**Rare Plants of Louisiana**

**Sium suave** - hemlock water-parsnip  
Carrot Family (Apiaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S1S2/G5

**Range:** Newfoundland to British Columbia, and southward throughout the U.S.; also East Asia.

**Recognition:**
- Tall herb in the parsley/carrot family, 1.2 to 1.5 m tall
- Lower portions of stems round and hollow, upper portions corrugated-angled with branches arising from middle to upper stem
- Stem nodes bear long fibrous adventitious roots when submersed
- Aerial leaves long and mostly once-pinnately compound; submerged leaves highly dissected, 2-3 times compound with linear segments
- The leaflets lance-shaped, sharply and abundantly toothed, which differs from the superficially similar stiff cowbane (*Oxypolis rigidior*) which has only a few dentate teeth per each side of a leaflet
- Mexican cowbane (*Cicuta mexicana*), a similar species which is common in coastal freshwater wetlands, will have many leaves that are twice to three times compound
- Inflorescence a compound umbel to 5-8 cm broad, long stalked; flowers small with white petals
- Fruit with several corky-thickened ribs, NOT possessing 2 prominent wings; fruits 2 to 3 mm long

**Flowering Time:** June to August

**Light Requirement:** Full sun to part shade

**Wetland Indicator Status:**  
OBL – almost always in wetlands

**Habitat:**  
Louisiana occurrences are in fresh marshes and cypress-tupelo swamps around Lake Pontchartrain. This species has not been recorded in about 25 years, thus field work is warranted.

**Threats:**  
Salt water intrusion and conversion of fresh marsh into open water
Benificial Management Practices:
- Any practices that maintain existing high quality fresh marsh
- Additional field inventory work

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain

References:


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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