

11. EGERIA Planchon, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 3, 11: 79. 1849.

水蘊草屬 shui yun cao shu

Herbs, perennial, freshwater. Rhizomes and stolons absent. Stems erect, rooted in substrate, branched or unbranched, elongate. Leaves cauline, in whorls of 5 or more, submersed, sessile; blade uniform in color throughout, linear, base sloping to stem, abaxial surface without prickles or aerenchyma, apex obtuse; midvein without rows of lacunae along sides; intravaginal squamules entire. Inflorescences 1-flowered, sessile; spathes not winged. Plants dioecious; flowers unisexual, projected to surface by slender, elongate floral tube base, pedicellate; petals white. Male flowers: filaments distinct; anthers linear; pollen in monads. Female flowers: ovary 1-locular; styles 3, not 2-fid. Fruit ovoid, smooth, dehiscing irregularly. Seeds fusiform, mucilaginous.

Three species: South America, introduced in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America; one species (introduced) in China.

1. Egeria densa Planchon, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 3, 11: 80. 1849.

水蘊草 shui yun cao

Anacharis densa (Planchon) Victorin; *Elodea densa* (Planchon) Caspary; *Philotria densa* (Planchon) Small.

Stems 1–3 mm diam. Leaves whorled, recurved, 10–40 ×

1.5–4.5 mm, margin minutely serrate. Male spathes 2–4-flowered, 7.5–12 mm; pedicel to 8 cm. $2n = 46$.

Known from a cultivated fish pond. Guangdong [native to South America].

This species is known to spread and become invasive in mild climates.

