

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: **COMMON FROGBIT**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hydrocharis morus-ranae*

FAMILY: *Hydrocharitaceae*

ORIGIN: Europe and northern Asia

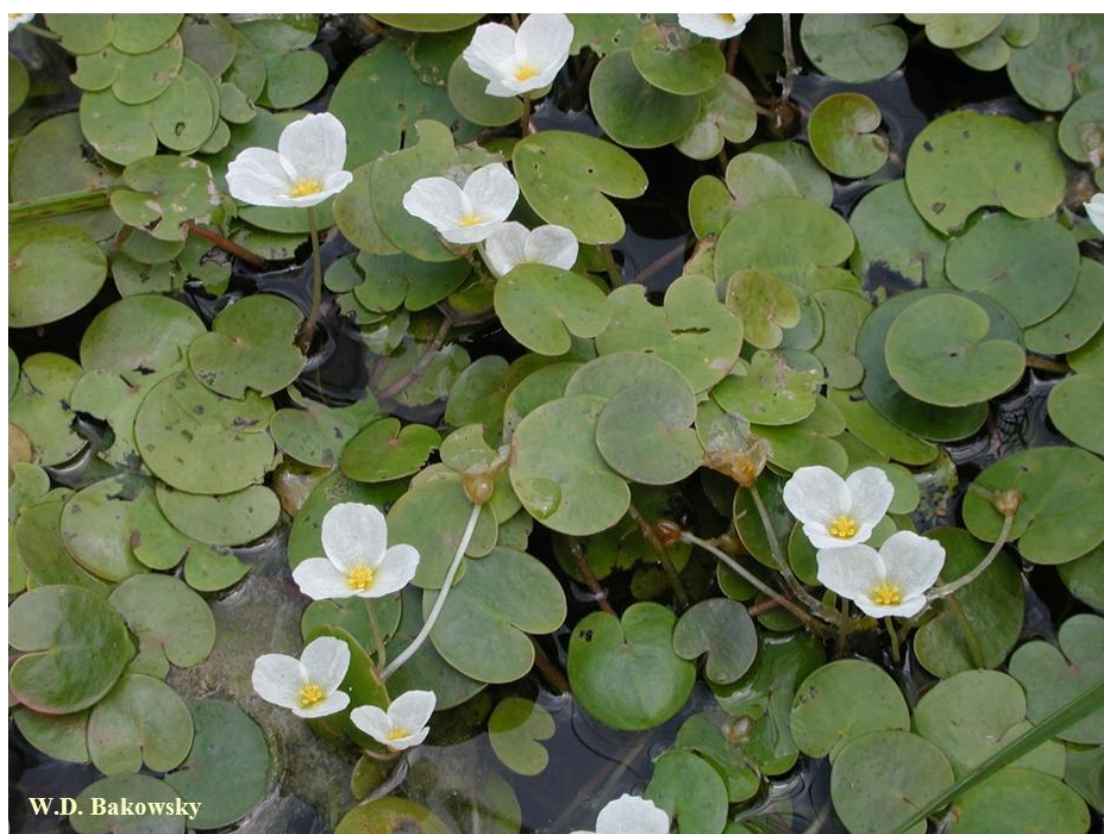
US INTRODUCTION: Introduced in 1932 into Ottawa, Canada as an ornamental garden plant, first seen in the US in 1974 in northern New York

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Transport on watercraft
- Distribution and use for water gardening
- Disposal of unwanted plant material
- Distribution and use for aquarium
- Water

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Free-floating herb, similar to a miniature water lily, male or female plants, population usually dominated by one sex or the other, in our area, spreads by fragments and buds (turions)
- Leaves leathery, heart-shaped, 1 to 2 inches wide, smooth-edged with spongy, purplish-red undersides
- Flowers ½ inch across appear singly with 3 white petals and yellow centers
- Roots 3 to 8 inches long, unbranched, dangle from the underside of each rosette of leaves.
- Threatens calcium rich, low energy waters: marshes and swamps; backwaters; quiet areas of bays; low energy shorelines of rivers, streams and lakes



Plant

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

Native water lilies can be mistaken for European frog-bit, but native water lily leaves are not distinctly heart-shaped, not leathery and are much larger. Water lily flowers are also much larger, with more than 3 petals.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/frogbit.htm>

Wisconsin Sea Grant.
<http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/Home/Topics/InvasiveSpecies/Details.aspx?PostID=649>