

JOB REPORT

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Project No. M-4-R-1 . Date July 21, 1959

Project Name: General Ecological Survey of the Matagorda Bay Area.

Period Covered: June 3, 1958 - June 15, 1959. Job No. C-2

Basic Survey of the Floral Components of the Matagorda Bay Area

Objective: To prepare a checklist of the forms present in Area M-4 and locate them on a study map.

Procedure: Samples of flora will be collected throughout the area by trawl, pushnet, and hand. Collections will be made in conjunction with Job No. A-2 and B-2.

Findings: The checklist of plants collected and identified in Area M-4 is included in this report. The distribution of the flora in this area is shown on Figure 1. Three plant specimens were collected and sent away for identification. The final identification had not been completed at the time of this report.

Ulva sp. has been collected along the Matagorda Peninsula growing on oyster clumps in shallow water not exceeding approximately 4 feet. Ulva has been observed washed up along the beach at Palacios Bayou, but has not been found growing in this area.

Gracilaria sp. and Laurencia sp. occur synonymously throughout this area; Gracilaria thus far appears to be more abundant of the two. Gracilaria and Laurencia are abundant in 6 inches to 4 feet of water on sand or shell bottoms. The living plants are usually found anchored to a firm object, often a shell or firm mud tube.

Gracilaria and Laurencia have been collected in the trawl at 11 deep water stations (over 5 feet deep). The plants only occur at these stations occasionally; thus the author feels that the plants do not grow here but are carried into these areas by currents.

Ruppia maritima, the most abundant submergent in area M-4, occurs on sandy bottom. On the north shore of Matagorda Bay Ruppia grows in wave rows on the shelf proper and in thick mats along the shore. The shallow water flats on the south shore of Keller Bay has a dense growth of Ruppia covering the bottom with only occasional breaks.

Diplanthera wrightii has been observed in scattered growths in the Port Alto and Salt Lake areas of Carancahua Bay. Diplanthera does occur on the peninsula, but its abundance as compared to Ruppia is unknown at this time.

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Known Flora Distribution in Area M-4

