

PINE-PINK

Bletia purpurea (Lam.) DC.

Synonyms: none

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G5?/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-FAC*+ FL-FAC



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Field Description: This ground orchid is found in pinelands, sunny hammock edges, higher rock barrens, and on old disturbed sites. The leafless inflorescence may grow to 3 feet or more. The plicate leaves (folded like a fan) are similar to palm seedling leaves. The many pink-to-light purple 3-lobed flowers are stalked, have a recurved lower lip, and have reddish veins and yellow ridges. Fruits are brown, ridged, cylindrical capsules, pointed on the ends, and held vertically on the tall bloom spike.

Similar Species: Pine-pink may be confused with other South Florida terrestrial orchids with a plicate leaf, but the pink flowers and occurrence on cypress bases and logs in swamps distinguishes this species.

Related Rare Species: The state threatened giant orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*) is also a terrestrial orchid with a plicate leaf. However, giant orchids are much larger

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and have a yellowish flower with a maroon center rather than a pink flower.

Habitat: Pine rocklands, flatwoods, or on stumps, knees, and tree bases of cypress.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer.

Range-wide Distribution: Native to South Florida. Also found in the West Indies and Central and South America.

Conservation Status: These plants grow in a variety of habitats throughout South Florida.

Protection and Management: Prescribed burns to reduce shrub and tree encroachment.

References: Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.