

Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*)

Synonyms:

- crispy waterweed, curly water-thyme, African elodea, oxygen weed
- *Elodea crispa*, *Anacharis crispa*, *L. muscoides*, *L. muscoides major*, *L. muscoides var. major*

Consignments likely to come from: Southern Africa (the native range of this species)

Use: normally in aquaria and garden ponds, sold as an oxygenator.

Identification difficulty: moderate, seek definitive identification from: jonathan@water-land.co.uk.

Identification information:

- robust aquatic plant up to 3m long
- leaves are strongly curved, close-set (crowded towards the tip of the stem) and dark green
- leaves are alternatively arranged in a spiral around stem (but whorls at top of stem)
- normally packed in bunches

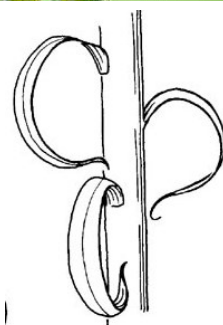


Key ID Features

Leaf can be crowded towards tip of stem



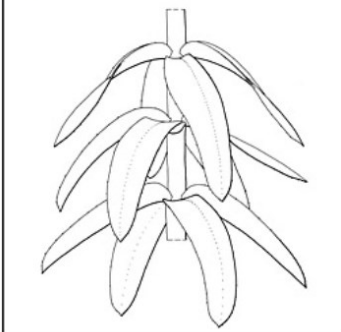
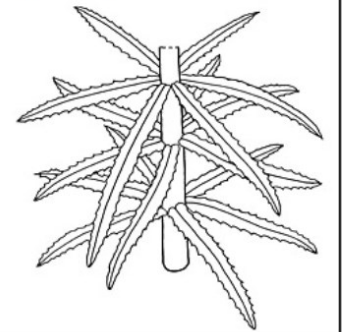
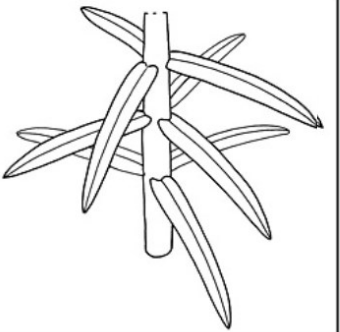
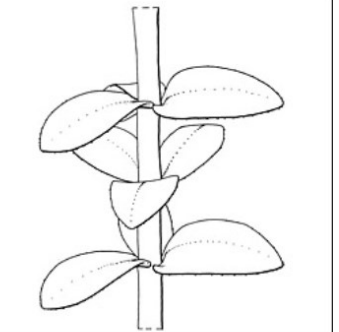




Lower leaves always alternate in a spiral (see images right and below) upper leaves either spiral or whorled

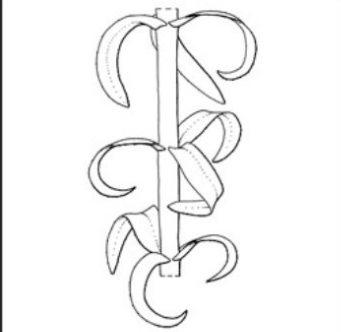
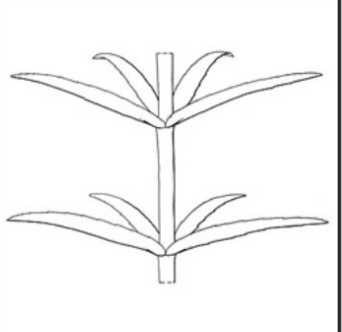
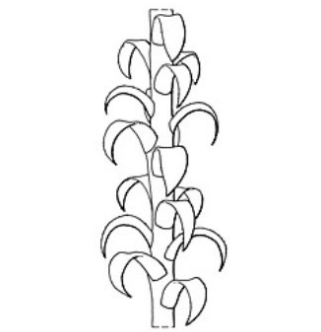





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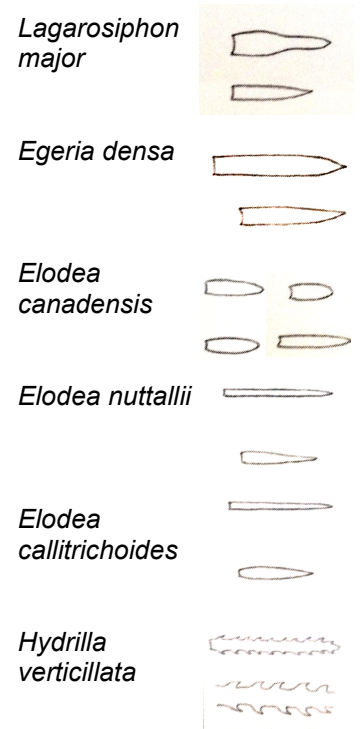
Similar species

Very similar to some species in the genus *Egeria*, *Elodea* and *Hydrilla*, however is identified by its alternative leaves (all others have whorls) and strongly curved leaves.

<i>Egeria densa</i>	<i>Egeria najas</i>	<i>Elodea callitrichoides</i>	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>
			
leaves in whorls of (3)4-6	leaves in whorls of 4-6	leaves in whorls of 3	leaves in whorls of 3
		 <small>photo: A. Dutarte, Cemagref, France</small>	
leaf tip blunt, margin minutely toothed leaf width 3-5 mm	leaf tip acute, margin conspicuously toothed leaf width 2,5 mm	leaf tip acute, margin minutely toothed leaf width 2,5 mm	leaf tip blunt, margin minutely toothed leaf width 2-4 mm

<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>
		
leaves in whorls of 3	leaves in whorls of (4-)5(-8)	leaves alternate
		
leaf tip acute, margin minutely toothed leaf width <2 mm	leaf tip acute, margin conspicuously toothed leaf width 2-4 mm	leaf tip acute, margin minutely toothed leaf width 1-3 mm

Comparison of leaf shapes



Additional online resources to support identification:

[Q-bank](#) [University of Florida](#)