

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry

Rhynchospora of Florida

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INTRODUCTION

Rhynchospora is a genus of about 250 species in the Cyperaceae (sedge family), cosmopolitan in distribution, with the greatest diversity in tropical and sub-tropical regions. In Florida, there are 56 accepted species of *Rhynchospora*, all of which are native. *Rhynchospora* is noteworthy for being the vascular plant genus with the greatest number of taxa endemic to the southeastern North American Coastal Plain (Sorrie and Weakley, 2001). Species of *Rhynchospora*, and the Cyperaceae in general, tend to be key factors in the formation of important ecosystems such as grasslands and savannas, coastlines, pine flatwoods, swamps and margins of ponds, lakes and rivers throughout their range. About 500 species in the Cyperaceae worldwide, and specifically 10 taxa of *Rhynchospora*, have been identified to have some economic or ethnobotanical importance at the regional or local level (Simpson and Inglis, 2001). For example, there are several sedges that are used for food and fodder, while others are used in traditional medicine, or for making paper and weaving mats, baskets and screens due to their strong, fibrous stems and leaves. Based on divergence dates inferred using DNA data from across the family, evolution in the crown group of the tribe Rhynchosporeae started prior to the Oligocene (>34 mya) (Besnard *et al.*, 2009) when the climate shifted, and grasslands and savannas became more widespread globally (Buddenhagen, 2016; Edwards *et al.*, 2010). Although believed to be predominantly wind pollinated, a few species appear to have made reversals to insect pollination through modifications to the inflorescence (Buddenhagen, 2016). Species of *Rhynchospora* also provide food for migratory waterfowl and nests for many insect species.

Plants are perennial, sometimes annual, cespitose or rhizomatous, grass-like herbs commonly occurring in damp to wet habitats, except for a few taxa found in dry areas. The flowers are reduced and inconspicuous, typically consisting of a superior ovary with a bifid style, three stamens and six perianth bristles, but there are exceptions to this morphological model with some species having from one to 12 stamens and zero to 20 perianth bristles. The flowers are arranged in spikelets, composed of an axis with several spirally arranged scales each subtending a single flower (Fig. 1). The spikelets are often arranged in terminal and axillary fasciculate clusters, but the inflorescence can also be paniculate, corymbose, racemose, or capitate. The fruit is an achene and is typically lenticular (sometimes flattened or nearly terete) in shape. The base of the style is persistent on the achene and is termed the "tubercle". The intricate microscopic details of the fruit (most notably the achene shape and body surface texture, the shape of the tubercle and the perianth bristle number, type and length) are essential in the identification of *Rhynchospora*. Therefore, to identify most species of *Rhynchospora* confidently, the achene must be carefully dissected from the spikelet and then examined under high magnification. The seemingly infinite variation of achene morphology is what makes *Rhynchospora* so truly interesting and special to those who admire the morphological complexity and beauty of the natural world. [From Greek *rhynchos*, a "snout" and *spora*, a "seed"]. Note: This is a conservative treatment that mostly follows *Guide to the vascular plants of Florida* (3rd edition), Wunderlin and Hansen (2011).

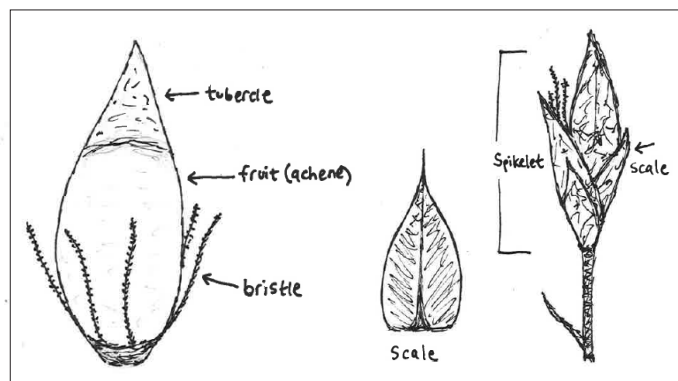


Fig. 1: *Rhynchospora* achene and spikelet morphology.
Illustration by Alex de la Paz, FDACS, DPI



Rhynchospora caduca Elliott – Anglestem Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern and central peninsula, panhandle, Santa Rosa County

HABITAT

Swamps, hydric hammocks and wet flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 70-150 cm; often shortly rhizomatous; culms erect, trigonous; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 4-7 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-6, mostly dense, narrowly to broadly turbinate; scales rich brown; spikelets 3-4 fruited; achene body broadly obovoid to suborbicular, lenticular, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles mostly 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding tubercle; tubercle deltoid, the margins setose.



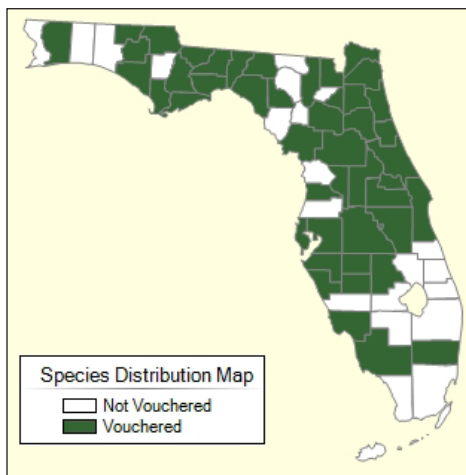
Fig. 4: *Rhynchospora caduca* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 5: *Rhynchospora caduca*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora cephalantha A. Gray – Bunched Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern and central peninsula, panhandle, Collier County

HABITAT

Marshes, wet flatwoods, and lake, stream and swamp margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

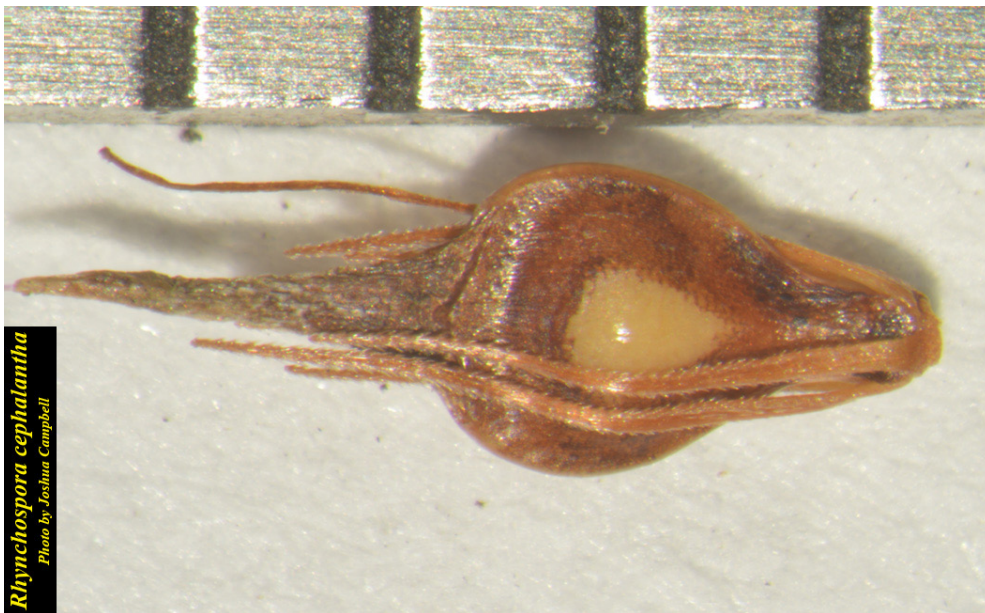
Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 40-150 cm; culms obscurely trigonous, 1.5-2.5 mm thick at midculm; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 1.5-3 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-several, hemispheric to globose, 1-2 mm wide; scales dark red-brown; spikelets 1-fruited; achene body 1.8-2.6 mm long, obovoid distal to the stipe, lenticular, surface smooth, brown with pale center; perianth bristles 6, retrorsely barbed, equaling tubercle; tubercle triangular-subulate.

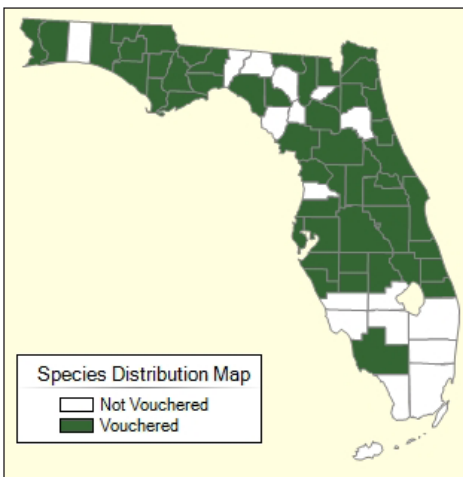


Rhynchospora cephalantha
Photo by Joshua Campbell

Fig. 6: *Rhynchospora cephalantha* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 7: *Rhynchospora cephalantha*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora chalarocephala Fernald & Gale – Loosehead Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern and central peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Bogs, marshes and wet flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

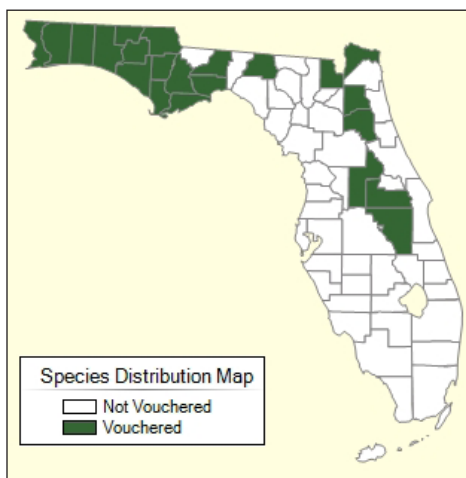
Perennial, cespitose herb, 30-100 cm; culms slender, nearly terete; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 1-2 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-7, loosely turbinate to hemispheric; scales pale red-brown; spikelets 1-fruited; achene body 1.6-1.8 mm long, broadly oblong-obovoid distal to the stipe, lenticular, surface smooth, brown with pale center; perianth bristles 6, retrorsely barbed, equaling tubercle; tubercle narrowly triangular-subulate.



Fig. 8: *Rhynchospora chalarocephala* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 9: *Rhynchospora chalarocephala*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora chapmanii M. A. Curtis – Chapman's Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Mesic to wet flatwoods, bogs, and wet prairies

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 30-70 cm; culms filiform, erect to arching; leaves slightly shorter than culm, basal and cauline, blades +/- filiform, to 1 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-2, dense, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; involucre bracts 1-2, overtopping inflorescence; scales light brown; spikelets 1-fruited; achene body broadly ellipsoid, ca. 1.3 mm long, lenticular, surface smooth; perianth bristles absent; tubercle broadly deltoid.

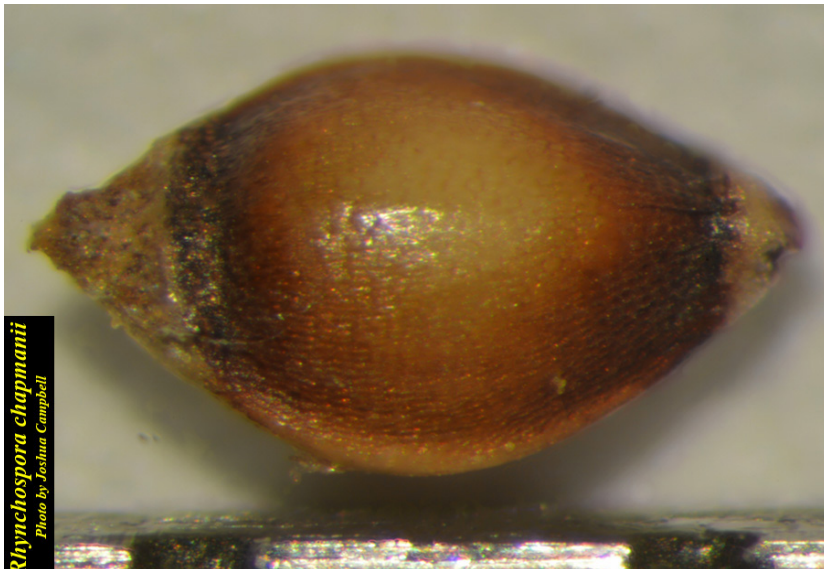


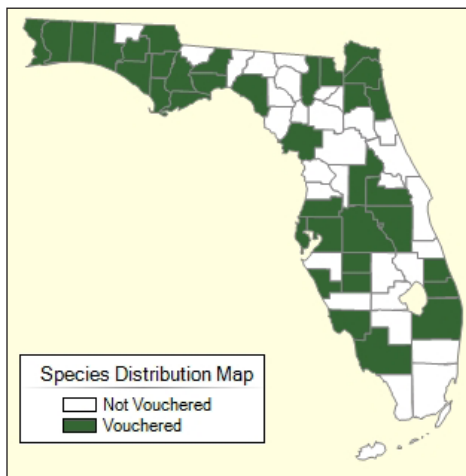
Fig. 10: *Rhynchospora chapmanii* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 11: *Rhynchospora chapmanii*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora ciliaris (Michx.) C. Mohr – Fringed Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Mesic to wet flatwoods and bogs

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 30-90 cm; culms erect, nearly terete; basal leaves forming rosette, blades linear, 4-6 mm wide, cauline leaves widely spaced, narrower, all ciliate; spikelet cluster 1, terminal, crowded, hemispheric; scales dark red-brown, the midrib ciliate; bracts ciliate; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body broadly ellipsoid to orbicular, lenticular, surface smooth/minutely pitted; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, less than half the length of the achene body; tubercle deltoid.

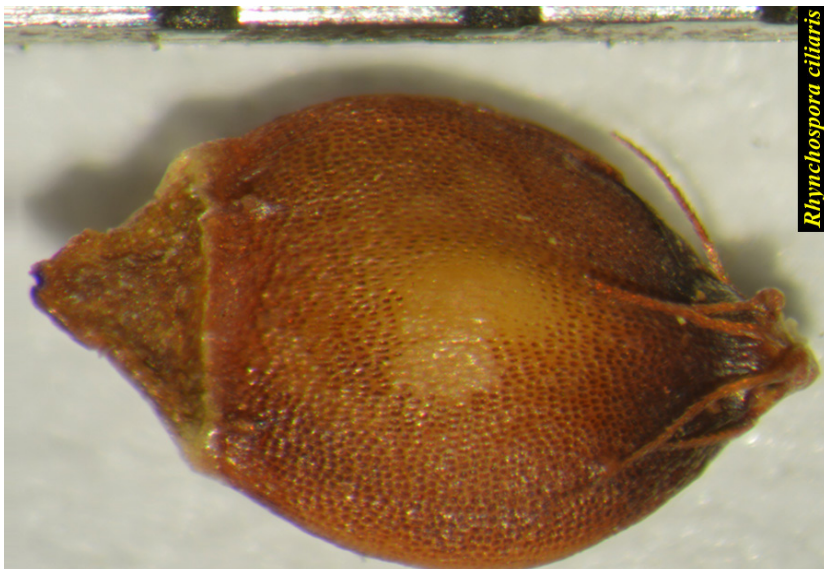
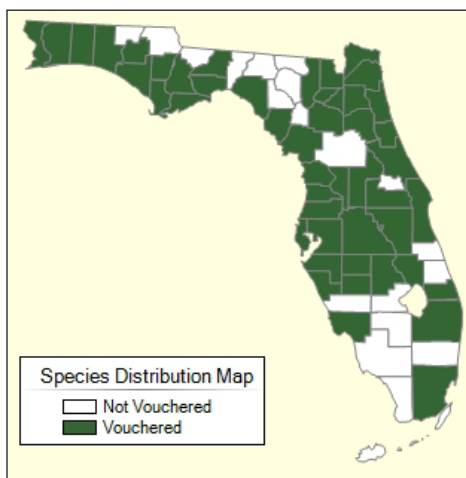


Fig. 12: *Rhynchospora ciliaris* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 13: *Rhynchospora ciliaris*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora colorata (L.) H. Pfeiff. – Starrush Whitetop

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Moist flatwoods and prairies, bogs and ditches

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Common

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

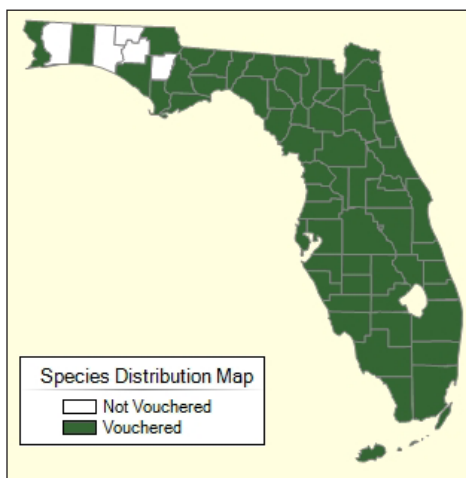
Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 10-70 cm; rhizomes slender, scaly; culms erect, slender, trigonous; leaves shorter than culm, blades narrowly linear, 0.5-3 mm wide; spikelet cluster 1, terminal, headlike; involucre bracts 3-7, basally white, apically green; scales white; spikelets several-fruited; achene body broadly pyriform-obovoid, tumidly lenticular, surface transversely undulate rugose; perianth bristles absent; tubercle deltoid.



