

CALLITRICHE VERNA L.
Water-starwort

FAMILY: Callitrichaceae

SYNONYMS: *Callitriche verna* L. emend. Kuetz.
Callitriche palustris L.

HABIT: Aquatic perennial herb; flowering April-November; fruiting May- November.
Fruits usually present on well-developed plants.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Callitriche verna* is very similar to and easily confused with other members of this genus. It is distinguished by critical examination of fruit characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, in America s. to West Virginia, Nebraska, Texas, and California; also in South America.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Lake, and Mahoning Counties. Pre-1980 records are from Carroll, Jackson, Lorain, Trumbull, and Wayne Counties.

HABITAT: In shallow quiet water or on muddy shores.

HAZARDS: Drainage or other alteration of the wetland habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly poor due to pollution or alteration of its native habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature fruiting material is necessary for positive identification.

COMMENTS: It is likely that this species is more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It is easily misidentified and could easily be overlooked due to its small size and the difficulty of collecting it in its wetland habitat. It should be sought throughout Ohio, especially in the northern half of the state.
Some authors refer to this plant as *Callitriche palustris* (see Synonyms). However, most recent authors, including Fassett (1951), treat it as *C. verna*.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T. S. 1995. The Dicotyledonae of Ohio. Part 2: Linaceae through Campanulaceae, Ohio State University 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.

Fassett, N.C. 1951. *Callitriche* in the new world. *Rhodora* 53: 137-155, 161-182, 209-221.



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