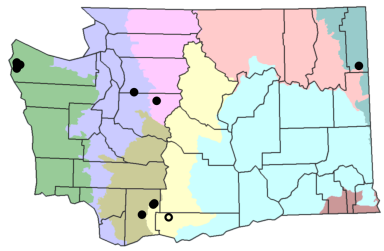
Utricularia intermedia Hayne

flat-leaved bladderwort

Lentibulariaceae - bladderwort family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S2



General Description: Submersed aquatic plant with very slender stems, commonly creeping along the bottom under shallow water. Leaves numerous, alternate, mostly 0.5-2 cm long, commonly 3-parted at the base and then 1-3 times branched, ultimate segments less than 20, often unequal, slender, flat; margins with fine, nongreen bristles. Bladders 2-4 mm wide, borne on specialized leafless branches. Winter buds ovoid or ellipsoid, bristly.

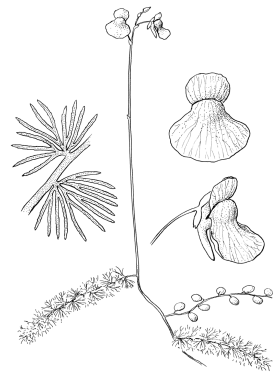


Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish, ©1959 University of Washington Press

Floral Characteristics: Flowers mostly 2-4 in lax racemes; peduncle emergent, 6-20 cm long. Corolla yellow, irregular, the tube very short. Lower lip broad, slightly lobed, commonly 8-12 mm long, elevated at the base so that it blocks the throat of the tube; upper lip about half as long as the lower. Tube prolonged at the base into a spur, which is over half the length of the lower lip. Flowers July to August.

Fruits: Capsules rarely produced; seed not seen.

Identification Tips: *Utricularia macrorhiza** is a much larger plant with bladders borne on the leaves; the leaves are threadlike (not flat), larger (2-9 cm long), and have more ultimate segments. The bladders of *Utricularia minor* are also borne on the leaves, whereas in *U. intermedia* they occur on specialized stems, distinct from the leaves.

photo by Linda Kunze

Range: Circumboreal. In N.A., found throughout Canada, extending south to CA, northern NV, southeast ID, northern UT, MT, IN, and DE.

Habitat/Ecology: Shallow ponds, slow-moving streams, and wet sedge or rush meadows. Elevations: 3-1300 m (10-4100 ft). Associated species include hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), bladderworts (*Utricularia minor, U. macrorhiza*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and sedges (*Carex* spp.). The bladderworts are carnivorous plants; their hollow bladders trap and digest small insects, crustaceans, or parameciums. A sealed valve at one end of the bladder bears 4 hairs; the valve is opened when the hairs are touched, and the rush of water drags small invertebrates inside.

Comments: Threatened by loss of wetland habitat, siltation, and invasion by aquatic weeds and reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). This species is also rare in several western and northeastern states.

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References: Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 3; Hickman 1993; Rossbach 1939.

Adapted from *Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Washington*
http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/CAMFIE.html