

POTAMOGETON HILLII Morong
Hill's Pondweed

FAMILY: Potamogetonaceae

SYNONYM: *Potamogeton porteri* Fern. (in part) (see Comments).

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, by means of either overwintering buds (turions) or rhizomes, plant totally submerged except for a flowering spike; fruiting in late June-late August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Potamogeton hillii* is a member of a distinctive group of pondweeds with linear, wholly submerged leaves. Many members of this group are similar. Leaves are variable and subject to environmental control, and stipules, inflorescences, and fruits are useful for good identification. This species is distinguished by the largest fruits in the group (3-4 mm. long), a capitate inflorescence, and short peduncles.

TOTAL RANGE: Irregularly from MA and VT to PA and w. to Ontario, OH, and MI.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Ashtabula and Geauga counties.

HABITAT: Cold, clear, slow-moving water in streams, ponds, and beaver ponds with a muddy substrate. Hellquist (1977, 1984) has observed it mostly in highly alkaline waters.

HAZARDS: Some pondweeds are known to be very intolerant of degradation of water quality (Haynes, 1974). Polluted waters, dredging, or drainage of the habitat have very likely caused the decline of this species over its range.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly very poor due to the degradation of its habitat in northeast Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Identification is best made with fruiting material.

COMMENTS: *Potamogeton porteri* was described by Fernald (1932) as a species similar to *P. hillii*, but with wider obtuse stipules and wider leaves without bristle-tips. Haynes (1974) has observed *P. hillii* to exhibit a diverse range of forms, however, and believes *P. porteri* to represent a morphological extreme of *P. hillii*.

P. hillii is believed to hybridize with other linear-leaved *Potamogeton* species to produce *P. longiligulatus* Fern., but the parentage of this hybrid is open to question.

P. hillii should be sought in non-polluted alkaline waters in northeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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