Fig. 14: *Rhynchospora colorata* achene.
Photo by Alex de la Paz, FDACS-DPI



Fig. 15: *Rhynchospora colorata*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora compressa J. Carey ex Chapm. – Flatfruit Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Bogs and wet flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 70-150 cm; culms erect, trigonous; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 3-5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-5, compact, turbinate to hemispheric; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body broadly elliptic, flattened, surface strongly transversely wavy rugose; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, ca. half the length of the achene body to tubercle; tubercle low-conic, with basal rim extending over apex of achene.

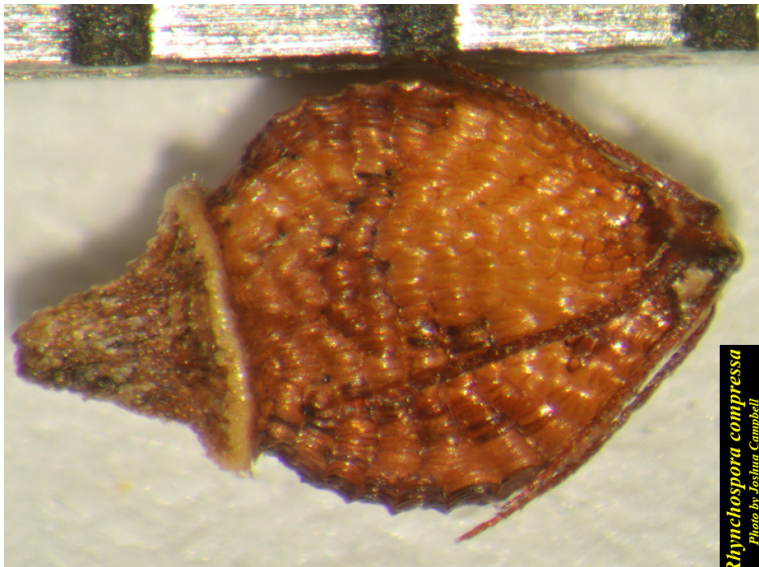
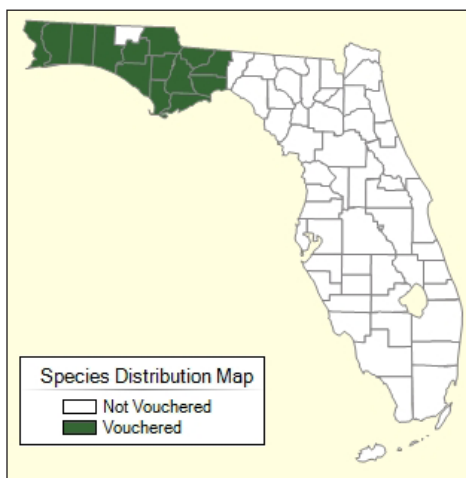


Fig. 16: *Rhynchospora compressa* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 17: *Rhynchospora compressa*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora corniculata (Lam.) A. Gray – Shortbristle Horned Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Marshes, swamps, and pond and lake margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

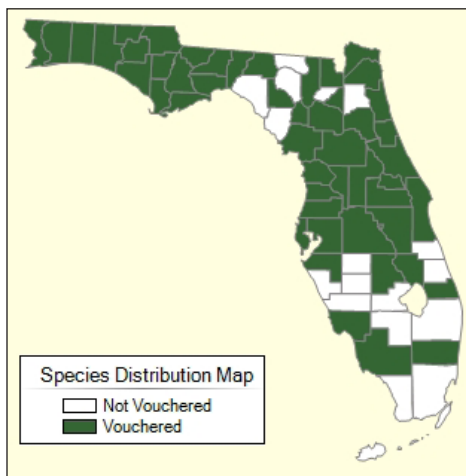
Perennial, caespitose herb, 100-200 cm; culms erect, trigonous; leaves shorter than culm, blades flat, 3-20 mm wide; spikelets in diffuse clusters of corymbs, few to many per cluster, clusters turbinate to hemispheric; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body oblong-ellipsoid, compressed, surface concave, striate, minutely cancellate; perianth bristles 5-6, antrorsely barbed, ca. half the length of the achene body; tubercle subulate, 10-20 mm long.



Fig. 18: *Rhynchospora corniculata* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 19: *Rhynchospora corniculata*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora crinipes Gale – Mosquito Beaksedge, Hairy Peduncled Beakrush

DISTRIBUTION

Central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Peaty, wet stream banks

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare [State Endangered]

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 60-100 cm; culms slender, drooping; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 2-5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-10, widely spaced, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; scales light red-brown; spikelets 2-4 fruited; achene body narrowly obovoid-lenticular, surface minutely striate; achene stipe persistent, pubescent; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, equaling tubercle; tubercle narrowly triangular, the margins setose.

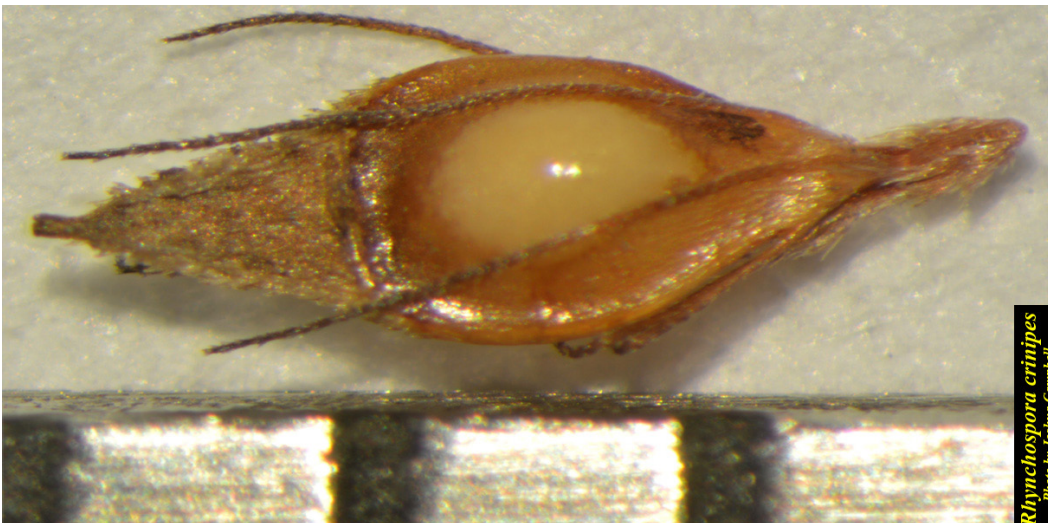


Fig. 20: *Rhynchospora crinipes* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell

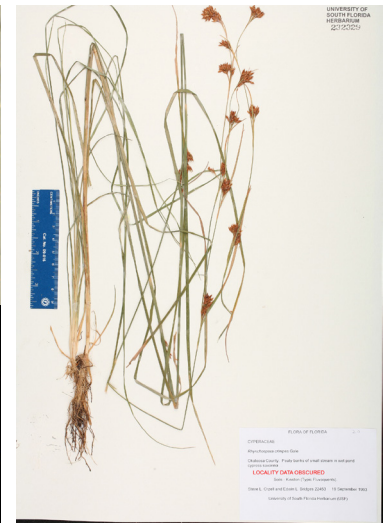
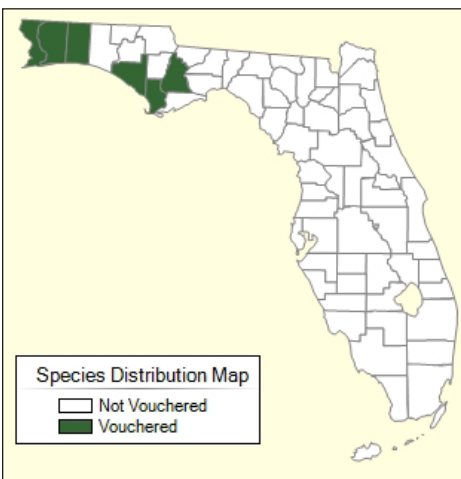


Fig. 21: *Rhynchospora crinipes*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora curtissii Britton ex Small – Curtiss' Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Flatwoods and bogs

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 10-30 cm; culms filiform, erect to drooping; leaves shorter than culm, blades filiform, involute, to 1 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-3, narrowly turbinate, ellipsoid or ovoid; scales red-brown; spikelets 2-5 fruited; achene body narrowly obovoid-ellipsoid, lenticular, surface smooth, light brown with pale center; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding tubercle; tubercle deltoid-subulate, flattened, the margins serrulate.

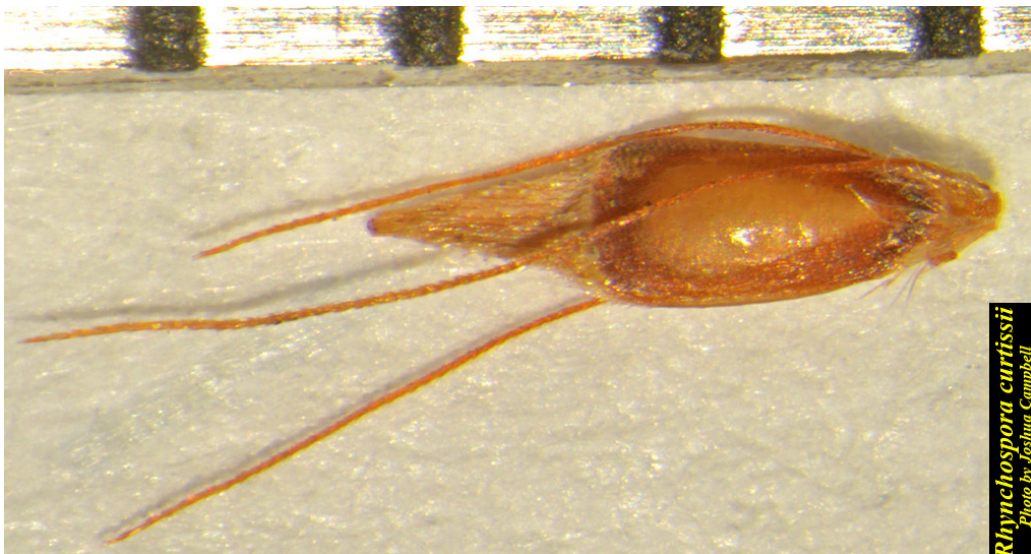
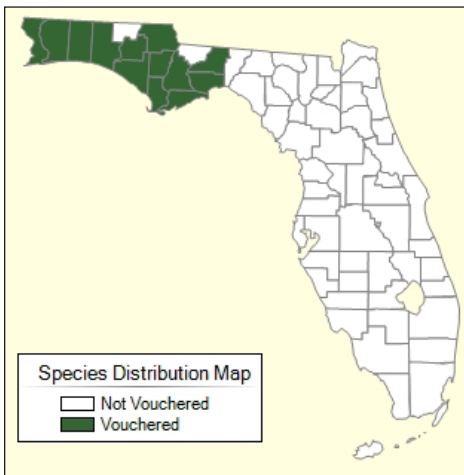


Fig. 22: *Rhynchospora curtissii* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 23: *Rhynchospora curtissii*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora debilis Gale – Savannah Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern counties south to Volusia County

HABITAT

Marshes, wet flatwoods and bogs

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 20-50 cm; culms filiform, terete, erect to drooping; leaves shorter than culm, blades filiform, 1 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-2, turbinate to hemispheric; scales dark red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body broadly obovoid to orbicular, lenticular, surface smooth/minutely reticulate, brown with pale center; perianth bristles 5-6, antrorsely barbed, less than half the length of the achene body; tubercle deltoid, depressed-flattened, concave sided.

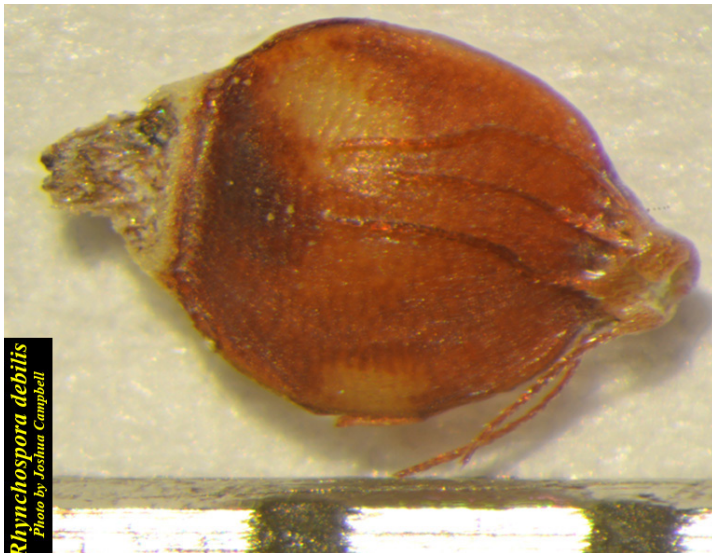
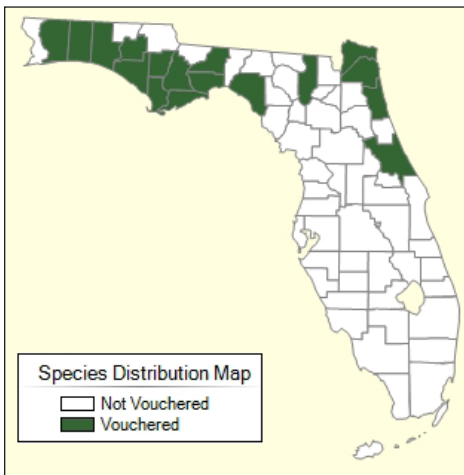


Fig. 24: *Rhynchospora debilis* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 25: *Rhynchospora debilis*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora decurrens Chapm. – Swampforest Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern counties and central peninsula

HABITAT

Swamps and marsh margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 50-100 cm; culms erect, terete, slender; leaves exceeded by inflorescence, blades flat, 2-4 mm wide; spikelet clusters 4-6, widely spaced, broadly to narrowly turbinate, paniculate, spikelets solitary or paired on capillary pedicels; scales brown; spikelets 2-3 fruited; achene body obovoid, lenticular, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, equaling achene body; tubercle deltoid, the base decurrent.

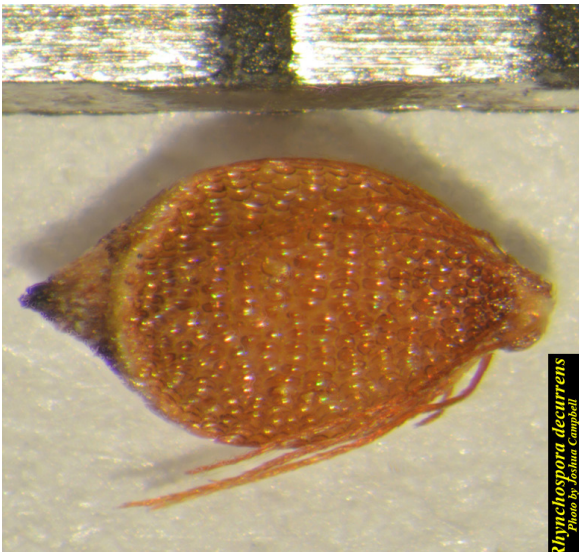
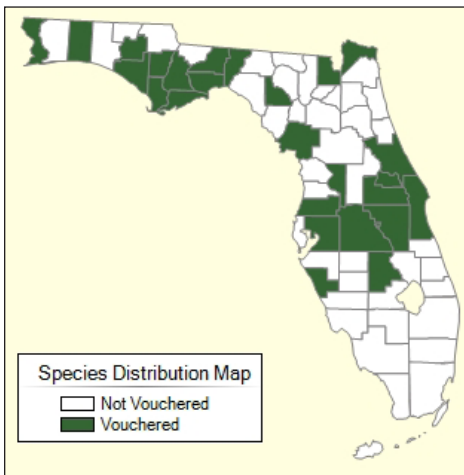


Fig. 26: *Rhynchospora decurrens* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 27: *Rhynchospora decurrens*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora divergens Chapm. ex M. A. Curtis – Spreading Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, interdune swales, wet prairies and ditches

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 10-60 cm; culms erect, terete, filiform; leaves shorter than culm, blades filiform, involute, 0.3-0.5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-4, dense to open, broadly to narrowly turbinate, spikelets on capillary pedicels of unequal lengths; scales brown; spikelets 1-8 fruited; achene body obovoid, less than 1 mm long, lenticular, surface smooth, pale, glassy; perianth bristles absent; tubercle button depressed-triangular or patelliform, whitish, blunt-apiculate.

