**Rare Plants of Louisiana**

**Amaranthus greggii - Gregg’s amaranth**  
Amaranth family (Amaranthaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S3/G4?

![Rare Plant Rarity Chart]

**Range:** LA, TX, south to Yucatan, Mexico

**Recognition:**
- Plants from taproots, erect or sprawling, often many stems branching from the base
- Leaves relatively few, thick, fleshy, leathery, prominently veined underneath, to 3.5 cm long
- Male and female flowers are on different plants (= dioecious), born in spikes or compact panicles from 5 to 15 cm long
- Seeds are lustrous brown or black, 1.3 to 1.8 mm in diameter

**Flowering Time:** Potentially year-round

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Wetland Indicator Status:** NI - No indicator

**Habitat:**
High energy beaches of both the Chenier Plain and Deltaic Plain; typical associates include seashore dropseed (*Sporobolus virginicus*), Amberique bean (*Strophostyles helvula*), sea rockets (*Cakile spp.*) and wiregrass (*Spartina patens*).

**Threats:**
- Shoreline erosion
- Cattle grazing
- Vehicular and excessive foot traffic

**Beneficial Management Practices:**
- Shoreline protection/nourishment
- Protection of beaches and dunes from vehicular traffic and cattle

**LA River Basins:** Pontchartrain, Barataria, Terrebonne, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine
Above: *Amaranthus greggii* on a Cameron Parish beach.

Right: Herbarium specimen showing leaves (discoloration is from drying). Courtesy of LSU Herbarium.

References:
