





COMMON BLADDERWORT

Utricularia vulgaris

Habitat Preference

Found in lakes, interdunal ponds, wet marshes, and river and streams. Often in water up to 6 feet.

Characteristics

Vegetative

Submersed, compound feather leaves, stem-like alternately arranged leaves that feather out from stems.

Flowers

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

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Several insects, mammals, and waterfowl use this plant as a food source. Bladderwort is carnivorous predated aquatic microorganisms such as protozoa and rotifers.
- Enzymes and/or bacteria inside the traps aid in digestion, creating a microbiome around the traps.
- The "bladders", from which the common name is derived, are used to capture small aquatic organisms. Hairs at the opening of the bladder serve as triggers, and when contacted, mechanically cause the trap to spring open, drawing in water and organisms like a vacuum.



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aquatic plants in
Lake Champlain!



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