

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Leafy stem Australian Plant Image Index, photographer R Viceckl, Hungary.



Leafy stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer DJ Mborhead, USA



Line drawings. Illustration: A Barley, f. plant; g. female flower at the base of a leaf; h. leaf margin. National Herbarium of Victoria, ©2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Hydrilla, Water Thyme, Florida Elodea

Family

Hydrocharitaceae

Where found

Aquatic. Sydney area and north, the lower Blue Mountains, and along the Murray River.

Notes

Submerged **perennial** herb with stems to 8 m long, attached to the substrate, usually forming a canopy immediately below the water surface. Leaves in **whorls** of 3–8, 0.6–4 cm long, to 5 mm wide, hairless, green, often with red-brown markings, 1-veined; margins coarsely toothed with fine translucent teeth; tips blunt to rounded with the **midvein** extended into a fine tooth. Male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers translucent, with 3 '**petals**' each 1–3 mm long. Male flower single, released as a globular, mature unopened bud and opening as a free-floating flower on the water surface. Female flowers 1.5–10 cm long, mostly single, sometimes 2 together. Flowering: during warmer months.

Rare Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Hydrilla-verticillata> (accessed 19 January, 2021)

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