



**Common Name:** BEARDED BEAKSEDEGE

**Scientific Name:** *Rhynchospora crinipes* Gale

**Other Commonly Used Names:** hairy-peduncled beakrush, mosquito beaksedge, Alabama beakrush

**Previously Used Scientific Names:** *Rhynchospora filifolia* Gray var. *crinipes* (Gale) Kukenthal

**Family:** Cyperaceae (sedge)

**Rarity Ranks:** G2/S1

**State Legal Status:** Special Concern

**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** OBL

**Description:** Perennial **herb**, solitary or forming clumps. **Stems** 2 - 3¼ feet tall (60 - 100 cm), slightly 3-angled, leafy, flexible, curving, sometimes rooting at lower nodes. **Leaves** shorter than the stem, less than ¼ inch (2 - 5 mm) wide, flat with a long, pointed tip. **Flower clusters** widely spaced on the upper part of the stem, 3 - 10 clusters per stem; each cluster with several narrow,

pointed spikelets and a long, leafy bract. **Spikelets** up to ¼ inch (5 mm) long, covered with reddish-brown scales and containing 2 - 4 shiny, brown, seed-like fruits. **Fruit** less than ⅛ inch (1.7 - 2.5 mm) long, including the pointed tip and the stalk; glossy brown with a pale center, and 6 barbed bristles attached to the base of the fruit; fruit attached to a tiny **stalk** covered with curly, white hairs. Beaksedge species are difficult to identify; 10x or higher magnification is needed to examine the fruits.

**Similar Species:** Thread-leaved beaksedge (*Rhynchospora filifolia*) is a smaller plant with a thin, wiry stem often leaning on other plants; it has 2 - 3 flower clusters per stem; the fruit stalk has only bristles, not hairs. Loose-head beaksedge (*R. chalarocephala*) does not form clumps; its scales are dark brown and the fruit stalk lacks hairs.

**Related Rare Species:** At least 15 species of beaksedge are rare in Georgia. See Georgia beaksedge (*Rhynchospora culixa*), coastal beaksedge (*R. pleiantha*), pineland beaksedge (*R. punctata*), solitary beaksedge (*R. solitaria*), and Thorne's beaksedge (*R. thornei*) elsewhere on this website.

**Habitat:** Banks and sandbars of cool blackwater streams and spring runs, in full sun or light shade. Sometimes roots on stumps and tree bases.

**Life History:** Bearded beaksedge is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually as well as vegetatively by forming clumps from lateral offshoots and by the spread of rhizomes and stolons. All beaksedge flowers are wind-pollinated; their fruits are dispersed by water and gravity, and also by animals, assisted by the tiny, barbed bristles at the base of the fruit which attach to fur and feathers.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during fruiting (July–frost) because fruits are needed for identification.

**Range:** Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina.

**Threats:** Degradation of stream quality by pollution and sedimentation. Clearcutting and timber harvest in streamside zones. Stream bank grazing by stock animals.

**Georgia Conservation Status:** Approximately 8 populations are known, none on conservation land.

**Conservation and Management Recommendations:** Prevent erosion and sedimentation into streams during bridge-building, road construction, timber harvesting, and other clearing. Maintain streamside buffer zones. Exclude grazing stock from streamsidess.

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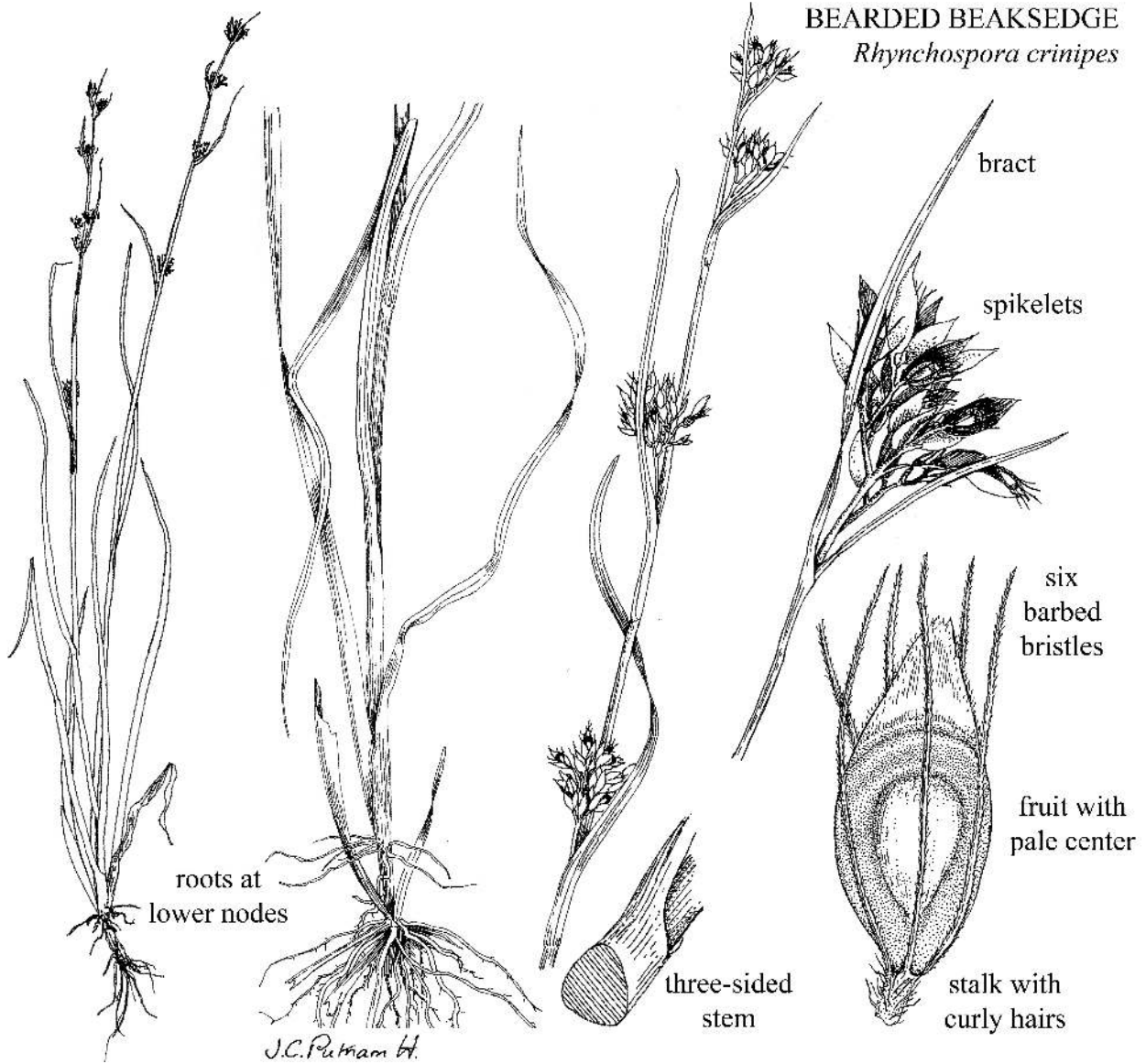
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L. Chafin, August 2008: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

BEARDED BEAKSEDGE  
*Rhynchospora crinipes*



roots at  
lower nodes

J.C. Putnam dt.

three-sided  
stem

bract

spikelets

six  
barbed  
bristles

fruit with  
pale center

stalk with  
curly hairs



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Inflorescence