

HYDROCHARITACEAE – TAPE GRASS or FROG BIT FAMILY

Plant: herbs, aquatic (fresh or marine)

Stem: with or without stem, rhizomatous

Root:

Leaves: alternate or opposite or whorled or basal, stipules present or absent

Flowers: imperfect (monoecious or dioecious) or perfect; petals and sepal 6 (rarely 3) or none; stamens 0 to many; ovary inferior if present

Fruit: berry like

Other: Monocotyledons Group

Genera:

HYDROCHARITACEAE – TAPE GRASS or FROG BIT FAMILY

Elodea [Canadian Waterweed]; *Elodea canadensis* Michx.

American Frogbit [Sponge Plant]; *Limnobium spongia* (Bosc) Rich. ex Steud.

American Eel Grass [Tape Grass]; *Vallisneria americana* Michx.

Elodea [Canadian Waterweed]

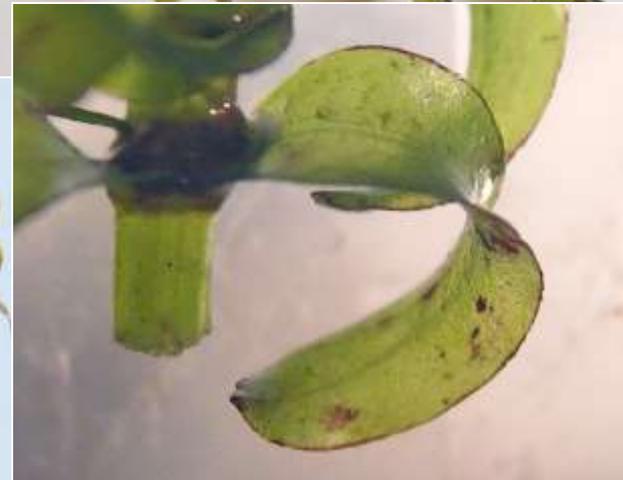
Elodea canadensis Michx.

Hydrocharitaceae (Tape Grass or Frog-Bit Family)

Wire Road Conservation Area, Stone County, Missouri

Notes: aquatic plant, mostly submerged except for flowers, plant may be attached or not, often found in large masses; dioecious, flowers 3-parted and white, both pistillate and staminate flowers on long thin stalks, flowers waxy and float; the plant has leaves that are usually whorled in threes, upper stem leaves usually > 2 mm wide (up to 4.5 mm); springs, rivers and ponds; summer to early fall (can be a pest as most reproduction is by plant fragments)

[V Max Brown, 2014]



American Frogbit [Sponge Plant]

Limnobium spongia (Bosc) Rich. ex Steud.

Hydrocharitaceae (Tape Grass or Frog-Bit Family)

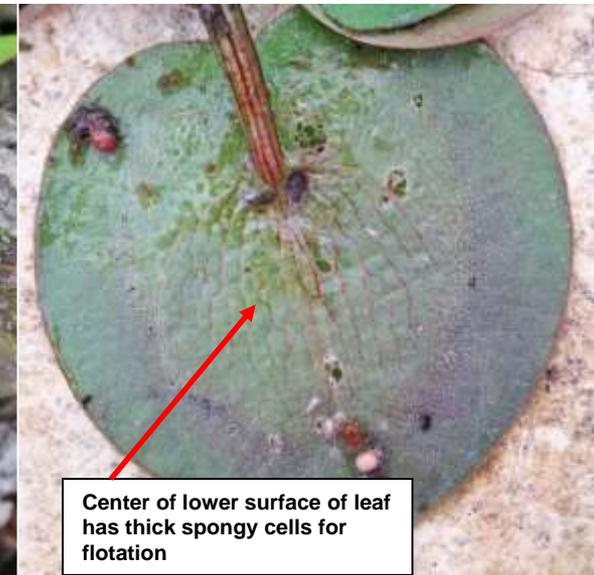
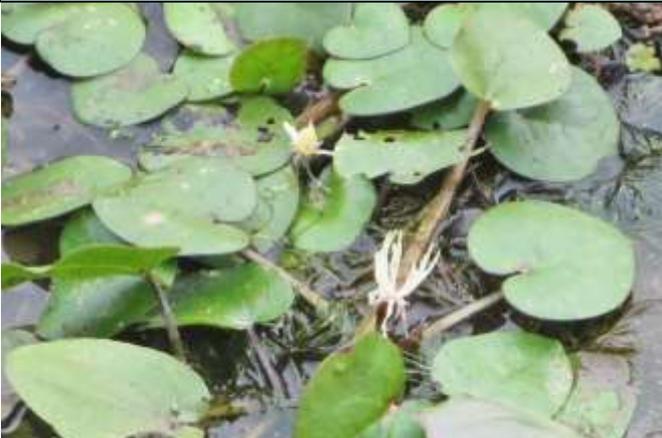
Duck Creek Conservation Area, Stoddard County, Missouri

Notes: Monoecious aquatic plant, leaf rosettes floating to emergent, rosettes forming on long stolons that root at nodes; leaves ovate to orbicular with a cordate base, tips somewhat pointed to rounded, blades up to 8 cm long, margins smooth to finely toothed; both staminate and pistillate flowers white; muddy banks, sloughs, ditches and swampy areas; summer to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2018]



pistillate Flower - 3+3 sepals and petals, white, fuzzy stigmas are fused at base



Center of lower surface of leaf has thick spongy cells for flotation

American Eel Grass [Tape Grass]

Vallisneria americana Michx.

Hydrocharitaceae (Tape Grass or Frog-Bit Family)

Pokagon State Park, Steuben County, Indiana

Notes: aquatic plant; dioecious, pistillate flowers with 3 petals, white, and 3 sepals on a very long spathe (to several cm) on a long coiled peduncle that reaches the water surface, staminate flowers green, very small, also on peduncle; leaves submerged, ribbon like; lakes and streams; summer to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2009]

