

Working Title

**PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO AQUATIC AND
RIPARIAN PLANTS OF IRELAND**

BSBI Meeting, Botanic Gardens

30th March 2019

Photographic Guide to Aquatic & Riparian Plants of Ireland

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Is there a need for such a Guide? A resounding YES

Originally for general ecologists (in IFI) – up to 40 commonest species

GENERALIST, but also - naturalist, ecological consultant, general botanist

... and maybe even the occasional specialist will take a peek

Photographic Guide to Aquatic & Riparian Plants of Ireland

Sponsor: Inland Fisheries Ireland

Publisher: tba

Suggested publication date: early 2020

Price: €?

How will the Guide Look and Feel?

Softback

'Haslam'-sized

Glossy

Full of quality and appropriate photos

Relatively short on text

Photographic Guide to Aquatic & Riparian Plants of Ireland

CONTENT

Takes a zonation-based approach :

plants in context of the habitat where they typically occur

Aquatic

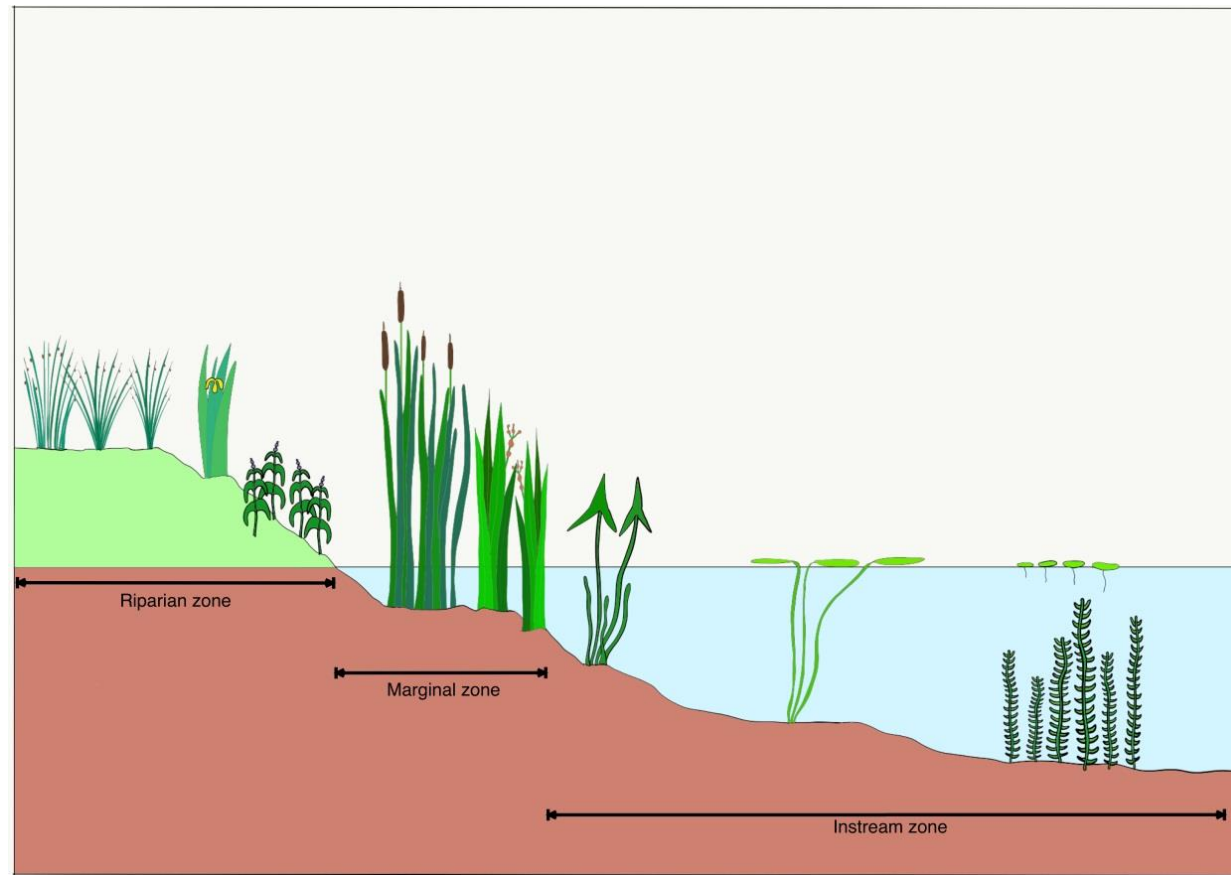
Free-floating

Floating-leaved

Marginal

Riparian

Invasive species



Photographic Guide to Aquatic & Riparian Plants of Ireland

CONTENT

Higher plants

Algae (including charophytes)

Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts)

Up to 250 species included

Relevant Introductory Chapters

Factors influencing habitat zones

Geography of plant species – as influenced by land use changes, drainage, invasive spp.

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How Will Each Species Be Presented?

2-page spread (algae and bryophytes – single page)

profile / habitat shot

diagnostic features (leaf, stem, inflorescence, fruit)

short, descriptive text

Distribution and Ecology (hopefully including BSBI map....)