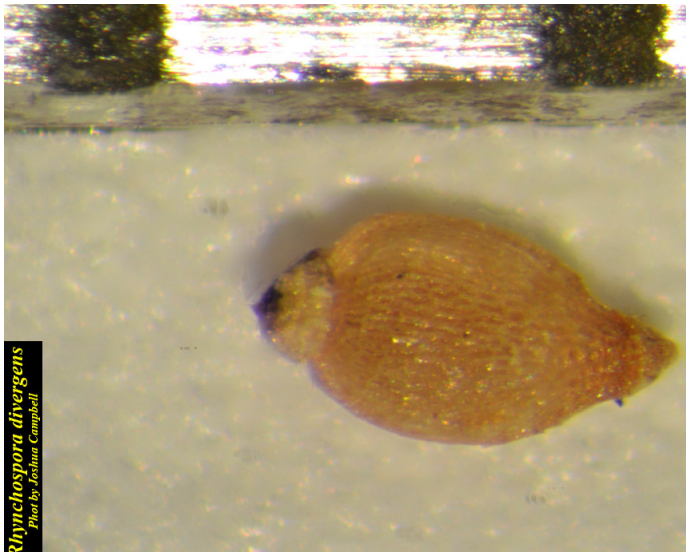
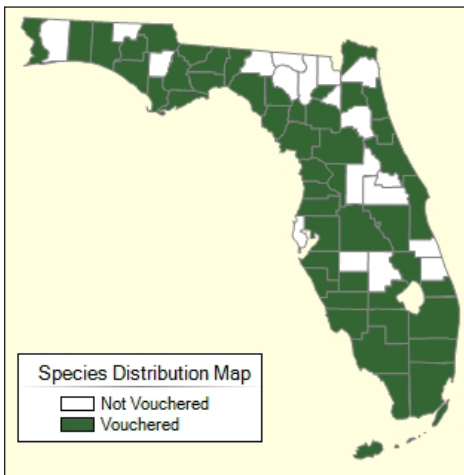


Fig. 28: *Rhynchospora divergens* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 29: *Rhynchospora divergens*,
whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic
Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora elliottii A. Dietr. – Elliott’s Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern counties and central peninsula

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, bogs and swamps

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 80-150 cm; culms erect with arching apex, slender; leaves exceeded by inflorescence, blades linear, 3-5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 4-6, crowded to spaced, broadly to narrowly turbinate; scales red-brown; spikelets 2-4 fruited; achene body obovoid-orbicular, strongly flattened, surface transversely wavy rugose; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding the tubercle, spreading; tubercle deltoid, flat.

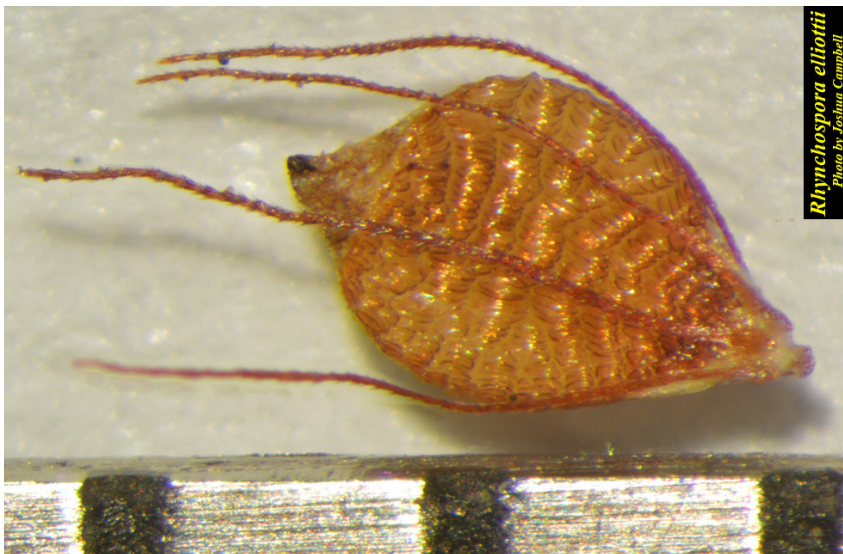


Fig. 30: *Rhynchospora elliottii* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell

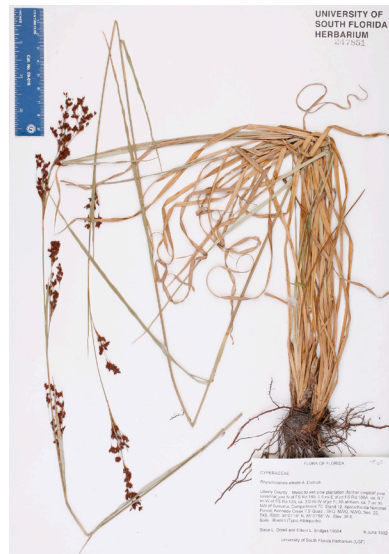
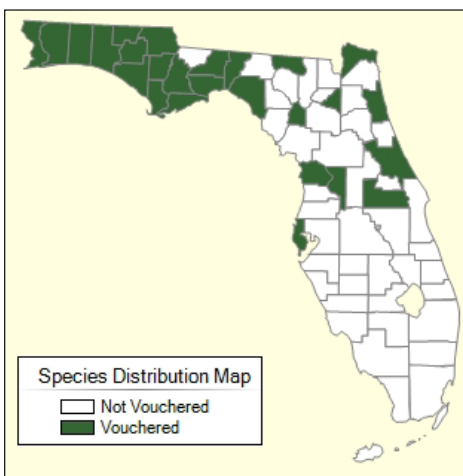


Fig. 31: *Rhynchospora elliottii*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora eximia (Nees) Boeck. – Florida Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Polk, Charlotte and Lee counties

HABITAT

Flatwoods, pond margins and brackish marshes

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial or annual, caespitose or solitary herb, 10-50 cm; culms spreading to erect, obtusely trigonous; leaves exceeding inflorescence, blades narrowly linear, 1-3 mm wide; inflorescences terminal and axillary, clusters of 1-5 corymbs, spikelets few to several on branches; scales brown; spikelets > 10-fruited; achene body tumidly lenticular, nearly orbicular, surface transversely wavy rugose; perianth bristles absent; tubercle curved upward at the edges.

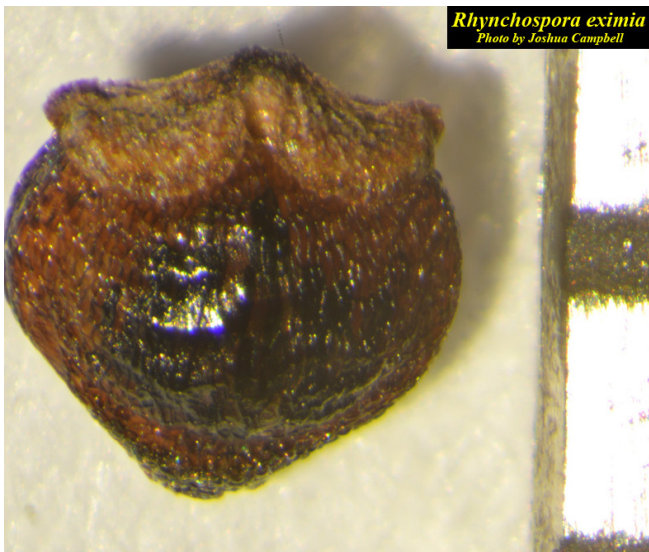
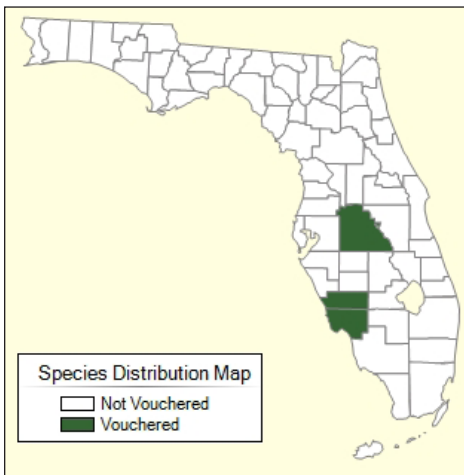


Fig. 32: *Rhynchospora eximia* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 33: *Rhynchospora eximia*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora fascicularis (Michx.) Vahl – Fascicled Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Moist to wet flatwoods, savannas and lake margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Common

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 100-150 cm; culms erect, obtusely trigonous; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 1-4 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-4, dense, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-3 fruited; achene body broadly ellipsoid to orbicular, lenticular, surface smooth, dull, dark brown with pale center; perianth bristles 5-6, antrorsely barbed, rudimentary to equaling or exceeding the achene body; tubercle triangular.

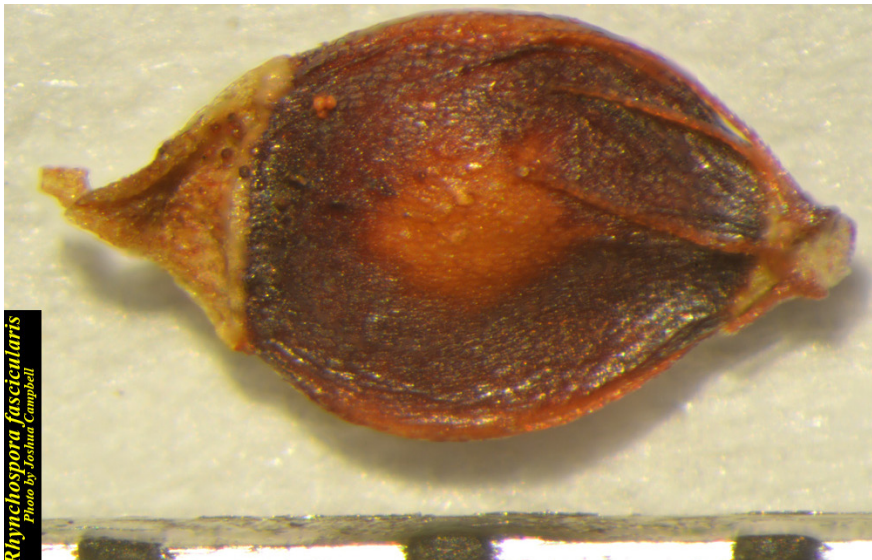


Fig. 34: *Rhynchospora fascicularis* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell

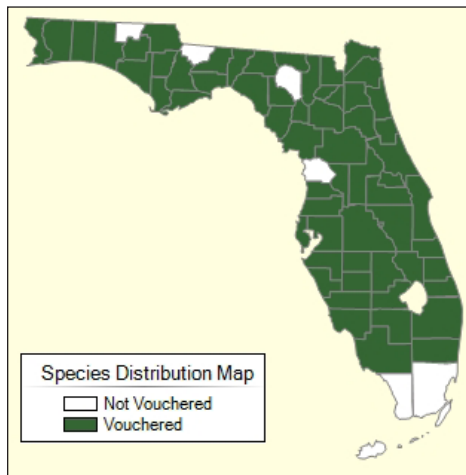


Fig. 35: *Rhynchospora fascicularis*,
whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic
Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants

Rhynchospora fernaldii Gale – Fernald's Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Scrubby to mesic flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 10-50 cm; culms erect, slender; leaves shorter than culm, blades filiform, to 1 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-2, dense, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; scales red-brown; spikelets 2-3 fruited; achene body broadly obovoid to broadly ellipsoid, lenticular, ca. 1 mm long, surface smooth, dull, dark brown with pale center; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, equaling the achene body; tubercle deltoid.

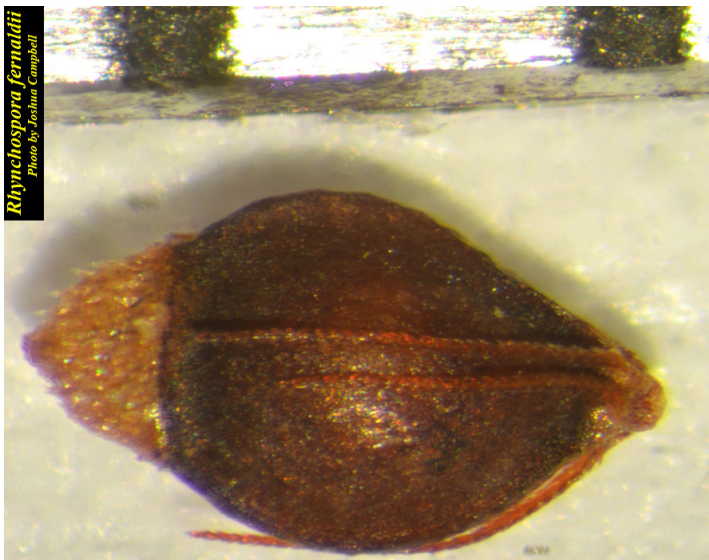


Fig. 36: *Rhynchospora fernaldii* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell

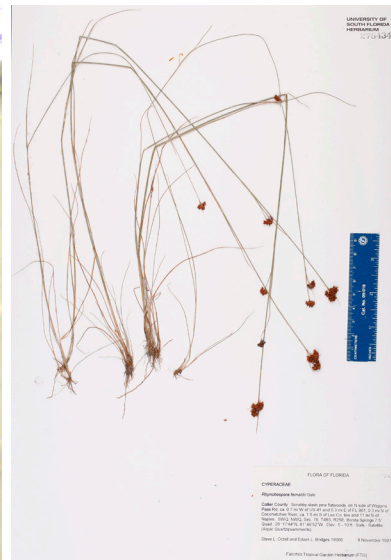
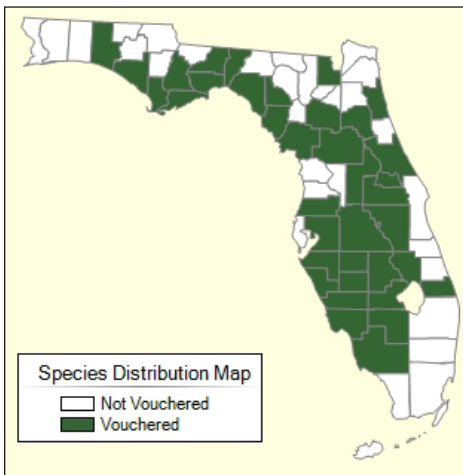


Fig. 37: *Rhynchospora fernaldii*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora filifolia A. Gray – Threadleaf Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, bogs, pond margins, swamps and marshes

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

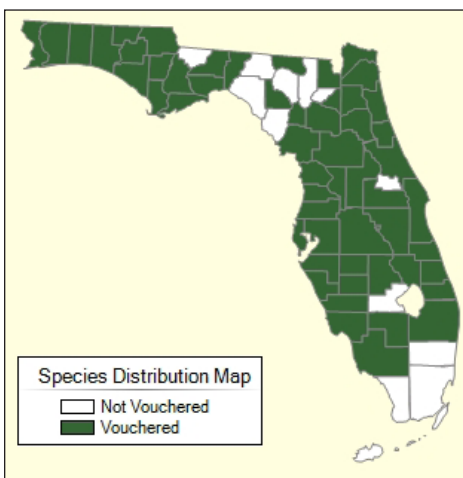
Perennial, cespitose herb, 30-100 cm; culms erect, filiform, subterete; leaves shorter than culm, blades narrowly linear to involute, 1-2 mm wide; spikelet clusters 2-4, distant, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; scales red-brown; spikelets 2-4 fruited; achene body obovate, lenticular, ca. 1 mm long, surface smooth, red-brown with pale glassy center; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, usually slightly exceeding tubercle; tubercle deltoid, the margins scabrous.



