

Plant of the Month - April

by Allan Carr

Liparophyllum exaltatum

Pronunciation: lip-a-ro-FILL-um ex-al-TAR-tum

Derivation: *Liparophyllum*, from the Greek, *liparis* – fat, greasy, *phyllon* – leaf (referring to the thick leaves); *exaltatum*, from the Latin, *exaltatus* – exalted, elevated (referring to its tall habit amongst other water plants).

yellow marsh flower
MENYANTHACEAE



Leaves, flowers



Buds, flower



Fruit with seeds

There are 8 Australian *Liparophyllum* species with just this one, which was formerly *Villarsia exaltata*, in Queensland.

Description: *L. exaltatum* is an erect semi-aquatic tufted herb to 120 cm when crowded by sedges and rushes in still or slowly moving shallow fresh water to about 60 cm deep as well as on swampy sandy soils. In less congested situations plants are usually around 40 cm to 50 cm tall. It is found from the Sunshine Coast in Qld, down the coast of NSW and eastern and southern Vic to north-eastern Tas.

Leaves to 120 mm x 45 mm are spear-shaped on *petioles to 60 cm and erect, above water or floating when the plant is in shallow water.

Flowers are yellow and 5-petalled in a *panicle from September to April often amongst sedges. On some plants flowers have *styles of slightly different lengths from flowers on other plants nearby (heterostylous).



Flower with native bee

A wallum wetland plant to grow in a wet location.

*petiole = stalk portion of a leaf

*panicle = a branched flower stem

*style = section of female part of a flower between the ovary and the stigma

Habit amongst sedges

