

Butomaceae

flowering-rush family

A monotypic family, its single species has been introduced into North America from temperate Asia. Typically, it is an aquatic emergent, bearing its perfect flowers on a long peduncle. The leaves are linear, scarcely wider than the peduncle. Flowers have three pink petals subtended by three bracts. Stamens number nine, while the pistils are six. The inflorescence is an umbel. Plants may reach 1–2m, with the leaves often exceeding 1m in length.

***Butomus* L.**

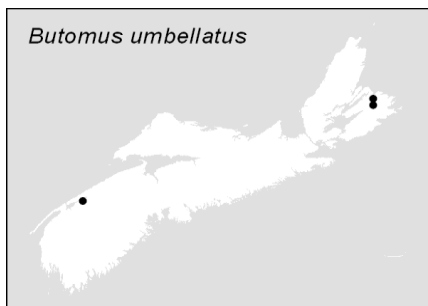
As above. Plants are rhizomatous, sometimes remaining vegetative. If so, the leaves tend to be lax and not stiffly swordlike.

***Butomus umbellatus* L.**

butome à ombelle



Photo by Sean Blaney



A perennial species, it arises from a stout rhizome. The pink flowers produce six straight and striated pods.

Flowers from June through September.

Emergent, rooting in muddy shallows.

So far known from Dartmouth, Sydney and Annapolis Royal areas. More recently found at Dempseys Corner.

Introduced to North America and persistent from NS to MB; AB and BC, south to ID, MN and PA.