

*Potamogeton distinctus*

**Family:** Potamogetonaceae

**Species:** *Potamogeton distinctus* A. Benn.

**Common Names:** roundleaf pondweed, bog pondweed; shochum, shoum, and pani jhar (Bhutan); hirimushiro (Japan)

**Synonyms:** *Potamogeton franchetii* A. Benn. & Baag

**Bayer Code:** PTMDI

**Description:** A perennial, floating-leaved aquatic plant with rhizomes down to 20 cm in the soil below, which form dormant resting organs (rhizome tips or turions) at the end of the season and emerge as soon as flooding recurs the following season. Leaves mostly floating, elliptic obtuse to acute, base truncate or cuneate, up to 10 cm long x 4 cm wide, on petioles about the same length. Membranous stipules about 4 cm long, soon decaying. Some submerged leaves may occur, which are narrower and acute at both ends. Flowers on peduncles up to 7 cm long, in cylindrical spikes about 7 cm long, 1 cm thick, which bend down into the water when in fruit. Fruit one- to four-lobed, 3–4 mm long. Seed an achene with a short beak and dorsal keel, hairy, up to 3 to 4.5 mm long.

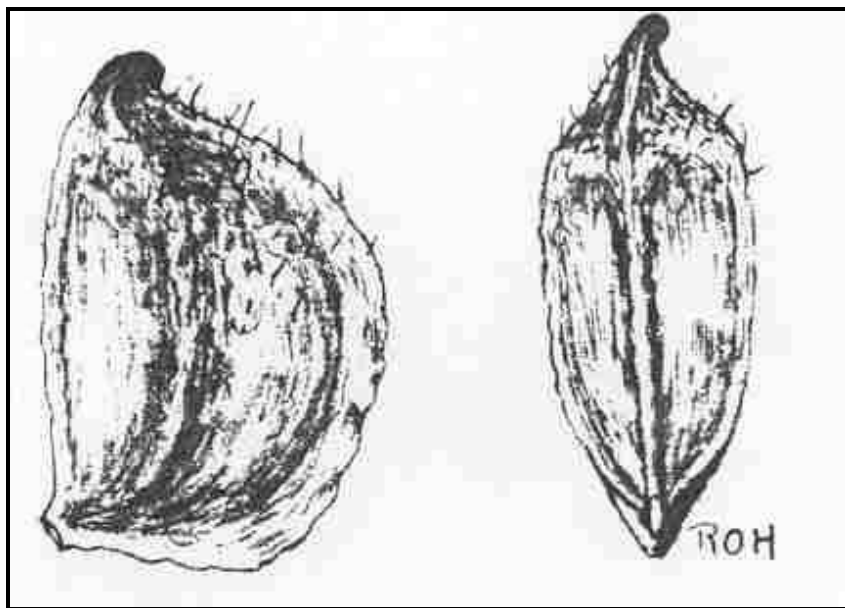


Figure 1. *Potamogeton distinctus* from Reed (1977)

