

BIDENS BECKII Torr.  
Water-marigold

FAMILY: Asteraceae (Compositae)

SYNONYMS: *Megalodonta beckii* (Torr.) Greene

HABIT: Aquatic perennial herb; flowers Aug.-Oct., fruits Sept.-Nov.

SIMILAR SPECIES: In the vegetative state, this species resembles several submersed aquatic species such as *Myriophyllum* and *Ranunculus*. It can be distinguished by the combination of finely dissected submersed leaves and toothed, lanceolate, emergent leaves. Its bright yellow composite flowers are unique among aquatic plants.

TOTAL RANGE: N.S. to s. Que. and MN, s. to NJ, PA, OH, WI and MO; also WA and OR.

STATE RANGE: There are pre-1960 records from Ashtabula, Erie, Lake, Medina, Portage and Stark Counties.

HABITAT: Shallow waters of ponds, lakes and slow streams.

HAZARDS: Drainage, pollution, filling and channelization.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor due to lack of clean, natural lakes in northern Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect only the stem with fruits and flowers; do not disturb the root system.

COMMENTS: Many authors continue to place this taxon in the genus *Bidens*. However, its distinct chromosome number, unique aquatic habit, as well vegetative and fruit morphology justify its recognition as a separate genus (Roberts 1985). The species exhibits several features in common with other submersed aquatics, such as turions (overwintering structures) and heterophylly (two types of leaves on the same stem). The species should be sought in natural lakes and ponds throughout northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Fisher, T.R. 1988. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 3. Asteraceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus. 280 pp.

Roberts, M.L. 1985. The cytology, biology and systematics of *Megalodonta beckii* (Compositae). *Aquatic Botany* 21: 99-110.



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