

## Plant of the Month — February 2018

### *Ottelia ovalifolia* (R.Br.) Rich. — Swamp Lily



*Ottelia ovalifolia* (Swamp Lily) is a perennial or annual, tufted, aquatic plant with floating leaves and flowers. The solitary flowers arise from the base of the plant and feature three bright, white petals with a contrasting maroon or yellow base.

The Swamp Lily is found throughout mainland Australia, where it grows in still and slowly flowing fresh water to 1 m deep. It can be seen in local wetlands around Perth throughout the summer period, particularly as water systems begin to dry.

The genus *Ottelia* belongs to the family Hydrocharitaceae and contains approximately twenty species that are found mainly in the tropics and subtropics, with just two native species *O. ovalifolia* and *O. alismoides* growing in Australia.

Photo: R. Davis

[Find out more about \*Ottelia ovalifolia\* \(R.Br.\) Rich.](#)

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