

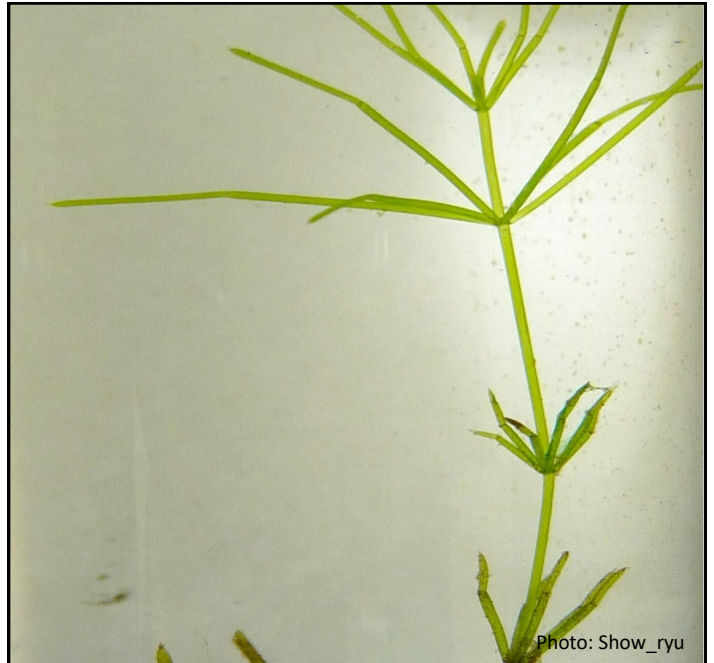
Stoneworts

Species Description

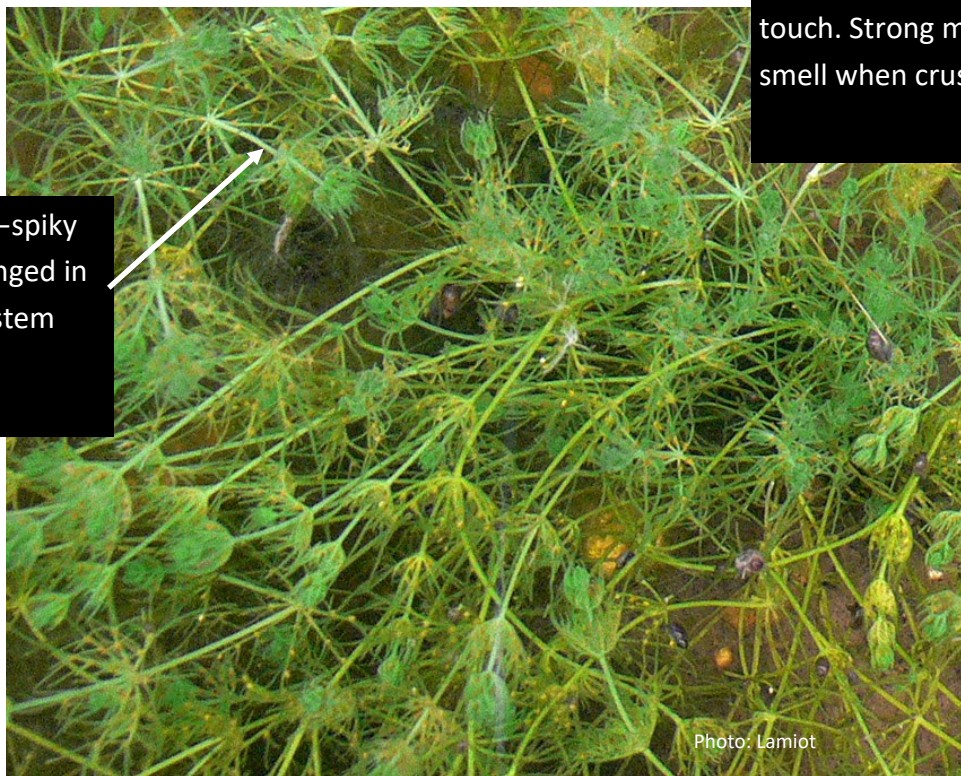
Scientific name: Charophytes

Stoneworts, also known as charophytes, are a family of complex-structured algae. They are submerged species that live in a variety of wetland and freshwater or brackish habitats. They derive their common name from the stony external texture that many of the species acquire as a result of encrustation of their outer surface, mainly with calcium carbonate.

Seventeen species are currently listed as Threatened or Endangered in the Red Data Book of British Stoneworts, while 11 species are currently listed as priority species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan .



Key ID features



No true leaves—spiky branchlets arranged in whorls around stem

Stony external structure—rough to the touch. Strong musky smell when crushed