

EXTENSION OF DISTRIBUTION OF *RUPPIA MARITIMA*
VAR. *OBLIQUA* (SCHUR.) ASCHERS. AND GRAEBN.

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Very little taxonomic work has been done on the varieties of *Ruppia maritima*. One thorough work was done by Fernald and Wiegand (1914) on this species in eastern North America in which 10 varieties were treated as to distribution and taxonomy. They came to the opinion, after a study of many collections, that the American treatment of these plants had been much too conservative. They firmly believed that the described varieties of *Ruppia maritima* were natural taxonomic forms. Gleason (1952) intimated that many of the described varieties are ecological variants.

Ruppia maritima has been found in various locations around the central Gulf coast of Florida by the author. These plants were found in sterile condition until April and May, 1958, when they were in flowering state. In this condition it was possible to make a determination to variety. The varietal characteristics of *R. maritima* var. *obliqua* are: carpels ovoid, slightly oblique but not strongly eccentric or curved, bluntish or not tapering to a conspicuous beak; peduncles in maturity 1.5-6 cm. long, rarely spiraling; podogynes 0.6-2.5 cm. long.

Ruppia maritima var. *obliqua* was listed from the Magdalen Islands and Prince Edward Island by Fernald and Wiegand (1914) who also said that these two localities were the only American records for this variety. Fernald (1950) recorded it from Newfoundland to Rimouski Co., Quebec, south to Maine.

This variety was found in Crystal Bay in Citrus Co., on Cats Point Bank, Boca Ciega Bay, and in Upper Tampa Bay and Old Tampa Bay, Pinellas Co., Florida.

This constitutes an extreme discontinuous range of distribution. No explanation is offered if this is actually the distribution range. However, it is most probable that owing to the paucity of work done on the varieties of *Ruppia maritima* to date, the range of this variety may be much more widespread than has hitherto been reported.

¹ Contribution No. 9 from the Fla. State Board of Conservation Marine Laboratory, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Sincere appreciation is accorded to Conservation Agent E. R. O'Berry who aided in the Crystal Bay, Citrus Co., Florida, collection.

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