2010: added pictures



