



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Ogden's Pondweed *Potamogeton ogdenii* Hellq. & R.L. Hilton

State Status: **Endangered**
Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: Ogden's Pondweed (*Potamogeton ogdenii*) is an aquatic herb in the Potamogetonaceae family. This plant grows entirely submersed in water. The branched, slender stems are stiff and slightly flattened. The alternate, entire, olive to brownish-green leaves are linear with an abruptly pointed tip, and usually are 5 to 7 cm long. The flowers of this species are not at all showy, and are born in usually terminal, though sometimes axillary, spikes.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Distinguishing the "pusilloid" species of pondweeds (those with linear submersed leaves, but lacking floating leaves) is very difficult, especially in the vegetative condition. A technical manual and an expert should always be consulted. The combination of diagnostic characters separating Ogden's Pondweed from its close relatives include: the presence of 3-9 leaf veins (usually 5 bold veins and several fainter veins becoming apparent upon drying), peduncles mostly terminal (not axillary) and upright (not recurved), stipules brown (not white), nodal glands present, and winter bud leaves ascending (not divergent). The fruiting spikes are cylindric, bearing fruit in 2 to 4 whorls; fruits are dark green and roundish with a prominent beak. They measure (excluding the beak) 2.5-3 mm long and 2.2-3 mm wide when dry.

HABITAT: In Massachusetts, Ogden's Pondweed is found in shallow, alkaline, still or very slow-moving waters. Some of the native species that have been documented to grow with Ogden's Pondweed are Water Marigold (*Megalodonta beckii*), Water Star-grass (*Heteranthera dubia*), Leafy Pondweed (*Potamogeton foliosus*), Water Shield (*Brasenia schreberi*), Lesser Bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*), and Comb Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum verticillatum*).



Crow, Garrett, and C. Barre Hellquist. 2000. *Aquatic and Wetland Plants*. Volume 2. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Species that could easily be confused with Ogden's Pondweed are its parent species: Hill's Pondweed (*Potamogeton hillii*) and Flatstem Pondweed (*Potamogeton zosteriformis*). However, Hill's Pondweed has consistently axillary spikes and usually fewer (only 3) leaf veins; Flatstem Pondweed has many more (15-35) leaf veins. One could also confuse Ogden's Pondweed with the Straight-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton strictifolius*), which differs in having smaller fruits (when dry), and in having winter bud leaves with spreading to out-curving, in-rolled outer leaves.

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

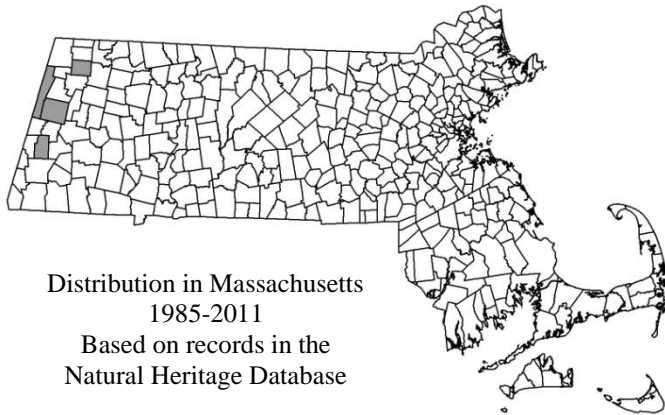
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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RANGE: Ogden's Pondweed has a very restricted global distribution, and has been documented only from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Vermont, and Ontario. The taxon is ranked G1-G2, which means that it is critically imperiled on a range-wide basis.



Distribution in Massachusetts
1985-2011
Based on records in the
Natural Heritage Database

POPULATION STATUS IN MASSACHUSETTS:

Ogden's Pondweed is listed as Endangered by the Commonwealth because of its global imperilment and because it is known from only three locations in Massachusetts. As with all species listed in Massachusetts, individuals of the species are protected from take (picking, collecting, and killing) or sale under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act.

THREATS AND MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The exact needs for management of Ogden's Pondweed are not precisely known. Competition with invasive exotic aquatic species such as the Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a potential threat to populations of Ogden's Pondweed. Ironically, broad-scale herbiciding, weed raking, or draw-downs to control invasive aquatic plants may also threaten this rare species. Hand-pulling of aquatic invasive species is recommended around populations of rare aquatic species. Any drastic alteration in the habitat of Ogden's Pondweed, including pond-bottom dredging, water drawdown, changes to rate of water flow, or indiscriminate weed control could threaten the survival of populations of Ogden's Pondweed.

Fruit Present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

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