

FLORIDA MERRYBELLS

Uvularia floridana Chapman

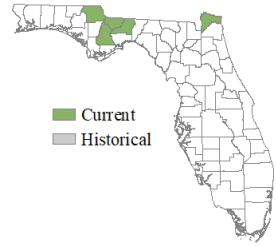
Synonyms: *Oakesiella floridana* (Chapm.) Small

Family: Liliaceae (lily)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FACW FL-FACW



Alfred R. Schotz

Field Description: Erect, **perennial herb** to 16 inches tall, with a single, once-branched, angled stem (non-flowering plants are unbranched). **Leaves** 1.6 - 2.8 inches long, without leaf stalks, alternate, narrowly oval with pointed tips, smooth, dull green, somewhat fleshy and waxy; margins with tiny teeth visible with magnification. **Flowers** up to 1 inch long, 1 per stem, nodding, pale yellow, with 6 long-pointed **tepals** (3 sepals + 3 petals), with a leafy **bract** on the flower stalk just below the flower. **Fruit** to 1 inch long, 3-angled, drooping.

Similar Species: Perfoliate bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*) has stems that appear to pass through the middle of the leaves. Sessile-leaved bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*) tepals are blunt-tipped, and the flower stalk lacks the leafy bract. Both occur in upland hammocks in the Panhandle.

Related Rare Species: Florida merrybells is the only species of *Uvularia* listed in FL.

Habitat: Bottomland and floodplain forests, moist ravines.

Best Survey Season: Flowers and fruits March - April.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, AL, GA, SC.

Conservation Status: Less than 15 occurrences are known in Florida. Agricultural and residential development, and adverse forestry practices threaten this species.

Protection and Management: Prevent clearcutting and establishment of pine plantations in slope forests, ravines, and floodplains. Control exotic pest plants, especially Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).

References: Clewell 1985, Coile 2000, Radford et al. 1968, Small 1933, Ward 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.

