

Identification

- Related to many native macro-algae in Wisconsin
 - *Chara* (10+ species)
 - *Nitella* (9+ species)
 - *Tolypella* (2 species)
 - *Lychnothamnus* (1 species)
- All tend to improve water clarity and quality



Identification

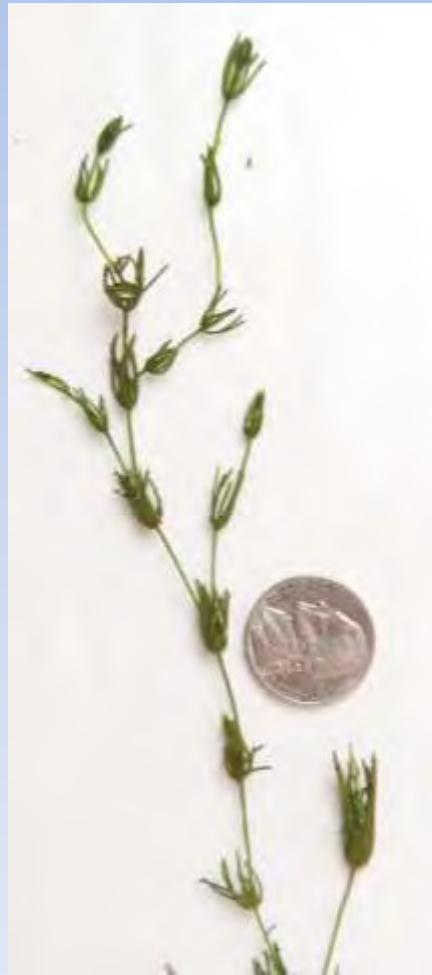
HUGE compared to most of its native relatives

