



Common Name: DIVERSE-LEAF CROWNBEARD

Scientific Name: *Verbesina heterophylla* (Chapman) A. Gray

Other Commonly Used Names: none

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Pterophyton heterophyllum* (Chapman) Alexander, *Actinomeris heterophylla* Chapman

Family: Asteraceae/Compositae (aster)

Rarity Ranks: G2/S1

State Legal Status: Special Concern

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: FACW

Description: Perennial **herb** with winged **stems** 16 - 32 inches (40 - 80 cm) tall. **Leaves** about 1 - 3 inches (3 - 8 cm) long and $\frac{3}{8}$ - 1 cm (1 - 3 cm) wide, mostly opposite, lacking leaf stalks, with bluntly rounded tips and low teeth along the margins. Leaves and stems covered with short, rough

hairs. **Flower heads** in loose clusters containing 3 - 9 heads at the tips of branches, each head with 5 - 10 yellow **ray flowers** up to ½ inch (1.5 cm) long, a few yellow **disk flowers**, and 2 - 3 whorls of erect, green bracts. **Fruit** about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch (5 mm) long, dry, seed-like, dark brown, with narrow wings.

Similar Species: Coastal plain crownbeard (*Verbesina aristata*) has rough-hairy stems and leaves, and opposite, toothed leaves, but its stems are not winged. Its ray flowers are yellow but are often more than 1 inch (3 cm) long.

Related Rare Species: Hairy wingstem (*Verbesina helianthoides*, Special Concern) occurs in a mixed pine-hardwood forest in Bibb County. It has hairy, winged stems up to 4 feet (1.2 meters) tall and alternate, toothed, lance-shaped leaves with very hairy lower surfaces. The flower heads have many green, erect bracts, 8 - 15 yellow ray flowers, and yellow disk flowers. Also see Carolina crownbeard (*V. walteri*) on this web site.

Habitat: Moist to dry pine flatwoods with wiregrass, saw palmetto, runner oak, and bracken fern.

Life History: Diverse-leaf crownbeard is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually as well as vegetatively by producing stems from a short rhizome. Little else is known about reproduction in this species.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (April–June).

Range: Georgia, northeast Florida.

Threats: Conversion of habitat to pine plantations, developments, and agriculture. Disturbance to ground cover by mechanical clearing and site preparation. Fire suppression and encroachment by woody shrubs.

Georgia Conservation Status: One population is known in Georgia; it occurs on privately owned timberland.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Protect sandhills and flatwoods from conversion to pine plantations and developments. Apply prescribed fire every 2 - 3 years, preferably during the growing season.

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L.Chafin, Feb. 2009: original account

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