

Mudmat

Glossostigma cleistanthum

Description

Introduced to the United States as an aquarium plant.

Habit

Herbaceous perennial if submerged or annual if emergent, shallow root system and can form dense mats.

Leaves

Very small, spatulate shaped (having linear bases with broadened tips) and reaches lengths of only 1 to 2 cm.

Stems

Creeping stems grow horizontally just below the soil surface and root along the nodes.

Flowers

If submerged, tiny, cleistogamous (self pollinating) flowers are produced, but if stems are emergent, the plants produce small, bell-shaped, pastel colored flowers on short stalks.





Fruits and Seeds

Small capsules are produced that carry seeds.

Due to its dense growing habit, thousands of seeds can be produced from one square meter of plants.

Habitat

Native to Australia and New Zealand. Found in fresh tidal marshes or flats, shores of rivers or lakes.

Reproduction

Vegetatively from fragments.

Similar

May be confused with other small aquatic creeping plants, particularly in the Limosella or Utricularia families.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Can spread from fragments so care must be taken to destroy all parts of the plant if hand pulling. Aquatic herbicides might provide some control though little information is known.

Credits

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