

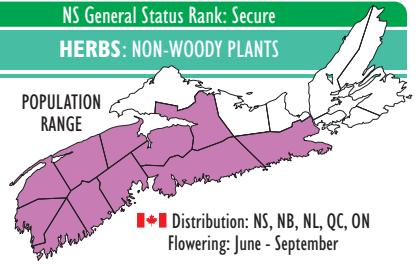
## Purple Bladderwort

*Utricularia purpurea*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

HERBS: NON-WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION  
RANGE



Distribution: NS, NB, NL, QC, ON  
 Flowering: June - September

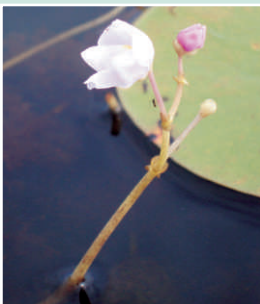


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Whorled leaves with bladder-like insect traps

© ALAIN BELLIVEAU



Purple two-lipped flower © BRUCE MACINNIS



Yellow spot on lower lobe © ALAIN BELLIVEAU

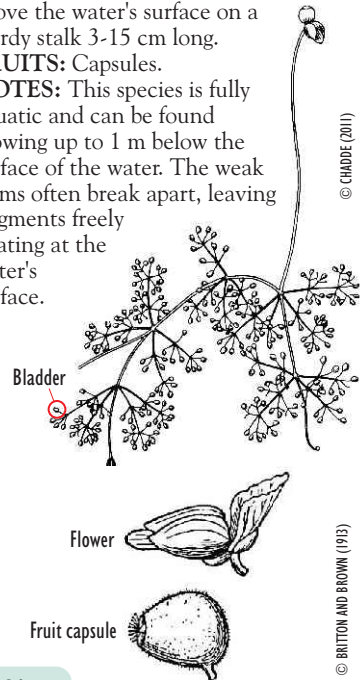
**SIZE:** Underwater stem up to 1 m long.  
**LEAVES:** Branch-like and circularly arranged around the stem (whorled) in groups of 5-7. Each section branches into thin, fine segments, many with small bladder-like insect traps at the tip.

**STEM:** Long and thin.

**FLOWERS:** Purple and two-lipped with 1 cm long petals (look similar to snapdragons). The lower lip is divided into 3 lobes and has a yellow spot near the base. One to four flowers are found above the water's surface on a sturdy stalk 3-15 cm long.

**FRUITS:** Capsules.

**NOTES:** This species is fully aquatic and can be found growing up to 1 m below the surface of the water. The weak stems often break apart, leaving fragments freely floating at the water's surface.



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### Habitat:

Lakes, ponds and slow streams.

**Interesting point:** Bladderworts are carnivorous plants! They obtain extra nutrients and energy by trapping insects in the bladder-like sacs on their leaves.

**Similar species:** Small Swollen Bladderwort (*Utricularia radiata*, page 38), Hidden-fruited Bladderwort (*Utricularia geminiscapa*), and Greater Bladderwort (*Utricularia macrohriza*) can appear similar, however Purple Bladderwort is the only species with consistently whorled leaves along the entire stem.