

## CERATOPHYLLACEAE – HORNWORT FAMILY

**Plant:** herbs, aquatic and floating

**Stem:**

**Root:** none

**Leaves:** in whorls, mostly sessile, divided 1 or 2(3) times, usually with minute teeth; no stipules

**Flowers:** imperfect (monoecious), pistillate and staminate flowers from leaf axils or nodes; small and mostly solitary (or 2-3); no petals or sepals but with bracts; 3 to many stamens; ovary superior, 1 pistil, 1 style, 1 carpel, 1 ovule (may often reproduce by fragmentation)

**Fruit:** nutlet or achene

**Other:** ponds, lakes and small streams; worldwide; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** only one genus; *ceratophyllum* (hornwort)

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Coon's tail [Hornwort]; *Ceratophyllum demersum* L.

# Coon's tail [Hornwort]

*Ceratophyllum demersum* L.  
Ceratophyllaceae (Hornwort Family)

Wire Road Conservation Area, Stone County, Missouri

Notes: aquatic, usually submerged shallow water plant; flower with no petals, sepals small and green, in leaf axils, most reproduction by breaking off of buds; leaves filiform, whorled, divided 1 time (sometimes 2 or 3), somewhat brittle, with fine teeth (projections), upper leaves crowded (hence name Coon's Tail); spring to fall

[V Max Brown, 2014]

