

## River Water-crowfoot

### Description

River water-crowfoot is the rarest of all the water-crowfoots in Ireland, being restricted to the Six Mile Water, County Antrim.

The leaves of this species are long and finely divided into long 'capillary' segments, which are always submerged in the water and are aligned along the direction of the stream flow. The flowers are small (approx 15 to 25mm or up to approx 0.75 to 1 inch diameter), with a few white petals, yellow stamens and small green sepals; they are carried just above water level. One-seeded dry fruits break away from the old flower stalk when mature.



Flowering is from about late May to August. The fruits are dry and one-seeded and are easily distributed by water, birds or wind. Since hybrids with other species occur in the river, sexual reproduction seems to play some part in maintaining the population.

### Distribution

It can be found most easily where the river is fairly shallow and rapid-flowing. For example, at Dunadry Bridge. It is best seen when in flower which is around July.

### Action

Northern Ireland Species Action Plan published in 2005.

EHS has produced a *River Conservation strategy for Northern Ireland* (DOE, 2001) outlining its role and responsibility in protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built heritage values of rivers in Northern Ireland and facilitating their sustainable use.

### Further Information

<http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/species.asp?item=2725>

### MLA Species Champion

