

Open-water Marsh

State Rank S5

Community Description

Water-lilies or pondweeds are dominant in this floating aquatic vegetation type. It is currently broadly defined and may be divisible into two or more types with additional data. The strict type has white water-lily, yellow water-lily, or more rarely water-shield as the most abundant species. Variants may lack water-lilies altogether and be dominated by floating leaved pondweed species such as bigleaf pondweed or others. Submerged aquatic plants are also common and may include bladderworts and pipewort.

Soil and Site Characteristics

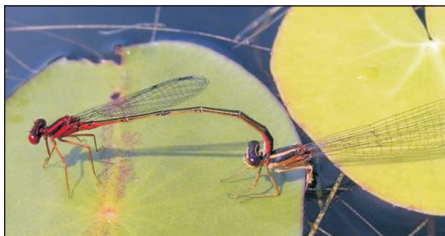
These aquatic beds occur in quiet waters at depths mostly between 0.5 and 2.5 m. The substrate is typically a mixture of silty organic muck.

Diagnostics

Water-lily species are prominent (or in variants, pondweed species are prominent); pickerelweed is basically absent.

Similar Types

Pickerelweed - Macrophyte Aquatic Bed and Bulrush Bed vegetation have greater dominance of emergent versus submerged plants. Pipewort



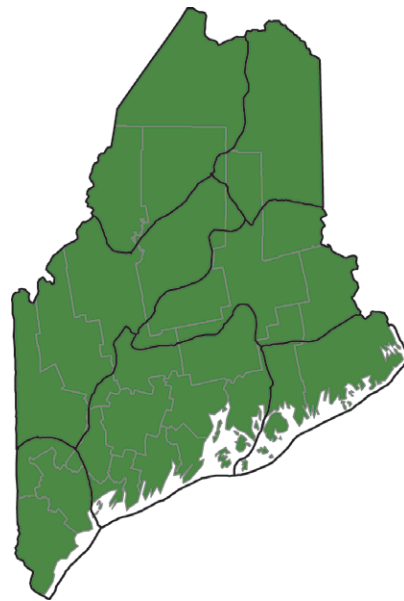
Scarlet Bluet Damselflies Mating

- Water Lobelia Aquatic Bed vegetation has low cover of floating aquatics and is dominated instead by plants with basal rosettes growing on the bottom. The pondweed variant can be similar to Circumneutral - Alkaline Water Macrophyte Suite but lacks the alkaline water indicator species such as water-marigold, common waterweed, Robbins' pondweed, and straight-leaved pondweed.

Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

This aquatic community type is widespread and abundant in Maine. It can be found in the quieter portions of streams and rivers as well as in lakes and ponds, and it provides habitat for many

Location Map



- Community is known from this Ecoregion
- Community may occur in this Ecoregion
- Bailey's Ecoregion
- County



Water-Lily - Macrophyte Aquatic Bed

water-dependent animals. Many examples occur on public and private conservation lands; however, because the type is so common it is often not documented. The major threats to this natural community are water quality degradation from excess nutrients in runoff and the spread of invasive aquatic plants, such as Eurasian water-milfoil and variable water-milfoil.

In southern and central parts of the state, this community type hosts a number of common reptiles such as northern water snakes, common snapping turtles, and eastern painted turtles. Muskrats, bullfrogs, and green frogs inhabit this community statewide and mink frogs may be found in occurrences from central Maine northward. Northern leopard frogs may utilize these wetlands as breeding grounds. These productive wetlands provide foraging habitat for a number of waterfowl including rare species such as the common moorhen and American coot. Dragonfly and damselfly diversity is typically high in these wetlands and may include species such as the turquoise bluet, little bluet, lily pad fork tail, and the rare spatterdock damner.

Characteristic Plants

These plants are frequently found in this community type. Those with an asterisk are often diagnostic of this community.

Herb

Bayonet rush
Bigleaf pondweed*
Pipewort
Spotted bladderwort*
Water-shield*
White water-lily*
Yellow water-lily*

Associated Rare Plants

Pygmy water-lily
Spotted pondweed

Associated Rare Animals

American coot
Common moorhen
Spatterdock damner

Distribution

Statewide; extending southward and westward from Maine and presumably into Canada

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch, often linear along lakeshores.

Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Acadia National Park - Hancock Co.
- Tyler Pond Wildlife Management Area - Kennebec Co.



Yellow and White Water Lilies