



Photo from Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation





# COMMON BLADDERWORT

*Utricularia vulgaris*

## Habitat Preference

Found in lakes, ponds, wet marshes and other wetlands, and rivers and streams. Often in water up to six feet.

## Characteristics



### Vegetative

Submersed, compound, alternately arranged leaves with leaflets that feather out from stems. Tiny *bladders* (4) are dispersed throughout leaf matrix.

### Flowers

Snapdragon-like emergent yellow flowers. Round fruit capsule containing seed, less than a quarter inch in diameter.

## Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Several species of insects, mammals, and waterfowl use this plant as a food source. Bladderwort is carnivorous and predares aquatic *microinvertebrates* (10).
- The *bladders* (4), from which the common name is derived, capture aquatic *microinvertebrates* (10). Hairs at the opening of the *bladder* (4) serve as triggers and cause the mouth of the bladder to spring open when contacted, drawing in water and organisms like a vacuum.
- Enzymes and/or bacteria inside the traps aid in digestion, creating a microbiome around the traps.



Photo from Wikimedia Commons