= Utricularia inflata =

Utricularia inflata , commonly known as the swollen bladderwort , inflated bladderwort , or large floating bladderwort , is a large suspended aquatic carnivorous plant that belongs to the genus Utricularia . It is a perennial that is native to the southeastern coastal plains of the United States . It has often been confused with U. radiata , which is similar but smaller than U. inflata . Since 1980 , U. inflata has been reported to exist in locations beyond its traditional range , such as the Adirondack Mountains in New York , southeastern Massachusetts , and in Washington State . Studies on the populations in the Adirondacks suggest that an introduction of U. inflata to a location where it naturalizes can lead to altered sediment chemistry by reducing the net primary productivity of native species . It is also listed by the state of Washington as a problematic species because of the dense mat @-@ forming habit of this aquatic Utricularia . It is one of the few carnivorous plants that can be invasive .

= = Description = =

U. inflata is one of the larger suspended aquatic species in the genus Utricularia . Like all aquatic Utricularia , U. inflata has no true roots or leaves . The filiform stolons are the main vegetative " stem " of the plant and can be up to one meter long or longer but are only 1 ? 2 mm thick . The stolons are glabrous with 1 ? 5 cm between branched divisions . Occasionally the stolons will produce floating air shoots at the water 's surface and tuber @-@ like organs in the substrate . Its filiform leaf @-@ like structures appear to be additional branches off the main stolon and are tiny , filament @-@ like structures that are not true leaves , though the terminology is often disputed among experts . The leaf structures are numerous and anywhere from 2 ? 18 cm long , originating from the stolon base into two primary and unequal segments , which are further divided extensively into additional segments . The stalked , ovoid traps , 1 ? 3 mm long , are produced on the latter leaf segments and are very numerous .

In its native range , U. inflata , a perennial species , can begin to flower in January and may continue through June . In this phase of its growth it produces the most visible and noticeable morphological features of the species : a floating spoke @-@ like whorl of spongy structures at the water 's surface that support the inflorescences , often called a " float " . U. inflata typically produces 6 to 8 spokes on the float (sometimes anywhere from 5 to 10) , with each spoke 3 ? 10 cm long and up to 8 mm wide . The apical half of the spokes bear numerous , dichotomously branched leaf @-@ like segments that can also possess some traps . The 20 ? 50 cm long erect inflorescences are produced from the center of the floating whorl and are usually solitary or possess very few scapes for each whorl . An individual plant can produce several whorls and inflorescences , but they are typically distant from each other . The inflorescences produce 9 @-@ 14 (sometimes 4 @-@ 17) flowers with unequal calyx lobes , 3 ? 5 mm long . The entire corolla can be 2 @-@ 2 @.@ 5 cm long and is bright yellow with brown @-@ colored veins on the spur and brown markings on the lower corolla lobe .