

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Lipocarpha micrantha - small flower hemicarpha Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

Rarity Rank: SH/G5 (Historical in Louisiana)

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: Widespread in US and Canada with the exception of the Rocky Mountain area; extends south into tropical America

Recognition:

- Low, tufted, inconspicuous annual sedge
- Stems slender, slightly compressed, 2 to 10 cm tall
- Leaves reduced to sheaths at the bases of the stems, with short blades
- Inflorescences subtended by 3 bracts, one of which appearing as an extension of the stem, thus the inflorescence appearing to be lateral
- Inflorescence of one to several spikelets to about 3 mm long
- Fruit to 1 mm long, with minute bumps arranged in longitudinal lines (the common *Fimbristylis vahlii* has fruits bearing rectangular cells that are arranged in vertical rows)



Photo by John Zaborsky. Courtesy of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Flowering/Fruiting Time: March to October

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

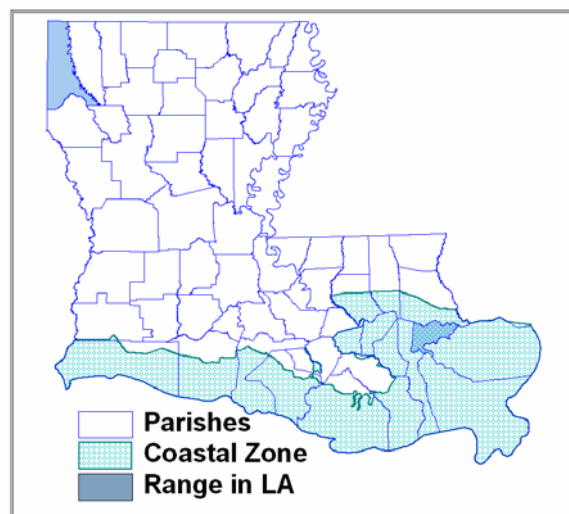
Lipocarpha micrantha is an annual sedge that occurs in drying shorelines. Louisiana records are from the Mississippi River bank in New Orleans (near turn of the 20th century) and the shoreline of Cross Lake in Caddo parish (1950s). This species is possibly overlooked in Louisiana.

Threats: Unknown

Beneficial Management Practices:

Conduct field work to rediscover this species in Louisiana

LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Red

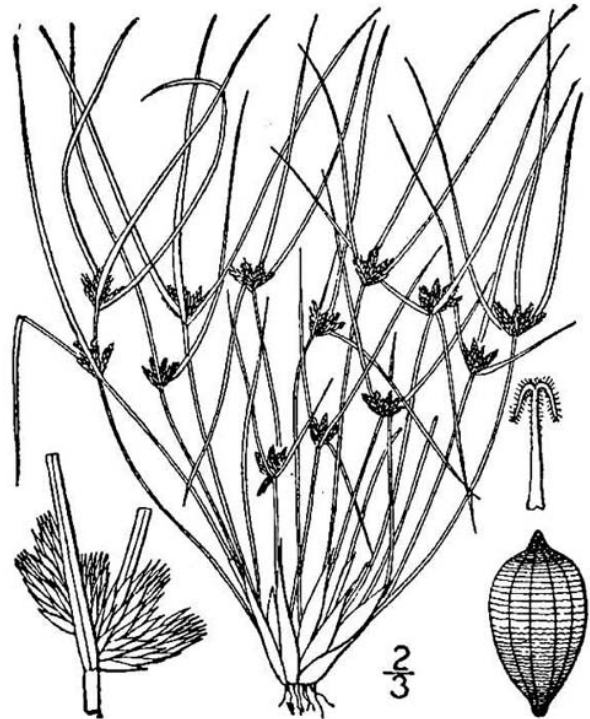


Lipocarpa micrantha



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. Vol. 1: 339.

Fimbristylis vahlii, a similar, common species



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. Vol. 1: 321.

References:

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- Godfrey, R. K. and J. W. Wooten. 1981. *Aquatic and wetland plants of the southeastern United States: monocotyledons*. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 712 pp.
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