



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Free-floating aquatic fern lacking roots. Reproduces vegetatively via stem fragmentation.

leaves

Pairs of oval leaves, green to brown up to 1 1/2 inches long, connected by horizontal stem. Top of leaves covered by tiny hair-like structures, that split and re-join, forming an egg beater shaped structure.

Emergent leaves: green, obovate.

Submersed leaves: brown and feather like; often mistaken for roots.

spores

Within the submersed leaves are egg shaped sporocarps that contain spores. Sporocarps about 1 mm long and hang in long straight chains. Spores normally sterile.



flower color

Elevation:
Unknown

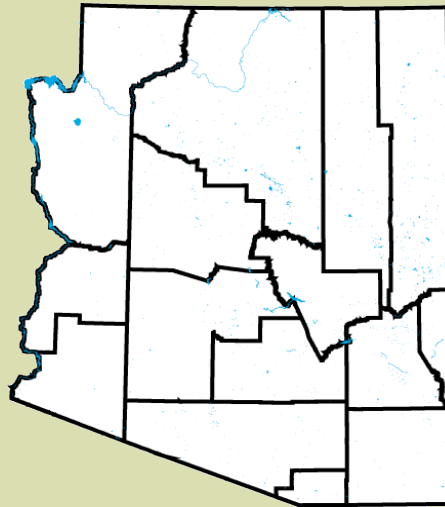
Ecotypes Invaded:
Freshwater systems; lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers & streams.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Quiet waters of lakes and ponds, oxbows, ditches, slow flowing streams and rivers, backwater swamps and marshes. Rapid growing, doubling population size in a week to ten days. Forms impenetrable mats (up to 3 ft thick) blocking sunlight and reducing oxygen to the water below. Infestations make fishing, swimming and boating impossible.

Native to Brazil. In USA found in waterbodies in freshwater drainages of Texas and Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, N. Carolina, Mississippi, Arizona, California and Hawaii. Egg-beater shaped hairs distinguish *S. molesta* from common salvinia, *S. minima*, which has branched hairs that are spreading and free at the tips.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

