

## **TREES AND PLANTS**

### **CANBY'S DROPWORT**

#### **ABOUT**

Canby's Dropwort (*Oxypolis canbyi*) is a perennial aromatic herb from the carrot family also known as Canby's Cowbane. This species has a fragrance similar to Dill. Its slender stems grow to 31-34 inches tall, and from August to September bear compound umbels (flower stalks all springing from the same point) of small flowers. These five-parted flowers have white petals with a pale green sepal (base of flower) that is sometimes tinged with red. Canby's Dropwort is unisexual or bisexual and reproduces through numerous, fleshy rhizomes (rootstock). This plant grows in coastal plains and likes wet meadows, wet pineland savannas, ditches, and Cypress-pine ponds. The healthiest populations are found in open bays or ponds that remain wet most of the year and have little shade.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Canby's Dropwort was listed as endangered in 1986 because of its rarity and vulnerability to any change in habitat. There are 53 populations left in Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, with South Carolina hosting the largest number of this plant. Delaware used to be home to Canby's Dropwort, but it has totally disappeared there. The greatest threat to the plant is alteration or complete loss of wetland habitats to agriculture, ditching, and drainage. Black Swallowtail butterfly larvae have also been identified as a destructive force for this plant, although the degree to which this insect impacts the overall population is unknown.

For more detailed information visit: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) or [www.centerforplantconservation.org](http://www.centerforplantconservation.org).

#### **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

From which state has Canby's Dropwort disappeared?

- a) South Carolina
- b) Georgia
- c) Delaware
- d) Maryland

Answer is C.

