

Cabombaceae

Water-shield Family

Worldwide, only 2 genera comprise this aquatic family, with a single species found in Nova Scotia.

***Brasenia* Schreb.**

Water Shield

It is monotypic but the single species is widespread worldwide. Elliptical peltate leaves are entirely floating, alternately arranged along the stem. Plants are gelatinous distally.

***Brasenia schreberi* Gmel.**

Water Shield; brasénie de Schreber



Photo by Sean Blaney



Photo by Ross Hall

Peltate leaves do not have a sinus. Flowers are small and reddish; peduncles stem from the terminal node. Petals and sepals are arranged in threes, often submerged.

Appears throughout the summer.

Usually grows in still waters of lakes and often the leaves cover the surface of small pools.

Scattered throughout the southwestern counties, especially so in the lakes of Shelburne and Yarmouth counties. Infrequent to Cumberland and Pictou counties. Our only Cape Breton locality is in the Aspy Bay region.

FL to TX, north to NS and across Canada; worldwide.