



Scleria lacustris
Controlling an Invasive
Species in Florida Wetlands

By Alex Onisko
SFWMD/UF

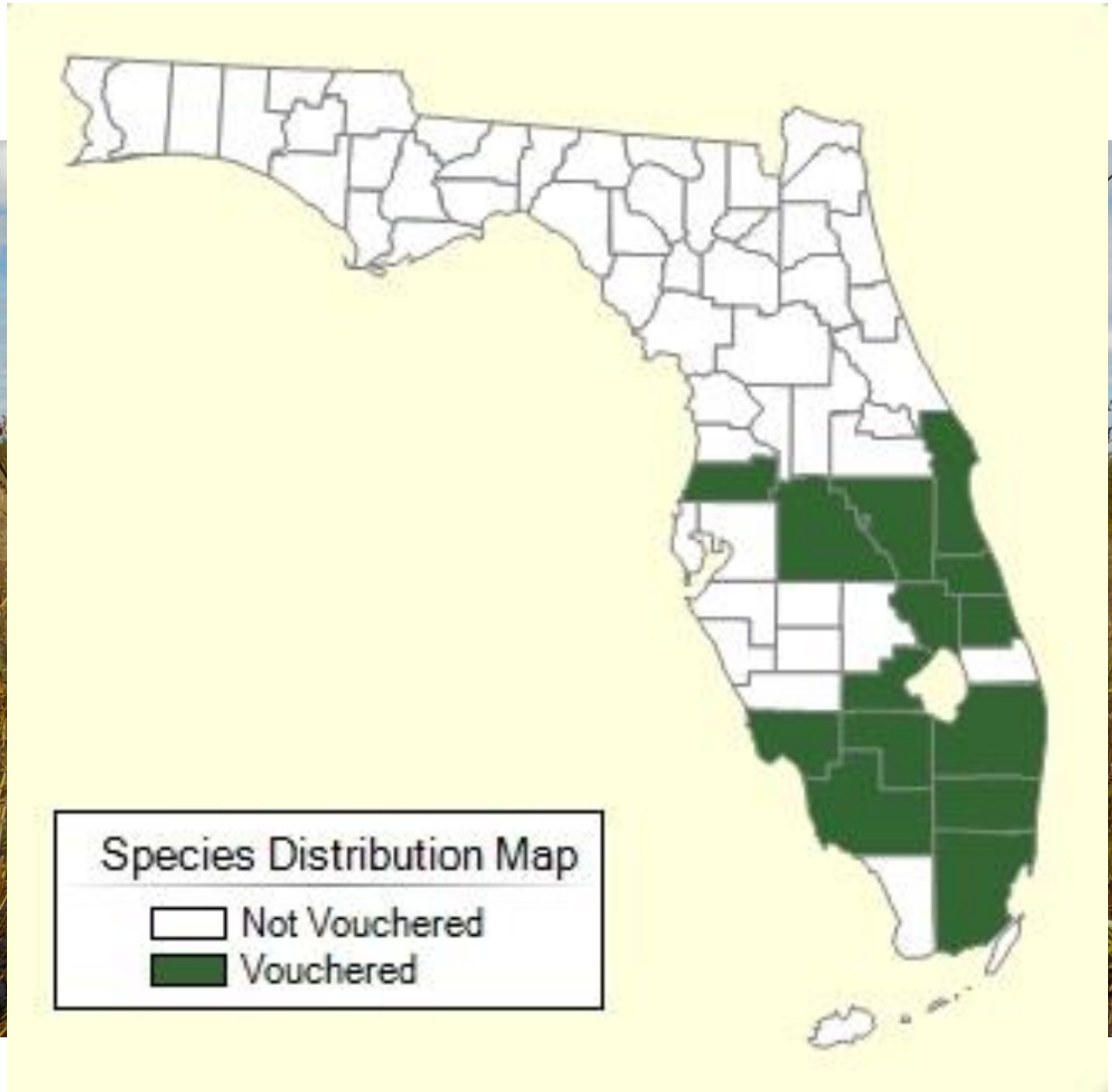
Scleria Overview

- 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 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.



