

# Callitriche heterophylla



## two-headed water-starwort

Family	Callitrichaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	OBL	CoC	6

### DESCRIPTION

Very small, slender, branching annual aquatic herb found either typically submersed in water or sometimes lying flat on wet soils. Leaves are opposite with two leaf types: thin narrow submersed leaves and rounded to oval floating leaves.



*Callitriche heterophylla*

© Larry Allain

### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

April through December. Flowers are tiny and found in leaf axils (where leaf meets stem) with pollination occurring under water. Fruits (1 mm wide) are slightly wider above the middle with rounded sides, and are split into four nutlets containing one seed each at maturity.



*Callitriche heterophylla*

© Larry Allain

### HABITAT

Springs and spring-fed streams, ponds, marshy or muddy shores, and slow-moving streams or shallows.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

Two other very uncommon species of *Callitriche* occur in West Virginia. *Callitriche palustris*, vernal water-starwort, has floating leaves more oval at the tip and narrowing towards the base. *Callitriche terrestris*, terrestrial water-starwort, has leaves that are usually lance-shaped. It gets its name (terrestrial) because it is found on moist soil and water edges, usually not submersed in water.



*Callitriche palustris*

© Donald Cameron



*Callitriche terrestris*

© Larry Allain