

## W.15 CURLED PONDWEED/ KRULBLAARFONTEINKRUID

(*Potamogeton crispus* L.)

Family: Potamogetonaceae

(Compiled by the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria)

---

Curled pondweed is a fairly large, submerged, rooted waterplant with four-angled stems up to 1,5 m long. The narrowly lance-shaped, blunt-tipped leaves are distinctly wavy and 8 to 15 mm broad. They have margins with fine teeth, and are not attached to the paper-like sheaths that surround the stem at the base of the leaves. Five to ten small green flowers are borne in a spike. The one-seeded fruit is 2 to 4 mm long, with a convex basis and a long curved beak.

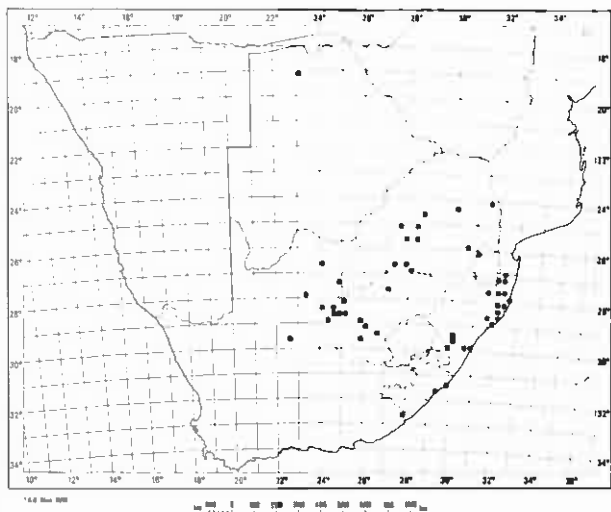
### Related species

Curled pondweed can be distinguished as follows from the other two species of *Potamogeton* in Southern Africa with submerged leaves wider than 4 mm: the leaves have finely toothed margins, they are distinctly wavy and the beak on the fruit is about as long as the rest of the fruit.

### Distribution

The plant is fairly common in the summer rainfall region of Southern Africa, including South West Africa/Namibia and Botswana. It also occurs in other parts of Africa, in Europe and Asia and was apparently introduced to America.





### Ecology

Curled pondweed grows in still to moderately fast-flowing water about 1 m (seldom up to 2 m) deep. It roots in fine to medium fine soil and is usually found in fairly clear water.

### Importance

The species is generally not particularly troublesome as a weed, but is known to harbour bilharzia-carrying snails.

### Legislation

There is no legislation for the control of this species.

### Notes

The scientific name is derived from the Greek *potamos* = river, and *geiton* = neighbour; *crispus* = waved or curled.

**Species Number: 0058.000 - 00100**

### Literature

- HASLAM, S.M., SINKER, C.A. & WOLSELEY, P.A., 1975. British water plants. *Fld Stud.* 4: 243-351
- MITCHELL, D.S. (ed.), 1974. *Aquatic vegetation and its use and control*. Paris: UNESCO.
- OBERMEYER, A.A., 1966. Potamogetonaceae, in Codd, L.E., De Winter, B. & Rycroft, H.B. *Flora of Southern Africa*, volume 1.
- SCULTHORPE, C.D. 1967. *The biology of aquatic vascular plants*. London: Edward Arnold.