

WANTED

IN SEARCH OF THE STARRY STONEWORT IN LAKE SAINT-FRANÇOIS

The starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) is an invasive exotic macroalgae. Its presence was observed twice on the south shore of Lake Saint-François in 2023. Ambioterra has therefore launched a project in order to control its presence. It spreads easily through its star-shaped bulbils and plant fragments. It grows very quickly and forms large colonies that harm native species by occupying space and changing local conditions.

HABITAT

- Using its translucent rhizoids, it attaches to sediments in calm waters
- 0.5 à 9 meters deep
- Prefers alkaline waters, rich in calcium and magnesium

HOW TO IDENTIFY IT

Small orange marbles (antheridia, male reproductive organs) at the nodes

INTERNODAL REGION (STEM)
5 to 7 branchlets and long internodes

NODE

WHORL OF 6 BRANCHLETS

BRANCHLETS

NODE

Vegetative part (thallus) smooth, usually bright green to brown late in the season

Star-shaped bulbils, characteristic of this specie

DO NOT CONFUSE IT WITH THE FOLLOWING NATIVE SPECIES

COMMON STONEWORT
(*Chara vulgaris*)

Rough appearance, dotted with small bumps, short branches and internodes

SMOOTH STONEWORT
(*Nitella flexilis*)

More flaccid while the starry stonewort is more rigid once removed from the water

FENNEL LEAVED PONDWEED
(*Struckenia pectinata*)

Zigzag leaves and stems

PHOTOS: PAUL SKANWISKI (AQUATIC PLANTS OF THE UPPER MIDWEST) / STEFAN LEFNAER, CHRISTIAN FISCHER (WIKIMEDIA)

**REPORT IT TO US !
CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT !**



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