

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Eleocharis geniculata - Canada spike-sedge Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1?/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled	rare		secure	

Range:

- AL, AZ, CA, FL, GA, HI (exotic), IL (rare), IN (rare), KS (rare), LA, MD, MI, MS (rare), NC, NJ, OH (rare), OK, PA, SC, TX
- Also occurs in Ontario (rare), Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Recognition:

- An annual plant growing in tufts and lacking rhizomes
- From 4 to 40 cm tall, usually on the shorter end of the range
- Summit of leaf sheath firm and opaque rather than thin and translucent
- Base of the tubercle (= swollen persistent style base, which sits atop the fruit) is as wide as the summit of the fruit
- Fruits to 1 mm long, black to purplish black, smooth and shiny

Flowering/Fruiting Time: August to October (possibly throughout the growing season)

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status: FACW – usually in wetlands

Habitat:

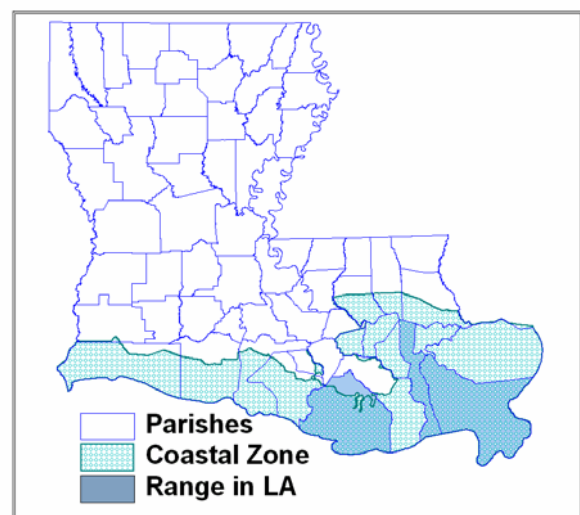
In adjacent states, *E. geniculata* occurs in various fresh to brackish wetlands. Louisiana occurrences are from wet depressions on Grand Isle, South Breton Island, and Timbalier Island.

Threats:

- Coastal land loss
- Succession, causing overgrowth in taller vegetation

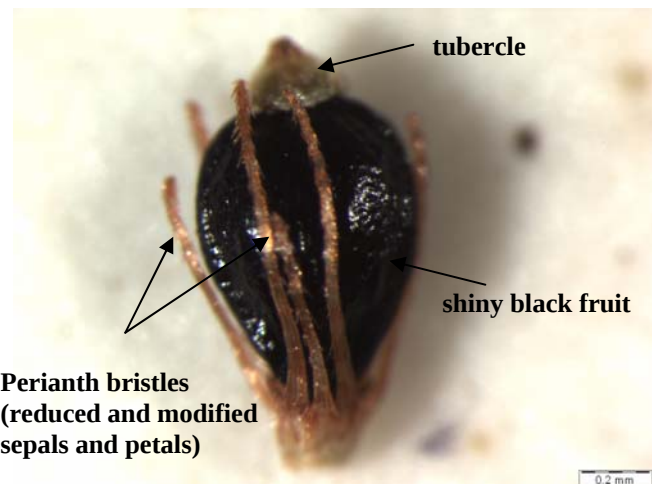
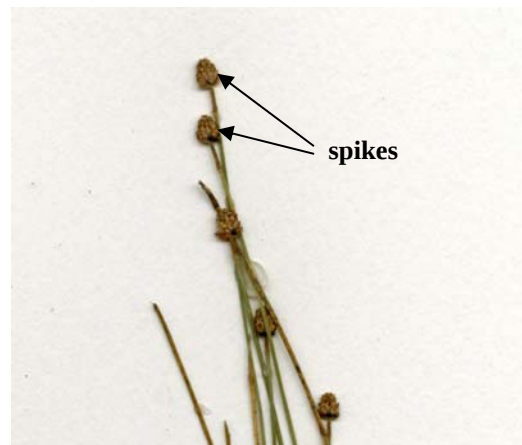
Beneficial Management Practices:

- Barrier island protection
- Additional survey work focusing on depressions behind mainland beaches and dunes is warranted



LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Terrebonne

Rare Plants of Louisiana



References:

- Cusick, A. W. "*ELEOCHARIS GENICULATA* (L.) Roem & Schult." Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Feb. 1989. 13 July 2007. <https://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap/Abstracts/E-F/eleogeni.htm>.
- Diggs, G. M., B. L. Liscomb, M. D. Reed, and R. J. O'Kennon. 2006. Illustrated Flora of East Texas. Vol. 1. Botanical Research Institute of Texas & Austin College. 1594 pp.
- "*Eleocharis geniculata*." Flora of North America. www.efloras.org. 13 July 2007 http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=242101135.
- 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.
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- 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

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

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