

## *Hygrophila polysperma*

East Indian hygrophila



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**Appearance:** Perennial aquatic herb with squarish stems, ascending to creeping; mostly submersed, usually rooted in substrate; also roots freely at floating nodes.

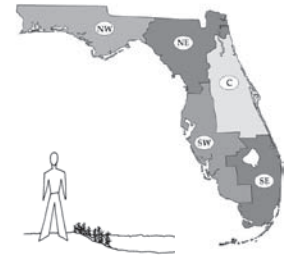
**Leaves:** Opposite, to 8 cm (3 in) long; aerial leaves smaller and to 2 cm (0.8 in) wide, usually broader toward tip; sessile, with bases joined at node by ciliated flanges of tissue; the cilia (hairs) easily observed, to 1.5 mm (0.06 in) long.

**Flowers:** Small, solitary in uppermost leaf axils, nearly hidden by leaves; calyx 5-lobed; corolla bluish white, 2-lipped; 2 fertile stamens.

**Fruit:** A narrow capsule, splitting length-wise to release tiny round seeds.

### **Ecological threat:**

Able to expand a population rapidly and difficult to control. Reported as an expanding problem in south Florida canals in 1980. Now replacing the well-known hydrilla as the most serious weed in these waterways, clogging irrigation and flood-control systems and interfering with navigation. FLEPPC Category I



**Distribution:** NW, NE, C, SW, SE

### **Field Notations**

HYGRPOLY/HYPO3

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>