

8. **NAIAS**, Linn.

(*Caulinia*, Willd.)

Flowers unisexual, solitary in the axils of floral leaves, sessile or shortly pedicellate. Male flower: anther single, 1- or 4-celled, enclosed in a thin membranous bract or perianth, irregularly lobed at the top and often splitting and rolling back so as to disclose the apex of the anther; pollen globular. Female flowers sessile. Perianth none besides the bract. Carpel 1, tapering into a style divided into 2, 3 or sometimes 4 stigmatic branches; ovule 1, erect. Fruit a small indehiscent oblong or cylindrical nutlet. Seed erect, with a hard testa; embryo straight, with a prominent plumula.—Submerged fresh-

water or subsaline herbs, with slender branching stems. Leaves linear, in pairs or clusters so as to appear opposite or verticillate, bordered by minute or prominent acute or pungent teeth, dilated at the base into a membranous sheath often produced on each side into hyaline toothed or ciliate stipular lobes.

The genus is widely spread over the temperate and some of the warmer regions of the globe. Of the two Australian species one may be endemic, the other occupies the general area of the genus.

P. Magnus, in an elaborate memoir on the anatomy of the genus (Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Gattung *Naias*, Berlin, 1870, with 8 plates) describes the ovary as a perianth with stigmatic lobes, and the ovule consequently as naked, and the epidermis of the anther as an inner perianth, views in which it is exceedingly difficult to concur.

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| Leaves prominently toothed almost pinnatifid, the basal sheath not produced into scarious stipules . . . . .                        | 1. <i>N. major</i> .      |
| Leaves very narrow, the teeth very minute, the basal sheath produced on each side into a broadly lanceolate stipular lobe . . . . . | 2. <i>N. tenuifolia</i> . |

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