

MYRIOPHYLLUM SIBIRICUM Komarov  
American Water-milfoil

FAMILY: Haloragaceae

SYNONYMS: *Myriophyllum exalbescens* Fern.; *Myriophyllum spicatum* L. var. *exalbescens* (Fern.) Jepson; *Myriophyllum spicatum* L. ssp. *squamosum* Hartman f.; *Myriophyllum spicatum* L. var. *squamosum* (Hartman f.) Hartman f.

HABIT: Perennial, usually aquatic, often producing turions in late September-October; flowers born on emerged spikes; flowering and fruiting June-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Close examination of vegetative and flowering parts is required to accurately determine *M. sibiricum* from other members of this genus (see COMMENTS).

TOTAL RANGE: Lab. to Alaska, s. to Md., Va., Ill. Mo., N.M., Ohio, and California; also in n. Eurasia.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Erie, Geauga, Logan, Portage, and Williams counties. Pre-1980 records are from Holmes, Licking, Lorain, Ottawa, and Stark counties.

HABITAT: Ponds, lakes, and quiet streams; neutral to calcareous waters.

HAZARDS: Alteration of the aquatic habitat; competition from *M. spicatum*.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor; even though fruit can be transported by waterfowl, many lakes and streams are polluted and contain the weedy *M. spicatum*.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Flowering or fruiting material is best for positive identification, but material with turions can be determined with caution. It is best to collect specimens in late September to October when fruit and turions are present.

COMMENTS: *M. sibiricum* has disappeared from most of its range because of alterations to its aquatic habitat and the introduction of *M. spicatum*. Many former locations of this species are now infested with *M. spicatum*. Recent field surveys have been unable to relocate some of the post-1970 records and these populations may no longer be extant.

It can be distinguished from the introduced pest *M. spicatum* by its production of turions in late summer to fall. Voss (1985) lists several vegetative characters that can be used to determine sterile specimens of *Myriophyllum*. Weber (1972) discusses the importance of turions in the species reproduction.

Many authors (see Cooperrider, 1995) recognize it as a subspecies of *M. spicatum*.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Ceska, A. and O. Ceska. 1986. Notes on *Myriophyllum* (Haloragaceae) in the Far East: the identity of *Myriophyllum sibiricum* Komarov. *Taxon* 35: 95-100.

Cooperrider, T.S. 1995. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 2. Linaceae through Campanulaceae.

Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 656 pp.

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.

Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.

Weber, James A. 1972. The importance of turions in the propagation of *Myriophyllum exalbescens* (Haloragidaceae) in Douglas Lake, Michigan. Mich. Bot. 11: 115-121.



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