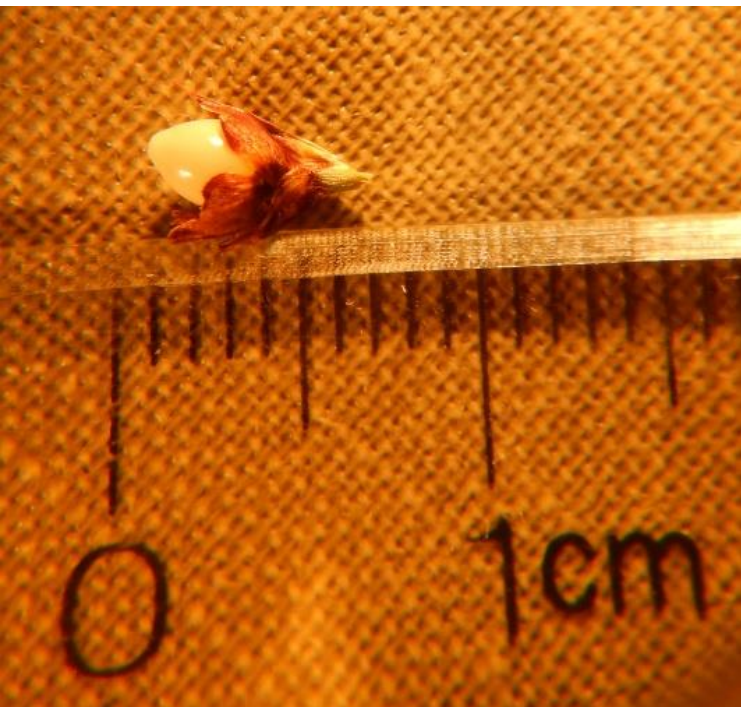
Scleria lacustris Identification



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*



Vulnerable Habitats

- Seasonal Wetlands that dry down for weeks or months then flood again.
- Foraging areas for wading birds and snail kites



Mechanisms of Spread

- Water flux increases abundance
 - Increased germination
 - Increased seed production
 - Increased seed bank establishment
- Birds, cattle, humans; atvs, airboats, clothing & shoes





