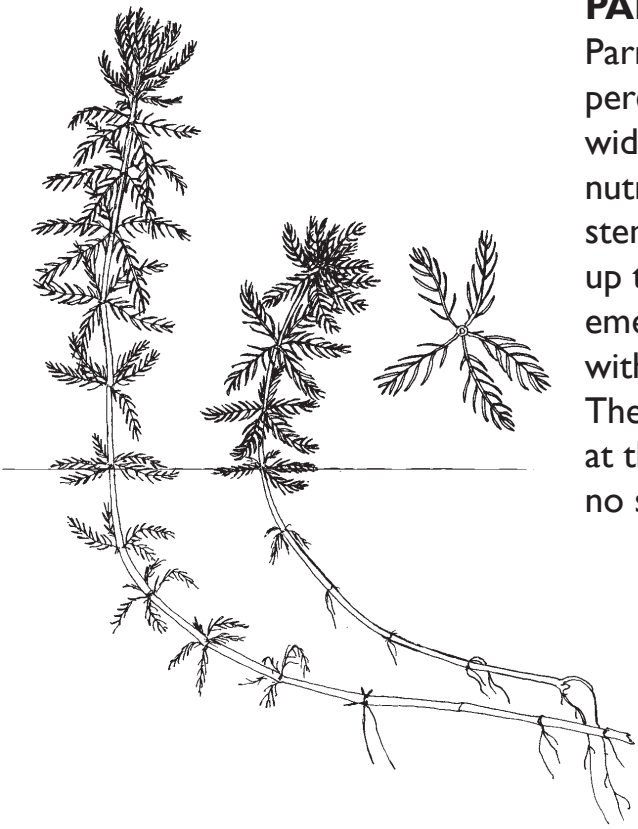


PARROT'S FEATHER (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Parrot's feather, or Brazilian water-milfoil, is an aquatic perennial that originates from South America. It is widespread in Cornwall and is usually associated with nutrient rich conditions in still or slow flowing water. The stems are robust, smooth and hairless. They can grow up to 2m long, emerging above the water surface. The emergent foliage has a greyish green, waxy appearance with feather-like divided leaves, arranged in whorls of 4-6. The flowers are inconspicuous. Brown roots are present at the lower nodes. Spread is by vegetative fragmentation, no seeds are produced in the UK.



Hornwort leaves with 'tuning fork' shaped ends. Photo: GBNNSS,



Spiked water-milfoil flower spikes
Photo: Chris Gibson, Natural England

DO NOT CONFUSE WITH

- The submerged foliage of two native species of *Myriophyllum* found in Cornwall, alternate water-milfoil (*M. alterniflorum*) and spiked water-milfoil (*M. spicatum*) could be confused with the non-native but are generally less robust. **Note that parrot's feather stems are the only ones that are emergent.** Native *Myriophyllum* species stems are never emergent although can produce short, emergent flower spikes.
- It could also be confused with hornwort species (*Ceratophyllum*) but the leaves of these plants have 'tuning fork' shaped ends.
- Mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*) has simple, narrow leaves (not divided) in whorls of 6 to 12.



Hippuris vulgaris
Photo: GBNNSS