

**Rhynchospora ciliaris - ciliate beakrush**  
Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G4

**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 savannas; 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
• 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

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**References:**
