

## 122. HALORAGACEAE

Herbs or shrubs unarmed, sometimes aquatic, often growing in moist localities. Leaves distichous, spirally arranged, opposite or verticillate, mostly sessile, simple, entire, dentate-serrate or pinnatifid-pinnatifid; stipules strongly reduced or none. Flowers bisexual or unisexual, solitary or in corymbs or panicles, often very small; calyx tube adnate to ovary, lobes obscure or 2-4, slightly imbricate or valvate; stamens 2-8; anthers basifixed, longitudinally split, ovaries inferior, 1- to 4-locular; styles 2-4; ovules pendulous, as many as styles. Fruits small nuts or drupes, often winged, indehiscent. seeds with endosperm.

Genera 7, species 100; in tropics and temperate regions; 3 genera and 6 species in the Philippines.

## 1. MYRIOPHYLLUM Linnaeus

Herbs soft, glabrous, often aquatic. Leaves opposite, alternate or verticillate, linear to ovate, entire or toothed, sometimes pinnately lobed, immersed ones often pinnately dissected into filiform segments. Flowers unisexual, small, solitary in axils or in terminal spikes, sessile, staminate uppermost, pistillate below; calyx tube of staminate flowers very short, lobes 4 or rarely 2; petals 2-4; stamens 2-8, filiform; calyx tube of pistillate flowers 4-grooved, lobes obscure or 4, linear, minute; petals minute or absent; ovaries 4-, rarely 2-locular; styles 4, short, pinnate, usually reflexed; ovules solitary in each locule. Drupes 4-grooved or separating into 4 nut-like portions, pericarp coriaceous or slightly fleshy, often tuberculate on back.

Species 40, in the tropics: 1 in the Philippines.

1. *Myriophyllum spicatum* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 992, 1753, Merr., En. Philip. 3: 221, 1923; Pancho & Soerjani, Aq. Weeds 43, f. 26, 7-9, 1978.

Herbs aquatic, monoecious, perennial. Stems sparsely branched, elongated, often 1.5 m long. Leaves verticillate in 4's, sessile, 2-3.5 cm long, pinnately cleft or dissected. segments filiform, entire, aerial leaves green. Inflorescences aerial, spicate, 3-8 cm long, with 4 flowers at each node, bracts narrowly oblong, spreading, 1-1.5 mm long, entire. staminate flowers with 4 petals, 2.5 mm long; stamens 8; anthers 1.5 mm long; calyx tube in pistillate nearly campanulate, 4-grooved, 1 mm long. Fruits globose-ovoid, 2.5 mm long, separating into 4 nut-like fruits, smooth on back.

Widely distributed in warmer and temperate regions of the Old World Throughout the Philippines, in shallow pools and ditches from sea level to 670 m altitude; a common aquatic weed.

Com. name – Eurasian watermilfoil (Engl.).

Exsicc. – Pancho CA 20565 (CAHP).