



ID and Management of *Scleria* Species in Florida Wetlands

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Scleria Overview

- 13 species in FL
- 4 non native (30% of Genera in FL)
- 1 of 4 FLEPPC Cat I Invasive
- 2 of 4 undergoing invasion risk assessment
- 1 of 4 in only Broward County since approx. 1970s



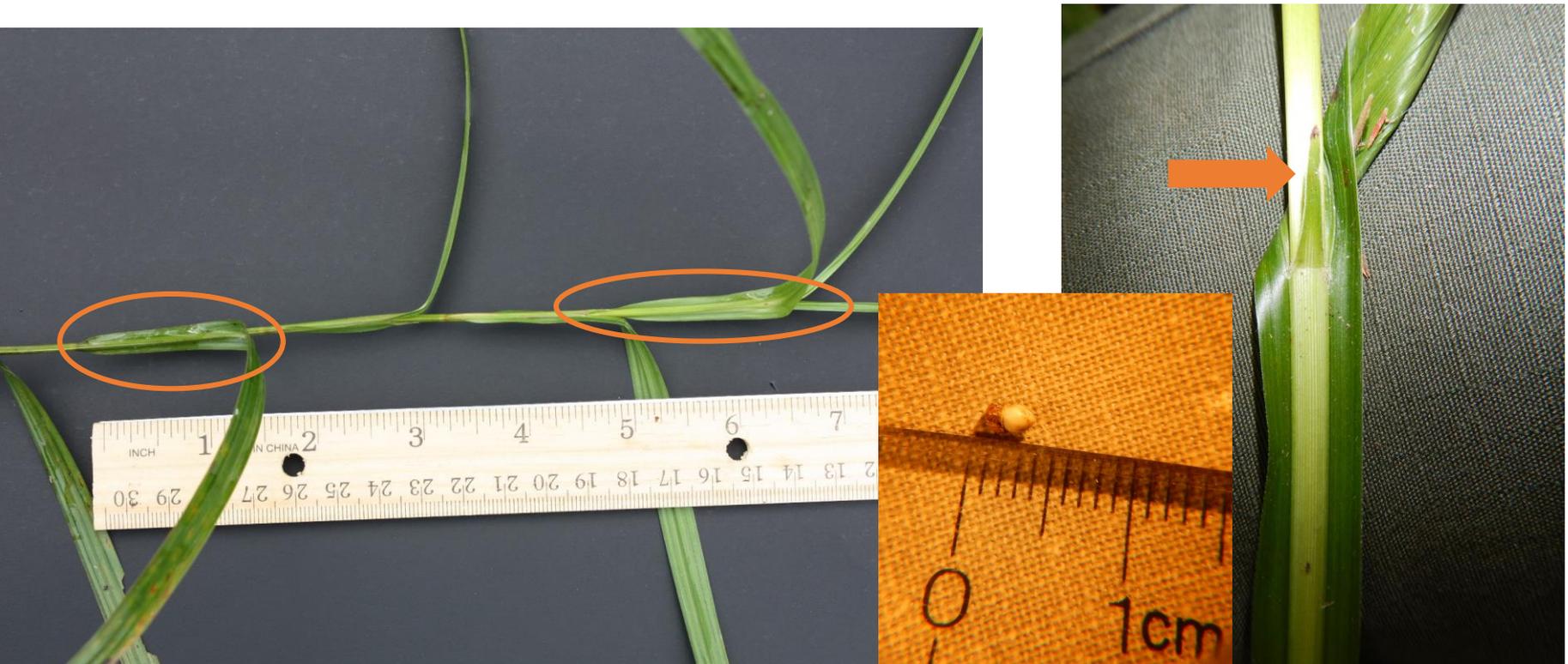
Scleria microcarpa

- “Tropical Nutrush”
- Perennial Sedge
- Non native & behaving badly
- Distribution: Tropical Americas
- First sighted approx. 2007
- Species identified 2015
- Infested habitats – Cypress and hardwood swamps



Scleria microcarpa Identification

- Leaves:
 - Pleated (W Shape)
 - Decurrent; extending like wings down the stem
- Lanceolate contra-ligule
- Triangular stems
- Rhizomes
- Tiny, smooth, exposed achenes.



Scleria microcarpa Identification

Seedling



Small, Sprouting
Plants



Mature Plant



S. microcarpa Identification: Seedlings

Seedlings will have the wing like extension of the leaves.
Some may also have the achene (seed) attached to the roots.



S. Microcarpa Small vs. Large Plants



Mature plants

Scleria microcarpa Seed Heads

Achenes (seeds) are tiny and are exposed, arranged on axillary panicles rising from the upper leaves.



S. microcarpa Size Reference



Scleria microcarpa Habitat



Geoffrey Lokuta

S. Microcarpa Typical Patchy Infestation



S. microcarpa
Typical Dense Infestation



Phenologic Observations

- producing flowers May – Nov.
- Producing seeds May – Nov.
- Seedlings Sprouting in Jan., May, June, July
- Did not die back during drought



Have You Seen *Scleria microcarpa*?

- Report sightings on EDDMapS
- Document
 - Date
 - Location
 - Life stage
 - Reproductive stage
 - Habitat
 - Hydrological data
 - Take pictures

Scleria microcarpa Data Sheet

Observer(s):

Date:

Location

Property Name:

Coordinates & Units:

Plant Life Stage: Circle all observed

Seedling Immature/ small plants Mature Plants (1-3+)

Reproductive Stage: Circle all observed

Flowering Fruiting Remnants of past reproductive activity (bare seedheads)

Notes: _____

Habitat

Overstory:

Water Depth:

Natural Community & Plants present:

Cover class of infestation (See Page 2):

Estimate of Acres Surveyed:

Estimate of Acres infested:

Notes: _____

Scan and email to aonisko@sfwmd.gov attach photos to email

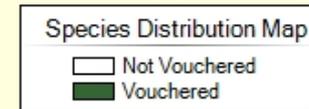
Please add all sightings with pictures to [EDDMapS](#)

Seeds are tiny and decontamination of footwear and equipment is crucial to avoid spreading this species!



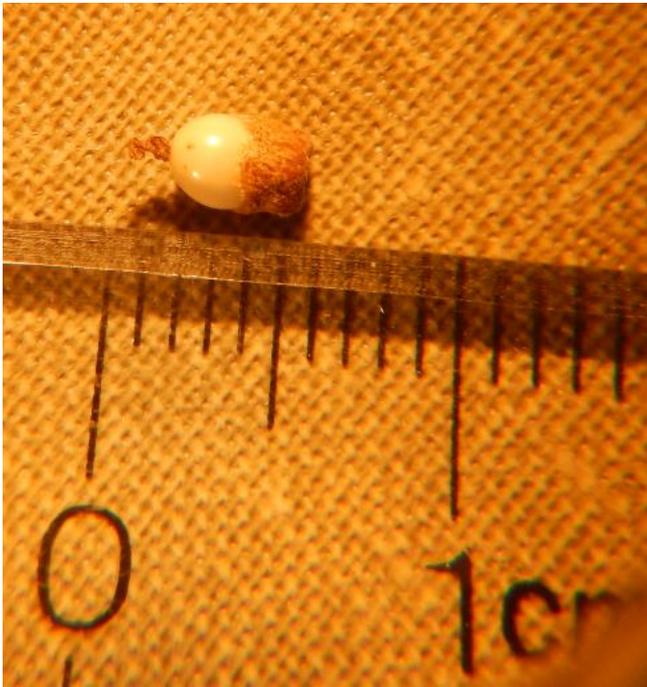
Scleria eggersiana

- “Eggers Nutrush”
- Large (2m)
Perennial sedge
- Non-native
- Distribution:
Tropical Americas
- First Identified in
July, 2017
- Found under
cypress



Scleria eggersiana Identification

- Leaves:
 - Pleated (W Shape)
 - Decurrent; extending like wings down the stem
 - Fused leaf tips
- Triangular to lanceolate contra-ligule
- Triangular stems
- Large rhizomes
- Small, smooth, roundish achenes.





Contra-ligule

Decurrent (winged)
leaf sheath

Scleria eggersiana Identification

- Triangular stems, fused leaf tips, contra-ligule

Scleria eggersiana
Photo by Ryan Brown



Scleria eggersiana Identification

- Large rhizomes
- Increased difficulty with chemical control?



