



Common Name: MOUNTAIN CINQUEFOIL

Scientific Name: *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata* (Aiton) Rydberg

Other Commonly Used Names: three-toothed cinquefoil, three-toothed five-fingers

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Potentilla tridentata* Aiton

Family: Rosaceae (rose)

Rarity Ranks: G5/S1

State Legal Status: Endangered

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: none

Description: Perennial **herb** with slightly woody **stems**, usually 3 - 4 inches (7 - 10 cm) tall (rarely up to 12 inches), sprawling or forming clumps and mats. **Leaves** evergreen with 3 oblong **leaflets**, $\frac{5}{8}$ - 1 inch (1.5 - 2.5 cm) long, with 3 - 5 teeth at the tip; base of the **leaf stalk** with a toothed sheath (**stipule**). **Flowers** about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (2 cm) wide, with 5 white petals; 5 green, showy sepals; and 25 - 30 showy, white stamens. **Fruits** dry, hairy, and seed-like, in a stalked cluster.

Similar Species: Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) and mock strawberry (*Duchesnea indica*) have hairy stems, red fruits, and deciduous, oval leaflets with toothed margins. Common cinquefoil species (*Potentilla simplex* and *P. canadensis*) have yellow flowers and 5 leaflets.

Related Rare Species: None in Georgia.

Habitat: High-elevation rocky clearings and mountaintop balds.

Life History: Little is known about the life history of mountain cinquefoil. Its flowers are probably pollinated by small bees and flies.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (June–August); however, the evergreen leaves turn reddish in the winter and are distinctive all year.

Range: Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, north to Canada, west to Iowa and North Dakota. It is common in Canada and New England, rare further south and west.

Threats: Clearing, logging, development of high-elevation summits. Trampling by hikers and climbers.

Georgia Conservation Status: Two populations are known, both in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Avoid clearing or developing high elevation summits and rock outcrops. Direct trails away from these plants.

Selected References:

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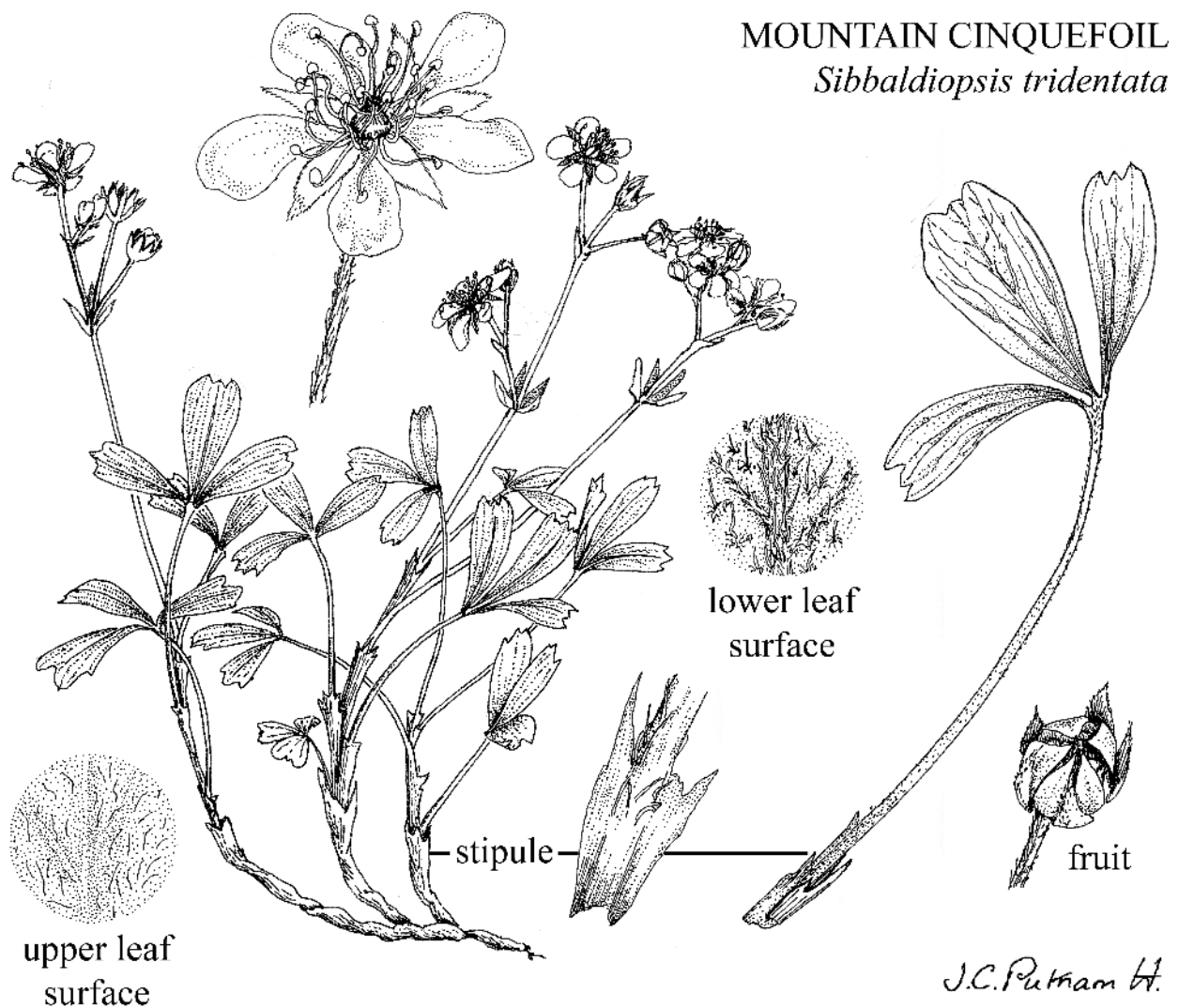
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Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, Aug. 2008: original account

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