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Typha angustifolia

[Synonyms : *Typha angustifolia* var. *calumetensis*, *Typha angustifolia* var. *elongata*, *Typha domingensis*, *Typha foveolata*, *Typha pontica*]

LESSER REEDMACE is an aquatic perennial. Native to northern temperate regions it has velvety of reddish to dark brown bulrush-like heads.

It is also known as *Buda rqieqa* (Maltese), Bull-rush, Bulrush, Cattail, Coast cattail, *Cynffon-y-Gath Gulddail* (Welsh), *Enea* (Spanish), *Espadaña* (Spanish), Lesser bullrush, Lesser bulrush, *Massette à feuilles étroites* (French), Narrowleaf cattail, Narrow-leaved cattail, Narrow-leaved reedmace, *Orobinec úzkolistý* (Czech), *Osmankäämi* (Finnish), *Pálka úzkolistá* (Slovak), *Raupo* (Maori), Reed mace, *Smalkaveldun* (Swedish), and Soft flag.

Angustifolia is derived from Latin *angusti-* (narrow) and *-folia* (leaved) components.

Some North American Indian children such as those of the Hopi tribe were given the stems to chew like sugar cane. Tender white stalks were eaten raw by some of the Tohono O’Odham Indians and they also used the pollen either mixed with wheat and water for a gruel or baked it into brownish biscuits. The underground stems have provided a famine food.

Records show that the plant featured in Hopi ceremonial ritual. Some of the Tohono O’Odham tribe decorated their faces and upper bodies with dried yellow pollen, they used the leaves for roofing and to make matting, they stuffed pillows with the silky down, and split flowers stalks provided them with basketry material.

Both fruit hairs and the leaves have been used as stuffing by some North American Indian tribes in pillows and mattresses, and the leaves have also been used for making sails and matting. The down (fruit hairs) were also used to waterproof the seams of canoes.

Medicinally, locally the down has been applied to burns.