Fig. 38: *Rhynchospora filifolia* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 39: *Rhynchospora filifolia*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora floridensis (Britton ex Small) H. Pfeiff. – Florida Whitetop

DISTRIBUTION

Collier, Highlands, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties

HABITAT

Pine rocklands

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

All year

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 20-50 cm; culms erect, filiform, trigonous; leaves basally crowded, some cauline, shorter than culm, blades filiform to linear; spikelet cluster 1, terminal, headlike; involucre bracts several, basally white, apically green; scales white, basal ones with the keel ciliolate; spikelets several-fruited; achene body nearly orbicular, tumidly lenticular, surface transversely rugose; perianth bristles absent; tubercle deltoid, lunate.

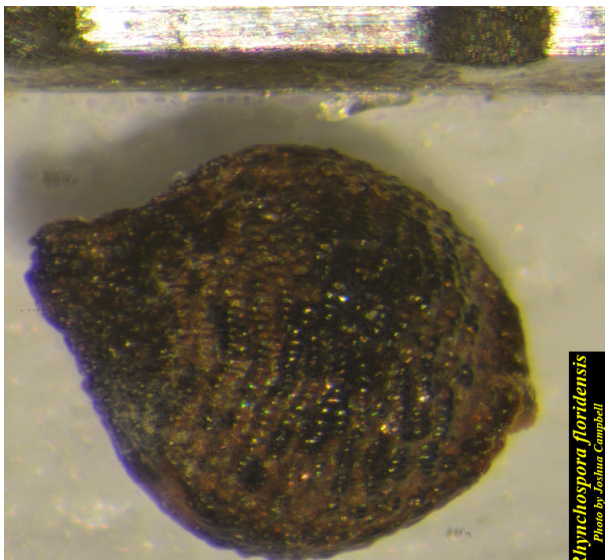
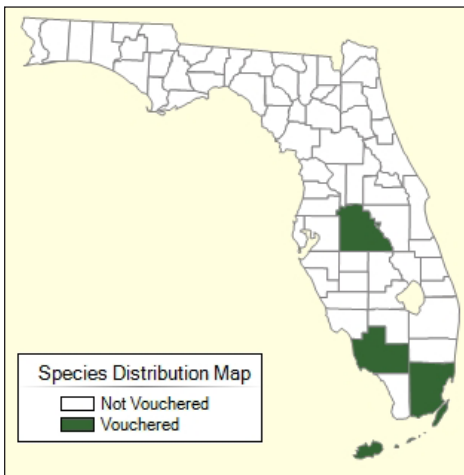


Fig. 40: *Rhynchospora floridensis* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 41: *Rhynchospora floridensis*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora galeana Naczi et al. – Shortbristle Beaksedge – [*Rhynchospora breviseta* (Gale) Channell]

DISTRIBUTION

Northern and central peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Mesic to wet flatwoods, wet prairies and bogs

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 20-40 cm; culms erect, filiform; leaves equaling or shorter than culm, blades filiform; spikelets borne singly or a few together in loose clusters, some or all spikelets on slender stalks; inflorescence bract appearing as continuation of culm; scales pale red-brown; spikelets 3-8 fruited; achene body obovoid, tumidly lenticular, surface finely rugose; perianth bristles 6, plumose, less than half the length of the achene body; tubercle low conic.

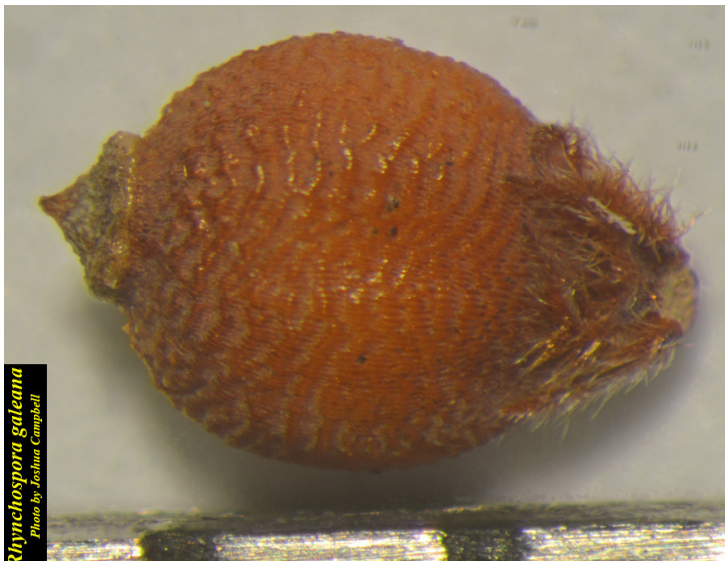
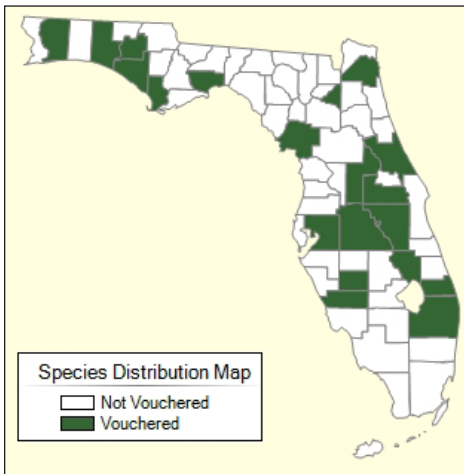


Fig. 42: *Rhynchospora galeana* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 43: *Rhynchospora galeana*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora globularis (Chapm.) Small – Globe Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Marshes, wet flatwoods and pond margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Common

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 30-80 cm; culms erect to excurved, slender to wiry; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 1-3 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-4, widely spaced, turbinate to compact hemispheric; scales dark brown; spikelets 1-3 fruited; achene body tumidly biconvex, 1.6-2 mm long, surface transversely rugose, chestnut brown; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, shorter than the achene body; tubercle conic.

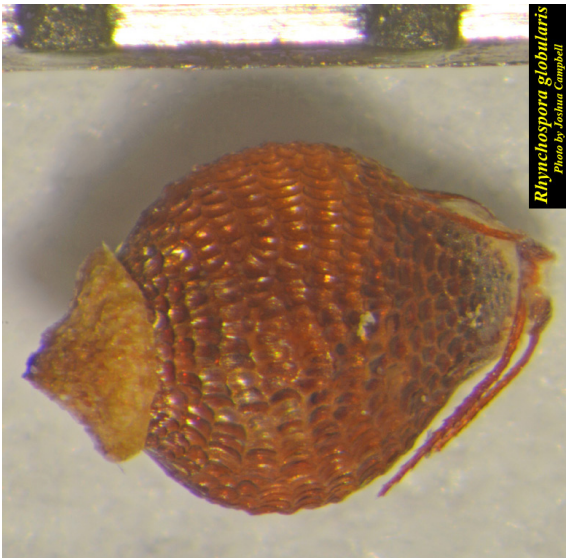
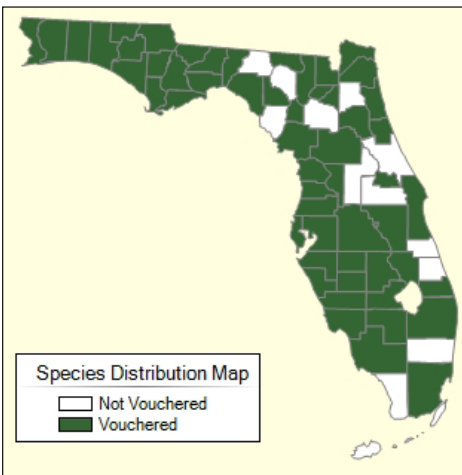


Fig. 44: *Rhynchospora globularis* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 45: *Rhynchospora globularis*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora glomerata (L.) Vahl – Clustered Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nassau and Duval counties, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Bogs, flatwoods and marshes

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 80-150 cm; culms excurved nodding, trigonous, slender; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 2.5-5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 2-6, compact, turbinate to hemispheric; scales deep red-brown; spikelets 1-3 fruited; achene body lenticular, obovoid or orbicular, stipitate, surface smooth, dark red-brown with pale center; perianth bristles 6, retrorsely barbed, exceeding tubercle; tubercle triangular-subulate.

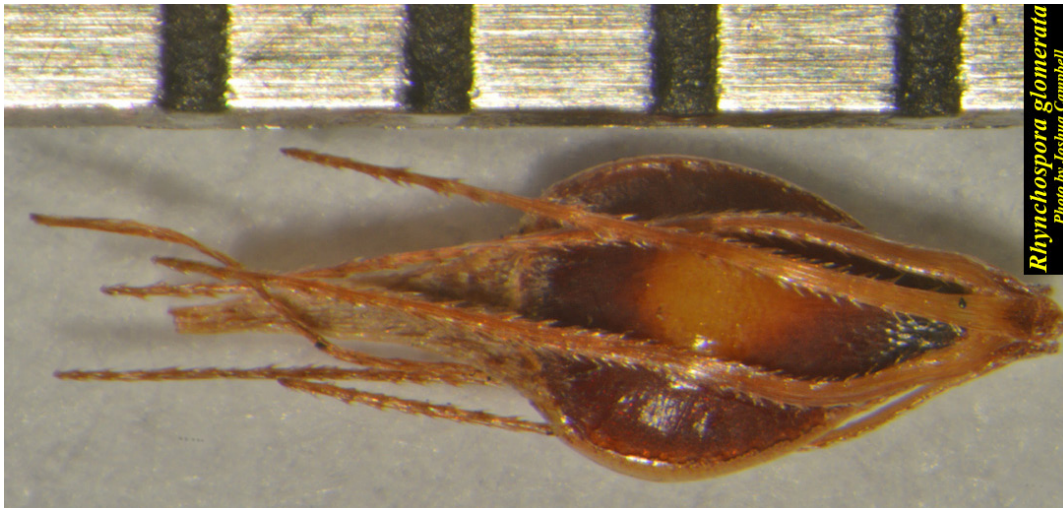
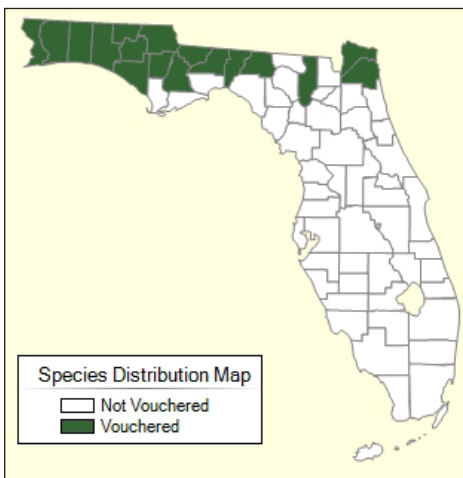


Fig. 46: *Rhynchospora glomerata* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 47: *Rhynchospora glomerata*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora gracilentia A. Gray – Slender Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Flatwoods, bogs and swamps

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 10-100 cm; culms ascending to excurved, filiform, terete; leaves shorter than culm, blades filiform to linear, 0.5-2.5 mm wide, ascending; spikelet clusters 1-4, distant, narrowly turbinate to hemispheric; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-3 fruited; achene body lenticular, broadly ellipsoid to suborbicular, surface smooth, dark brown with pale center; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, equaling or exceeding tubercle; tubercle triangular-subulate.



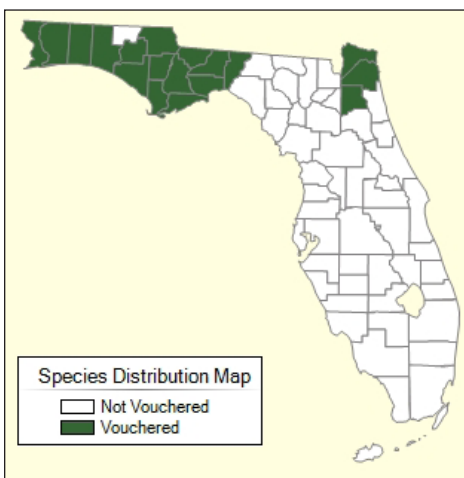
Fig. 48: *Rhynchospora gracilentia* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 49: *Rhynchospora gracilentia*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora grayi Kunth – Gray's Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Sandhills and dry flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 10-100 cm; culms erect to excurved, slender, firm; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 2-4 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-4, loose to dense, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; scales light red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body broadly and tumidly obovoid, surface finely transversely rugulose, dark brown; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, ca. half the length of the achene body to tubercle; tubercle low conic with rim at base.



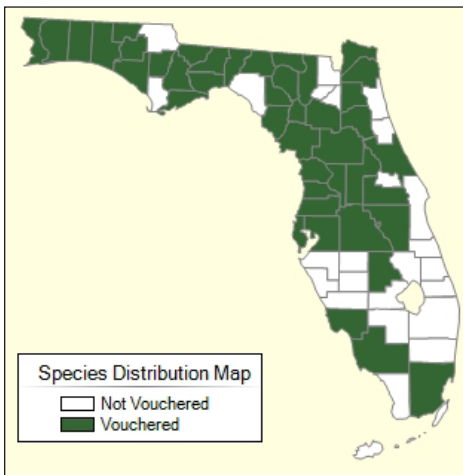
Fig. 50: *Rhynchospora grayi* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 51: *Rhynchospora grayi*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora harperi Small – Harper's Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern and central peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Pineland ponds, cypress strands and cypress domes

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 50-70 cm; culms erect with the terminal internode strongly excurved, terete; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 0.5-2 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-3, turbinate to hemispheric; scales red-brown; spikelets 3-4 fruited; achene body obovoid-lenticular, surface smooth, glossy, brown with pale center; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, equaling or exceeding tubercle; tubercle triangular-subulate, the margins setose.



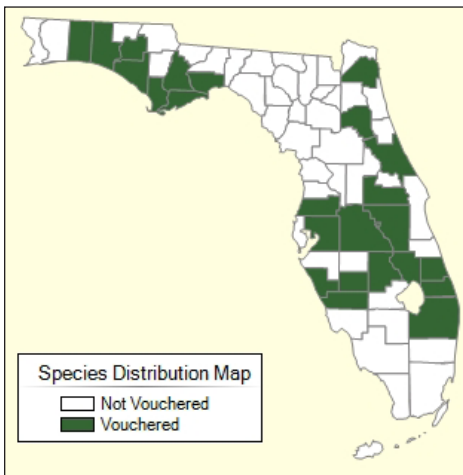
Fig. 52: *Rhynchospora harperi* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 53: *Rhynchospora harperi*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora harveyi W. Boott – Harvey's Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern counties

HABITAT

Upland longleaf pine savannas

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 70-110 cm; culms erect to excurved, slender, obscurely trigonous; leaves basally crowded, some cauline, shorter than culm, blades linear, 1-3 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-4, irregularly turbinate; scales light red-brown; spikelets mostly 1-fruited; achene body obovoid, lenticular, surface transversely rugose, dark brown; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, half the length of the achene body or less; tubercle low conic with rim at base.

