

Lemna minor

[Synonyms : *Hydrophace minor*, *Lemna cyclostasa*, *Lemna minima*, *Lemna minima* var. *minima*, *Lemna minima* var. *orbiculata*, *Lemna minima* var. *oxymitra*, *Lemna monorhiza*, *Lemna ovata*, *Lemna palustris*, *Lemna rwandensis*, *Lemna vulgaris*, *Lenticula cyclostasa*, *Lenticula minima*, *Lenticula minor*, *Lenticula vulgaris*, *Lenticularia monorhiza*, *Lenticularia vulgaris*]

COMMON DUCKWEED is a free-floating, freshwater, perennial aquatic plant (one of the smallest flowering plants). Native in most of the planet (particularly in the Arctic), it has stemless, tiny shiny, light green leaves that are purplish beneath.

It is also known as *Andmat* (Swedish), Boggart, Creed, Dig meat, Duck pond weed, Duck's meat, Duckweed, *Eendekroos* (Afrikaans), *Faen* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), Greed, Greens, Groves, Grozens, *Hèrbe d'pithot* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), Jenny green teeth, *Kleine Wasserlinse* (German), Least duckweed, Lesser duckweed, *Llinad* (Welsh), Mardlens, *Okřehek menší* (Czech), *Petite lentille d'eau* (French), Smaller duckweed, Toad spit, and *Vanlig andmat* (Swedish).

Minor means 'smaller or lesser'.

The unusual common name Jenny green teeth arose from a 'bogey-man'-type of story told to children to keep them away from dangerous stretches of water. Apparently a grim magical creature was said to be lurking under the tiny floating plants. Many of the other common names are self-explanatory as the floating weed is food for wildfowl.

Common duckweed is invasive but it can be cleared quickly, especially by goldfish or ducks. Attempts have been made to use common duckweed as fodder for farm animals.

Medicinally, in the past herbalists chose common duckweed as an internal treatment for headaches, fevers and internal inflammation, and externally they applied it as a remedy for gout, sore eyes and various swellings. Apparently Chinese herbalists use the plant (with or without other ingredients) for treating urinary disorders, measles, some colds and water retention. In India it is understood that common duckweed can be used in homeopathic remedies.