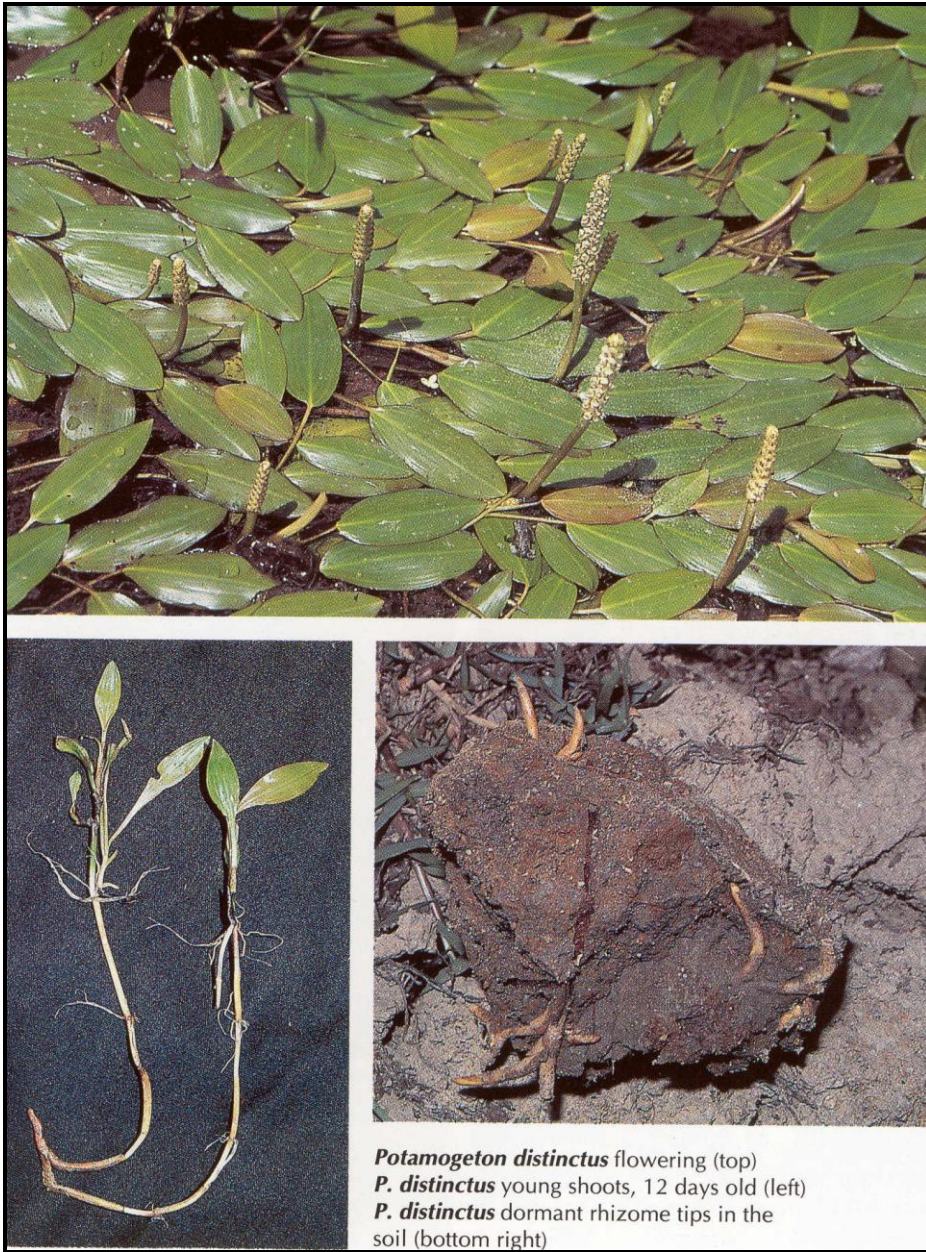


Figure 2. *Potamogeton distinctus* from Parker (1992)

