

## WEDGE-LEAVED BUTTON-SNAKEROOT

*Eryngium cuneifolium* Small

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Apiaceae (parsley)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

**Legal Status:** US-Endangered FL-Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US-none+ FL-UPL



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**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with several erect, ribbed, branching stems 10 - 20 inches tall. **Basal leaves** about 1.5 inches long, numerous, long-stalked and narrowly wedge-shaped with thickened margins and 3 - 5 large, bristle-tipped teeth or lobes at the tip. **Stem leaves** deeply divided into pointed, bristle-tipped lobes and reduced in size and number upward along the stem. **Flowers** in small, rounded, compact, bristly heads topping loosely clustered stalks. **Petals** are white or blue with powdery blue or yellowish-white anthers.

**Similar Species:** Fragrant button-snakeroot (*Eryngium aromaticum*) has aromatic leaves evenly and closely spaced along the stems; the main stem is erect but lower branches spread along the ground. Other *Eryngium* species in FL are wetland plants.

**Related Rare Species:** None in FL.

**wedge-leaved button-snakeroot**

*Eryngium cuneifolium*

**Habitat:** Sand pine scrub, usually in gaps on rosemary balds.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer-fall; August - October, but the basal rosette of toothed, wedge-shaped leaves is distinctive all year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to the southern Lake Wales Ridge in Highlands County, FL.

**Conservation Status:** About 20 populations exist, most on 3 preserves.

**Protection and Management:** Use prescribed fire to maintain large gaps between shrubs in sand pine scrub. Prevent foot trampling and access by off-road-vehicles. Purchase and protect remaining Lake Wales Ridge scrubs, and manage with prescribed fire.

**References:** Coile 2000, Menges and Kimmich 1996, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a, Wunderlin and Richardson 1981.