



Common Name: SILKY MORNING-GLORY

Scientific Name: *Evolvulus sericeus* Swartz

Other Commonly Used Names: creeping morning-glory

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Evolvulus sericeus* var. *sericeus* Swartz

Family: Convolvulaceae (morning-glory)

Rarity Ranks: G5T3T5/S1

State Legal Status: Endangered

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: FACW

Description: Perennial **herb** with stems to 12 inches (30 cm) long, leaning or trailing along the ground, not twining on other plants. **Leaves** ¼ - 1 inch (0.5 - 2.5 cm) long, alternate, narrowly oval with pointed tip and tapering base, lower surface covered with silky, silver hairs; upper

surface green and hairless. **Flower** less than ½ inch (0.8 - 1.2 cm) wide, solitary on a very short stalk in the angle between leaf and stem, funnel-shaped, white with a faint 5-pointed star on the upper surface; 5 white-tipped stamens extend beyond the throat of the flower. **Fruit** a round, 4-seeded capsule about ¼ inch (5 - 7 mm) wide.

Similar Species: Other morning-glories with white flowers have long flower stalks (such as *Stylisma patens* and *S. humistrata*), deeply lobed or triangular leaves (such as *Ipomoea lacunosa* and *Calystegia sepium*), or twining stems.

Related Rare Species: See Pickering's morning-glory (*Stylisma pickeringii* var. *pickeringii*) on this website.

Habitat: Outcrops of sandstone-like rock known as Altamaha Grit, moist depressions in upland hardwood forests.

Life History: Silky morning-glory is a perennial herb. Its flowers are probably pollinated by bees, although no pollinator studies have been conducted. Its seeds are dispersed by small animals. It has a deep taproot, enabling it to survive fire.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (April–July) and fruiting (July–September). The very short flower and fruit stalks are important for identification.

Range: Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Central America, South America, and the West Indies.

Threats: Fire suppression, invasion by exotic pest plants.

Georgia Conservation Status: About 13 populations are known, 8 on a single conservation area.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Allow prescribed fire in surrounding pine forests to burn across Grit outcrops. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

Selected References:

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Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, Apr. 2007: original account

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