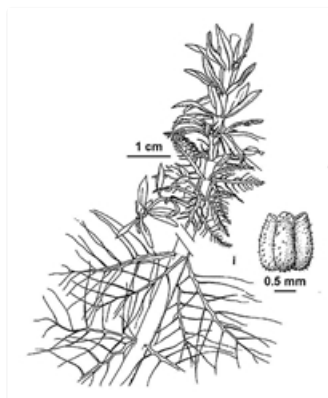


# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Leafy stems. Photographer Euan Moore, Murray River



Line drawings. Illustration: G. Thontinson, i. branch (with submerged and emergent leaves); seed case. National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

## Common name

Cat-tail, Coarse Water-milfoil

## Family

Haloragaceae

## Where found

Aquatic. In lakes, and backwaters of slowly moving watercourses. Ranges, tablelands, and Western Slopes.

## Notes

**Perennial** herb, stems to 2 m long, usually 3–4 mm in diameter, rooting mainly at the base. Parts of the plants above the water much-branched. **Emergent** leaves in **whorls** of 3–5 just above the water, **alternating** up the stems towards the tips of the stems, mostly 0.6–1 cm long, up to 3 mm wide, **glaucous**, more or less red-tipped to purplish, margins **entire**. Submerged leaves in whorls of 3–5, mostly 1.2–2 cm long, **compound**, with 16–20 narrow **segments** like the teeth of a comb. Male and female flowers on the same stem. Male flowers with 4 yellow to reddish hooded **petals** 2.1–2.6 mm long. Female flowers with 0 **sepals**, 0 petals, **stigmas** reddish. Flowers single at the base of **whorled** leaves.

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

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

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



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