Scleria eggersiana Identification

Seedling



Small Plant



Mature Plant



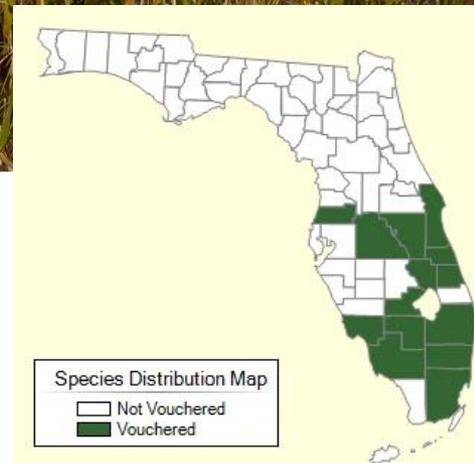
Have you seen *Scleria eggersiana*?

- Report sightings on EDDMapS
- Document
 - Date
 - Location
 - Life stage
 - Reproductive stage
 - Habitat
 - Hydrological data
 - Take pictures



Scleria lacustris

- “Wright’s Nutrush”
- Annual sedge
- FLEPPC Cat I Invasive
- First recorded in FL 1988
- Native range: Caribbean, Central & South America



Scleria
lacustris
Identification

Characteristics:

- Can grow up to 6 ft. tall
- Rough leaves with W pleat.
- Triangular stems.
- Base of plants spongy and red.
- Small, smooth achenes/seeds.



Scleria lacustris Identification



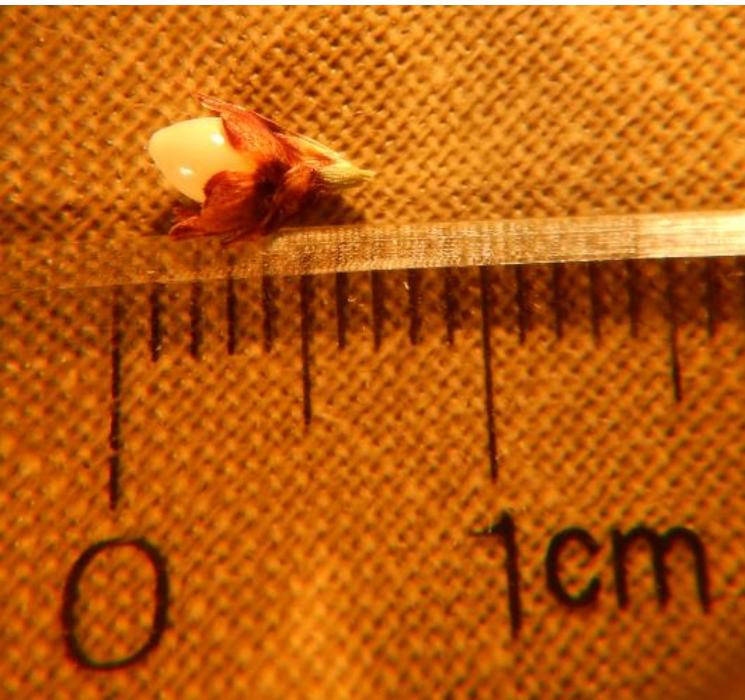
Spongy red
base of leaf
sheaths.
Hairy.



Thumb nail
shaped contra-
ligule

Scleria lacustris Identification

- Flowers typically overlooked
- Seeds green, turn grey or white when dry
- Single plant can yield 300 seeds



Scleria lacustris look alike

- *Rhynchospora* species share similar habitats and can be in bloom at the same time as *Scleria lacustris*.

Rhynchospora inundata



*Rhynchospora
inundata*

*Scleria
lacustris*



Scleria lacustris Management

- Timing is critical
- Survey- early spring, time with hydrology
- Treat- early before flower & seed production
- Diquat 0.05%-1%
- Follow-up treatments (14D)
- Delay draw down



Thank You!



Resources

- <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/scleria-microcarpa/>
- Visit: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag352> for more info about ID and control options for *S. lacustris*