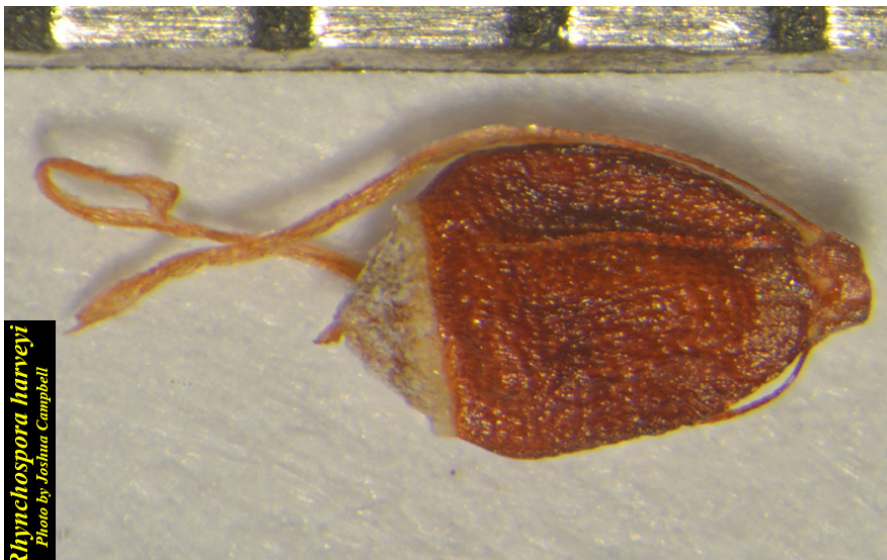


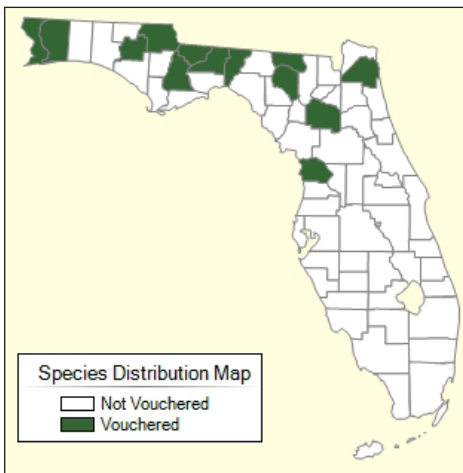
Fig. 54: *Rhynchospora harveyi* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 55: *Rhynchospora harveyi*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany,
Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora inexpansa (Michx.) Vahl – Nodding Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, pond margins and disturbed sites

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 30-120 cm; culms arching, slender, terete; leaves shorter than culm, blades narrowly linear, 2-3.5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-6, widely spaced, narrow, elongate; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-4 fruited; achene body narrowly oblong-ellipsoid, flattened, surface transversely rugose, brown; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding tubercle; tubercle compressed, narrowly triangular-subulate.



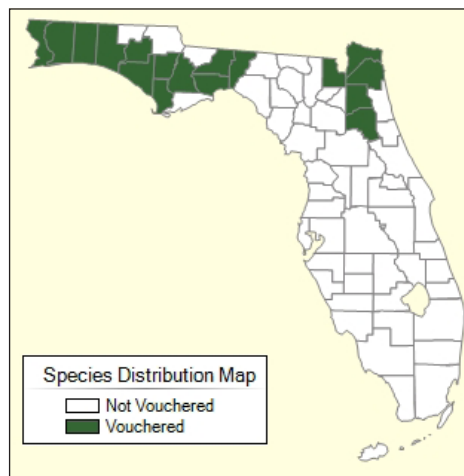
Fig. 56: *Rhynchospora inexpansa* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 57: *Rhynchospora inexpansa*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora intermedia (Chapm.) Britton – Pinebarren Beaksedge –
[*Rhynchospora pineticola* C. B. Clarke]

DISTRIBUTION

Peninsula, eastern panhandle, Franklin County

HABITAT

Sandhills and scrub

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

All year

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 20-70 cm, base deep rich red-brown; culms erect, stiff; leaves shorter than culm, blades narrowly linear, 1-3 mm wide, involute; spikelet clusters 1-2, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; scales light to dark red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; tumidly obovoid, surface transversely rugulose, brown; perianth bristles 6, plumose, shorter than or equaling tubercle; tubercle broadly conic, basally 2 lobed.

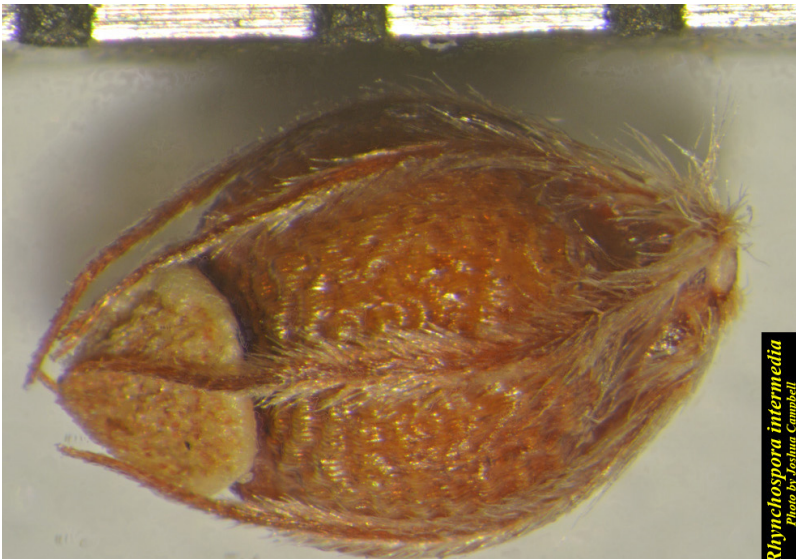
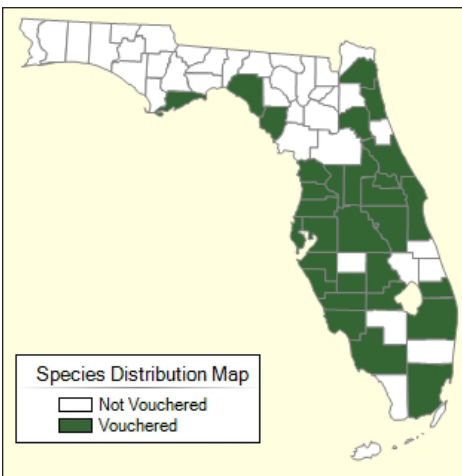


Fig. 58: *Rhynchospora intermedia* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 59: *Rhynchospora intermedia*,
whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic
Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora inundata (Oakes) Fernald – Narrowfruit Horned Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Bogs, marshes, wet flatwoods, cypress swamps, and lake and pond margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Common

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 50-100 cm; rhizomes slender, scaly; culms erect, trigonous; leaves erect, longer than culm, blades linear, 3-10 mm wide; spikelets in loose clusters in an open, diffuse-paniculate array; scales pale red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body obovoid to oblong, compressed, surface concave, horizontally finely striate, minutely cancellate; perianth bristles 5-6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding achene body; tubercle stout based, grooved, subulate, setulose.



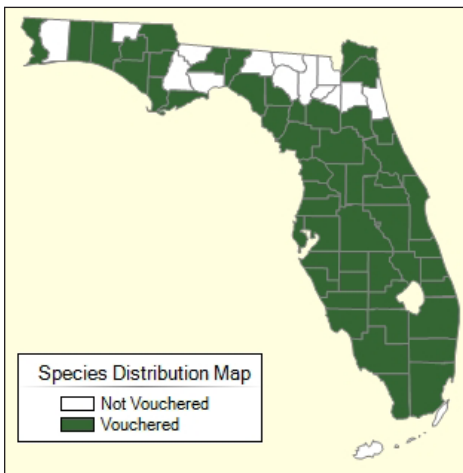
Fig. 60: *Rhynchospora inundata* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 61: *Rhynchospora inundata*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora latifolia (Baldwin) W. W. Thomas – Giant Whitetop

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Marshes, bogs and wet flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

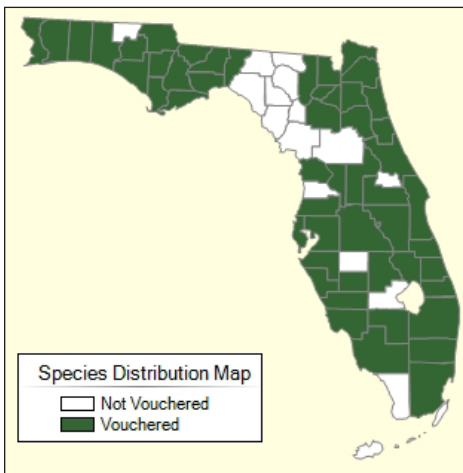
Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 80-100 cm; rhizomes scaly, 3-4 mm thick; culms erect, terete, solitary; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, ca. 2.5-5 mm wide; spikelet cluster 1, terminal, headlike; involucre bracts 5-8, basally white, apically green; scales white; spikelets several-fruited; achene body broadly obovoid to orbicular, tumidly lenticular, surface transversely papillose; perianth bristles absent; tubercle depressed-triangular, decurrent on the sides of the achene.



Fig. 62: *Rhynchospora latifolia* achene.
Photo by John R. Gwaltney, [Southeastern Flora](#)



Fig. 63: *Rhynchospora latifolia*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, [Atlas of Florida Plants](#)



Rhynchospora leptocarpa (Chapm. ex Britton) Small – Brownish Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nassau County, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Bogs, wet flatwoods, and pond and stream margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 20-100 cm; culms arching-ascending, slender; leaves shorter than inflorescence, blades narrowly linear, 2-3 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-5 or more, compact, turbinate or hemispheric; scales rich deep brown; spikelets 1-5 fruited; achene body lenticular, obovoid, stipitate, surface smooth; perianth bristles 6, retrorsely barbed, equaling tubercle; tubercle triangular-subulate.



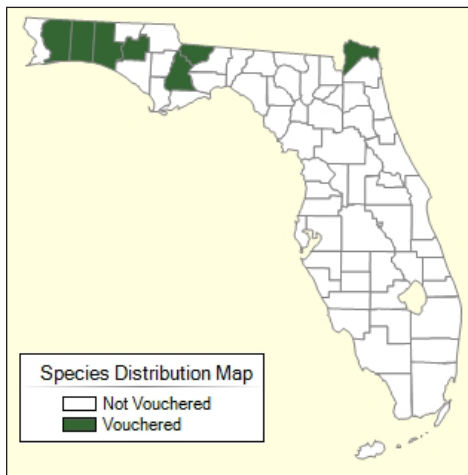
Fig. 64: *Rhynchospora leptocarpa* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 65: *Rhynchospora leptocarpa*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora macra (C. B. Clarke ex Britton) Small – Large Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nassau and Clay counties, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Bogs

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 40-80 cm; culms erect, trigonous, stiff; leaves shorter than culm, blades narrowly linear, 2-3.5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-3, turbinate to hemispheric; scales pale brown to nearly white; spikelets 1-fruited; achene obovoid distal to short stipe, lenticular, surface slightly rugulose; perianth bristles 15-20, retrorsely barbed, equaling tubercle; tubercle narrowly triangular-subulate.

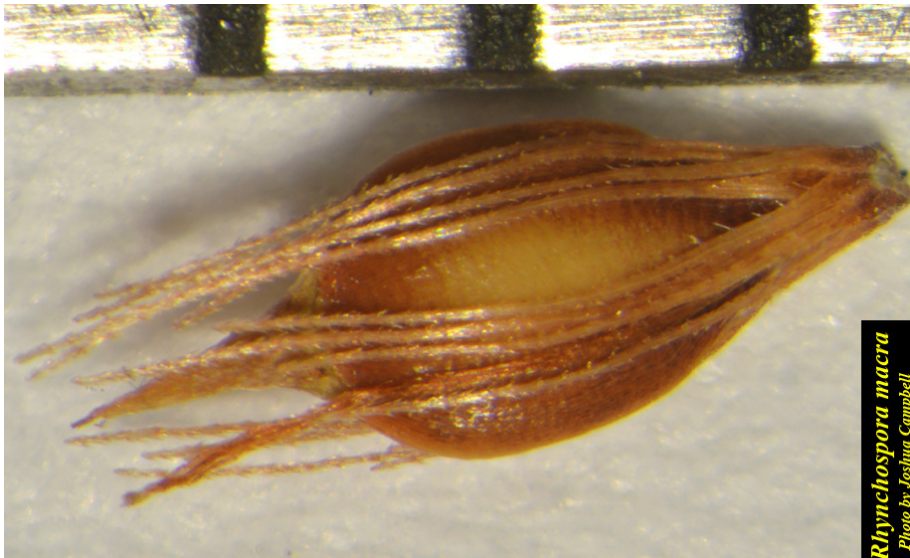


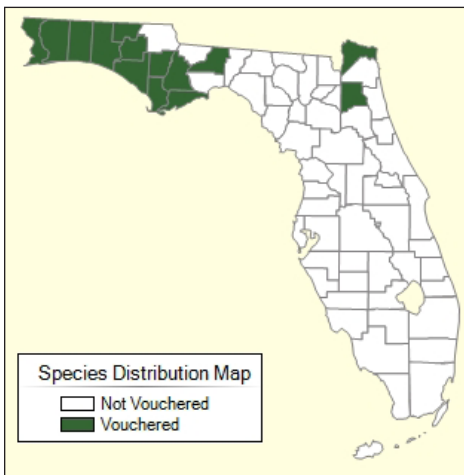
Fig. 66: *Rhynchospora macra* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 67: *Rhynchospora macra*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora macrostachya Torr. ex A. Gray – Tall Horned Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nassau and Baker counties

HABITAT

Lake, pond and stream margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 80-170 cm; culms erect, stiff, trigonous; leaves shorter than inflorescence, blades linear, 3-15 mm wide; spikelets in dense clusters of corymbs, clusters broadly turbinate; scales brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body pyriform-obovoid, compressed, surface finely striate, minutely cancellate; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding achene body; tubercle attenuate, 15-20 mm long.



Fig. 68: *Rhynchospora macrostachya* achene.
Photo by John R. Gwaltney, [Southeastern Flora](#)

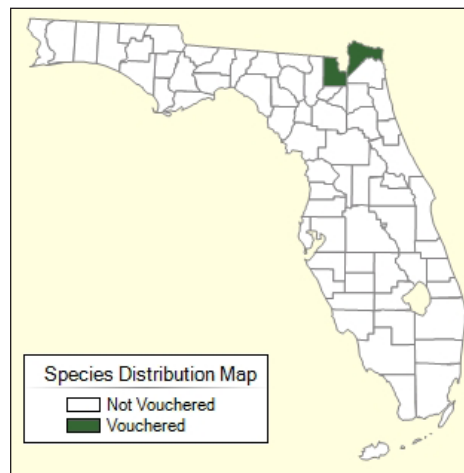


Fig. 69: *Rhynchospora macrostachya*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants

Rhynchospora marliniana Naczi, W. M. Knapp, & W. W. Thomas – Marlins' Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Wet pine savannas and wet prairies

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 15-60 cm; culms erect, slender, terete; leaves shorter than inflorescence, blades filiform, 0.3-1 mm wide; spikelets in 4-7 bracteate fascicles, congested, spiciform, terminal; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-fruited; achene body tumidly lenticular, ovoid, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, plumose basally, equaling to exceeding tubercle; tubercle compressed-deltoid.

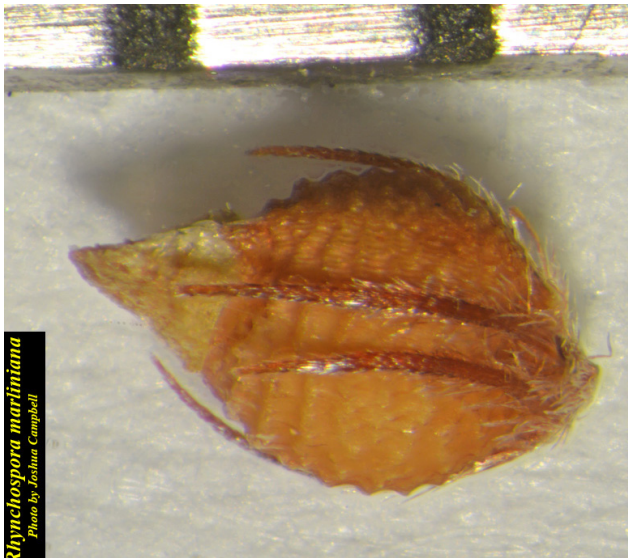


Fig. 70: *Rhynchospora marliniana* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell

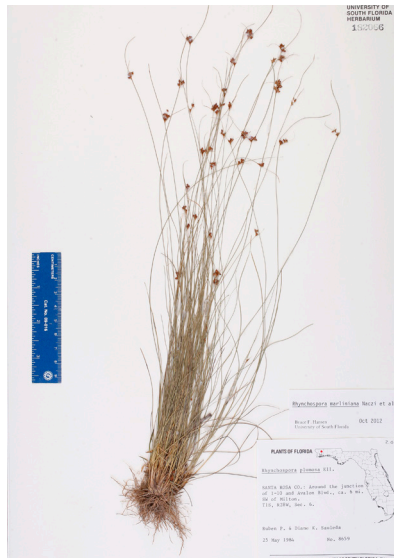
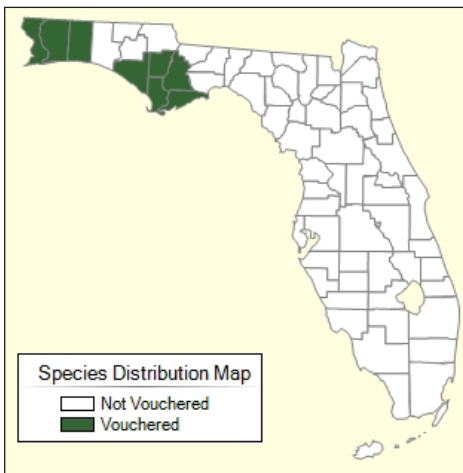


Fig. 71: *Rhynchospora marliniana*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora megalocarpa A. Gray – Sandyfield Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Xeric sandhills and scrub

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Common

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 80-130 cm; rhizomes scaly, stoloniferous, stout; culms erect to arching, trigonous, firm; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 3-7 mm wide; spikelet clusters 2-6, widely spaced, turbinate; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene broadly obovoid, tumid, surface obscurely pitted, brown-black; perianth bristles 6-12, antrorsely barbed, ca. half the length of the achene body to tubercle; tubercle low conic with rim at base.

