

Pistia L.

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This treatment is composed of the following taxa: *Pistia*, *Pistia stratiotes*.

HOW TO CITE

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Has as synonym

heterotypic *Apiospermum* Klotzsch

heterotypic *Kodda-pail* Adans.

heterotypic *Limnonesis* Klotzsch

heterotypic *Zala* Lour.

DESCRIPTION

Laticifers absent. Small, free-floating evergreen herb with pendent feathery roots, stem very short, acaulescent, stoloniferous. Leaves several in a rosette, densely and conspicuously pubescent. Petiole very short, almost absent, sheath very short, ligulate, very thin, scarious at base. Leaf blade somewhat spongy, obovate-cuneate to obovate-oblong, apically rounded, truncate or retuse; midrib absent, primary veins subparallel, all arising from base, diverging slightly and running into margin near apex, strongly prominent on lower surface, higher order venation reticulate. Inflorescence solitary, very small, much shorter than leaves, peduncle very short, pubescent. Spathe pubescent without, glabrous within, somewhat constricted centrally, lower margins connate with each other and with ovary wall forming tube, free margins between tube and blade folded between stigma and male organs forming a partition between an upper male partial chamber and a lower female one, blade erect, ovate, expanded, acute-acuminate. Spadix shorter than and mostly adnate to spathe, only the apical male zone free, female zone bearing single gynoeceium at base and a thin, green, pouch-shaped flap just below spathe partition, male zone subtended by a thin, marginally lobed, green, annular flap and composed of a basally naked spadix axis supporting a single whorl of 2–8 flowers, the naked axis sometimes extending a little beyond. Flowers unisexual, perigone absent. Male flower a synandrium composed of 2 connate stamens, thecae dehiscing by single apical slit. Female flower a gynoeceium obliquely adnate to spadix axis, ovary ovoid, 1-locular, ovules numerous, orthotropous, placenta broad, apparently parietal, morphologically basal, stylar region attenuate, bending inwards towards male flowers, stigma small, discoid-subcapitate. Berry thin-walled, utricular, several-seeded, ellipsoid, irregularly breaking up and decaying to release seeds. Seed barrel-shaped, ± subtruncate and excavated at apex and base, testa thick, reticulate-alveolate, thicker and with operculum at micropylar end, embryo obovoid to conoid, endosperm copious.

COMMENTS

Life Form

Herb

Substrate

Aquatic

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest, Caatinga, Central Brazilian Savanna, Atlantic Rainforest, Pampa, Pantanal

Vegetation Types

Aquatic vegetation

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Acre, Amazonas, Amapá, Pará)

Northeast (Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Rio Grande do Norte, Sergipe)

Central-west (Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso)

Southeast (Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo)

South (Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina)

Pistia stratiotes L.

This treatment is composed of the following taxa: *Pistia stratiotes*, .

Has as synonym

heterotypic *Apiospermum obcordatum* (Schleid.) Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Limnonesis commutata* (Schleid.) Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Limnonesis friedrichsthaliana* Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Pistia aegyptiaca* Schleid.
 heterotypic *Pistia aethiopica* Fenzl ex Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Pistia africana* C.Presl
 heterotypic *Pistia amazonica* C.Presl
 heterotypic *Pistia brasiliensis* Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Pistia commutata* Schleid.
 heterotypic *Pistia crispata* Blume
 heterotypic *Pistia cumingii* Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Pistia gardneri* Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Pistia horkeliana* Miq.
 heterotypic *Pistia leprieuri* Blume
 heterotypic *Pistia linguiformis* Blume
 heterotypic *Pistia minor* Blume
 heterotypic *Pistia natalensis* Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Pistia obcordata* Schleid.
 heterotypic *Pistia occidentalis* Blume
 heterotypic *Pistia schleideniana* Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Pistia spathulata* Michx.
 heterotypic *Pistia stratiotes* var. *obcordata* (Schleid.) Engl.
 heterotypic *Pistia stratiotes* var. *spathulata* (Michx.) Engl.
 heterotypic *Pistia texensis* Klotzsch
 heterotypic *Pistia turpinii* K.Koch
 heterotypic *Pistia weigeltiana* C.Presl
 heterotypic *Zala asiatica* Lour.

DESCRIPTION

Small, free-floating pubescent herb with pendent feathery roots, stem acaulescent, stoloniferous. Leaves several in a rosette. Petiole very short, sheath very short, ligulate, very thin, scarious at base. Leaf blade obovate-cuneate to obovate-oblong, apically rounded, truncate or retuse; midrib absent, primary veins subparallel, all arising from base, diverging slightly and running into margin near apex, strongly prominent on lower surface, higher order venation reticulate. Inflorescence solitary in each floral sympodium, much shorter than leaves, peduncle very short. Spathe pubescent without, glabrous within, somewhat constricted centrally, free margins folded between stigma and male organs forming a partition between an upper male partial chamber and a lower female one, blade erect, ovate, acute-acuminate. Spadix shorter than and mostly adnate to spathe, only the apical male zone free, female zone with single gynoeceium and a distal, green, pouch-shaped flap, male zone with a thin, lobed, green, annular flap at its base and then a naked spadix axis supporting a single apical or subapical whorl of 2–8 flowers. Flowers unisexual, perigone absent. Male flower a synandrium composed of 2 connate stamens, thecae dehiscing by single apical slit. Female flower a gynoeceium obliquely adnate to spadix axis, ovary ovoid, 1-locular, ovules numerous, orthotropous, placenta broad, apparently parietal, morphologically basal, style attenuate, bent towards male flowers, stigma small, discoid-subcapitate. Berry thin-walled, utricular, several-seeded, ellipsoid, irregularly breaking up and decaying to release seeds. Seed barrel-shaped, ± subtruncate and excavated at apex and base, testa thick, reticulate-alveolate, thicker and with operculum at micropylar end, embryo obovoid to conoid, endosperm copious.

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HERBARIUM MATERIAL

s.c., 4097, CEN

Neto, P.C.G., 1729, JPB

FIELD IMAGES / ILLUSTRATIONS

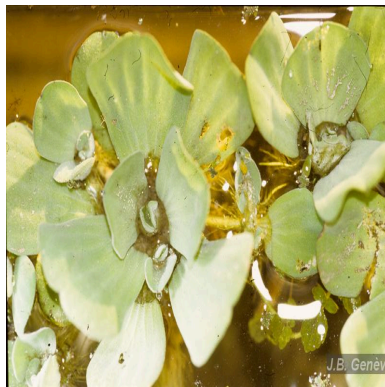


Figure 1: *Pistia stratiotes* L.



Figure 2: *Pistia stratiotes* L.



Figure 3: *Pistia stratiotes* L.