



White-birds-in-a-nest



Plant Botanical Name:

Macbridea alba

Macbridea alba is found only in northwest Florida and southeast Alabama, mostly within the Apalachicola National Forest. It usually blooms from May to August. The plant is named after the author of the first description, John Macbride. It inspired its common name, "white birds-in-a-nest." The charming small clusters of white buds and blossoms resemble eggs and little birds' heads in a nest. The plant grows in wet areas within grassy habitat on poorly drained, infertile soils. *Macbridea alba* shares the same habitat with two other Florida endangered species, *Scutellaria ovata* (skullcap) and *Stachydeoma graveolens* (mock pennyroyal). Destruction of habitat for agriculture and development, suppression of fire and use of chemicals have threatened these plants. *Macbridea alba* is pollinated only by bumblebees, whose populations are also diminishing, thus increasing the decline.

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