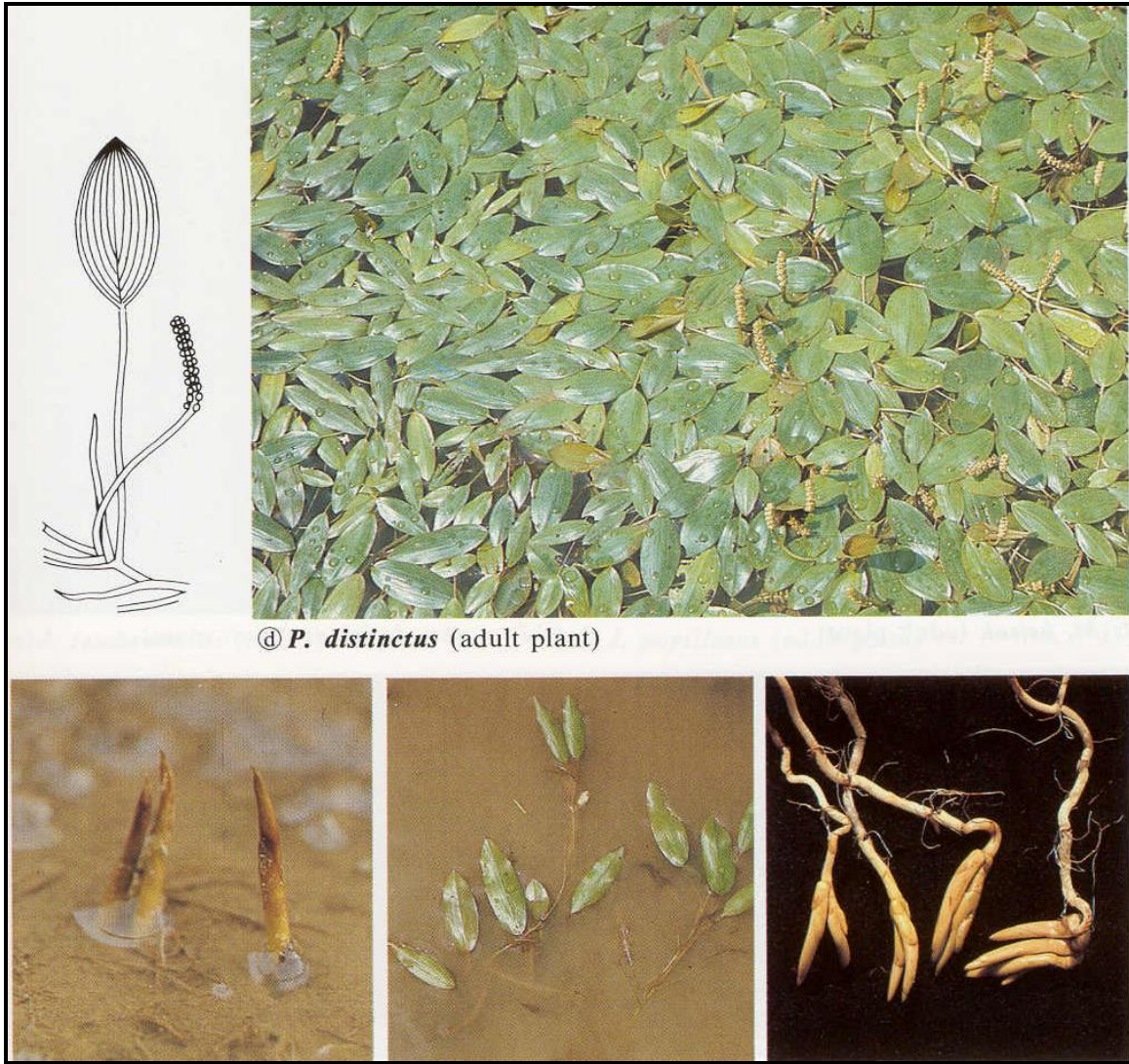


Figure 3. *Potamogeton distinctus* from Morita (1997)

**Distribution:** *Potamogeton distinctus* is native to Bhutan, China, Japan, and Korea.

### Native and Naturalized Distribution of *Potamogeton distinctus* A. Benn.



Figure 4. By Glenn Fowler, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2002 (Fowler, 2002)

**Biology and Ecology:** *Potamogeton distinctus* is an aquatic with excellent adaptation to dry seasons and to cultivation. It does this by having an efficient means of survival from season to season in the form of dormant rhizome tips buried deep in the soil. These sprout and develop very rapidly as flooding resumes, as in irrigated rice crops. Sprouting is favoured by anaerobic conditions (Ishizawa et al., 1999). High levels of sprouting can occur at temperatures as low as 10 °C (Lee and Pyon, 2001). Flowering occurs between June and October. Viable seeds are produced which remain dormant for 120 days after shedding (Ku et al., 1996).

**Possible Pathways to the United States:** No information provided

**Adverse Impacts:** *Potamogeton distinctus* is classified by Holm et al. (1979) as a “serious” weed in Japan and a “principal” weed in Korea. It is further considered to be the most serious weed of rice in Bhutan (Parker, 1992) and is included by Wang et al. (1990) as a weed of concern in China. It can be a very dominant species in shallow water, such as rice crops, and poses a significant risk to these situations in warmer parts of the United States.

#### Literature Cited:

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