



Annual wetland herb. Erect to procumbent stems 5–20 cm long, ovoid opposite leaves 10–20 mm long bear single flower stalks in leaf axils. Corolla is white or pinkish. Fruit is a capsule.

Distribution and ecology

Eurasian distribution, secondarily in N. America and Australia. Scattered irregularly and rarely in all CE countries, in lowlands to uplands, wet denudated shores of standing and streaming waters, usually in fishpond basins or floodplains of big rivers, muddy or sandy soils. Strict heliophyte, competitively very weak, pioneering species on summer-drained fishpond bottoms.

Anatomy of the flower stalk and the root collar

Round flower stalk with a diameter of 1 mm. Maximum age 1 year (1).

The basal part of the stem consists of a pith, a xylem, a small phloem, a large cortex and an epidermis (2).

The xylem contains vessels, thin- to thick-walled fibers, parenchyma cells and rays (2). Vessels are angular and are arranged in radial rows (2). Vessels have a diameter of 15–20 μm

and length of 60–100 μm. Intervessel pits are round (3) and a perforation simple (4). Axial parenchyma is paratracheal (2). Rays are absent (2, 5).

Cortex and phloem are separated by two layers of a poorly differentiated endodermis. Parenchyma cells and small groups of sieve tubes characterize the phloem (2, 6). Few fibers occur at the peripheral side of the phloem (6). The cortex and the pith represent a net-like aerenchyma with large intercellulars (1). The periphery of the stem consists of an epidermis (1).

