**identification**: Plants to 2 m tall. Stems striate, terete, glabrous, somewhat glaucous. Leaves entire to undulate, non-glaucous, scabrous-pubescent; basal leaves oval or ovate, often abruptly acute at the apex, the blade truncate or broadly cuneate at the base, decurrent 1-3 cm down the petiole, to 24 cm long and 16 cm wide, the principal lateral veins arcuate, the petiole to 36 cm long; cauline leaves remotely arranged, becoming smaller and sessile upward, bracteal in the inflorescence. Heads 2-11 per stem, rarely solitary. Phyllaries in 3-5 series, the outer series reflexed, the innermost phyllaries subtending ray flowers. Receptacle hemispherical, to 25 mm long and 20 mm wide (in fruit); receptacular bracts obtuse-acutish and densely pubescent at the apex, to 6 mm long, ca. 1.5 mm wide on each lateral side. Ray corolla pale yellow, reflexed with age, to 3 cm long and 9 mm wide. Disc flower corolla 4.5 mm long, the limb 3.7 mm long, the teeth erect, 0.8 mm long; style branches obtuse, 1.6 mm long. Fruits mostly dark purple, light purple at the apex, 3-4.5 mm long. Pappus an irregularly toothed or lacerate crown, 1-1.6 mm long.

**Key ID characters:**

- Plant up to 2 m in height.
- Stems lacking hairs; leaves are rough to touch (scabrous) and entire or undulating.
- Heads 2-11 per stem.
- Phyllaries in 3-5 series; outer ones bent downwards.
- Ray corollas are pale yellow.
- Disk corollas are dark purple.
**Habitat:** Western hillside seepage bogs in longleaf pine woods, especially in Vernon Parish.

**Taxonomic Comments:** This species is a member of the family Asteraceae. There are about 10 taxa of the genus *Rudbeckia* known to occur in LA, with a total of about 20 species found in North America.

**Status:**
- Wetland: No Data
- Global: G2G3 - Imperiled - Vulnerable
- State: S2 - Imperiled

**Range:** Louisiana and Texas.

**Soils:** Acidic soils that are usually wet.

**Similar Species:** *R. scabrifolia* most closely resembles *R. maxima*. The disk is 4-8 cm long (while in fruit) for *R. maxima*, whereas it is less than 4 cm long in *R. scabrifolia*. *R. maxima* is most often found in northwestern LA, whereas *R. scabrifolia* has a slightly more southerly distribution. It should be noted that only *R. scabrifolia* is found in acid seepage areas.

**Reason for Rarity:** Habitat loss, limited natural range, fire suppression allowing invasion of woody species, and alteration of natural hydrology of bog areas.
Known Distribution in Louisiana:
Natchitoches*, Sabine, Vernon, Winn

* Indicates unverified presence in parish.

Dates of Natural Heritage Program Observations:

Best Time for Viewing this Species:

Distribution in Louisiana

References:


