



## Curly waterweed

(*Lagarosiphon major*)

**Originated in South Africa.**

**Introduced for use in aquariums. Observed for the first time in France in the Paris region, before and after World War II. Established primarily along the Atlantic coast, more sparsely in other regions.**

### Description

- Perennial plant, always submerged
- Thin stalks, numerous branches, easily breakable, up to 5 metres long
- Alternating leaves, long and narrow:
  - developing in spirals except near the top, not whorled, indented leaves
  - length 1 to 3 cm, width 2 mm
  - curving back and down
- Single-sex flowers (only female plants would seem to have established outside the original range and have been observed in France):
  - white flowers blooming on the water surface at the end of a very thin stem 5 centimetres long
  - 3 petals reddish white in colour
  - single flowers, 5 mm in diameter, difficult to observe
- Dense root system that can penetrate deep into muddy sediment (up to 1 metre deep)

### Ecology and reproduction

- Common habitats are stagnant or lentic waters flowing over muddy or sandy beds, rich in organic matter and nutrients (ditches, canals, pools, ponds, lakes, side channels and river banks)
- Reproduction only via vegetative multiplication, by fragments or cuttings

### Documentation

- Hudin S., Vahrameev P. (coord.) 2010. Guide d'identification des plantes exotiques envahissant les milieux aquatiques et les berges du bassin Loire-Bretagne. Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, 45 pp.
- Fried G. 2012. Guide des plantes invasives. Belin, Paris, 272 pp.
- Muller S. (coord). 2004. Plantes invasives en France : état des connaissances et propositions d'actions. Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, 168 pp.

Author: Emmanuelle Sarat, IUCN French committee

#### Classification

Order	Alismatales
Family	Hydrocharitaceae
Genus	<i>Lagarosiphon</i>
Species	<i>L. major</i> ((Ridley) Moss, 1928)

