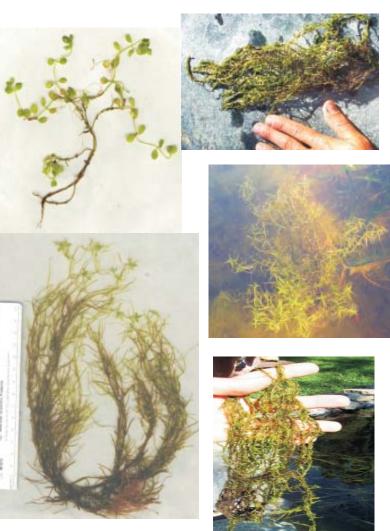
## Vlarylanc

## Water Starwort Callitriche spp.

Native to the Chesapeake Bay

Family - Callichtrichaceae

- *Distribution* Water starworts are widespread, usually in quiet non-tidal fresh waters. Water starworts can also be found occasionally in upper tidal waters.
- *Recognition* Water starworts are small plants with very bright green leaves. The leaves are obovate to oval in shape and are 2 cm long and 3 to 8 mm wide. When it grows on mud in low-water conditions, the leaves of water starwort are oblong. Upper leaves of the plants are obovate to oval and are often floating or emergent. The genus Callitriche also includes one terrestrial species (C. deflexa).
- *Ecological Significance* Callitriche is found in all 49 continental states.
- *Similar species* When underwater and without flowers or seeds, the water starworts can resemble common waterweed (Elodea canadensis). Water starwort, however, has only two leaves at each joint whereas the leaves of common waterweed grow in whorls of 3.
- **Reproduction** Flowering occurs in July to September. Small flowers grow together in groups of 1 to 3, without perianth, in the axils of leaves; these form numerous seeds closely set within the leaf axils.



Water Starwort