

ELATINE TRIANDRA Schkuhr.
Elatine

FAMILY: Elatinaceae

SYNONYMS: *Elatine brachysperma* Gray

HABIT: Creeping or submersed annual herb, with stems 0.5-2.5 cm, forming mats 1-5 cm diameter; flowers and fruits July-Oct.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species closely resembles species of the genus *Callitriche* (water-starwort), differing only in minute floral and fruiting characters (see Mohlenbrock 1978).

TOTAL RANGE: Our var. *brachysperma* occurs from IL and OH, w. to CA and OR. The var. *triandra* occurs in Eurasia and in w. North America, whereas var. *americana* occurs in coastal areas from e. Que. and N.S., s. to VA.

STATE RANGE: In Ohio, the species has only been collected in 1935 in Pickaway County.

HABITAT: Floating in shallow water or rooted on muddy shores of temporary ponds; oxbows and other riverine habitats.

HAZARDS: Alteration of drainage, cultivation, stream channelization.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good. Many annual, mudflat species have long-lived seeds that may respond to disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature fruiting material is essential for identification.

COMMENTS: This obscure plant is poorly known throughout its total range and is easily overlooked due to its small size and nondescript habitat. Population size tends to vary markedly from year to year. The species should be sought in the Scioto River system of south-central Ohio. The taxonomic treatment followed here considers *Elatine triandra* to be a wide-ranging species with three geographic varieties (Duncan 1964).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Duncan, W.H. 1964. New *Elatine* populations in the southeastern United States. *Rhodora* 66: 47-53.

Fassett, N.C. 1939. Notes from the herbarium of the University of Wisconsin. No. 17. *Elatine* and other aquatics. *Rhodora* 41: 367-377.

Fernald, M.L. 1941. *Elatine americana* and *E. triandra*. *Rhodora* 43: 208-211.

Mohlenbrock, R.H. 1978. The illustrated flora of Illinois. Flowering plants. Hollies to loasas. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL. 315 pp.



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