

LARGE BEAKSEEDGE

Rhynchospora macra (C.B. Clarke) Small

Synonyms: none

Family: Cyperaceae (sedge)

FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S2S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-OBL



Field Description: Plants are perennial and grow in dense clumps without rhizomes. Culms are 40-80 cm tall, erect, multiribbed, and stiff. The leaves are overtopped by the culm, with blades narrowly linear, 2 - 3.5 mm wide. The inflorescences are turbinate clusters of spikelets 1 - 2.5 cm wide. Spikelets are pale brown to nearly white, tapering at both ends, with a subulate tubercle and 16 - 20 bristles.

Similar Species: *Rhynchospora macra* may be distinguished from similar beaksedges by its numerous bristles (other beaksedges have 12 or less).

Related Rare Species: The state-threatened coastalplain beaksedge (*Rhynchospora stenophylla*) occurs in deep bogs and sphagnum seeps of the Florida Panhandle. The state-endangered large-plumed beaksedge (*Rhynchospora megaplumosa*) is endemic to the central peninsula of Florida, occurring in scrubby flatwoods.

large beaksedge

Rhynchospora macra

Habitat: Bogs, wet prairies, and wet flatwoods.

Best Survey Season: Summer-Fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Occurs on the Atlantic Coastal Plain from North Carolina South to Florida and on the Gulf Coastal Plain from Florida west to Texas.

Conservation Status: Has a wide range and over 100 known occurrences from the Gulf Coastal Plain.

Protection and Management: Fire suppression, invasive species, feral pigs, beaver activity, forest management practices, road and other maintenance type projects, and military practice activities threaten this species through land-use conversion, hydrological changes, habitat fragmentation, and habitat succession.

References: Ball, Reznicek, and Murray 2003, NatureServe