



Vegetative stage



Flowering stage

References:

Weeds of Rice in Asia by Carton, B.P., Mortimer, M., Hill, J.E., and Johnson, D.E
Weeds of Bhutan by Chris Parker

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National Plant Protection Centre
Department of Agriculture
Semtokha: Thimphu

Potamogeton distinctus
Naiadaceae

Weeds, leaflet 7



Produced by:

Weeds and Vertebrate Unit
National plant Protection Centre
Semtokha, Thimphu

Rice weeds
Potamogeton distinctus

Shochum (Dzongkha)
Roundleaf pondweed (common name)
Family: NAIADACEAE

Biology

Growth habit: Floating leaved aquatic plant with rhizomes down to 20 cm.

Description: It is a perennial, floating-leaved aquatic plant with rhizomes down to 20 cm in the soil below, which form dominant resting organs at the end of the season, which emerge as soon as the paddies are flooded next season. Leaves mostly floating, elliptic obtuse to acute,



base truncate or cuneate, up to 10 cm long and 4 cm wide. Flowers on peduncles up to 7 cm long, in cylindrical spike about 7 cm long, 1 cm thick which bend down into the water when in fruit.

Life cycle: Perennial

Competitiveness: High

Method of reproduction: Seeds and rhizomes.

Ecology

Found in: Low land; mostly common in paddy fields and in ponds.

Elevation: Up to 1200 to 2500 m.a.s.l.

Management

Cultural control: The control measures for *Potamogeton distinctus* includes the initial land preparation, usually a dry ploughing some time ahead of transplanting, the flooding and wet-ploughing immediately before transplanting. Hand weeding is the predominant method. A first weeding should be done within three weeks of transplanting. This should be followed by a second weeding four weeks later. If necessary, and in case of serious infestation by shochum a third hand weeding is recommended.



Rice field with Shochum