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



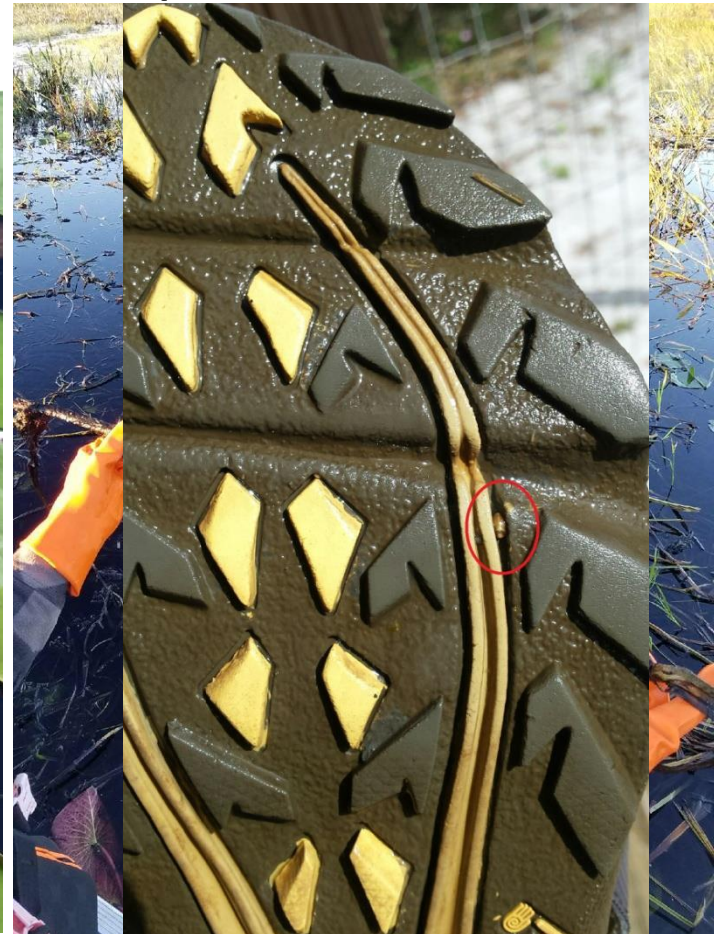
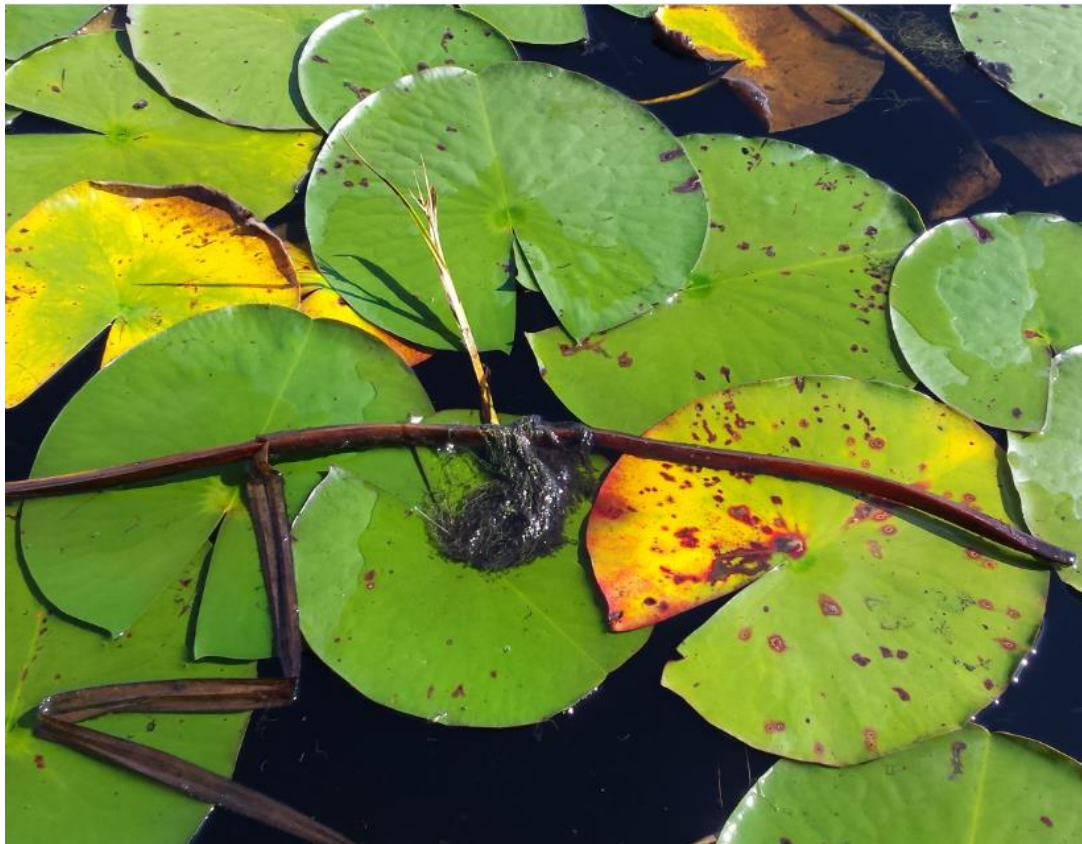
Scleria lacustris Management

- Access difficulties
- Missed treatment windows
- Clip and bag seed heads then spray*



Lessons Learned

- Plants produced roots and flowers when pulled and dropped
- Decontamination is crucial to avoid spread