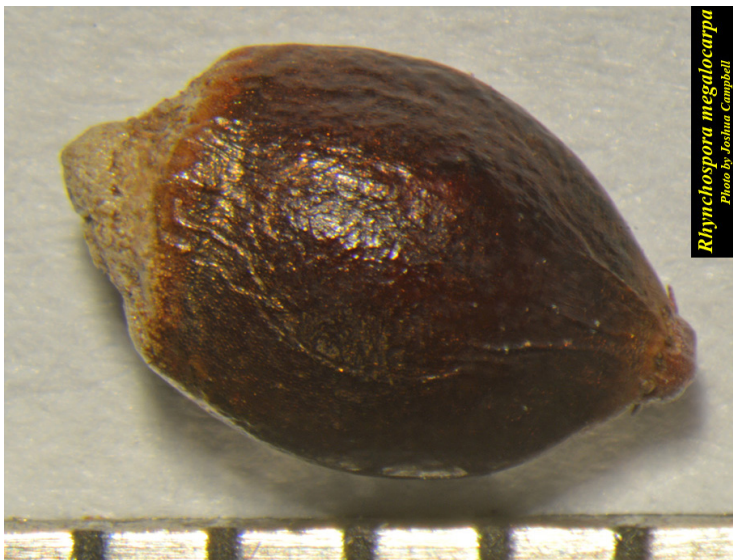
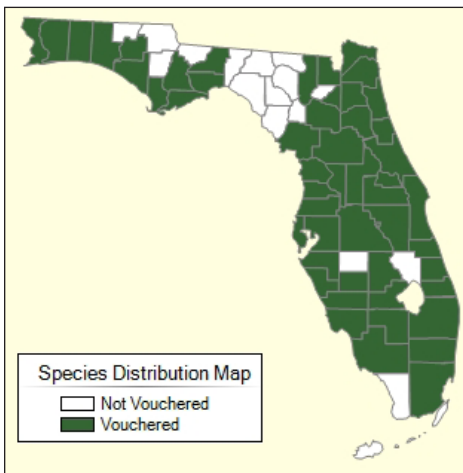


Fig. 72: *Rhynchospora megalocarpa* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 73: *Rhynchospora megalocarpa*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



***Rhynchospora megaplumosa* E. L. Bridges & Orzell – Longbristle Beaksedge**

DISTRIBUTION

Polk, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties

HABITAT

Scrubby flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare [State Endangered, Endemic]

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

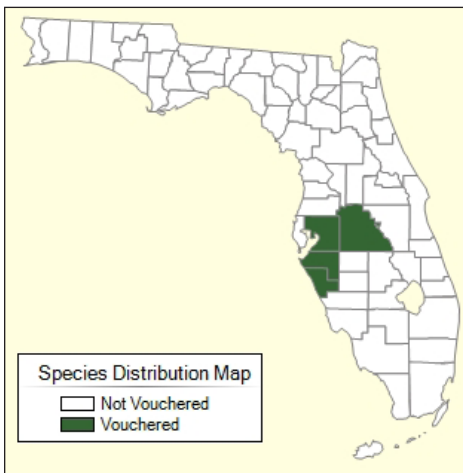
Perennial, cespitose herb, 20-90 cm; rhizomes stout, knotty, scaly when present; culms erect to arching, stiff, wiry; leaves basally crowded, some cauline, blades narrowly linear, 1-3 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-2, dense, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; scales light brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body tumidly obovoid, subterete, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, plumose, exceeding tubercle, excurved, exerted from spikelet; tubercle conic.



Fig. 74: *Rhynchospora megaplumosa* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 75: *Rhynchospora megaplumosa*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora microcarpa Baldwin ex A. Gray – Southern Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, bogs, swamps, marshes and pond margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Common

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

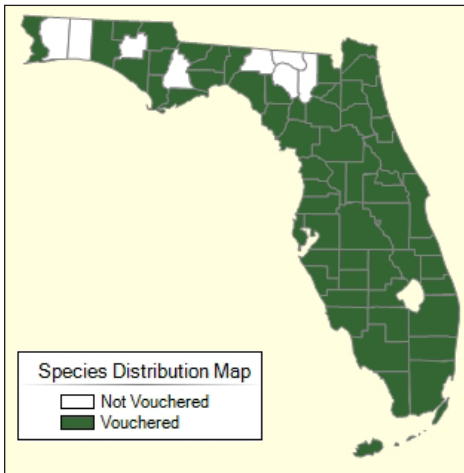
Perennial, caespitose herb, 60-100 cm; culms erect to arching, slender, trigonous; leaves shorter than inflorescence, blades linear, 1-3 mm wide; spikelet clusters 4-6, dense, narrowly turbinate to ellipsoid; scales dark brown; spikelets 2-3 fruited; achene body obovoid to globose, lenticular, surface strongly transversely rugose; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, rudimentary to equaling tubercle; tubercle short, deltoid, compressed.



Fig. 76: *Rhynchospora microcarpa* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 77: *Rhynchospora microcarpa*,
whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic
Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora microcephala (Britton) Britton ex Small – Bunched Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, bogs and marshes

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Common

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

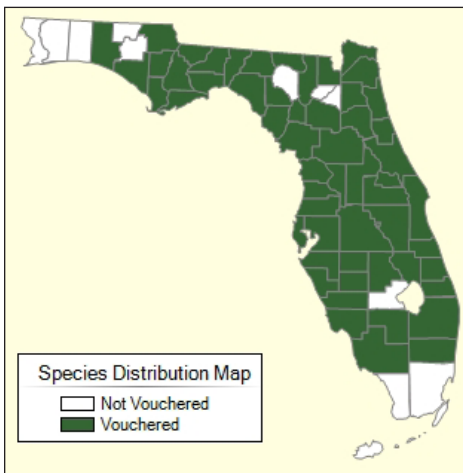
Perennial, cespitose herb, 30-90 cm; culms erect, nearly terete, ca. 1 mm thick at midculm; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 1-3 mm wide; spikelet clusters 2-6, widely spaced, dense, hemispheric to globose, ca. 1 cm wide; scales dark red-brown; spikelets 1-fruited; achene body 1.4-1.6 mm long, obovoid distal to the stipe, lenticular, surface smooth, light brown with pale center; perianth bristles 6, retrorsely barbed, equaling tubercle; tubercle triangular-subulate.



Fig. 78: *Rhynchospora microcephala* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 79: *Rhynchospora microcephala*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora miliacea (Lam.) A. Gray – Millet Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Hydric hammocks and swamps

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Common

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

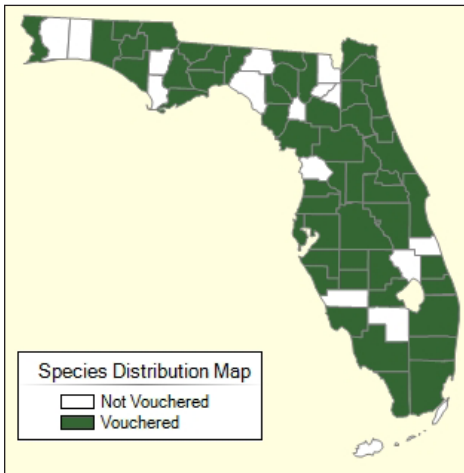
Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 80-150 cm; rhizomes stoloniferous, slender; culms erect to arching, terete, slender; leaves shorter than inflorescence, blades linear, 4-10 mm wide; spikelet clusters 4-6, diffuse; inflorescence branches divaricate, capillary; scales light brown; spikelets 2-6 fruited; achene body broadly obovoid, tumidly biconvex, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, antorsely barbed, exceeding tubercle; tubercle conic, depressed.



Fig. 80: *Rhynchospora miliacea* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 81: *Rhynchospora miliacea*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora mixta Britton ex Small – Mingled Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern counties and central peninsula

HABITAT

Hydric hammocks and swamps

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 80-100 cm; rhizomes stoloniferous, slender; culms erect, slender, trigonous; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 3-5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 4-6, widely spaced; inflorescence branches divergent, capillary; scales brown; spikelets 2-10 fruited; achene ellipsoid-obovate, lenticular, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding tubercle; tubercle triangular-subulate, flat, the margins setose.

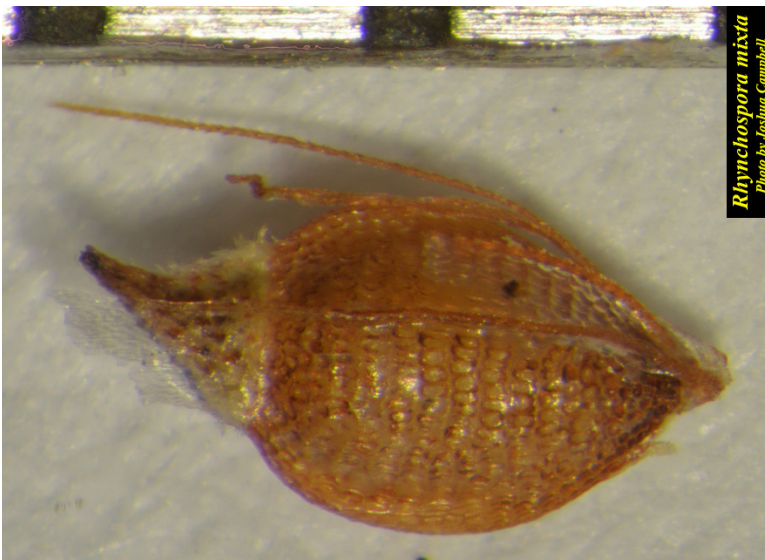


Fig. 82: *Rhynchospora mixta* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell

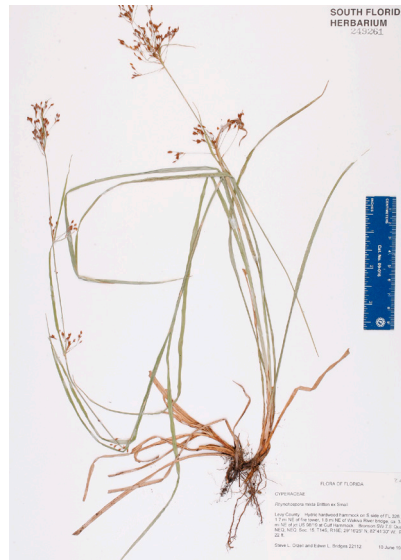
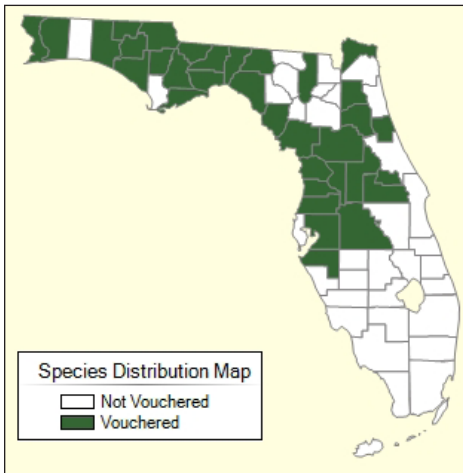


Fig. 83: *Rhynchospora mixta*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora nitens (Vahl) A. Gray – Shortbeak Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, pond margins and ditches

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Annual, cespitose herb, 10-100 cm; culms erect, nearly terete; midculm leaves exceeding inflorescence, blades linear, 1-5 mm wide; inflorescences terminal and axillary, clusters of 1–5 diffuse corymbs; scales dark brown; spikelets > 10-fruited; achene body tumidly lenticular, nearly orbicular, surface transversely wavy rugose; perianth bristles absent; tubercle depressed-triangular, flat or curved downward at the edges.

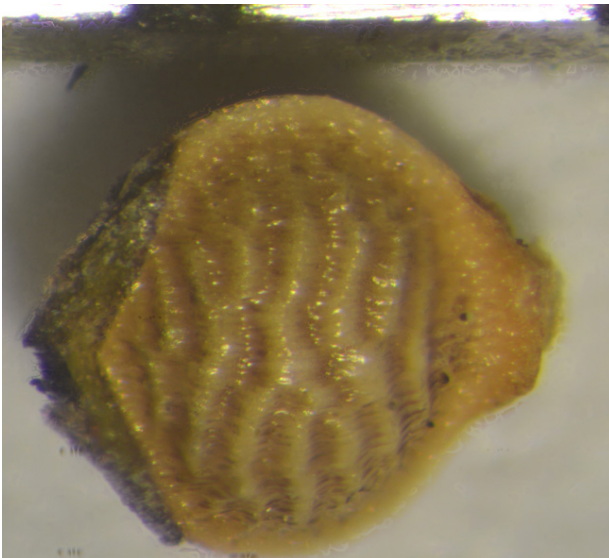


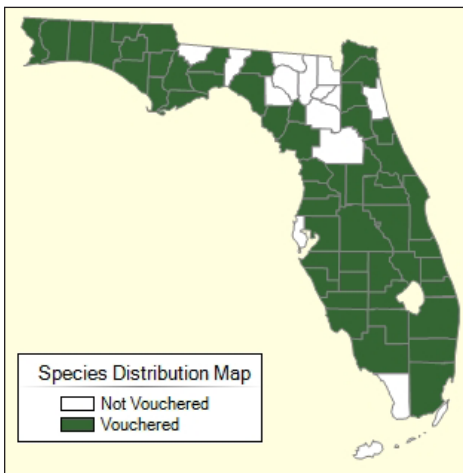
Fig. 84: *Rhynchospora nitens* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 85: *Rhynchospora nitens*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora odorata C. Wright ex Griseb. – Fragrant Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Peninsula west to central panhandle

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, swamps and marshes

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

All year

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 100-180 cm; rhizomes short, scaly; culms erect, angular, slender; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 3-6 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-5, widely spaced, turbinate or lobed, fascicles dense; scales rich red-brown; spikelets 5-7 mm long, 3-7 fruited; achene body obovoid, lenticular, surface transversely rugulose; pedicellar joint ca. 0.3-0.6 mm long; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding tubercle; tubercle compressed, triangular-acuminate.

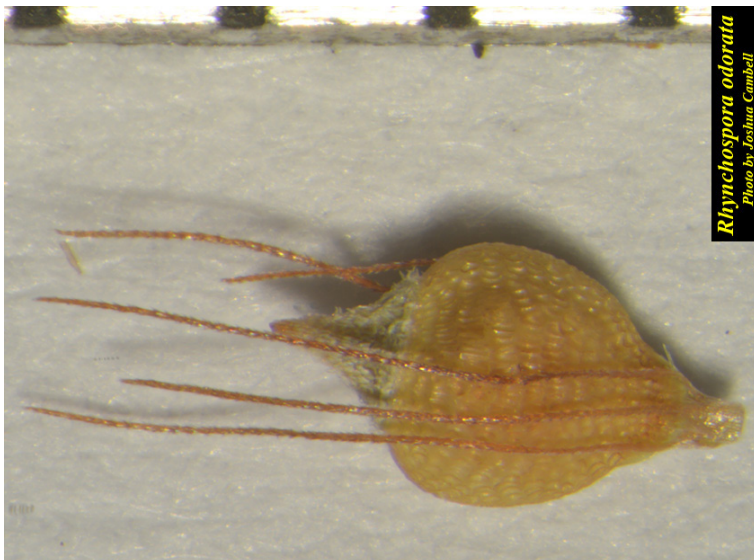


Fig. 86: *Rhynchospora odorata* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell

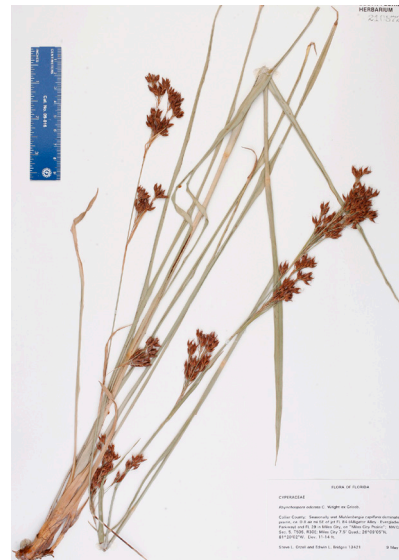
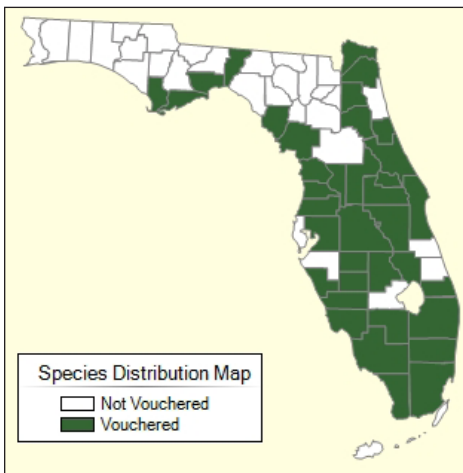


Fig. 87: *Rhynchospora odorata*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora oligantha A. Gray – Featherbristle Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods and bogs

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring

DESCRIPTION

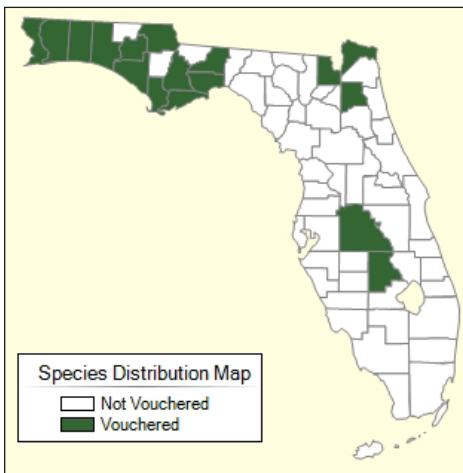
Perennial, cespitose herb, 20-40 cm; culms ascending, filiform, wiry; leaves shorter than inflorescence, blades filiform, nearly terete; spikelet clusters 2-6, simple or reduced to one spikelet, branches ascending to divaricate; scales pale red-brown; spikelets 1-3 fruited; achene ellipsoid-ovoid, distally necked, tumidly lenticular, surface smooth to minutely transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, plumose, equaling to exceeding tubercle; tubercle conic-subulate, the base flaring.



Fig. 88: *Rhynchospora oligantha* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 89: *Rhynchospora oligantha*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora perplexa Britton ex Small – Pineland Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern counties, Pasco County

HABITAT

Swamps, bogs, marshes and wet flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 50-110 cm; culms arching, slender, terete to trigonous; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 1.5-2.5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-4, widely spaced, turbinate, compact to diffuse; scales deep red-brown; spikelets 2-4 fruited; achene orbicular to broadly obovoid, ca. 1 mm long, strongly flattened, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 0-3, vestigial when present; tubercle triangular, depressed, flattened.

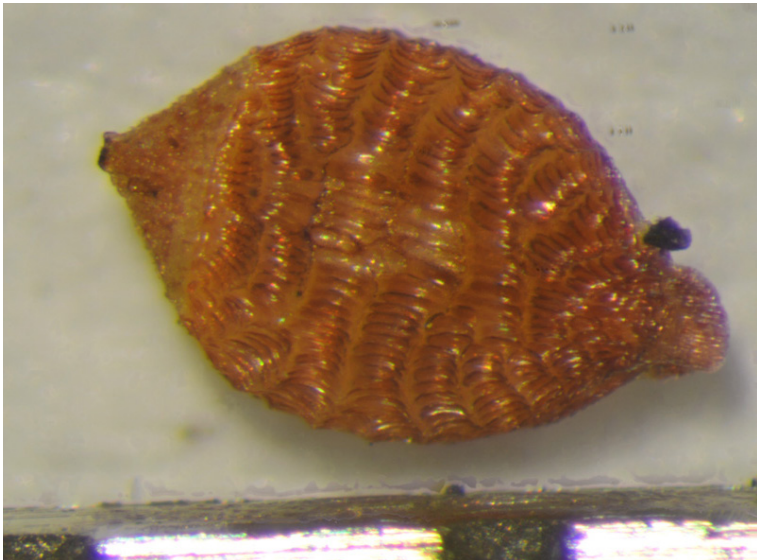
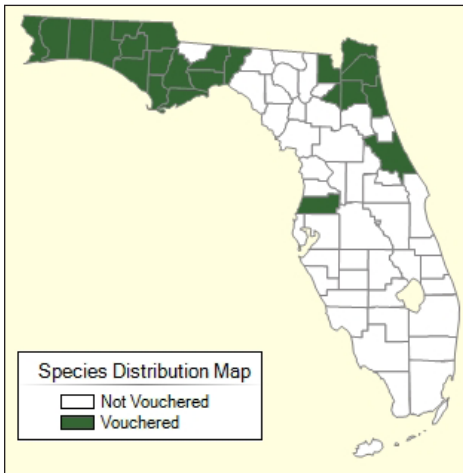


Fig. 90: *Rhynchospora perplexa* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 91: *Rhynchospora perplexa*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora pleiantha (Kük.) Gale – Coastal Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Central peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Sandy pond margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

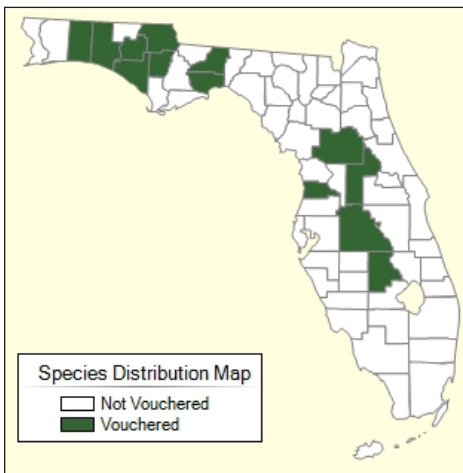
Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 10-50 cm; rhizomes stoloniferous, slender; culms erect to excurved, filiform; leaves shorter than culm, blades filiform, 1 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-3, turbinate, few flowered, ascending; scales red-brown; spikelets 2-5 fruited; achene body obovoid, lenticular, ca. 1 mm long, surface smooth; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding achene body; tubercle triangular-subulate, the margins setulose.



Fig. 92: *Rhynchospora pleiantha* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 93: *Rhynchospora pleiantha*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora plumosa Elliott – Plumed Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Bogs, mesic to wet flatwoods and pond margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 10-80 cm; culms erect to excurved, filiform to linear; leaves shorter than inflorescence, blades filiform to linear, to 1.5 mm wide, margins involute; spikelet clusters 1-several, widely spaced or close together; scales light red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene tumidly obovoid to ellipsoid, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, plumose, shorter than to equaling tubercle; tubercle conic, the base flaring.

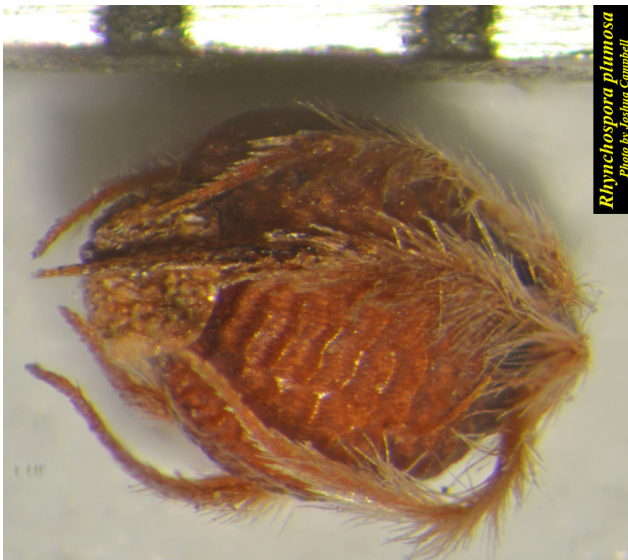
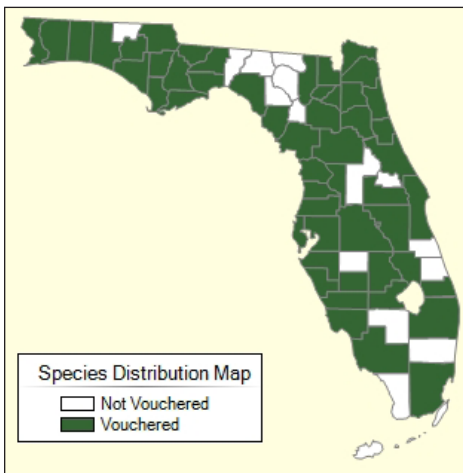


Fig. 94: *Rhynchospora plumosa* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 95: *Rhynchospora plumosa*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora punctata Elliott – Dotted Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nassau and St. Johns counties

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 60-80 cm; culms erect, slender, trigonous; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 3-5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 3-5, broadly turbinate to hemispheric; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-3 fruited; achene broadly obovoid, ca. 2 mm long, strongly flattened, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, equaling to exceeding tubercle; tubercle triangular, flat, the base lunate with a white ridge.

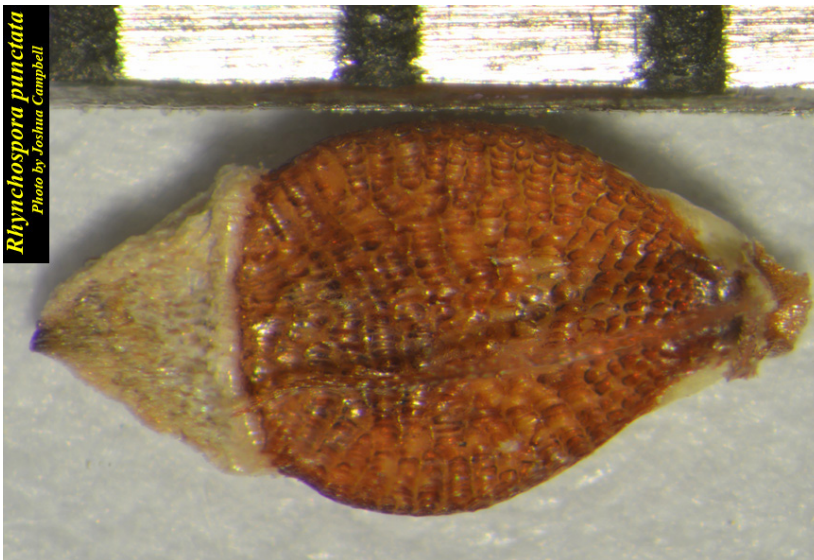
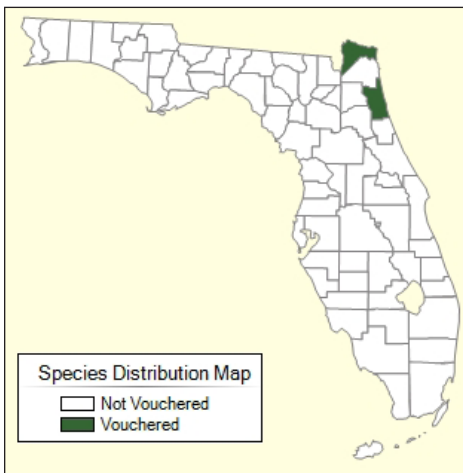


Fig. 96: *Rhynchospora punctata* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 97: *Rhynchospora punctata*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora pusilla Chapm. ex M. A. Curtis – Fairy Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Peninsula, central and western panhandle

HABITAT

Bogs, wet flatwoods and pond margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 10-60 cm; culms erect to arching, filiform, terete; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear to filiform, 0.3-0.5 mm wide, margins involute; spikelet clusters 1-3, turbinate, dense to open; scales brown; spikelets 2-3 fruited; achene body obovoid, lenticular, ca. 0.8 mm long, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles absent; tubercle small, buttonlike, depressed-triangular.

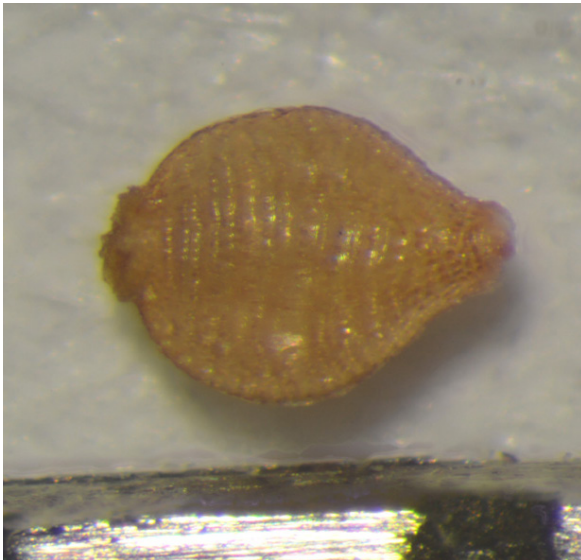
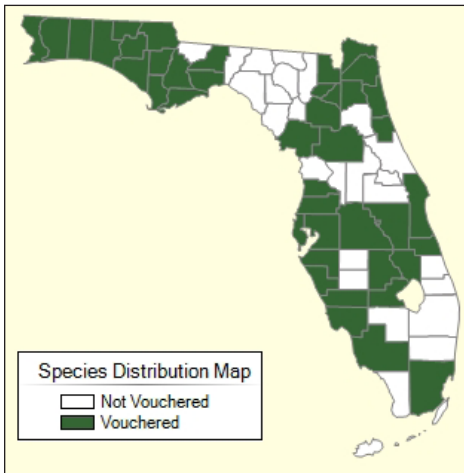


Fig. 98: *Rhynchospora pusilla* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 99: *Rhynchospora pusilla*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora rariflora (Michx.) Elliott – Fewflower Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Wet flatwoods, bogs, marshes and pond margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, cespitose herb, 15-60 cm, rhizomes compact, branching, slender; culms erect to excurved, filiform, terete; leaves shorter than inflorescence, blades filiform, margins involute; spikelets in 1-4 cymose clusters, widely spaced, turbinate; scales light red-brown; spikelets 1-4 fruited; achene tumidly obovoid, lenticular, surface transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, shorter than the achene body; tubercle triangular, flat.

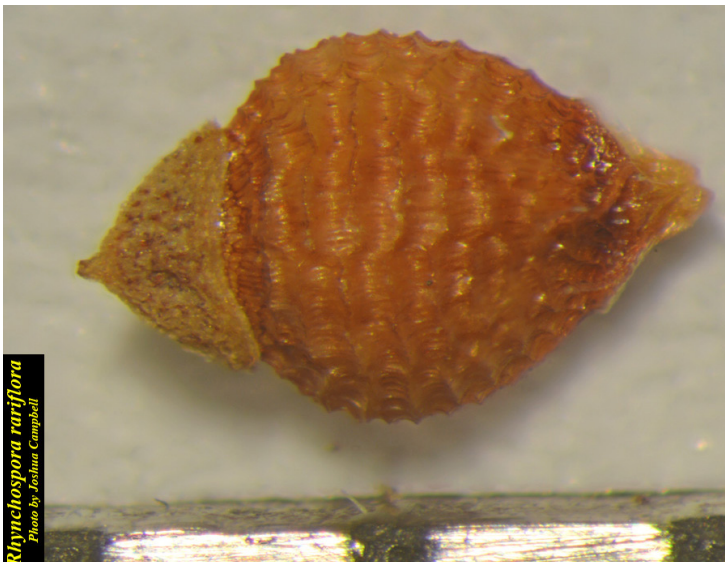
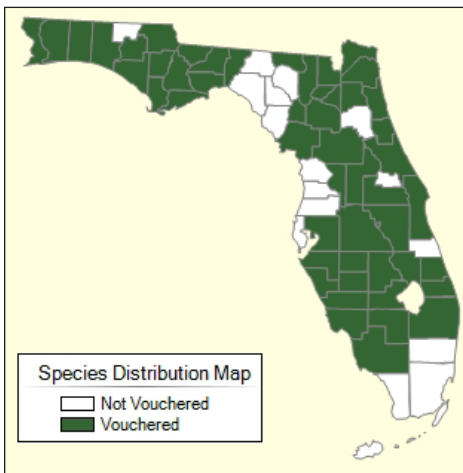


Fig. 100: *Rhynchospora rariflora* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 101: *Rhynchospora rariflora*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora scirpoides (Torr.) A. Gray – Longbeak Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Northern peninsula, central panhandle, Marion and Sumter counties

HABITAT

Lake shores and drying lake margins, marshes and swamps

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

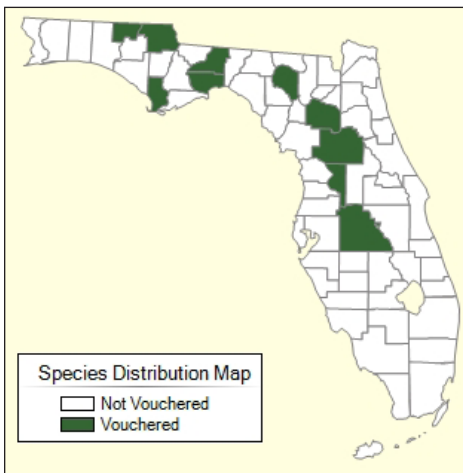
Annual, caespitose herb, 20-100 cm; culms erect, nearly terete, stiff; leaves exceeding or exceeded by inflorescence, blades linear, 1-5 mm wide; inflorescences terminal and axillary, clusters of 1-5 diffuse corymbs; scales dark brown; spikelets > 10-fruited; achene body tumidly lenticular, nearly orbicular, surface smooth with underlying undulations/cancellations; perianth bristles absent; tubercle flat, narrowly triangular, about as long as the achene body.



Fig. 102: *Rhynchospora scirpoides* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 103: *Rhynchospora scirpoides*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora stenophylla Chapm. – Coastalplain Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Panhandle

HABITAT

Bogs and wet flatwoods

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare [State Threatened]

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring

DESCRIPTION

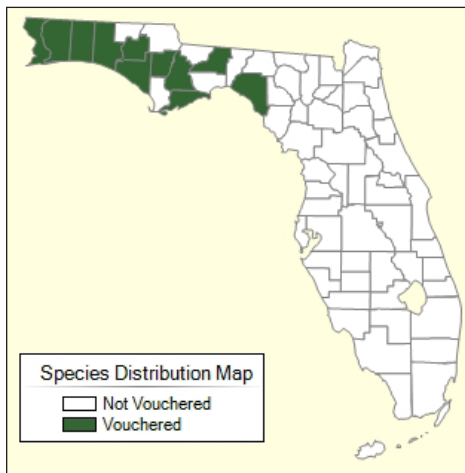
Perennial, cespitose herb, 30-90 cm, rhizomes forking, compact; culms erect to arching, filiform, terete; leaves shorter than culm, blades filiform, to 0.5 mm wide, margins involute; spikelets in 1-2 cymose clusters, turbinate; scales red-brown; spikelets 1-fruited; achene body obovoid-pyriform, tumidly lenticular, surface transversely wavy rugose; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding the achene body; tubercle flat, narrowly triangular-subulate.



Fig. 104: *Rhynchospora stenophylla* achene.
Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 105: *Rhynchospora stenophylla*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora sulcata Gale – Dixie Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Eastern and central panhandle, Hernando and Osceola counties

HABITAT

Pond margins and marshes

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 30-70 cm; culms erect, slender, terete; leaves shorter than culm, blades linear, 1-2.5 cm wide; spikelet clusters 4-6, turbinate, diffuse; scales dark brown; spikelets 2-3 fruited; achene subglobose, tumidly lenticular, ca. 1 mm long, surface strongly transversely ridged; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, shorter than the achene body; tubercle compressed, deltoid.

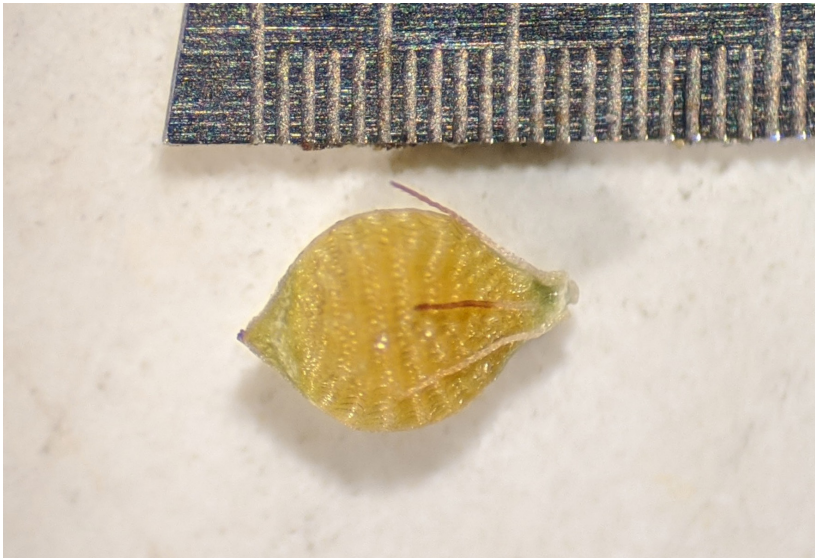


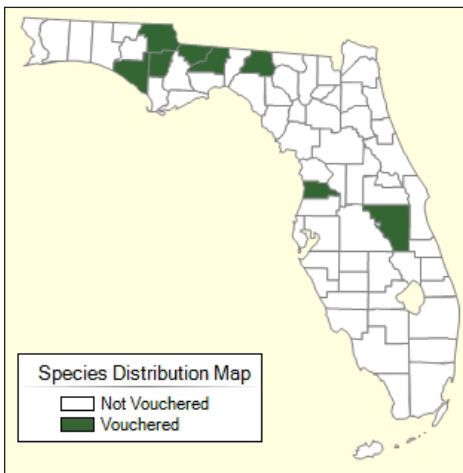
Fig. 106: *Rhynchospora sulcata* achene.

Photo by Alex de la Paz, FDACS-DPI



Fig. 107: *Rhynchospora sulcata*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora thornei Kral – Thorne’s Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Calhoun, Jackson, Putnam, St. Johns and Wakulla counties

HABITAT

Pond and lake margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Rare

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 10-20 cm, rhizomes slender, short; culms erect to arching, filiform; leaves exceeding or exceeded by culm, blades filiform, 0.2-0.3 mm wide, margins involute; spikelets in 1-2 cymose clusters, widely spaced, turbinate; scales brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene body ellipsoid, lenticular, ca. 1 mm long, transversely rugulose; perianth bristles 4-6, antrorsely barbed, shorter than the achene body; tubercle short-conic.

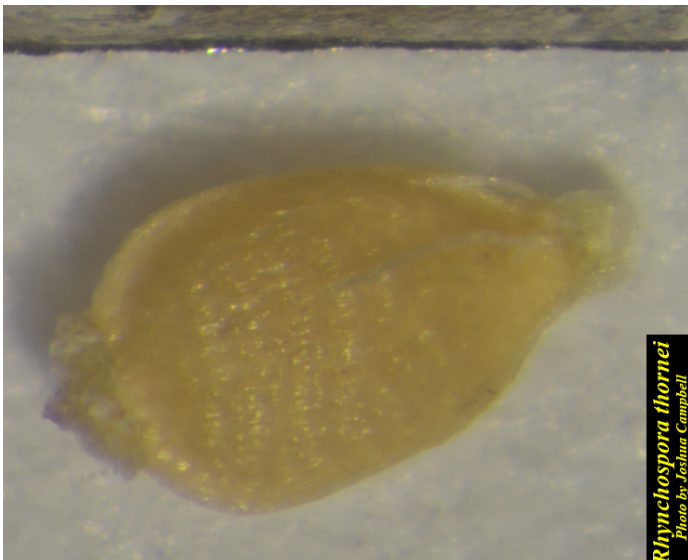


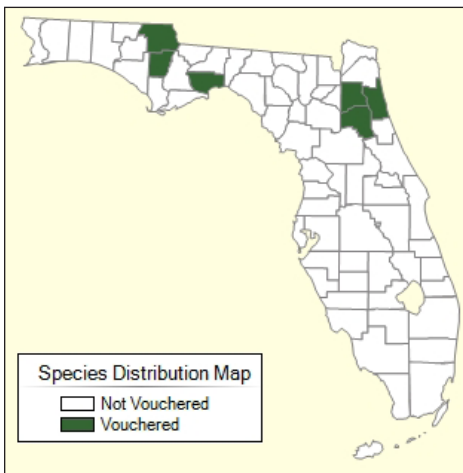
Fig. 108: *Rhynchospora thornei* achene.

Photo by Joshua Campbell



Fig. 109: *Rhynchospora thornei*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora tracyi Britton – Tracy's Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Marshes, swamps, pond margins and wet prairies

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Frequent

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Spring-Fall

DESCRIPTION

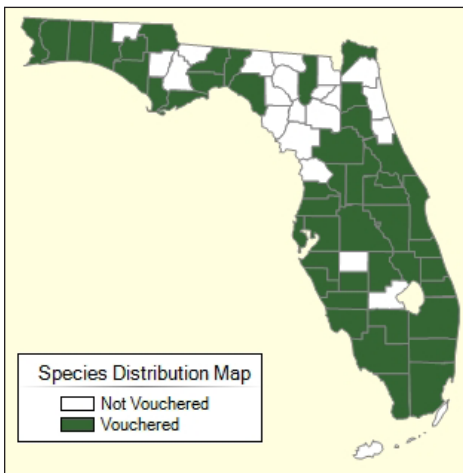
Perennial, rhizomatous herb, 70-120 cm, rhizomes scaly, slender; culms erect, nearly terete; leaves nearly equaling culm, blades linear, 2-8 mm wide; spikelets in 1-4 compact globose clusters (heads); scales green-brown; spikelets 1-fruited; achene body obovate, flat, surface minutely cancellate; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, exceeding the achene body; tubercle linear, angled, 4-6 mm long, much narrower than the fruit apex, margins setulose.



Fig. 110: *Rhynchospora tracyi* achene.
Photo by Alex de la Paz, FDACS-DPI



Fig. 111: *Rhynchospora tracyi*, whole plant.
Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



Rhynchospora wrightiana Boeck. – Wright’s Beaksedge

DISTRIBUTION

Nearly throughout

HABITAT

Marshes, swamps, wet flatwoods and pond margins

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

Occasional

REPRODUCTIVE SEASONS

Summer-Fall

DESCRIPTION

Perennial, caespitose herb, 10-50 cm; culms erect, slender, filiform, terete; leaves shorter than culm, blades filiform, 0.5-1.5 mm wide; spikelet clusters 1-3, turbinate to hemispheric, loose to dense; scales dark red-brown; spikelets 1-2 fruited; achene broadly ellipsoid, lenticular, surface smooth; perianth bristles 6, antrorsely barbed, equaling the achene body; tubercle flat, triangular with short-oblong, blunt tipped nose (strap-like beak).



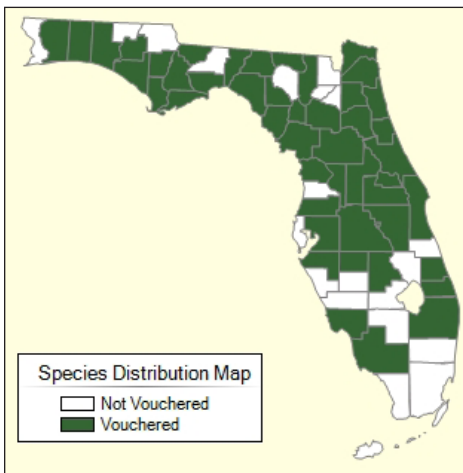
Fig. 112: *Rhynchospora wrightiana* achene.

Photo by Alex de la Paz, FDACS-DPI



Fig. 113: *Rhynchospora wrightiana*, whole plant.

Photo by Institute for Systematic Botany, Atlas of Florida Plants



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RHYNCHOSPORA OF FLORIDA			
<i>R. baldwinii</i>	<i>R. elliottii</i>	<i>R. intermedia</i>	<i>R. odorata</i>
<i>R. caduca</i>	<i>R. eximia</i>	<i>R. inundata</i>	<i>R. oligantha</i>
<i>R. cephalantha</i>	<i>R. fascicularis</i>	<i>R. latifolia</i>	<i>R. perplexa</i>
<i>R. chalarocephala</i>	<i>R. fernaldii</i>	<i>R. leptocarpa</i>	<i>R. pleiantha</i>
<i>R. chapmanii</i>	<i>R. filifolia</i>	<i>R. macra</i>	<i>R. plumosa</i>
<i>R. ciliaris</i>	<i>R. floridensis</i>	<i>R. macrostachya</i>	<i>R. punctata</i>
<i>R. colorata</i>	<i>R. galeana</i>	<i>R. marliniana</i>	<i>R. pusilla</i>
<i>R. compressa</i>	<i>R. globularis</i>	<i>R. megalocarpa</i>	<i>R. rariflora</i>
<i>R. corniculata</i>	<i>R. glomerata</i>	<i>R. megaplumosa</i>	<i>R. scirpoides</i>
<i>R. crinipes</i>	<i>R. gracilentata</i>	<i>R. microcarpa</i>	<i>R. stenophylla</i>
<i>R. curtissii</i>	<i>R. grayi</i>	<i>R. microcephala</i>	<i>R. sulcata</i>
<i>R. debilis</i>	<i>R. harperi</i>	<i>R. miliacea</i>	<i>R. thornei</i>
<i>R. decurrens</i>	<i>R. harveyi</i>	<i>R. mixta</i>	<i>R. tracyi</i>
<i>R. divergens</i>	<i>R. inexpansa</i>	<i>R. nitens</i>	<i>R. wrightiana</i>

GLOSSARY:

Achene	A small, dry, indehiscent fruit with a single locule and a single seed (ovule), and with the seed attached to the ovary wall at a single point
Annual	A plant which germinates from seed, flowers, sets seed and dies in the same year
Antrorse	Directed forward or upward
Apiculate	Ending abruptly in a small, slender point
Bristle	A short, stiff hairlike structure
Cancellate	Latticed with a fine, regular, reticulate pattern
Cespitose	Growing in dense tufts
Ciliate	With a marginal fringe of hairs
Culm	A hollow or pithy stalk or stem, as in the grasses, sedges and rushes
Decurrent	Extending downward from the point of insertion
Depressed	Flattened down from above
Excurved	Curving outward, away from the axis
Filiform	Thread-like
Head	A dense cluster of sessile or subsessile flowers
Inflorescence	The flowering part of a plant; a flower cluster
Lenticular	Biconvex, lentil-shaped
Lunate	Crescent-shaped
Obovoid	Inversely ovoid (egg-shaped), with the attachment at the narrower end
Patelliform	Shaped like a kneecap
Perennial	A plant that lives three or more years
Perianth	The calyx and corolla of a flower, collectively, especially similar in appearance
Perianth bristle	The perianth has been modified into bristles instead of typical looking sepals and petals, as in some genera of the Cyperaceae (e.g., <i>Rhynchospora</i>)
Pyriform	Pear-shaped
Raceme	An unbranched, elongated inflorescence with pedicellate flowers maturing from the bottom upwards
Racemiform/ racemose	An inflorescence with the general appearance, but not necessarily the structure, of a true raceme
Retrorse	Directed downward or backward
Rhizome	A horizontal underground stem
Rhizomatous	With rhizomes present
Rugose	Wrinkled
Rugulose	Slightly wrinkled
Scabrous	Rough to the touch, due to the structure of the epidermal cells, or the presence of short stiff hairs
Scale	Any thin, flat, scarious structure
Setose	Covered with bristles
Setulose	Covered with minute bristles
Spiciform	An inflorescence with the general appearance, but not necessarily the structure, of a true spike
Spike	An unbranched, elongated inflorescence with sessile or subsessile flowers or spikelets maturing from the bottom upwards
Spikelet	A small spike or secondary spike; the ultimate flower cluster of grasses and sedges, consisting of one to many flowers subtended by two bracts
Stipe	A stalk supporting a structure
Stipitate	Borne on a stipe or stalk
Striate	Marked with fine, usually parallel lines or grooves
Subulate	Awl-shaped; short and narrowly triangular
Terete	Cylindrical; round in cross section
Trigonous	Three-angled; triangular in cross section
Tubercle	The base of the style which is persistent at the apex of the achene
Turbinate	Top-shaped; inverted cone
Undulate	Wavy