Starry stonewort

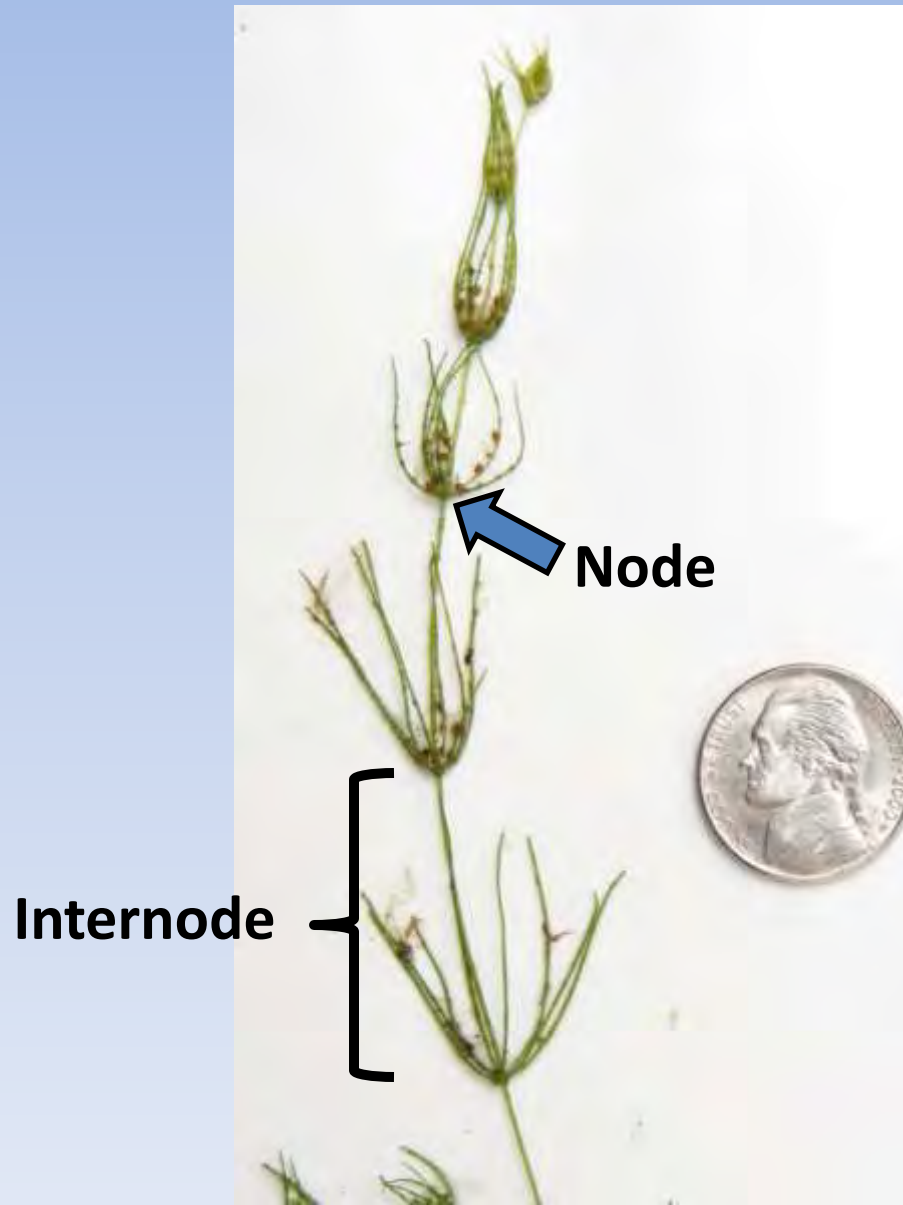
Nitellopsis obtusa



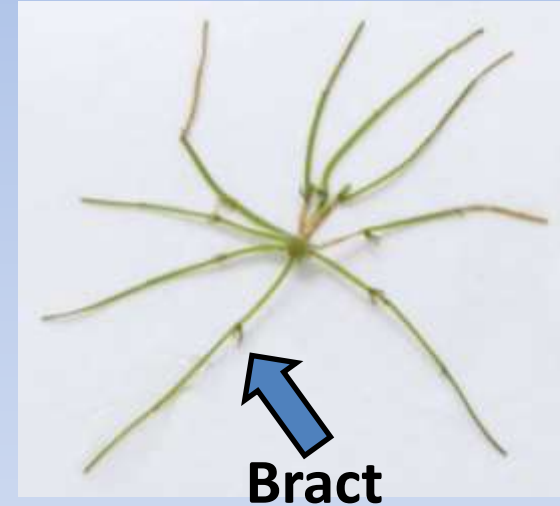
Chara contraria *Chara globularis* *Nitella flexilis*



