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Lemna minor

[Synonyms : *Hydrophace minor*, *Lemna cyclostasa*, *Lemna minima*, *Lenticula minor*]

COMMON DUCKWEED is a free-floating aquatic plant. Native worldwide (particularly in the Arctic) it has 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 curious 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 can often be cleared very quickly by goldfish.

Attempts have been made to use common duckweed as fodder for farm animals.

Medicinally, in the past herbalists have chosen 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.