

Aquatic Plants in Britain and Ireland is the result of a joint project of the Environment Agency (formerly the National Rivers Authority), the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Over the past 50 years, major changes have taken place in the distribution of aquatic plants in Europe. Many species have declined in the face of habitat destruction, unsympathetic management of existing habitats, or the acidification or eutrophication of freshwaters. Other species have increased in abundance or spread, including several that were originally introduced from the New World. Despite the relative richness of the aquatic flora of Britain and Ireland it is a neglected area of study, due in part to its comparative inaccessibility and partly to the taxonomic difficulty of some genera.

This book summarizes the distribution, habitat and reproductive biology of 200 taxa in 72 genera and provides a brief summary of their wider distribution. Distribution maps are provided for all taxa and each genus is illustrated with a line drawing to aid identification.

As Lord De Ramsey, Chairman of the Environment Agency, states in his Foreword, 'Sound knowledge of the status and distribution of freshwater plants and an understanding of their biology are essential if man is to live in harmony with nature ... This volume presents, for the first time, a thorough review of all freshwater plants in Britain and Ireland. It is both an atlas of distribution and a compendium of scientific information.'

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Details of the sponsoring bodies will be found on page 4

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