

NUPHAR VARIEGATA Engelm.
Bullhead Lily

FAMILY: Nymphaeaceae

SYNONYM: *Nuphar luteum* (L.) Sibth. & Sm. ssp. *variegatum* (Durand) Beal

HABIT: Aquatic perennial herb with floating leaves to 25 cm.; flowering May-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Nuphar variegata* is very similar to the more common *Nuphar advena*. In *N. variegata*, the petioles are conspicuously flattened and winged and the sepals are red-tinged within; in *N. advena*, the petioles are terete to more or less flattened above and the sepals are rarely red-tinged.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland to British Columbia, s. to DE, n. OH, IA, KS, and ID.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Lucas, Ottawa, and Summit counties. A pre-1960 record exists from Erie County.

HABITAT: A variety of open aquatic situations: pond margins, slow streams, pools, and marshes.

HAZARDS: Drainage or other alteration of the aquatic habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly poor due to development and pollution of its aquatic habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Observations should be made in the field on the shape of the petiole cross-section and the color of the inside of the sepals. Special efforts should be made to carefully press open flowers.

COMMENTS: *N. variegata* is at the extreme southern edge of its range in northern Ohio. However, potentially it could exist in other northern counties. It is probably overlooked due to its similarity to the common *N. advena* and the difficulty of collecting it in its aquatic habitat.

Where *Nuphar variegata* overlaps in range with *N. advena* (e.g., northern Ohio and southern Michigan), intermediate plants have been reported. This and other factors lead Beal (1956) to reduce *N. variegata* to *N. luteum* ssp. *variegatum*.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Beal, E.O. 1956. Taxonomic revision of the genus *Nuphar* Sm. of North America and Europe. *Elisha Mitchell Sci. Soc.*, J. 72: 317-346.

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Mitchell, R.S. and E.O. Beal. 1979. Magnoliaceae through Ceratophyllaceae of New York State. New York State Museum Bull. 435. 62 p.

Wood, C.E., Jr. 1959. The genera of the Nymphaeaceae and Ceratophyllaceae in the southeastern United States. J. Arn. Arb. 40: 94- 112.



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