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Myriophyllum spicatum

[Synonyms : *Myriophyllum exalbescens*, *Myriophyllum exalbescens* var. *magdalenense*, *Myriophyllum magdalenense*, *Myriophyllum sibiricum*, *Myriophyllum spicatum* var. *capillaceum*, *Myriophyllum spicatum* var. *exalbescens*, *Myriophyllum spicatum* var. *squamosum*]

SPIKED WATER-MILFOIL is a submerged aquatic perennial. Native to Asia, Europe, North Africa and North America, it has above surface short spikes of minute, reddish-green flowers.

It is also known as *Aks-Tusindblad* (Danish), *Axslinga* (Swedish), Eurasian water-milfoil, Meakin, *Myrdd-ddail Tywysennaid* (Welsh), Short spike water-milfoil, Siberian water-milfoil, Spike water-milfoil, *Stolístek klasnatý* (Czech), *Stolístok klasnatý* (Slovak), *Waterduisendblaar* (Afrikaans), Water milfoil, and Water navelwort.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Spicatum is derived from Latin *spica* (ear of corn, spike) meaning 'spiky, spiked or in spikes' with reference to the flower clusters.

Some of the North American Tanana Indians froze the underground stems for Winter use – and also ate them raw, fried or roasted. Records suggest that their value was primarily in the fact that they had in the past been much prized as emergency rations.

Apparently the Menominee are believed to have used the plant medicinally.

The invasiveness of spiked water-milfoil is being experienced to varying degrees in several States in the United States since its accidental introduction to the Country in the 1940s (either attached to the bottom of a boat or an escape from aquaria). The States include so far Florida, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota and Washington. They have declared it to be anything from regulated to prohibited in their respective areas.