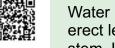


Water Lettuce

(Pistia stratiotes)



Habitat: Aquatic, freshwater **Family name**: Araceae

Common name/s: Floating Lettuce, Water

Cabbage, Jalkumbhi



Large Water Lettuce Stand

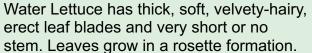
Description:

The area of origin of Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*), is still speculative, being most probably South America.

This perennial freshwater hydrophyte is a herbaceous

floating plant belonging to the family Araceae.

The plant consists of a rosette of pale green leaves, prominently veined and it resembles a small lettuce plant.



Flowers are bisexual and appear in the centre of leaf rosettes.



Leaf hairs are water repellent and trap air, preventing the plant from being submerged.

thick, soft leaves that form a rosette. It floats on the surface of the water, its roots hanging submersed beneath floating leaves. The leaves can be up to 14 cm long.



Water Lettuce Leave

Long feathery roots suspended in water.





Plants can spread rapidly by means of stolons (runners which connect mother and daughter plants) forming dense mats.

Seeds are easily carried by water for long distances, since they float during the first two days after they reach maturity.





5mm