

MYRIOPHYLLUM HETEROPHYLLUM Michx.
Two-leaved Water-milfoil

FAMILY: Haloragaceae.

HABIT: Submersed to emersed perennial herb; flowering June-September; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Flowering material of *M. heterophyllum* is easily distinguished from other species of water-milfoil. However, sterile specimens cannot be identified with certainty from other members of the genus.

TOTAL RANGE: NY to w. Ontario and ND, s. to FL and TX, more abundant southward.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Logan County. Pre-1980 records are from Ashabula and Union counties.

HABITAT: Ponds, lakes, streams, and ditches, often in calcareous waters.

HAZARDS: Drainage or other alteration of the aquatic habitat; competition with the weedy *Myriophyllum spicatum*.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its tolerance of disturbance (see Comments).

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: This species may be better able to survive temporary drying of its habitat than other members of this genus due to its ability to produce terrestrial plants with leaves resistant to drying. These apparently do not colonize new areas, but aid in the survival of the species in years when the water level is unusually low.

This is a conspicuous species when in bloom, not likely to be overlooked or misidentified. However, it is very difficult to collect in its wetland habitat. This species should be sought in appropriate habitats throughout unglaciated Ohio. The scattered current and historical distribution of this species in the state suggests that it may be more frequent than the few records indicate.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Aiken, S.G. 1981. A conspectus of *Myriophyllum* (Haloragaceae) in North America. *Brittonia* 33: 57-69.



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