

ECHINODORUS BERTEROI (Sprengel) Fassett.  
Burhead

FAMILY: Alismataceae

SYNONYMS: *Echinodorus rostratus*; *Echinodorus cordifolius*, misapplied (see Comments).

HABIT: Aquatic or semi-aquatic herbaceous annual, scape erect, 5-50 cm.; but in Ohio more likely 10 cm. or less; flowering June-October; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Non-flowering material of *Echinodorus* closely resembles several species of *Sagittaria*. Flowering or fruiting material, however, is easily distinguished. *Echinodorus* is rather conspicuous in fruit; the spiny appearance of the fruiting head is very different from the fruiting heads of *Sagittaria*.

TOTAL RANGE: C. America and W.I. to CA, TX, and n. in the Mississippi river drainage to OH, IL, and SD.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Butler, Hamilton, Pickaway, Ross, and Warren counties. There are pre-1980 records from Pike County.

HABITAT: Muddy shores and shallow water of lakes, ponds, slow-moving streams, and ditches, also in swamp woods and river bottoms.

HAZARDS: Draining, filling, or any other alteration of the wetland habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor. It seems to be less tolerant of disturbance than other Ohio members of the family.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: When in fruit, this species is conspicuous and easily identified. The close similarity of the leaves, however, to the common arrowheads (*Sagittaria spp.*) may lead to its being overlooked. It well may be more frequent than the records indicate. It should be sought throughout western Ohio.

In a treatment by Fassett (1955), used by some subsequent authors, this species becomes *E. berteroi* var. *lanceolatus* (see Synonyms). Earlier authors also apparently misapplied the name *E. cordifolius* to this plant. Some authors have split *Echinodorus* into *formae* based upon leaf shape. These appear to be trivial growth forms or responses to environments with no taxonomic relevance.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae of Ohio : Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 464 p.

Fassett, N.C. 1955. *Echinodorus* in the American tropics. *Rhodora* 57: 133-156, 174-188, 202-212.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. *Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada*. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.



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