

***Utricularia gibba* L.**
humped bladderwort
Lentibulariaceae (Bladderwort Family)

Status: State Review Group 1
Rank: G5SNR

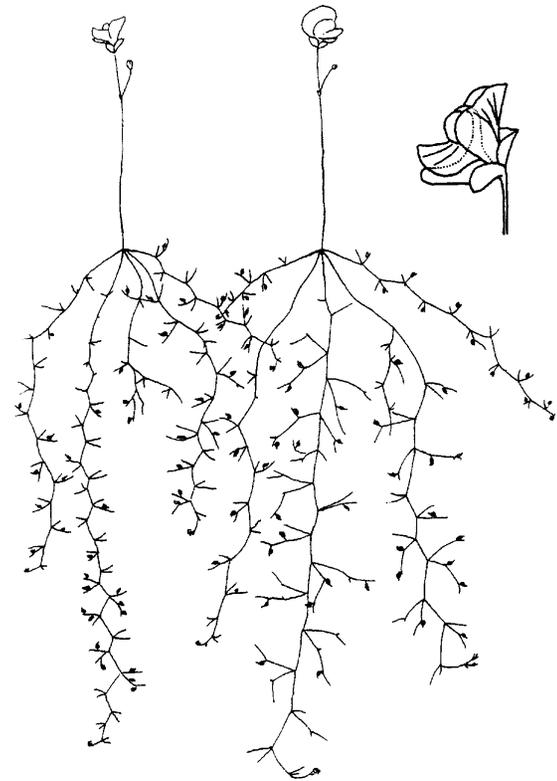
General Description: Adapted from Douglas et al. (1999) and Hickman (1993): *Utricularia gibba* is a perennial aquatic herb without roots. The stems are very slender and up to 10 in. (25 cm) long. They may be floating, submerged or creeping along the bottom. The stem leaves are alternate, numerous, and 1/8 to 3/8 in. (3-10 mm) long. They are threadlike, have hairless margins, and may be undivided or generally 2-parted at the base and each part may be forked again. There are 1 or 2 valve-lidded bladders borne on the leaves that are less than 1/16 in. (1-2 mm) wide, which trap small invertebrates. This species has no winter buds. The inflorescence has 1 to 4 yellow flowers 1/4 to 5/16 in. (6-8 mm) long at the end of a stalk less than 6 in. (15 cm) long. The flowers are strongly irregular. The lower lips are broad, flat, and saddle shaped. The flower spurs are broadly cone-shaped, but shorter than the lower lips. The fruit capsules are borne on erect stalks, and the seeds are winged.

Identification Tips: Other bladderworts that occur in the same counties in Washington as *Utricularia gibba* include *U. inflata*, *U. intermedia*, *U. macrorhiza*, *U. minor*, and *U. ochroleuca*. *U. minor* and *U. gibba* are the only species of this genus to have glabrous leaf margins, but *U. gibba* has winged seeds while *U. minor* does not. *U. gibba* differs from all these species in that it has no winter buds in its leaf axils, which are the most common propagation method for other species of *Utricularia*.

Phenology: This species flowers from June through August.

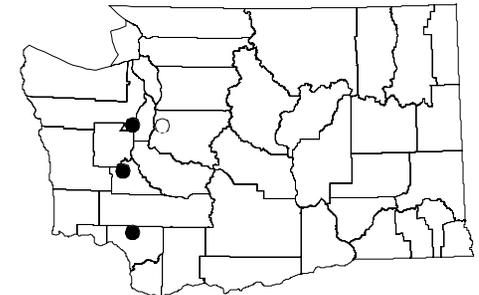
Range: This species is known from southern British Columbia south to California. It is also known from eastern North America from Quebec south to Florida and Louisiana, Central America, and the West Indies. In Washington, this species has been observed in Kitsap, Thurston, and Cowlitz counties. It was historically found in King County, but is believed to be extirpated there.

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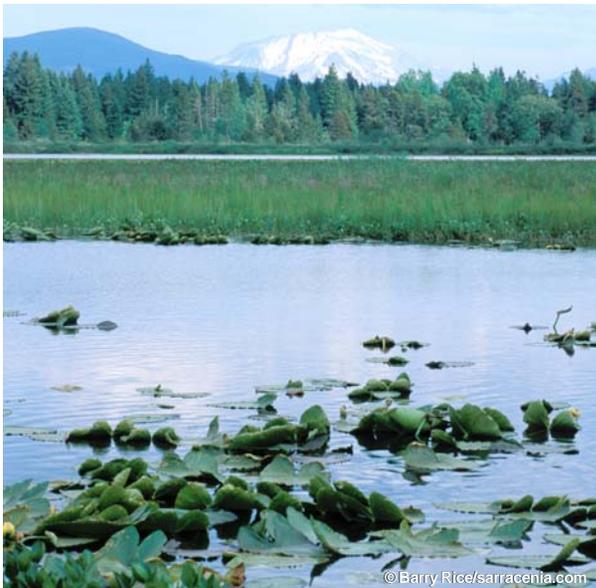
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Known distribution of
Utricularia gibba
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Habitat: This species occurs in lakes and lake edges and muddy disturbed sites in the lowland zone. *Utricularia gibba* was found in Washington at elevations from 160 to 490 feet (50-150 m). Associated species include algae, Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), watershield (*Brasenia* sp.), pond lily (*Nuphar* sp.), purple marshlocks (*Potentilla palustris*), hoary sedge (*Carex canescens*), and common rush (*Juncus effusus* ssp. *pacificus*).

Ecology: *Utricularia gibba* is an obligate wetland species.

State Status Comments: There are fewer than five occurrences of this species in Washington. Because *Utricularia gibba* was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time.

Inventory Needs: The historical occurrences need to be revisited. Wetland habitats and undisturbed lake edges in western Washington should also be investigated.

Threats and Management Concerns: Hydrologic alteration from land development is the greatest threat to this species, and is the cause of its extirpation from King County. Water quality issues and exotic species may also pose threats to *Utricularia gibba*.

References:

Douglas, G.W., G.B. Straley, D. Meidinger, and J. Pojar. 1999. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia* vol. 3: *Dicotyledons (Diapensiaceae Through Onagraceae)*. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, British Columbia. 423 pp.

Hickman, J.C. 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 1400 pp.