

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Rhynchospora ciliaris - ciliate beakrush Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G4

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					

imperiled rare secure

Range: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC

Recognition:

- Perennial sedge up to 70 cm tall, spikelets chestnut brown and terminating the stem in a single cluster to 1.5 cm across
- Leaves basally disposed, having broad blades with a noticeably short taper at the tip.
- Leafy bracts among the inflorescence distinctly ciliate, hence the specific epithet “*ciliaris*”
- Achenes chestnut brown with a pale hump in the center, biconvex, lightly pitted, 1.5 to 2.0 mm long, and 1.3 to 2.0 mm broad
- Perianth bristles usually 6, the longest not exceeding half the length of the achene body; bristles with upwardly pointing barbs

Flowering Time: Fruiting late spring to fall

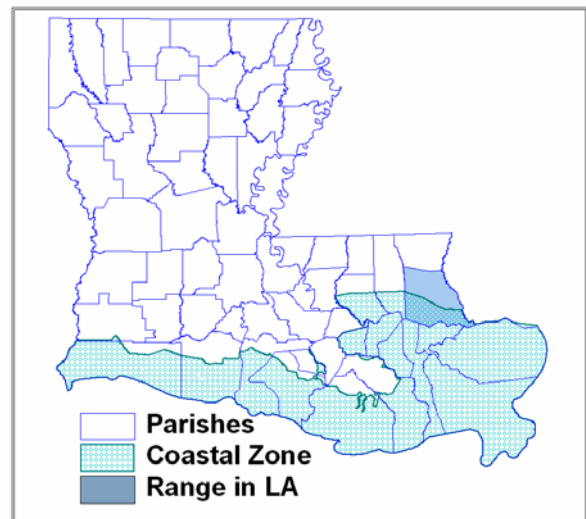
Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

Longleaf pine flatwoods savannahs; can occur in roadside ditches, and also utility corridors which somewhat preserve pine savannah ground cover species which are absent in adjacent areas due to densely stocked trees (pine plantations).



Threats:

- Residential or commercial development
- Conversion to slash or loblolly pine plantations (excess shade, soil disturbances such as bedding, herbicides used in site prep, etc)
- Hydrological alterations such as ditching and bedding
- Soil damage from timber harvesting and planting activities (eg. bedding)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate fire regime

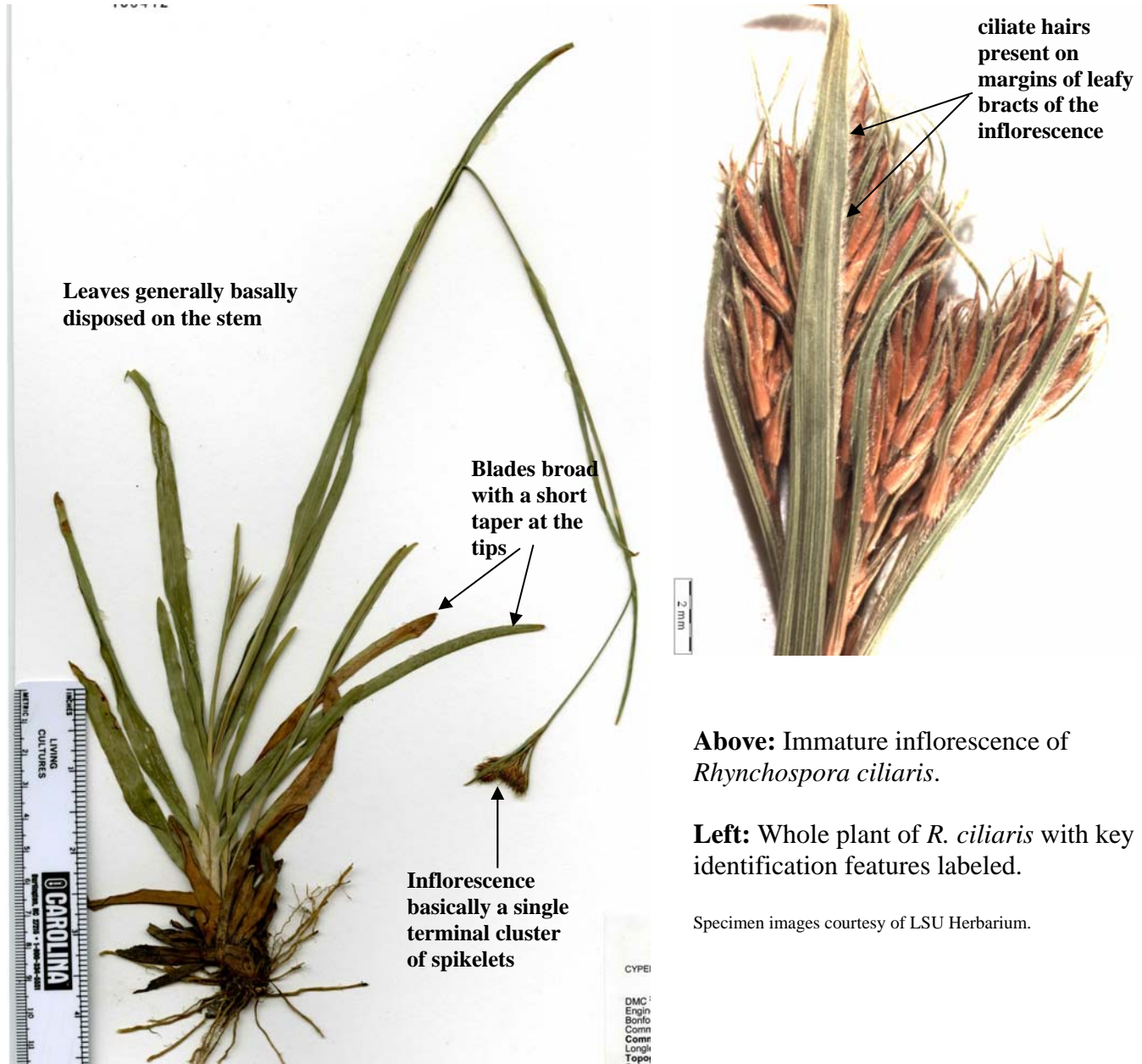
Beneficial Management Practices:

- Use of growing season prescribed fire (April-June) at a frequency of every 1 to 3 years
- Conduct logging only during very dry periods

Rare Plants of Louisiana

- Refrain from bedding, using plowed fire lines and other soil disturbances that may alter natural water flow patterns and free up growing space to exotic or weedy native plants

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain



Above: Immature inflorescence of *Rhynchospora ciliaris*.

Left: Whole plant of *R. ciliaris* with key identification features labeled.

Specimen images courtesy of LSU Herbarium.

References:

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.

USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

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

<http://www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program> or 225-765-2811

www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869