

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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