

Baldwin's milkwort

(*Senega balduinii*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Baldwin's milkwort is one of only a few white milkworts found in Florida. It typically blooms spring through fall and occurs naturally in wet pine flatwoods, marshes and coastal swales.

Flowers are small, white or greenish and borne in dense cymes atop branched stems. Sepals are large, lateral and petal-like. Leaves are lanceolate with pointy tips. They are alternately arranged and become reduced and sessile as they ascend the stem. Seeds are borne in a capsule.



Photo by Stacey Matrazzo

The species epithet *balduinii* pays homage to William Baldwin, an American physician and botanist who made significant contributions to the field of botany in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Family: Polygalaceae (Milkwort family)

Native range: Nearly throughout

To see where natural populations of Baldwin's milkwort have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Lifespan: Annual or biennial (may act as perennial in South Florida)

Soil: Moist to wet

Exposure: Full sun

Growth habit: 1–3' tall

Note: Research published in 2023 assigned the New World clade of *Polygala* to the genus *Senega* (Pastore et al). This species was previously known as *Polygala balduinii* and is likely still listed as such in many online and print resources.

Baldwin's milkwort is not commercially available. Visit a sunny open wetland to see it!

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