



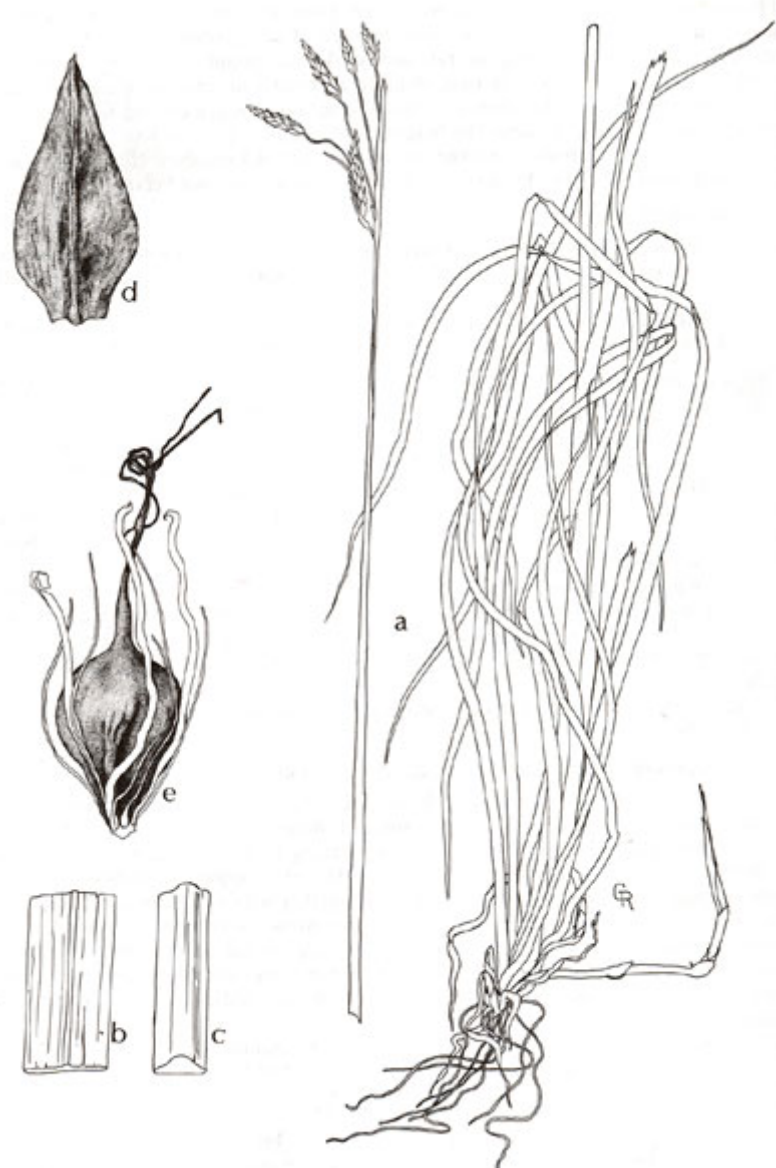
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Schoenoplectus etuberculatus (Steud.) Soják (*Scirpus etuberculatus*)
Canby's bulrush

Identification: Perennial by smooth, red stolons, with short veiny sheaths; nodes producing upright stems becoming swollen. Roots fibrous in tufts from nodes of the stolons and from bases of upright stems. Stems 1-1.5 m tall, obscurely 3-angled, sharply so above. Leaves mostly basal, channeled, nearly as long as the stem, 2-12 mm wide at the base, tapering to a narrow but blunt apex. Bracts of the inflorescence one, or if the inflorescence is branched, another bract at the base of each branch, to 20 cm long and 8 mm wide, sharply folded with the base of the inflorescence in the fold. Spikelets several on slender, arching stalks; 1-2.5 cm long, 5-7 mm wide, lance-ovoid. Scales about 6 mm long, with broad green midrib and broad yellowish to brownish hyaline margins, midrib thickened distally into a stout, subulate mucro. Achene olive, about 3 mm long, 3-angled, one face flat, apiculate. Perianth bristles 4-6, with spreading hairs above, usually longer than the achene.

Key ID characters:

- Smooth, red stolons; stem sharply triangular.
- Leaves mostly basal.
- 1 bract at base of flower spikes appearing as a continuation of the stem.
- Spikelet stalks of varying length.
- Achene olive, 3-angled; bristles are longer than the achene body.



S. etuberculatus 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: Small, quick moving streams, ponds, and fresh to brackish marshes.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Cyperaceae. There are about 15 taxa of *Scirpus* (including those species now classified in the genus *Schoenoplectus*) found in LA.

Status:



Wetland: OBL - Obligate Wetland
Global: G3G4 - Vulnerable - Apparently Secure
State: S1 - Critically Imperiled

Pond

Range: Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

Soils:

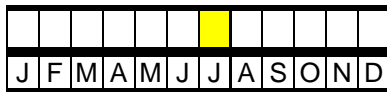
Similar Species: Some species of *Schoenoplectus* (*Scirpus*) are sometimes confused with those of *Eleocharis*, which has only one sessile spikelet. *S. etuberculatus*, however, is hard to confuse with an *Eleocharis* because it will often produce more than one spikelet, supported by stalks (peduncles) that arch. *S. etuberculatus* may also be confused with a few species within the genus: *S. californicus* and *S. validus*. Although all 3 species exhibit a tendency to have spikelets on stalks of differing length, the stem of *S. etuberculatus* tends to be sharply triangular, whereas the other 2 species tend to have stems that are rounded off or even terete.

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss, and alteration of natural hydrology.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:
Rapides, St. Tammany, Washington

Dates of Natural Heritage Program Observations:
1994, 1995, 2002

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

References :

USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, VA, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

Thomas, R. Dale, and Charles M. Allen. *Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Louisiana, Vol. I: Ferns & Fern Allies, Conifers, & Monocotyledons*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, 1993.

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

Smith, S. Galen. *Flora of North America, Vol. 23, Magnoliophyta: Commelinidae: Cyperaceae*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.