

DACF Home → Bureaus & Programs → Maine Natural Areas Program → Communities, Plants, and Animals → Rare Plants → Zosterella dubia

About MNAP
Focus Areas
Communities, Plants and Animals
Natural Communities and Ecosystems
Rare Plants
Invasive Plants
Ecological Inventory and Monitoring
Rare Animals
State and Global Rarity Ranks
Survey Forms
Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
Ecological Reserves

## Maine Natural Areas Program

### Heterantha dubia (Jacq.) MacM.

#### Water Stargrass

- State Rank: S3
- Global Rank: G5
- State Status: Special Concern

**Habitat:** Damp sands, often submerged in quiet waters. [Open water (non-forested, wetland)]

**Range:** Southern Quebec to North Dakota and Washington, south to Cuba and South America.

**Aids to Identification:** This perennial aquatic plant usually grows in shallow water with its stem submersed. The leaves are grass-like and up to 15 cm long. The flowers are pale yellow, and the fruits are black. It can be recognized vegetatively by its alternate, narrow, parallel-sided leaves with many fine veins. The leaves lack a more prominent central vein.



**Ecological characteristics:** In Maine, this species may occur along shallow shorelines or in open water.

**Phenology:** Flowers June - September.

**Family:** Pontederiaceae

**Synonyms:** *Commelina dubia* Jacq.; *Heterantha graminea* (Michx.) Vahl; *Zosterella dubia* (Jacq.) Small.

**Known Distribution in Maine:** This rare plant has been documented from a total of 15 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Hancock, Kennebec, Penobscot, Somerset, Waldo.

**Reason(s) for rarity:** At northern limit of range.

**Conservation considerations:** Maintain water quality in the lakes and ponds in which it occurs.

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