



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Silene subciliata B.L. Robins.
Louisiana Catchfly, Scarlet Catchfly



Identification: Perennial. Stems few from a branched crown, to 11 dm tall, simple or branched above, glabrous. Leaves linear to narrowly oblanceolate, to 16 cm long and 12 mm wide, rather fleshy, usually attenuate to the petiolar base, entirely glabrous or with scattered cilia on the margins that may be as much as 3 mm long; bracts greatly reduced, linear-lanceolate. Inflorescence elongate, open, few-flowered, sometimes reduced to a solitary terminal flower, the lower floral branches sometimes nearly 1 dm long, essentially glabrous. Calyx tubular, 10-nerved, glabrous and smooth, to 25 mm long, the lanceolate ciliate apical lobes about 4 mm long. Corolla scarlet, pilose-wooly at base; corolla blades oblong-elliptic, about 15 mm long, entire to obscurely toothed, not lobed, the claws narrow and slightly auriculate at top, the margins ciliate; appendages 2, where the claw meets the blade, linear, tubular, entire, about 4 mm long. Filaments exserted, hairy at base. Stalk supporting the carpels 3-4 mm long, hairy; styles 3, scarcely exserted. Seeds dark brown, sub-reniform, about 2 mm long, dorsally verrucose in lines.

Key ID characters:

- Perennial plant with stems to 11 dm in height.
- Leaves opposite and glabrous or with hairs on the margins.
- Petals 5 in number.
- Blades of petals red and entire (not in 2 segments) with an appendage at the base.

Habitat: Xeric sandhills and sandy woodlands.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Caryophyllaceae. There are 7 known taxa of *Silene* known to LA.

Status:

Wetland: No Data

Global: G3G4 - Vulnerable - Apparently Secure

State: S1 - Critically Imperiled



Sandy Woodlands

Range: Louisiana and Texas.

Soils: Sandy soils.

Similar Species: Of the other species of the same genus, *S. antirrhina* has white to purplish petals, *S. gallica* has white to pinkish petals, *S. stellata* has white petals, *S. armeria* has pinkish petals, *S. noctiflora* has pink to white petals, and *S. virginica* has purplish, but often crimson petals. Of these, *S. virginica* shares petal color, but the apices of the petals are segmented. It should be noted that *S. subciliata* shares distributions only with *S. antirrhina* (the most common species in LA), *S. gallica*, *S. virginica*, and maybe also with *S. stellata*.



S. virginica

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss, and extremely limited natural range.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:

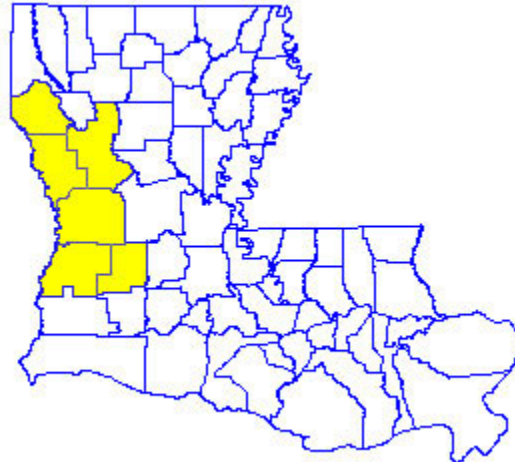
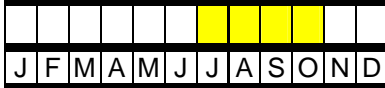
Allen, Beauregard, De Soto*, Natchitoches, Sabine, Vernon*

Dates of Natural Heritage Program

Observations:

1957, 1986(4), 1987(2), 1994(2), 1999, 2001(2)

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

References :

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Thomas, R. Dale, and Charles M. Allen. *Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Louisiana, Vol. II: Dicotyledons, Acanthaceae-Euphorbiaceae*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, 1996.

Radford, Albert E., Harry E. Ahles, and C. Ritchie Bell. *Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

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