Other *Scleria* Species You Should Know

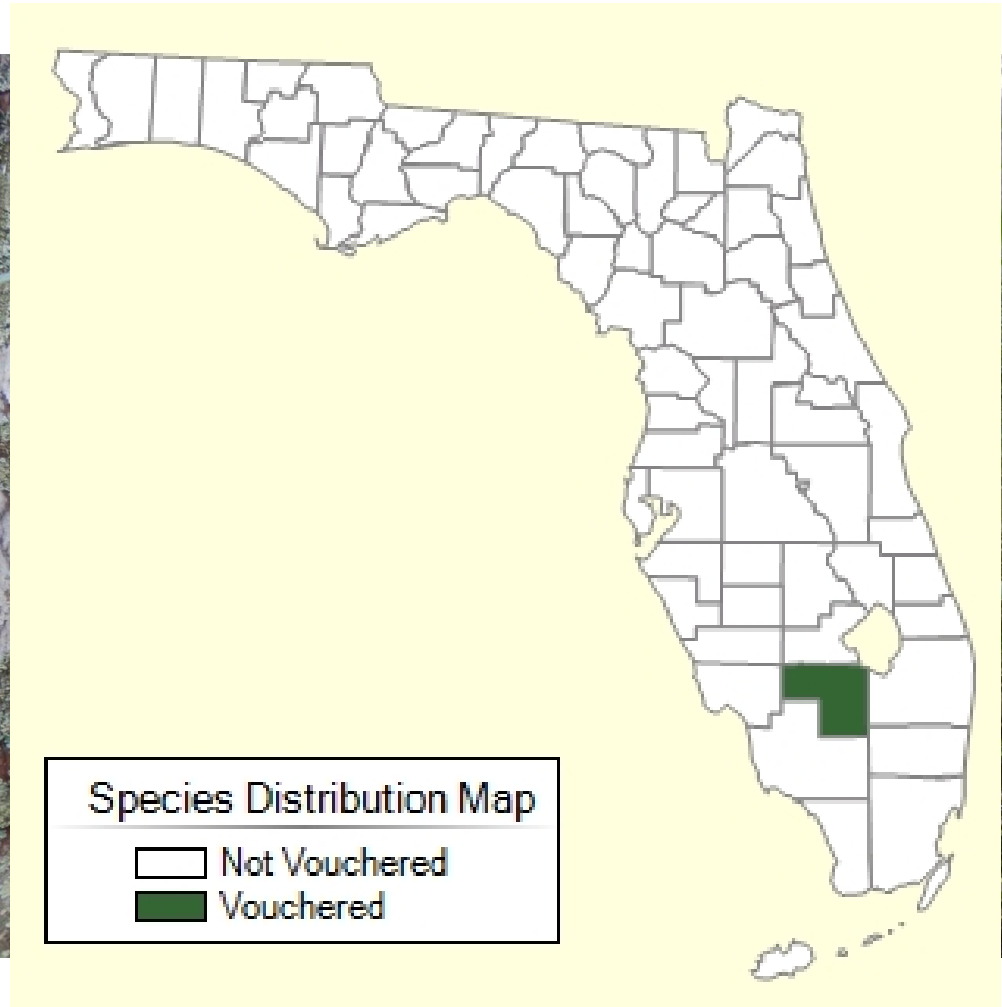
Scleria eggersiana

Scleria microcarpa



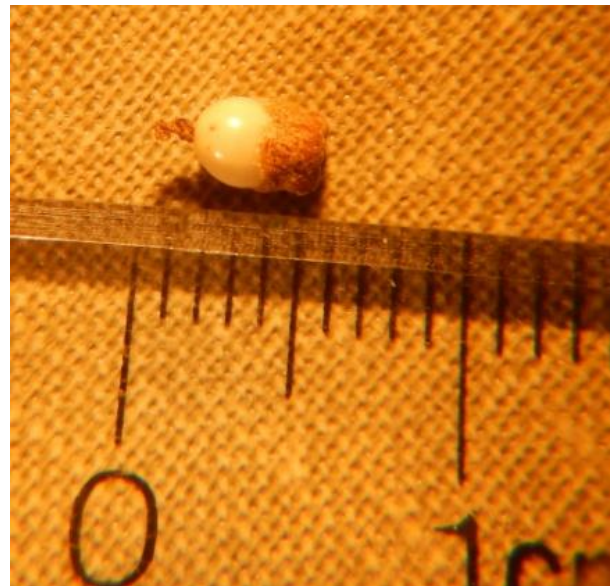
Scleria eggersiana

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



Scleria eggersiana Identification

- Small, smooth, roundish achenes
- Decurrent, W pleated leaves
- Triangular stem
- Large rhizomes
- Fused leaf tips



