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Common Name: GLADE MEADOW-PARSNIP

Scientific Name: *Thaspium pinnatifidum* (Buckley) Gray

Other Commonly Used Names: cutleaf meadow-parsnip

Previously Used Scientific Names: none

Family: Apiaceae/Umbelliferae (parsley)

Rarity Ranks: G2G3/S1

State Legal Status: Endangered

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: none

Description: Perennial **herb** up to 3 feet (100 cm) tall, lower stem smooth and ribbed, upper stem hairy. **Leaves** alternate, hairy, divided into narrow segments, the outermost segments less than 1/8 inch (1 - 3 mm) wide; basal leaves and stem leaves are similar; leaves and leaf sheaths are *not* edged with a narrow, translucent margin. **Flower clusters** flat-topped, 3 - 6 per stem, on stalks 1 - 2 3/8 inch (2.5 - 6 cm) long; each cluster containing several smaller clusters on slender stalks up to 1 inch (2.5 cm) long. **Flowers** with 5 tiny, white petals. **Fruit** about 1/8 inch (3 - 4 mm) long, slightly flattened, sparsely hairy, and winged.

Similar Species: Other meadow-parsnips (*Thaspium* spp.) and golden-alexanders (*Zizia* spp.) have yellow flowers, and their leaf segments are not as narrow. Queen Anne's-lace (*Daucus carota*, *D. pusillus*) is a large, coarse plant that occurs in disturbed areas; finely divided, leafy bracts surround the base of the flower clusters.

Related Rare Species: Creamy meadow-parsnip (*Thaspium chapmanii*, Special Concern) has pale, cream-yellow flowers; its leaves are divided into many narrow segments. It occurs in Floyd, Bartow, and Randolph Counties in prairies and hardwood forests over limestone- or marble-based soils.

Habitat: Limestone cedar glades and sunny openings in adjacent woodlands.

Life History: Glade meadow-parsnip is believed to be a weak perennial, bearing flowers only once in its short lifespan, or a biennial, flowering only during its second year then dying. The flowers provide both nectar and pollen and are visited by a variety of insect pollinators, including flies, bees, and beetles. Meadow-parsnips have a complicated flowering pattern that encourages cross-pollination: female flowers on a given plant bloom before that plant's pollen-producing male flowers, and, in flowers with both male and female parts, the stamens and pistils ripen at different times. Glade meadow-parsnip seeds are dispersed by gravity and small animals, and require a period of cold dormancy in order to germinate.

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

Range: Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and possibly Virginia.

Threats: Destruction of glades habitat by trash dumping, off-road vehicle use, and conversion to pastures or developments. Invasion by exotic pest plants. Lack of sunlight due to tree canopy closure. Sites on national parkland are subject to horse and foot traffic.

Georgia Conservation Status: Three populations are known, 2 on federal park land.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Protect limestone glades from trash dumping, off-road vehicles, and conversion to pasture or developments. Limit foot and horse traffic on glades. Create forest openings with fire or hand-clearing. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

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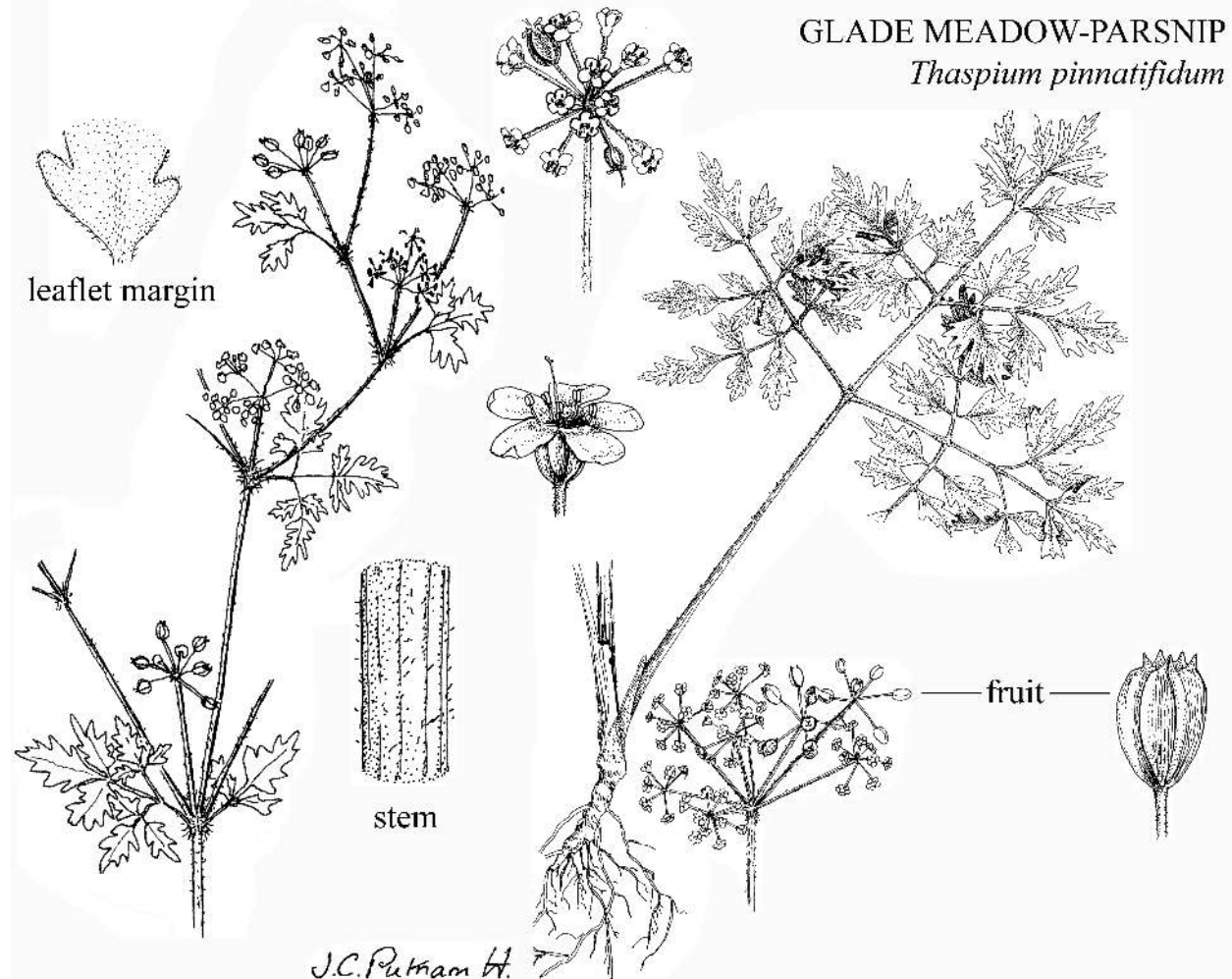
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L. Chafin, Sept. 2008: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

GLADE MEADOW-PARSNIP
Thaspium pinnatifidum





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