

A Recent Collection in Illinois of *Megalodonta beckii* (Torr.) Greene

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ABSTRACT

The water marigold, *Megalodonta beckii* (Torr.) Greene (*Bidens beckii* Torr.) was last reported in Illinois in Grays Lake, Lake County, in 1966 and previously in 1898. It was collected again on August 25, 1988 in Cedar Lake, Lake Villa, Lake County.

FINDINGS

A rare submersed aquatic plant, *Megalodonta beckii* (Torr.) Greene (Asteraceae) was last found in Grays Lake, Lake County, Illinois by Benjamin L. Dolbeare, of the Illinois State Museum, on August 4, 1966 (Dolbeare 1967). The plant bed was later covered with sand fill to extend the Grays Lake village beach and the only known population in Illinois was apparently lost.

During the drought of 1988, the author discovered *Megalodonta beckii* in the south bay of Cedar Lake, 16 km north of Grays Lake. While rare in Illinois, the water marigold is found in Wisconsin lakes, the nearest in Rock Lake, Kenosha County (Swink and Wilhelm, 1979).

The collection reported here had yellow ray and disk flowers in a single head which was above the water surface of one meter depth. After two years of normal rainfall, Cedar Lake had resumed its former level and the plants flowered 15-25 cm below the surface. Collection data for the specimen which has been deposited at the Illinois State Museum herbarium are: Cedar Lake, Lake County, Illinois, August 25, 1988, Linda Curtis.

Associates which are on the State Endangered and Threatened Plant Checklist (IESPB 1990) are *Potamogeton gramineus* L., *P. praelongus* Wulfen, *P. strictifolius* Benn., and *P. robbinsii* Oakes. Aquatic associates not on the list are *P. zosteriformis* Fern., *P. richardsonii* (Ar.Benn.) Rydb., *P. pectinatus* L., *Vallisneria americana* Michx., *Myriophyllum exalbescens* Fern., and *M. spicatum* L. Others in Cedar Lake are *Chara*, *Ceratophyllum demersum* L., *Elodea nuttallii*

(Planch.) St. John, *Heteranthera dubia* (Jacq.) MacM., *Potamogeton amplifolius* Tuckerm., *P. crispus* L., *P. illinoensis* Morong, *P. natans* L., *P. nodosus* Poir., *P. pusillus* L., *Najas flexilis* (Willd.) Rostk. & Schmidt, *N. guadalupensis* (Spreng.) Magnus, *N. marina* L., *Nuphar variegatum* Engelm., *Nymphaea tuberosa* Paine, *Pontederia cordata* L., *Ranunculus longirostris* Godr. and *Utricularia vulgaris* L.

Cedar Lake is a natural glacial lake in the Fox River basin. The Illinois E.P.A. study (IEPA 1979) classified it as a Group 3 lake of good conditions and low problem potential. Cedar Lake's maximum depth is 12 meters, the average depth is three meters with a surface of 115 ha.

REFERENCES

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