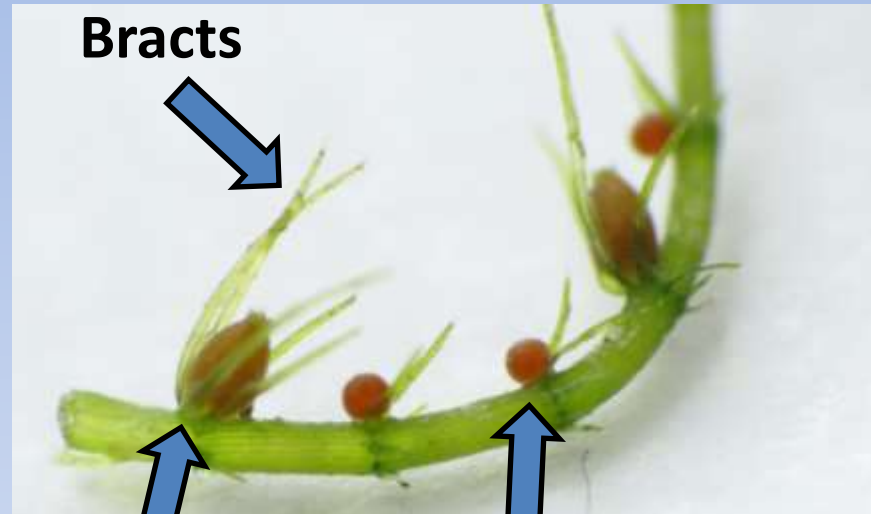
Identification – basic body plan



Whorl of branchlets



Identification – basic body plan



Bracts

**Oogonium
(female)**

**Antheridium
(male)**



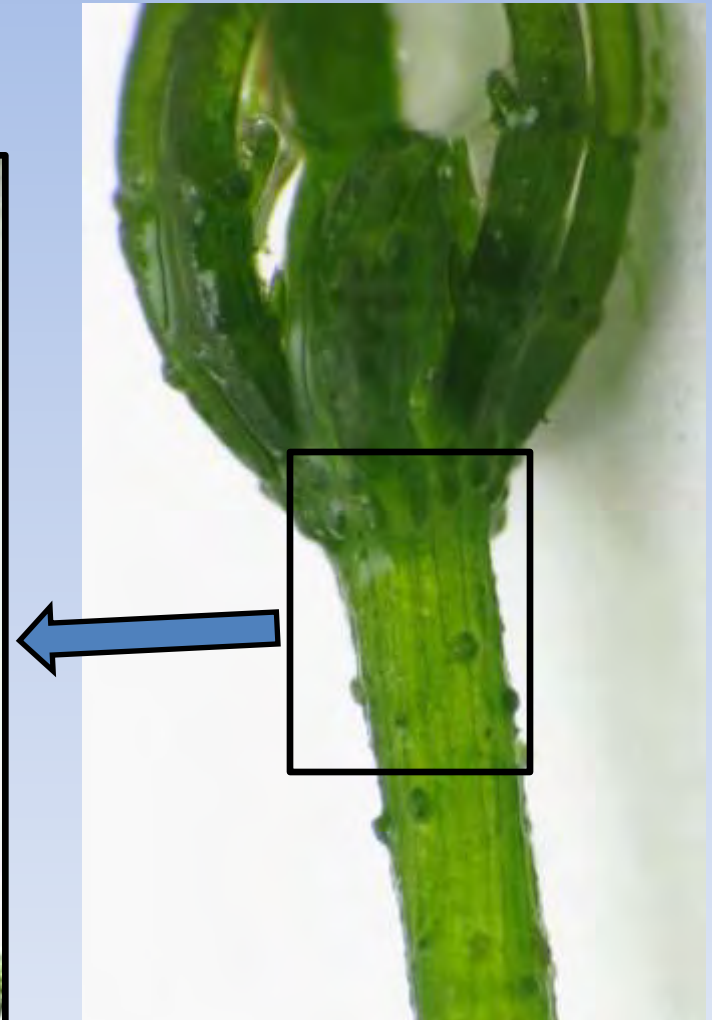
**Oogonium
(female)**

**Antheridium
(male)**



Identification – basic body plan

If you
see/feel
these long
cells on the
stem, it is
NOT starry
stonewort



Chara contraria

Identification

Starry stonewort
Nitellopsis obtusa



**Branchlet has a short
bract coming off the
right side**

Nitella mucronata



**Branchlet divides into
equal-length parts**

Identification

- Bulbils
- Most macro-algae do NOT produce bulbils.



Chara aspera

Identification

- Bulbils produce clones of the parent
- Most macro-algae do NOT produce bulbils.



Chara aspera



Nitellopsis obtusa (starry stonewort)

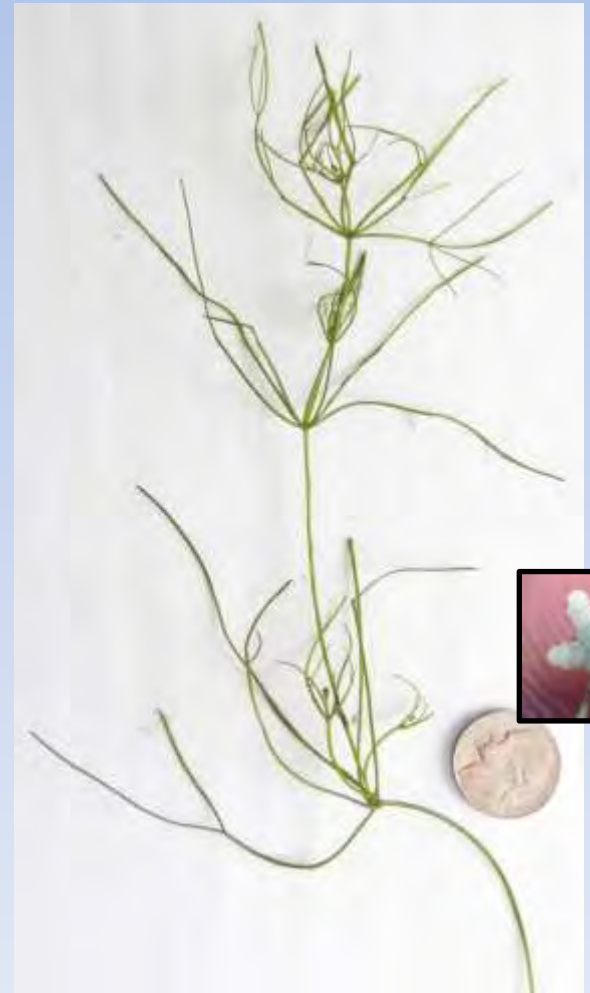
Identification

Horned pondweed
(*Zannichellia palustris*)

vs.

Starry stonewort
(*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

NATIVE



Identification

Sago pondweed
(*Stuckenia pectinata*)

vs.

Starry stonewort
(*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

NATIVE