Scleria eggersiana Identification

- Triangular stems & fused leaf tips



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 microcarpa

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

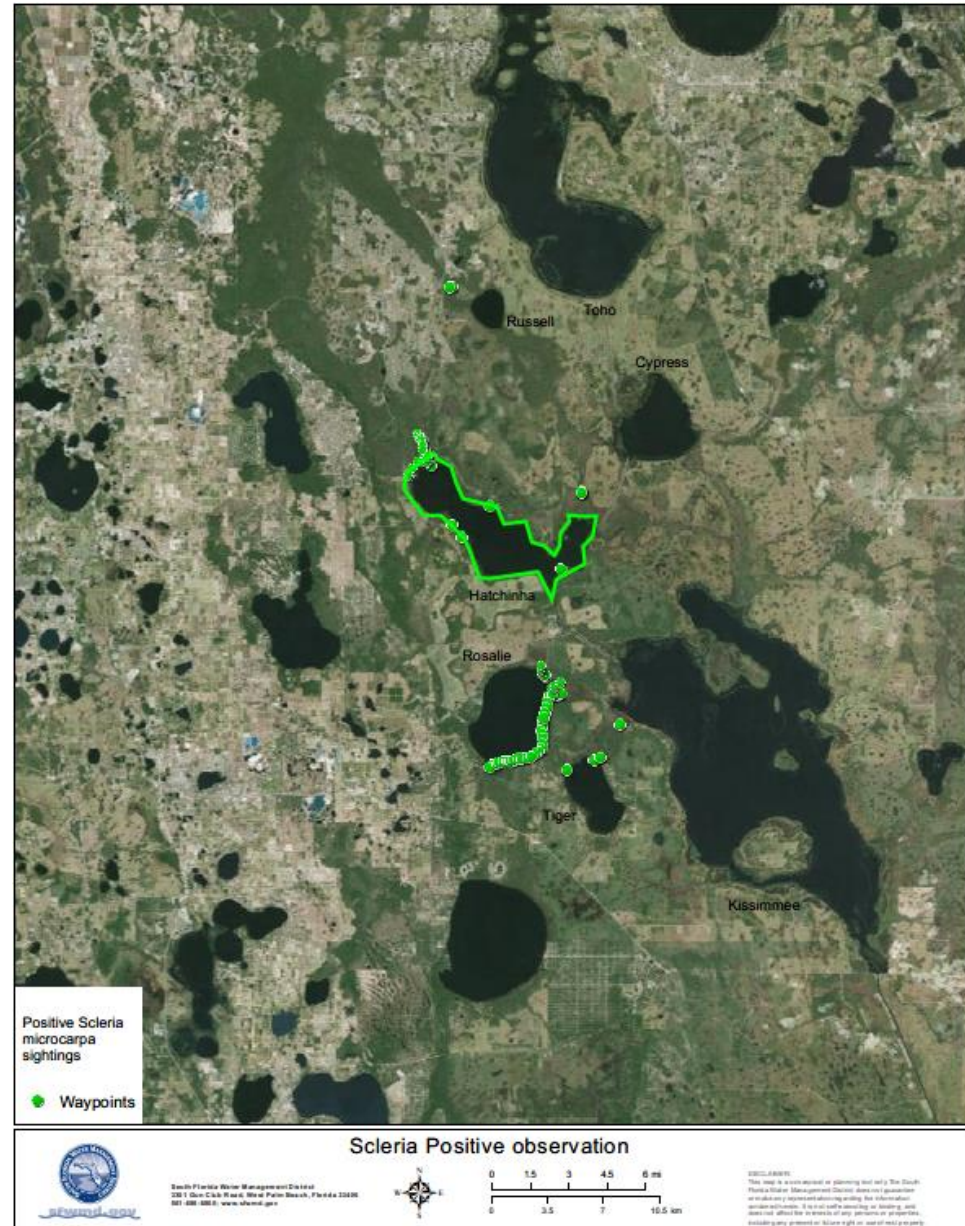


Scleria microcarpa Range in Florida

- Only vouchered in Polk and Osceola Counties

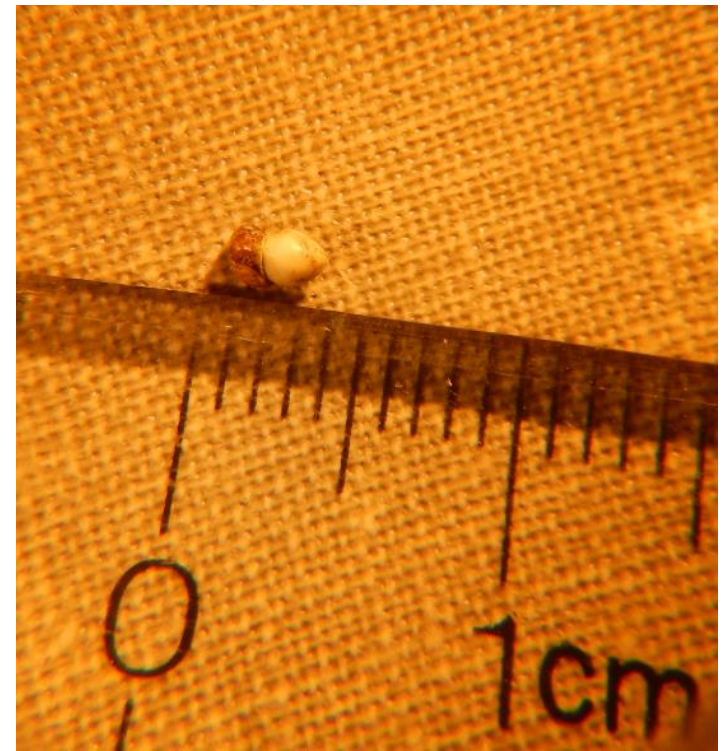
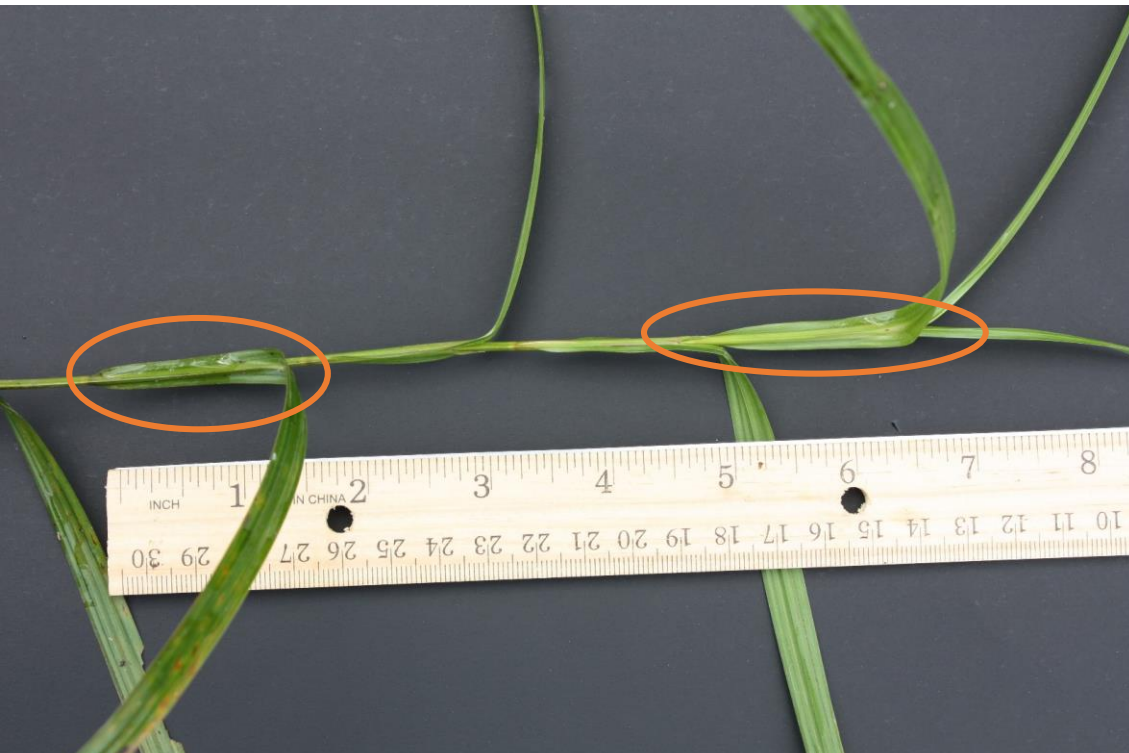
Verified at

- Lake Hatchineha-entire perimeter
- Lake Rosalie
- North end of Tiger Lake
- Lake Kissimmee State Park
- Reedy Creek



Scleria microcarpa Identification

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



Scleria microcarpa Identification

Seedling



Small, Sprouting
Plants



Mature Plant



Scleria microcarpa Seed Heads

Achenes (seeds) are tiny and are exposed



Have You Seen *Scleria microcarpa*?

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



Thank You!



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Sources:

Jacono, C. C., Langland, K. A., & Hutchinson, J. (n.d.). *Wright's Nutrush: An Invader of Seasonal Wetlands in Florida*. Gainesville: UF/IFAS. doi:SS-AGR-342/AG352