

# *Wolffia arrhiza* (L.) Horkel ex Wimm.

Rootles Duckweed

Key:

**Dots** refer to the native sites of the species

**Numbers** refer to the nearby Botanical Collections

## Starting references

### Family

Lemnaceae

### IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

### Habit

Tiny, rootless aquatic perennial.

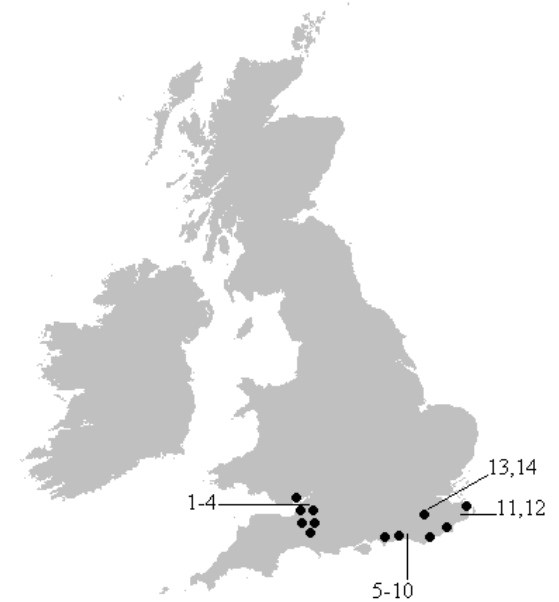
### Habitat

Ponds and ditches.

### Reasons for decline

### Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km <sup>2</sup> occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	Monmouthshire	1	
	Somerset	13	
	Sussex	7	
	Kent	5	



### Ex situ Collections

#### Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Bristol Zoo Gardens
- 2 University of Bristol Botanic Garden
- 3 Wildwalk @ Bristol
- 4 Congrove Cottage
- 5 Newhaven Botanic Garden
- 6 Sheffield Park
- 7 West Dean Gardens
- 8 High Beeches Gardens
- 9 Nymans Garden (NT)
- 10 Borde Hill Garden
- 11 Bedgebury National Pinetum
- 12 Sissinghurst Castle Garden (NT)
- 13 RBG Kew
- 14 RHS Wisley

#### Gardens with specialisation on family Lemnaceae

None

#### Potential to grow the species in ex situ Collections

Reproduction is by vegetative budding; flowers have never been seen in its British sites (Preston *et al*, 2002).

From Plants For a Future

- Propagation

Seed - we have no information on this species but, since it can spread rapidly by division, it really needs no extra help once it is in a pond.

- Cultivation

A pond plant, floating on the surface of the water, it requires a sunny position in still water that is rich in nitrates and lime. At the limit of its climatic range in Britain and probably best grown in a cold water aquarium. It over-winters in temperate areas by means of resting buds which sink to the bottom of the pond in the late autumn and rise again in the spring. One of the smallest flowering plants in the world, it is cultivated as a vegetable in Burma, Laos and Thailand. It has been recommended for commercial cultivation, especially in tropical areas, because of its rapid multiplication and high nutritional value.

### ***Conservation information***

#### **Linkages to BAPs**

Designated LBAP Areas sites with records for *Wolffia arrhiza* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

#### **Habitat Management**

Protected sites with records for *Wolffia arrhiza* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

#### **Conservation programmes**

Unknown

### **Web References**

- Plants For A Future Database: [http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr\\_html?Wolffia+arrhiza](http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Wolffia+arrhiza)
- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>