**Eleocharis geniculata** - Canada spike-sedge
Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

**Rarity Rank**: S1?/G5

**Range**:  
- AL, AZ, CA, FL, GA, HI (exotic), IL (rare), IN (rare), KS (rare), LA, MD, MI, MS (rare), NC, NJ, OH (rare), OK, PA, SC, TX  
- Also occurs in Ontario (rare), Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

**Recognition**:  
- An annual plant growing in tufts and lacking rhizomes  
- From 4 to 40 cm tall, usually on the shorter end of the range  
- Summit of leaf sheath firm and opaque rather than thin and translucent  
- Base of the tubercle (= swollen persistent style base, which sits atop the fruit) is as wide as the summit of the fruit  
- Fruits to 1 mm long, black to purplish black, smooth and shiny

**Flowering/Fruiting Time**: August to October (possibly throughout the growing season)

**Light Requirement**: Full sun

**Wetland Indicator Status**: FACW – usually in wetlands

**Habitat**:  
In adjacent states, *E. geniculata* occurs in various fresh to brackish wetlands. Louisiana occurrences are from wet depressions on Grand Isle, South Breton Island, and Timbalier Island.

**Threats**:  
- Coastal land loss  
- Succession, causing overgrowth in taller vegetation

**Beneficial Management Practices**:  
- Barrier island protection  
- Additional survey work focusing on depressions behind mainland beaches and dunes is warranted

**LA River Basins**: Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Terrebonne
References:


Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. For more information, please visit our Web pages at www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program or 225-765-2811 www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869