Noteworthy Collections

Virginia

An Account of Schoenoplectus mucronatus (L.) Palla in Virginia with Comments on Species Introductions in Wetland Mitigation Sites

Douglas A. DeBerry,1* Nicola McGoff,2 and Nina D. Zinn3

1Environmental Science and Policy Program, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187
2The Nature Conservancy, 490 Westfield Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901
3The Nature Conservancy, 530 East Main Street, Suite 800, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Schoenoplectus mucronatus (L.) Palla (CYPERACEAE)—King William County: Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (TNC) wetland restoration site, approximately 8 km west of Aylett on West River Road (Route 600). Approximately 50 plants were found growing in a seasonally ponded area along the southeast perimeter of the site among the following mixture of species: Persicaria maculosa Gray, Andropogon virginicus L., Rumex crispus L., Eleocharis palustris (L.) Roem. & Schult., Portulaca oleracea L., Digitaria ischaemum (Schreb.) Schreb. ex Muhl., and Bidens aristosa (Michx.) Britton, 14 July 2009, N. McGoff and N. Zinn. Voucher specimen deposited at the Massey Herbarium at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia (VPI 105248).

Significance. This is the first account of bog bulrush [Schoenoplectus mucronatus (L.) Palla] in Virginia and, to the best of our knowledge, the first record of this species within the South Atlantic states (Smith 2002, Virginia Botanical Associates 2009, United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service [USDA-NRCS] 2009), likely following points of introduction from importation of biogenic goods. Populations represented by early records of this species from New Brunswick and New Jersey (prior to 1900) have presumably been extirpated; records from other Atlantic states (e.g., Pennsylvania, New York) are of doubtful persistence (Smith 2002). This finding represents one more in a series of species introductions observed in association with wetland mitigation in Virginia (Perry et al. 1998, DeBerry 2006, DeBerry and Perry 2007). In the case of created or restored wetlands, “introduction” may be viewed in an additional context beyond the ostensible native or non-native status of a species. What has come of interest to researchers and wetland managers is the mode of introduction, i.e., whether such species are “getting in” via natural dispersal vectors, or by anthropogenic means related to the construction and/or planting of the site. This question was first raised by Perry et al. (1998) for similar records in Virginia mitigation sites, but the topic has been covered extensively in other areas of the country (see review in Spieles 2005). From research on seed dispersal and seedbank dynamics in wetlands, it is clear that species such as bog bulrush are capable of colonizing wetland mitigation sites via natural dispersal vectors such as migra-

*email address: ddeberrv@vhb.com
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