

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Eleocharis radicans - rooted spike-rush Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1?/G5

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

Range:

- AZ, CA, FL, HI, LA, MI, OK, TX, VA
- Central and South America

Recognition:

- Tiny (3-8 cm tall), mat-forming rhizomatous perennial
- Stems soft and spongy, becoming wrinkled upon drying, 0.2 to 0.5 mm thick
- Achenes with several longitudinal ribs, separating shallow valleys with horizontally elongated cells

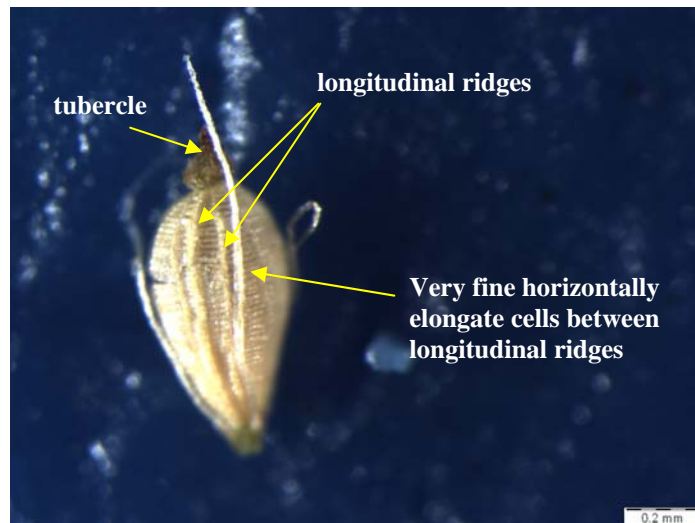


Photo by Diane Feguson, LSU Herbarium

Flowering Time: April to November

Light Requirement: Full sun to part shade

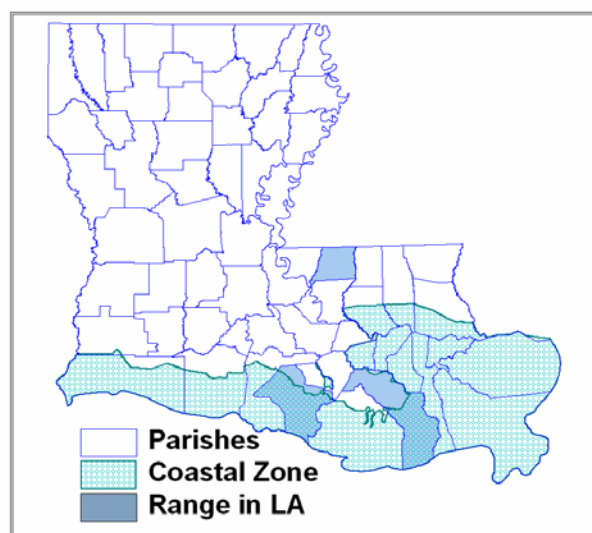
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL – almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

Louisiana records are from forested seeps, floatant marshes, and roadside ditches. It was also recently documented on the Atchafalaya River bank at the Delta on Big Island, where it was growing on decaying woody debris and on black willow root systems that anchor sediment.

Threats:

- Lack of status information. Given the abundance of potential habitat and the paucity of records, we know little about status and threats
- Marsh loss by subsidence and nutria herbivory are potential threats



Beneficial Management Practices:

Conduct more survey work and document additional occurrences with specimens

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

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Herbarium specimen of *Eleocharis radicans*. Courtesy of LSU Herbarium.

References:

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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