Pond water-starwort

*Callitriche stagnalis*

**Description**

Difficult to distinguish from other *Callitriche* species unless fruit is present; survey in late summer and fall. It can be distinguished by its fruits, which are almost round (orbicular).

**Habit**

Aquatic; perennial, delicate.

**Leaves**

Tiny, opposite, entire, forms vary, floating leaves spatulate, submergent leaves linear.

**Stems**

10-30 cm (4-12 in) in length, usually branched, rising to surface or sprawling.

**Flowers**

Tiny flowers lack sepals and petals and are located at the leaf bases on minute stalks, 2-4 tiny whitish bracts emerge from the flower base.

**Fruits and Seeds**

Small, located at the leaf bases. Four

compartments, each containing one seed. Pond:
Oval, 1.2-1.8 mm long, 1.2-1.7 mm wide, narrow
margin all around (wing); bracts at base.
Autumnal: 1.1 to 1.6 mm long, 1.2 to 1.8 mm
wide, no margin, fruit without bracts.

Habitat
Native to Europe. Found in shallow waters of pond, marches or in protected areas in lakes or streams
with slow-moving water.

Reproduction
By seed and clonally, dispersed by boats, vehicles, and animals—the latter both by fragments and
ingested seed. Not all produce seeds.

Similar
Hard to distinguish from other water-starworts (Callitriche spp.) when not in fruit.

Monitoring and Rapid Response
Hand-pulling, cutting or raking making sure to remove all fragments. Clearing off boats and other
water-related equipment will help prevent spreading.

Credits
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