

IDENTIFICATION: The Kral's water plantain (*Sagittaria secundifolia*) is an aquatic plant, growing on or below the water, on rocky creek beds and nearby slopes. It is often found in association with azaleas, mountain laurel and holly. The leaves are of two types, depending on the velocity and depth of the water it inhabits. Leaves are typically shorter (2-3 inches) and stiffer in swift shallow waters as opposed to being more quill-like (4-12 inches) in quiet, deeper pools. Flowers infrequently from May into July and intermittently into the fall. The white flowers are about 0.5 inches in length.



Flower of Kral's water plantain on water surface



Leaves of Kral's water plantain on river bottom

Threats to this plant include eutrophication from garbage dumping and leaking sewage systems in habitat adjacent to this species. Increased algae levels make it more difficult for this species to survive and flourish because of decreased light availability for growth and flowering activities. Clearing of adjacent river banks poses a threat because of increased turbidity and siltation

FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS: Kral's water plantain is an aquatic plant and should not be affected by forestry activities if Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry are followed.

DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY: The plant is found in the Little River drainage in DeKalb and Cherokee counties, the Town Creek drainage in DeKalb County, and in the West Sipsey Fork in Winston County in Alabama. Natural Heritage Section employees of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources also documented a population of this species in Hatchet Creek located in Coosa County in 2001. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes this species may also occur in Clay, Franklin, Lawrence, Talladega, Tallapoosa and Winston counties.

Photo Credit: Brittney Hughes, Alabama State Parks Division, Desoto State Park



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