

## FLOWERING BIOLOGY OF *ALISMA PLANTAGO-AQUATICA* (ALISMATACEAE)

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Field observations of flowering plants of *Alisma plantago-aquatica* were carried out in Moscow Region (Russia). The flower of *A. plantago-aquatica* remains anthetic from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. White petals of *A. plantago-aquatica* show contrast pattern in UV light, with the pattern serving as a nectar guide for pollinators. The flowers were visited by insects in daytime from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Coleopteran (Coccinellidae), dipteran (Drosophilidae, Hybotidae, Muscidae, Sepsidae, Syrphidae) and hymenopteran (Apidae) insects were observed as flower visitors. Hoverflies (Syrphidae) and bees (Apidae) were noted as the most frequent visitors. A large number of pollen grains of *A. plantago-aquatica* was found on their bodies, that proves their major role in pollination of the plant. Based on original as well as literature data, we can conclude that the hoverflies are the most stable and effective pollinators of *A. plantago-aquatica* in different parts of the species habitat. The bees (Apidae) were recognized as pollinators of *A. plantago-aquatica* for the first time in this work. An experiment on flower isolation has confirmed the studied species to be a self-compatible plant. However, the plant requires insects for the most effective cross-pollination.

**Keywords:** Alismatales, entomophily, fruits, Moscow Region, phenology, pollen, pollination

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