

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Selaginella ludoviciana - Louisiana spikemoss Spikemoss Family (Selaginellaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G3G4

	1	2	3	4	5
State	Yellow				
Global			Yellow	Yellow	
	imperiled		rare		secure



Range: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS

Recognition:

- A fern ally, fern allies being vascular plants that reproduce by spores, have leaves with only one vein or no vein and lack leaf stalks
- Low growing terrestrial plant that forms diffuse mats – moss-like
- Stems long-creeping, usually ascending, sparsely branched; stems of the more common *S. apoda* are prostrate
- Leaf margins whitish, while the leaf margins of the more common *S. apoda* are not differentiated from the rest of the leaf
- Leaves subtending sporangia (= sporophylls, which collectively comprise the strobilus or “cone”) very strongly keeled, with keel dentate, sparsely serrate margins and with acuminate apices

Light Requirement: Shade

Wetland Indicator Status: FACW – usually in wetlands

Habitat:

Mesic mixed hardwood-loblolly pine forests and creek banks within this forest type.

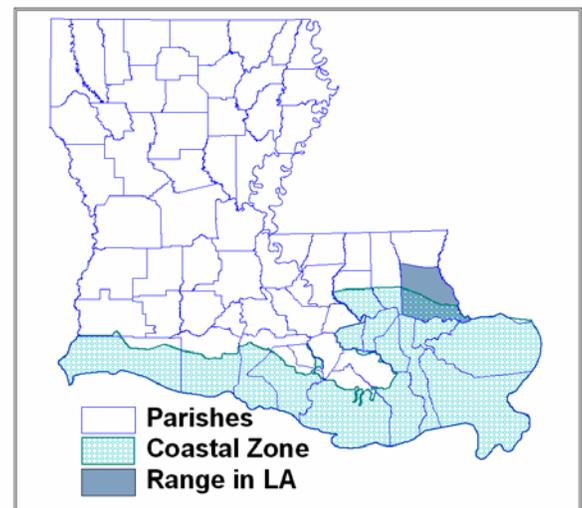
Threats:

- Habitat conversion to other forest types
- Residential and commercial development

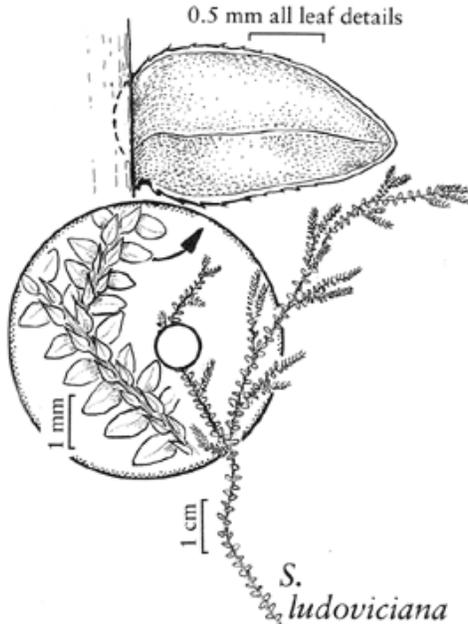
Beneficial Management Practices:

Protect natural mesic forests in the North Shore area

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain



Rare Plants of Louisiana



S. ludoviciana from The Flora of North America, Volume 2.
Copyright © 2000 Flora of North America Association

References:

- Buck, W. R., and T. W. Lucansky. 1976. An anatomical and morphological comparison of *Selaginella apoda* and *Selaginella ludoviciana*. Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club. 103(1): 9-16.
- Somers, P. and W. R. Buck. 1975. *Selaginella ludoviciana*, *S. apoda* and their hybrids in the southeastern United States. American Fern Journal. 65(3):76-82.
- Thomas, R. D. and C. M. Allen. 1993. Atlas of the vascular flora of Louisiana, vol. I: ferns & fern Allies, conifers, & monocotyledons. Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge.
- Valdespino, I. 1993. Flora of North America, Vol. 2, pteridophytes and gymnosperms. Oxford University Press, New York.
- USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Thieret, J. W. 1980. Louisiana Ferns and Fern Allies. The University of Southwest Louisiana, Lafayette. 123 pp.

Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

For more information, please visit our Web pages at

<http://www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program> or 225-765-2811

www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869