

## APONOGETONACEAE

水蕹科 shui weng ke

Guo Youhao (郭友好)<sup>1</sup>; Robert R. Haynes<sup>2</sup>, C. Barre Hellquist<sup>3</sup>

Herbs, perennial, freshwater aquatic. Rhizome tuberous, with fibrous roots. Leaves submerged and/or floating, basal, long petiolate, broadly elliptic to linear, with few primary veins and numerous transverse secondary veins, sheathed at base. Inflorescence usually a simple or 2-forked terminal spike; spathe present, but usually very early caducous. Flowers hermaphroditic or unisexual. Perianth segments 1–3 or rarely absent, white, yellow, mauve, or bluish violet, often petaloid, persistent. Stamens 6 to many; filaments elongated, free, filiform or flattened; anthers extrorse, 2-celled, opening by longitudinal slits. Carpels 3–6(–8), free or slightly united near base; ovary superior; style short; ovules 2–8 per carpel. Fruit a whorl of follicles. Seeds without endosperm; embryo straight.

One species: widely distributed in tropical and subtropical parts of Old World.

Zhou Lingyun & Zhong Xiongwen. 1992. Aponogetonaceae. In: Sun Xiangzhong, ed., Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 8: 34–36.

### 1. APONOGETON Linnaeus f., Suppl. Pl. 32, 214. 1782, nom. cons., not Hill (1756).

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Morphological characters and geographical distribution are the same as those of the family.

**1. *Aponogeton lakhonensis*** A. Camus, Notul. Syst. (Paris) 1: 273. 1910.

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*Aponogeton pygmaeus* K. Krause; *A. taiwanensis* Masamune.

Rhizome obovoid or elongated, to 2 cm, often with filament remnant of sheath. Petiole 9–15 cm in submerged leaves and 40–60 cm in floating leaves; leaf blade narrowly ovate to linear, 4–6 × 1–2 cm, herbaceous, with 7–9 primary veins at base, base cordate or rounded, margin entire, apex rounded or

with a blunt tip. Inflorescence to ca. 5 cm, pedunculate. Flowers bisexual. Perianth segments 2, yellow, slightly obovate, ca. 2 mm. Stamens 6; filaments broadened toward base. Carpels slightly united near base, with 4–6 ovules per carpel. Fruit ovoid, 2–3 mm, with a short terminal beak. Fl. Apr–Oct.

Paddy fields, ponds, streams. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Jiangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang (Longquan) [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam].

The specimens of this species were incorrectly named *Aponogeton natans* (Linnaeus) Engler & Krause, but the latter has reddish or purple flowers, filaments not broadened, and a longer beak. The relationship between *A. lakhonensis* and *A. natans* needs to be further studied.

<sup>1</sup> Herbarium, College of Life Sciences, Wuhan University, Wuhan, Hubei 430072, People's Republic of China.

<sup>2</sup> Herbarium, Biological Sciences, Biodiversity and Systematics Department, University of Alabama, Box 870345, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0345, U.S.A.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Biology, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, 375 Church Street, North Adams, Massachusetts 01247-4100, U.S.A.