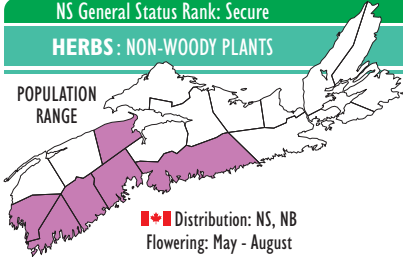


POPULATION RANGE



✚✚ Distribution: NS, NB
Flowering: May - August

SIZE: Long underwater stem.

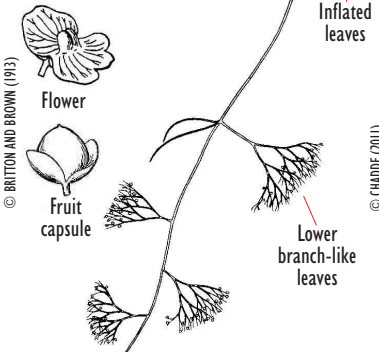
LEAVES: Two types. The lower branch-like leaves are submerged in the water, divided into very fine segments, and bear numerous bladder-like insect traps. At the top of the stem just below the flowers is a single whorl of 4 to 7 inflated leaves which allow the flower stalk to rise above the water surface. The inflated leaves are only present when the plant is in flower.

STEM: Long and slender.

FLOWERS: Small, yellow and two-lipped. The lower lip is divided into 3 lobes. The flowers grow above the water on an erect flower stalk, 3-5 cm high. Three-five flowers branch off this on 1-2 cm long stalks.

FRUITS: Capsules.

NOTES: This species is aquatic and can be found growing well below the surface of the water. The weak stems often break apart, leaving fragments freely floating at the water's surface.



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Habitat:

Lakes and ponds.

Interesting point: Insects are trapped inside the bladder-like sacs of bladderworts when they touch the sensitive hairs on the outside of the bladder. This causes the bladder to rush open and suck water and the prey inside where it can be digested. Very cool!

Similar species:

Purple Bladderwort (*Utricularia purpurea*, page 37), Hidden-fruited Bladderwort (*Utricularia geminisca*) and Greater Bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*) can appear similar, however Small Swollen Bladderwort is the only one that bears a whorl of strongly inflated branches at the top of the stem.



Flowers

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