GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: ***Oxycaryum cubense***

Oxycaryum cubense 简体中文 正體中文

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Liliopsida	Cyperales	Cyperaceae

Common name

Synonym

Scirpus cubensis , (Poepp. & Kunth)
Oxycaryum schomburgkianum , Nees
Oxycaryum cubense , (Poepp. & Kunth) Palla forma *paraguayense* (Maury) Pedersen

Similar species

Summary

Oxycaryum cubense (Cuban bulrush) is a wetland sedge found throughout the Americas and in parts of Africa. It forms large floating mats on standing water and may be aggressive and invasive in some areas. However, it does not appear to be a species of concern in much of its range and is a good source of food for ducks, as well as important in cycling detritus.

view this species on IUCN Red List

Species Description

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 detatch 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.

Principal source: Adams, C.D. 1994. Cyperaceae. Pages 262-485 in G. Davidse, M.S. Sousa, and A.O. Chater, eds. Flora Mesoamericana, Vol. 6: Alismataceae a Cyperaceae. Coyacán, Mexico: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad Universitaria.
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Compiler: National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

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ALIEN RANGE

[1] BOTSWANA
[1] CAMEROON
[1] GHANA
[1] MEXICO
[1] SOUTH AFRICA
[1] ZAMBIA
[1] BURKINA FASO
[1] CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
[1] MADAGASCAR
[1] NIGERIA
[1] UNITED STATES

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