

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Paronychia erecta var. *corymbosa* - square flower Pink Family (Caryophyllaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G3G4T2T4

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

Range: AL, FL, LA, MS

Recognition:

- A small perennial herb with multiple stems radiating from a central point, stems to 30 cm tall and often leaning
- Leaves opposite, linear, with conspicuous membranous stipules
- Flowers small, in compact clusters, lacking petals, with red-brown, translucent margined sepals
- Stems finely hairy

Flowering Time: April to August

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

Does not occur in wetlands anywhere in range

Habitat:

There is one record from Louisiana in sandy soil along US 190 near the Pearl River. There is a possibility that, if this sandy material was brought in as fill material from Mississippi, this occurrence is introduced. It is, in fact, regarded as introduced by Thomas and Allen (1996). Field studies are warranted to determine if this species is present at all on naturally occurring sand deposits along the Pearl River branches or if it is strictly a roadside plant in that area.



Threats:

- Invasion of habitat by woody species in the absence of fire and resulting shading
- Nativity status questionable and rarity status, if native, unknown

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Maintain open conditions in sandy woodlands with fire or mowing
- Conduct field work to determine status in Louisiana

LA River Basins: Pearl

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Paronychia erecta var. *corymbosa* growing on sand dunes near Ft. Morgan, AL.

References:

Duncan, W. H. and M. B. Duncan. 1987. The Smithsonian guide to seaside plants of the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 409 pp.

NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>

Thomas, R. D. and C. M. Allen. 1996. Atlas of the vascular flora of Louisiana. Vol. 2. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge.