



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Natural Heritage Program

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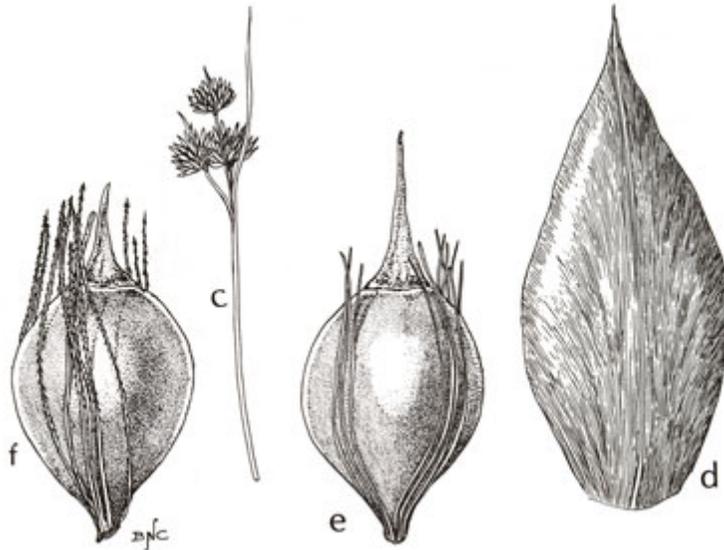
*Rhynchospora macra* (C.B. Clarke ex Britt.) Small  
**Large Beaksedge**

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**Identification:** Caespitose perennial. Stems acutely triangular, 3-7 dm tall. Leaves flat, 1.5-3.5 mm wide. Inflorescence of one terminal turbinate cluster of spikelets, 1-2.5 cm across at top, and 1-2 smaller lateral ones, the latter sometimes not present. Spikelets lanceolate to ovate, 4-5 mm long, 1-flowered, light rusty brown. Achene obovate, lenticular, much narrowed at base, about 2 mm long, the surface obscurely pitted, the central portion of each face pale, darkening to brown outwardly. Bristles 16-20, retrorsely barbed at least on the distal half, rarely smooth throughout, longer than the achene. Tubercle subulate, about 1mm long.

**Key ID characters:**

- Perennial growing in dense clumps.
- Stems acutely triangular, 3-7 dm tall.
- Terminal cluster of spikelets, 1-2.5 cm across the top; 1-2 smaller lateral ones.
- Achene obovate, lenticular, much narrowed at the base and 2 mm long.
- Bristles 16-20, barbed downwards.
- Tubercle 1 mm long.



*R. macra* from *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Southeastern United States: Monocotyledons* by Godfrey and Wooten. Copyright ©1979 University of Georgia Press, Athens, reproduced by permission of the publisher.

**Habitat:** Bogs and wet pine savannas and flatwoods.

**Taxonomic Comments:** This species is a member of the family Cyperaceae. There are over 30 species of the genus *Rhynchospora* found in LA.

**Status:**

Wetland: OBL - Obligate Wetland  
Global: G3 - Vulnerable  
State: S2 - Imperiled



Hillside Seepage Bog

**Range:** Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

**Soils:** wet, strongly acidic, fine sandy loams with high organic matter content.

**Similar Species:** *R. macra* is most similar to *R. alba* and *R. chalarocephala* most especially because they all have relatively short tubercles and bristles that are barbed downwards. *R. alba* differs from *R. macra* in that there are only 10-12 bristles and scales that are whitish or pale pinkish brown. *R. chalarocephala* differs in having an achene with a pale banded margin and only 6 bristles.

**Reason for Rarity:** Habitat loss, and fire suppression allowing invasion of woody species.

**Known Distribution in Louisiana:**

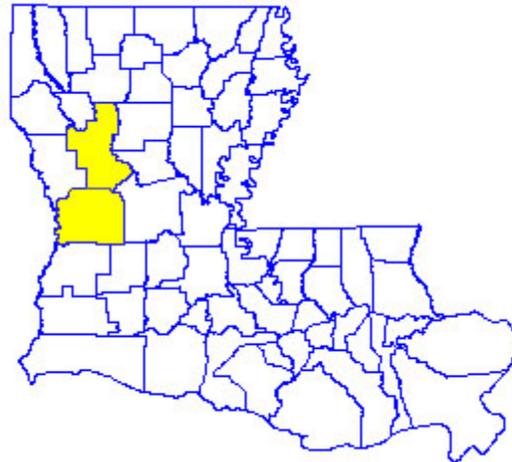
Natchitoches, Vernon

**Dates of Natural Heritage Program**

**Observations:**

1981, 1989, 1991(9), 1992(4), 1993(10), 1994

**Best Time for Viewing this Species:**



Distribution in Louisiana

**References :**

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Godfrey, Robert K., and Jean W. Wooten. *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States: Monocotyledons*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1979.

Kral, Robert. *Flora of North America, Vol. 23, Magnoliophyta: Commelinidae: Cyperaceae*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.