

Rare Plants of Louisiana

Physalis angustifolia - coastal ground cherry Nightshade Family (Solanaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1?/G3G4

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

Range: AL, FL, LA, MS

Recognition:

- A rhizomatous perennial with light green to gray-brown stems and alternate narrow leaves
- Leaves linear, 5 times or more longer than broad, which sets this species apart from other ground cherries
- Flowers are solitary and axillary
- Corolla yellow and bell-shaped, about 2 cm wide, and purple in the center
- Fruiting calyx (looks like a Chinese lantern) small, 1.5 to 2 cm long



Photo by G. A. Cooper, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution

Flowering Time: April through September

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

Does not occur in wetlands anywhere in range

Habitat:

Coastal dune grasslands and dry sandy high energy beaches.

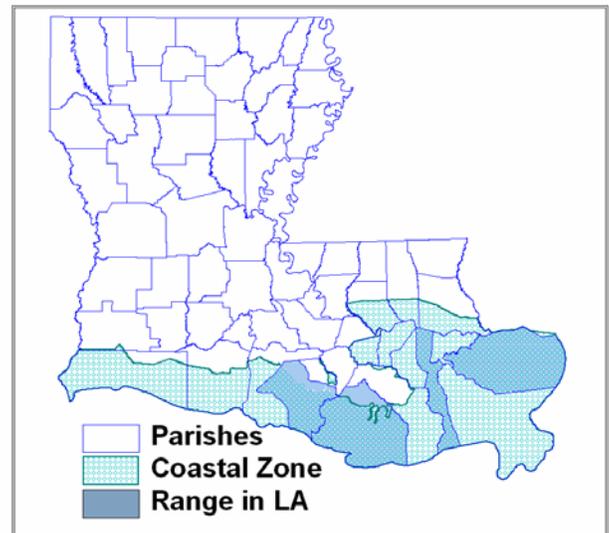
Threats:

- Shoreline erosion
- Trampling of sand dunes by humans and livestock
- Lack of status information in Louisiana and apparently range-wide

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Protect and stabilize high energy beaches and islands
- Protect beaches and dunes from degradation by humans and livestock
- Conduct field surveys to get a better understanding of status in Louisiana

LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Barataria, Terrebonne, Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche



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Above photo by G. A. Cooper, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution

References:

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

Small, J. K. 1933. Manual of the southeastern flora. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 1554 pp.

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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