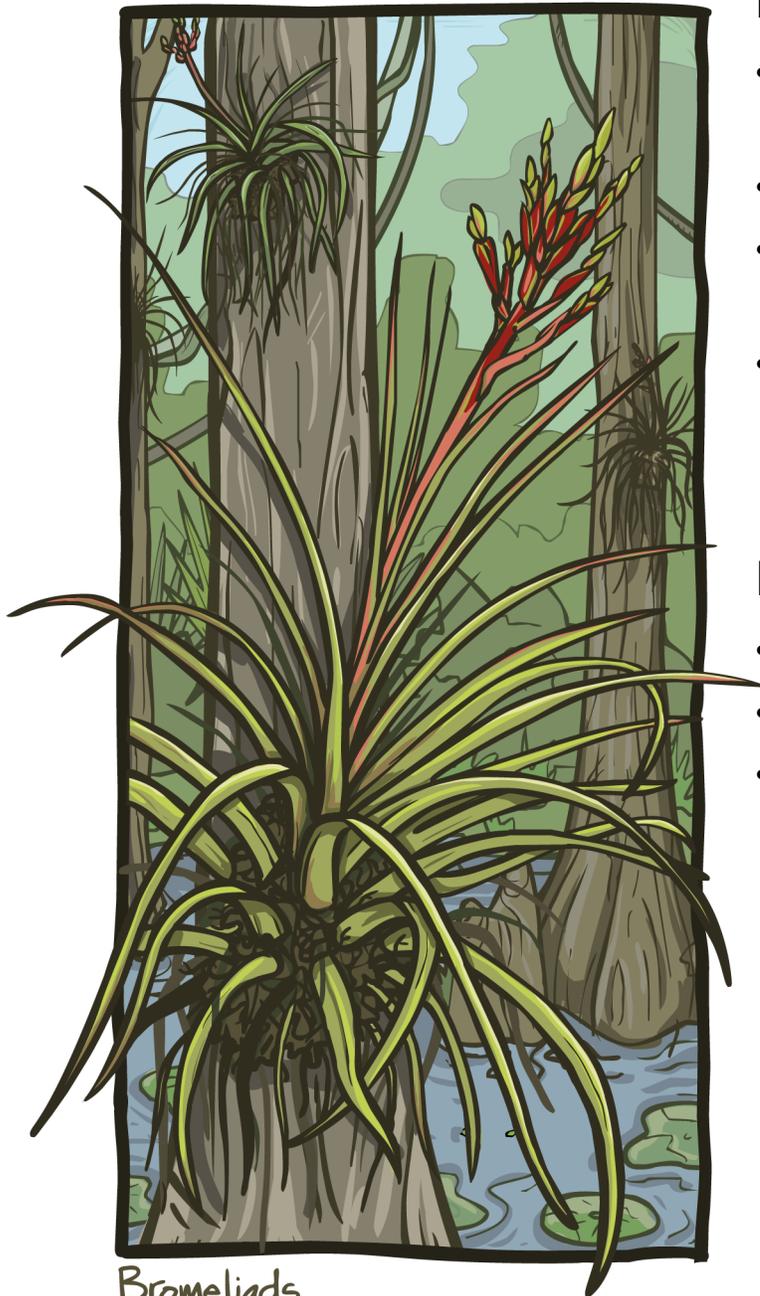


# Bromeliads

Giant Air Plant (*Tillandsia fasciculata*)



Bromeliads

## Instant ID

- A plant which lacks woody stems
- Grows on the sides of trees
- Flowers range from very tiny to showy
- Often has waxy or scaly leaves to prevent desiccation (drying out)

## Native Niches

- 16 species native to Florida
- Found throughout Florida
- Species abundance and diversity (variety) increases in southern Florida



# Bromeliads

Giant Air Plant (*Tillandsia fasciculata*)



Bromeliads

## Plant Particulars

- Rarely, if ever, damage a healthy host plant (plant they live on)
- Gets nutrients from the air and rain
- Pineapple and Spanish moss are types of bromeliads
- Spanish moss has been commercially harvested in Florida
- Some bromeliads form cups in which insects are trapped, feeding the plant

## Population Protection

- 10 species of bromeliad are threatened or endangered in Florida
- An exotic, invasive bromeliad weevil, habitat loss and illegal harvesting are the biggest threats to native bromeliads

