

Podostemaceae riverweed family

Aquatic herbs, they number about 200 species, all preferring flowing streams with rocky streambeds. Leaves and stems appear largely undifferentiated and thalloid. The aerial flowers and fruits are produced only as water levels drop. Perfect flowers are reduced; sepals are usually vestigial. Fruit is a capsule with many seeds within its carpels.

***Podostemum* Michx.** **Riverweed**

Seventeen species are reported, mostly of the American tropics. A single species is known from Nova Scotia, but of limited distribution. Plants are attached to rocks by basal disks. Leaves are alternate, to 10cm in length., dilated basally forming stipules. Naked sessile flowers are carried in the leaf axils.

***Podostemum ceratophyllum* Michx.** **Threadfoot**



Photo by David Mazerolle

It is a small olive green, wiry plant. It resembles seaweed with its filiform habit.

Flowers from July to September.

Underwater on rocks in fast-flowing freshwater.

Known only from the LaHave River, above and below New Germany.

Ranges from NS west to ON, south to ND, OK and GA.



Photo by Sean Blaney

