Rare Plants of Louisiana

*Cenchrus myosuroides* - big sandbur
Grass Family (Poaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S1/G4

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**Range:** FL, LA, SC, TX, plus Caribbean, Central America and northern South America

**Recognition:**
- Perennial grass with stems 0.5 to 2 m tall, stout and glaucous
- Inflorescence elongated and bristly in appearance due to “burs” containing spikelets
- Burs consisting of softer flexible spines arranged in a cup, rather than stiff interlocking spines that are characteristic of other sandbur species (and which are more painful when stepped on!)

**Flowering Time:** May to November

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Wetland Indicator Status:** FAC – similar likelihood of occurring in both wetlands and non-wetlands

**Habitat:**
Shell mounds and low energy shell beaches. Records from Jefferson and Terrebonne are historical. The Jefferson record is based on a specimen collected in the 1930s from Ft. Livingston ruins (fort constructed of shell), while the Terrebonne record is a specimen collected in 1939 from “Little Temple Indian Mound” on Bayou Terrebonne.

**Threats:**
- Mining of Native American shell mounds
- Shoreline erosion

**Beneficial Management Practices:**
- Survey for and protect remaining shell mounds from disturbance
- Any activities that protect beaches
- Field survey work to detect additional populations of *C. myosuroides*

**LA River Basins:** Barataria, Terrebonne, Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau
**References:**

