

## Zannichelliaceae

### horned pondweed family

All aquatic plants, they frequent fresh or brackish waters. A small family, there are only four genera. A single species reaches North America including Nova Scotia. Typically, they have submerged unisexual flowers, arising from the leaf axils. Perianths are absent or reduced to three minute tepals. Stamens are solitary; ovaries 1-9. The fruits are achenes bearing persistent styles. Leaves opposite or whorled, scalelike or linear, with a single vein. The stems are dimorphic, upper ones are leafy while the lower ones are stoloniferous.

### Zannichellia L.

#### Horned Pondweed

This monotypic genus has paired flowers, one staminate and the other pistillate, on a bifurcate stem.

#### Zannichellia palustris L.

##### Horned Pondweed; zannichellie des marais



*Photo by David Mazerolle*

A fragile tenuous plant, this freely branching plant remains completely submerged. The leaves are barely 3-5mm wide and up to 10cm long. The fruit is distinctive when present, resembling tiny pods in clusters of 2-5 arising on short peduncles from the axils. They are 3-5mm long, with short beaks, 1-1.5mm long.

Flowers and fruit from spring through summer.

Frequently found in saline or brackish waters or in streams



*Photo by Roger Lloyd*

just above the tidal reach.

Scattered around the coast.

Ranges from NF to AK, south to Mexico; nearly cosmopolitan.