



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Liatis tenuis Shinnery
Gulf Blazing Star, Slender Gay-Feather



Identification: Corm (or rhizome) 1-2 cm thick, round or somewhat like an inverted carrot, generally with fibrous remains of leaves attached. Stems 1 to few, 30-55 cm tall, toward the base with spreading or ascending hairs, strigillose upward. Leaves rather crowded, linear, punctulate, more or less pilosulous along the margin and the single nerve, acute, the stem leaves to 15 cm long and 4.2 mm broad, those of the midstem becoming abruptly much smaller than those below, the uppermost leaves reduced to bracts 1-3 cm long and 1-1.5 mm broad. Head-bearing region 15-25 cm long, slender, spiciform or racemiform, interrupted, the internodes 7-15 mm long. Head usually solitary in the axils of the upper leaves. Peduncles to 3 mm long. Involucre cylindric-campanulate, 10-13 mm long. Phyllaries in 4-5 series, narrowly ovate, acuminate, apically attenuate and spreading or subrecurved, ciliate, dorsally glabrous or at the very base pilosulous. Flowers 10-11 per head. Pappus bristles barbellate, 4-7 mm long. Corolla about 7 mm long, glabrous within the tube. Achenes 4.2-4.5 mm long, prominently pilosulous along the ribs.

Key ID characters:

- Perennial herb with an unbranched stem arising from a corm; the heads only bearing disc flowers.
- Leaves linear and up to 15 cm long and 4.2 mm wide then abruptly smaller at midstem upwards.
- Peduncles to 3 mm long (heads in racemes).
- Involucre cylindric-campanulate and 10-13 mm long.
- Phyllaries in 4-5 series and subrecurved
- 10-11 flowers per head.
- Corolla about 7 mm long and glabrous within the tube.



L. tenuis from *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Southeastern United States: Dicotyledons* by Godfrey and Wooten. Copyright ©1979 University of Georgia Press, Athens, reproduced by permission of the publisher.

Habitat: Xeric upland Longleaf pine woods, xeric sandhills, and sandy woodlands.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Asteraceae (Compositae). There are about 10 species of *Liatris* in the LA flora.

Status:

Wetland: No Data
 Global: G3 - Vulnerable
 State: S1 - Critically Imperiled



Xeric Sandhills

Range: Texas, Louisiana

Soils: Sandy soils.

Similar Species: Of the other species of *Liatris*, *L. squarrosa* is most similar to *L. tenuis*. *L.*

squarrosa differs in having plumose (feather-like) pappus.



L. squarrosa



L. punctata

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss, and fire suppression allowing invasion of habitat by woody species.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:

Caddo, De Soto, Natchitoches*

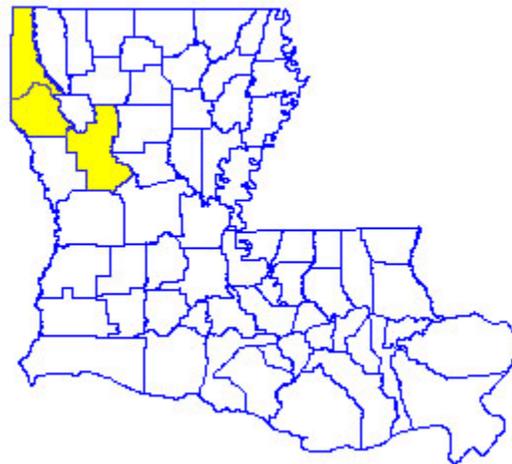
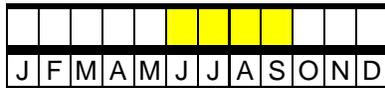
* Indicates unverified presence in parish.

Dates of Natural Heritage Program

Observations:

1973, 1983(3)

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

References :

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