



## Water pennywort

(*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)

**Originated in North America.**

**An ornamental aquatic plant often used to oxygenate basins and aquariums.**

### Description

- Herbaceous, perennial, amphibious plant
- Roots firmly established in the substrate, strong presence of adventitious roots
- Smooth stems, floating or creeping, that root at the nodes (internode distance is 4 to 12 centimetres)
- Floating or emergent leaves, alternating:
  - 2 to 8 cm in diameter, indented edges with 3 to 7 lobes
  - cleaved base
  - long, pulpy stems (up to 35 cm)
- Small, white flowers, hermaphroditic, grouped in umbels of 5 to 10 flowers
- The fruit is a double achene, rounded, flat, brown in colour

### Ecology and reproduction

- The preferred habitat is stagnant to lentic waters, generally shallow (ditches, canals, pools, areas near water bodies). The plants tend toward eutrophic waters, rich in organic matter and nutrients.
- Reproduction through vegetative multiplication:
  - fragmentation of stolons (runners), cuttings are possible where there are nodes
  - growth is possible without direct contact with the substrate
- Terrestrial plants are strongly rooted, but less developed than the aquatic plants

### Documentation

- Dortel F., Lacroix P., Magnanon S. 2011. Plan de lutte contre l'Hydrocotyle fausse-renoncule (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* L.f.) en région Pays de la Loire, 85 pp.
- Fried G. 2012. Guide des plantes invasives. Belin, Paris, 272 pp.
- Fried G., Hussner A., Newman J., Schrader G., Triest L., Van Valkenburg J. 2009. Report of a Pest Risk Analysis for *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* - O.E.P.P. 28 pp.
- Hudin S., Vahrameev P. (coord). 2010. Guide d'identification des plantes exotiques envahissant les milieux aquatiques et les berges du bassin Loire-Bretagne. Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, 45 pp.
- FCBN, Fiche espèce *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* L.f., 4 pp.

[http://www.centrederessourcesloirenature.com/mediatheque/especes\\_inv/a/fiches\\_FCBN/Fiche%20-%20Hydrocotyle%20ranunculoides\\_sr.pdf](http://www.centrederessourcesloirenature.com/mediatheque/especes_inv/a/fiches_FCBN/Fiche%20-%20Hydrocotyle%20ranunculoides_sr.pdf)

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#### Classification

Order	Apiales
Family	Araliaceae
Genus	<i>Hydrocotyle</i>
Species	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> (L. f., 1782)

