

Phyllanthus fluitans

RED ROOT FLOATER

Phyllanthaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

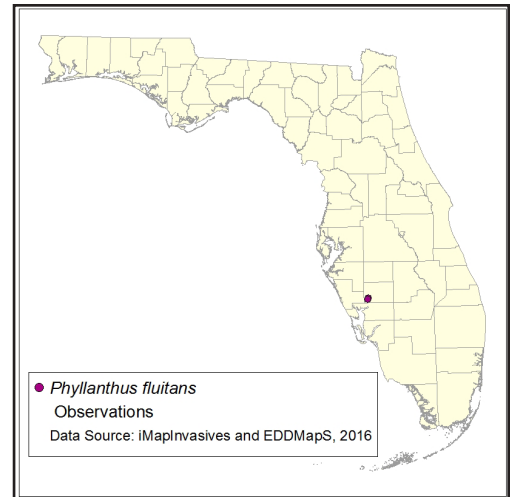
IFAS Assessment

North	CAUTION
Central	CAUTION
South	CAUTION

USDA Hardiness Zone: N/A

Growth Habit: Floating Aquatic

Origin: Central and South America



Description: Perennial aquatic herb with shoots floating on the water surface. Stems brittle, 1 to 1.5 mm in diameter, up to 13 cm long, with clusters of brown and pink roots at nodes. Leaves distichously arranged, 9 to 17 mm long, circular, densely papillate, entire, base cordate, tip notched, light blue-green in color. Leaf blade with peculiar elliptical pocket on each side of the midrib, protuberant above, concave below, with folds on the leaf surface. Flowers axillary, white, minute, 2-4 mm wide. Fruit a 3 mm wide, depressed globose capsule.

Habitat: Canal, river.

Comments: Species sold as aquarium plant. Discovered in 2010 as naturalized in the Peace River drainage. Population herbicided to attempt extermination.

Florida Introduction Date: Earliest Florida specimen vouchered in 2010.

Control Methods:

Foliar: aquatic labeled diquat dibromide.

Useful Resources:

IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. 2013. Red root floater, *Phyllanthus fluitans*. <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/708>. Accessed on December 9, 2013.

IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. 2013. Weed Alert: Red root floater (*Phyllanthus fluitans*). http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/weedalert/invasiveplants_redrootfloater.pdf. Accessed on December 9, 2013.