Growth form

Anecdote

Diagnostic features

Angelica sylvestris

Wild Angelica

Gallfheabhrán / Galluanán Fiadhan

Ecology: Very widespread. Riparian species in lakes, lowland rivers, ponds, ditches and damp places, usually on fertile soil. Dispersed by seed. Locally occasional.

Growth form: Erect, perennial and rhizomatous.



leaf

Leaflets to 5cm long, ovate and toothed, 2 or 3 times pinnate and ternate. Leaf stalks attached to stem with swollen, sheathing bases.



stem

To 250cm high. Round, robust, hollow and ridged. Minutely hairy or hairless and often tinged purple.



flowering period

Jan Feb Mar Apr May **Jun** **Jul** **Aug** **Sep** Oct Nov Dec



inflorescence

Large hemispherical umbels, usually without bracts, with 20 to 30 rays; white or pink.



fruit

Oval and flattened with 4 wings and ridges.



It is a very important pollinator species. It can be eaten as a salad, cooked as a vegetable or candied. It was often used in folk medicine to alleviate stomach conditions.

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae

Frogbit

Greim an Ioscáin

Ecology: Common, particularly in midlands and north-east. Floating-leaved species in shallow, still, calcium-rich, mesotrophic lakes, lowland rivers, bog holes and ditches. Dispersed by stoloniferous expansion and seeds. Locally abundant.

Growth form: Floating-leaved, perennial and stoloniferous.

Not to be confused with *Nymphoides peltata* (P. xx).



flowering
period

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec



← leaf

To 50mm wide, floating, long-stalked, produced in a rosette, almost circular, entire and deeply cordate. **Two prominent veins that curve with the shape of the leaf are visible on the underside of the leaf.** Rather thick and waxy on the surface.



← stem

To 0.5m long, submerged, creeping stolon that produces tufts of roots and leaves at nodes.



← inflorescence

To 20mm in diameter with 3 white 'crumpled' petals with yellow basal spots; solitary and borne above the water on stalks.

Overwinters as dormant turion, which lies on the mud substrate. Has become invasive in eastern Canada and north-eastern United States, particularly around the Great Lakes.

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora

Montbretia

Feileastram dearg

Ecology: Non-native (originally from South Africa) and widespread in Ireland, particularly in the south-west and west. Marginal species in disturbed, lowland habitats, along roadsides and river banks. Dispersed vegetatively by underground corms and stolon fragments. Locally dominant.

Growth form: Erect, emergent, perennial and stoloniferous, with characteristic strings of flattened corms.



flowering
period

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun **Jul** **Aug** **Sep** **Oct** **Nov** Dec



This is a horticultural hybrid that was developed in the 1880s in France for ornamental purposes. It has naturalised in many parts of Ireland and is aggressively invading roadside and riparian habitats throughout the country.



← leaf

To 2cm wide, strap-shaped with a conspicuously raised midrib and pointed tip. Leaves flattened at the base (Iris-like).



← stem

To 90cm long, erect, cylindrical and unbranched (except in the inflorescence).



← inflorescence

Flowers to 40mm long with six deep orange to red petals with a funnel-like tube, arranged on one side of an arching, branched spike.



← fruit

Capsule 7mm long and 9mm wide; seeds are usually not viable.

Polygonum amphibium

Amphibious Bistort

Glúineach uisce

Ecology: Very widespread. Terrestrial and aquatic species in calcareous, oligotrophic to eutrophic lakes, rivers, ponds, canals, ditches and wet places. Dispersed vegetatively by rhizome expansion; seed-set is infrequent. Locally abundant.

Growth form: Emergent and floating-leaved, perennial, rhizomatous and stand-forming, particularly in water.

Not to be confused with *Persicaria maculosa*, in its terrestrial form (*P. xx*).



flowering
period

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun **Jul** **Aug** **Sep** Oct Nov Dec



Commonly sold as an ornamental plant for garden ponds. The terrestrial form of the plant rarely produces inflorescences.



← leaf

Floating - to 100mm long and 40mm wide, alternate, oblong, waxy on stalks to 80mm long and **truncated or slightly heart-shaped at the base**; hairless. Terrestrial - to 140mm long and 30mm wide, slightly hairy, semi-erect and narrow to a rounded base.



← stem

To 60cm long (can be to 200cm in aquatic situations), creeping, floating or growing erect and rooting at nodes that come in contact with moist substrate.



← inflorescence

To 3.5mm long with small pink flowers arranged in **short, dense, ovoid, terminal spikes**.

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Acknowledgements

IFI

National Botanic Gardens – M Jebb, N Smyth, C Kelleher

BSBI – Maria Long, Edwina Cole

INVAS Biosecurity

Ian Dodkins

Oisin Duffy

Hugh Feeley

Rob Felix

David Fenwick

Hans Hillewaert

Rory Hodd

Richard Lansdowne

Peter Meininger

Robert and Hanna Northridge

Paula O'Meara

Malcolm Storey

... and anyone I may
have forgotten



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland