Oxycaryum cubense (Cuban bulrush) is a perennial, rhizomatous, emergent sedge of littoral regions. It has slender, triangular, erect stems one to three feet in height and long, slender leaves. Its scaly stolons (runners) often mass together or with the roots/rhizomes of other plants to form floating mats. The inflorescences consist of 1-13 3/4" globose/ovoid heads each with 5 or more spikelets and may be umbellate or monocephalous, and produce pale or red-brown beaked achenes that are ovoid/ellipsoid from spring through fall. Monocephalous plants, apparently native to South America, have been named Oxycaryum cubense forma paraguayense (Pedersen 1995; Carter in Bryson et al. 1996; eFloras, 2007; SE-EPPC, 2007).

Notes
Oxycaryum cubense is a morphologically diverse species (eFloras, 2007). In the southeastern United States, both umbellate and monocephalous forms occur, and the monocephalous form (forma paraguayense) appears to be invasive (SE-EPPC, 2007).

Lifecycle Stages
Oxycaryum cubense (Cuban bulrush) is a perennial that may grow from a seed or a rhizome.
Uses
*Oxycaryum cubense* (Cuban bulrush) is a major food of US mallard ducks (Ramey, 1999) and is important in the cycling of detritus (Bianchini and Cunha-Santino, 2006).

Habitat Description
*Oxycaryum cubense* (Cuban bulrush) is an obligate wetland species (USDA, 2007) and is found in rivers, streams, swamps, marshes, ponds and other forms of standing water. It may be on the water’s edge (up to 50m from the coast) or may detach from the land and float freely (eFloras, 2007).

Reproduction
*Oxycaryum cubense* (Cuban bulrush) reproduces by rhizomes/stolons and by the production of achenes (seeds) (eFloras, 2007).

General Impacts
*Oxycaryum cubense* (Cuban bulrush) forms large monotypic floating mats on the surface of standing water. These mats may send out runners over other emergent plant species and crowd them or exclude them (Schardt, 2006). Cuban bulrush does not appear to be a dangerous invasive throughout much of the world, but is described by Weakley (2007) as "aggressively weedy" and is known to be invasive in Georgia and Alabama, US (Carter in Bryson et al. 1996).

Management Info
Chemical: The herbicide 2, 4-D (2, 4-dichlorophenoxy acetic acid) is effective on mats of *Oxycaryum cubense* (Cuban bulrush) (Schardt, 2006). Marshall et al. (2005) recommend herbicide microsponge mixtures on *O. cubense* for rainfastness.


Compiler: National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

Review: Richard Carter Professor and Curator of the Herbarium (VSC) Biology Department Valdosta State University Georgia United States of America

Publlication date: 2008-01-25

ALIEN RANGE

[1] BOTSWANA
[1] CAMEROON
[1] GHANA
[1] MEXICO
[1] SOUTH AFRICA
[1] ZAMBIA

[1] BURKINA FASO
[1] MADAGASCAR
[1] NIGERIA
[1] UNITED STATES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

29 references found for Oxycaryum cubense

Management information

General information
Summary: This article provides the details of a rapid biological assessment of the aquatic ecosystems of the Okavango Delta, Botswana. Provides distribution information for Oxycaryum cubense.
Summary: An article which examines the effect of the size of particles on mineralization of Oxycaryum cubense. Has some morphological description of the species.
Summary: This document is a checklist of the plants of the Guianas.
Summary: An article that discusses the localities, habitats, associated species, and weed potentials of selected members of the family Cyperaceae.
Summary: Provides distribution information for Oxycaryum cubense.
Summary: This power point presentation introduces new, poorly known, or expected invasive graminoids and vines of southern Georgia, including Oxycaryum cubense.
Summary: Provides distribution information for Oxycaryum cubense.
Summary: Provides distribution information for Oxycaryum cubense.
Summary: An online collection of floras around the world. Provides a description of Oxycaryum cubense.
Summary: Provides information on the non-fish aquatic resources of Nigeria, including distribution information for Oxycaryum cubense.

Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.


Summary: This article discusses the ecology of the lower tropical rain-forest at Barro Colorado Island, Panama. Provides distribution information for Oxycaryum cubense.

Summary: This study on the mountain gorillas of the Republic of Congo provides distribution information for Oxycaryum cubense.


Summary: A guide to the identification and delineation of inland wetlands in South Africa.


Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council. 2007. 2007 Additions to the Alabama Invasive Plant Council’s list of invasive plants.

Summary: This pamphlet provides descriptions of the 2007 additions to Alabama’s invasive plant list, including Oxycaryum cubense.


Summary: A website that provides standardized information on the plants of the US.


Summary: An identification guide to the flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and surrounding areas (in progress). Does not yet have the identification characteristics for Oxycaryum cubense.


Summary: This database provides nomenclature and distribution information of vascular plant and bryophyte species.
Available from: http://mobot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/vast.html [Accessed 02 August 2007].