

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stem Photographer Matthew Baker, Tas



Flowering plants. Photographer Matthew Baker, Tas

Common name

Parrots feather

Family

Haloragaceae

Where found

In and around waterways and freshwater dams and lakes. Mainly Sydney area. Occasionally elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced perennial aquatic or semi-aquatic herb, rooting at the lower **nodes**, forming dense mats of vegetation on the water surface. Stems **glaucous**, to 5 m long, usually emerging up to 0.30 m above the water. Leaves **whorled**, glaucous. **Emergent** leaves crowded at the tips of the stems, glaucous, usually in whorls of 5-6, mostly 2.5-3.5 cm long, 5-15 mm wide, deeply **dissected** into 20-36 **linear segments**, appearing feathery. Submerged leaves in whorls of 4-6, to 4 cm long, 8-12 mm wide, dissected. Male and female flowers on different plants. Only female plants in Australia. Female flowers white, tiny, 0.5 mm in diameter, with 4 **sepals**, 0 **petals**, single at the base of whorled leaves. Flowers mostly spring–summer.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. Pest plant ACT.

Definite identification of species of *Myriophyllum* often requires microscopic examination of the seed cases, beyond the scope of this key.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Myriophyllum~aquaticum> (accessed 24 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



Android edition



iOS edition

Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY)