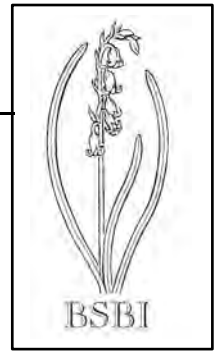


Plant Crib



AQUATICS WITH FINE, LINEAR LEAVES (*ELEOGITON*, *JUNCUS*, *NAJAS*, *PILULARIA*, *POTAMOGETON*, *RUPPIA* AND *ZANNICHELLIA*)

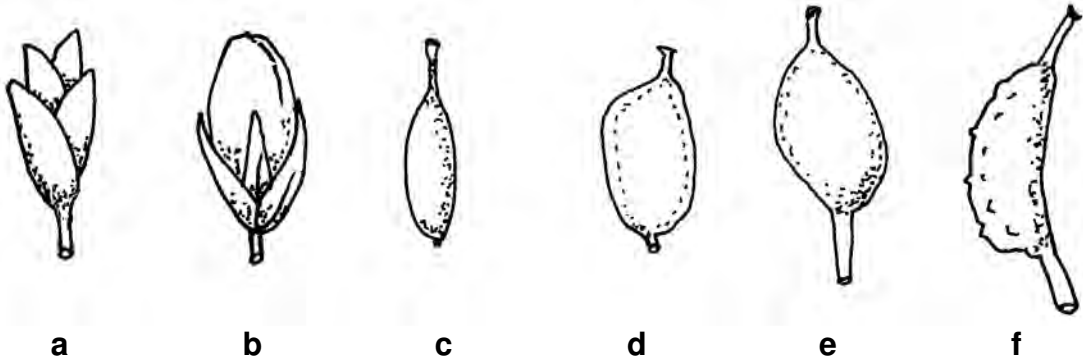
Species of these genera can appear very similar in water, but are readily separated when flowering or fruiting (Figs. a-f). The following key may help with vegetative material:

- 1 Leaves with 2 obvious hollow tubes, at least when mature (look at middle of leaf end-on with a $\times 20$ lens) 2
- 1 Leaves solid, lacking 2 hollow tubes 5
- 2 Ligule 5-15 mm long *Potamogeton pectinatus* / *P. filiformis* (see page 320)
- 2 Ligule absent (NB: auricles may be present which can look like a ligule in pressed material) 3
- 3 Apex minutely toothed ($\times 20$ lens); roots at stem nodes absent *Ruppia*
- 3 Apex entire; roots often present at stem nodes 4
- 4 Hollow tubes with transverse septae (may be inconspicuous); auricles present at top of sheath; untidy habit with clusters of leaves arising at intervals along the stem (note 1) *Juncus bulbosus*
- 4 Septae absent; auricles absent; stem leaves not in specific clusters *Eleogiton fluitans*
- 5 Leaves spinulose-serrate ($\times 20$ lens) *Najas flexilis*
- 5 Leaves entire 6
- 6 Young leaves and shoot apices curled at apex like shepherds crook *Pilularia globulifera*
- 6 Young leaves straight 7
- 7 Some leaves in opposite pairs, at least above; plant often tufted, untidy in appearance *Zannichellia palustris*
- 7 Leaves alternate *Potamogeton*

Note

1. Strictly speaking the aquatic state of *J. bulbosus* does not merit taxonomic recognition as it is simply a phenotype which develops under particular conditions. However it is useful to have a name for it, and "var. *fluitans*" is available as a convenient label.

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Fruits (a) *Eleogiton fluitans*, (b) *Juncus bulbosus*, (c) *Najas flexilis*, (d) *Potamogeton*, (e) *Ruppia*, (f) *Zannichellia*.

Authors

T. C. G. Rich & C. D. Preston, December 1997.