

## SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

## *Chara connivens*

English name: <b>Convergent stonewort</b>	Scientific name: <b><i>Chara connivens</i></b>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Characeae Order: Charales Family: Charophyceae	Species authority: Salzm. ex A. Braun 1835	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 1 year (annual)	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): –	
IUCN Criteria: –	<b>HELCOM Red List Category:</b>	<b>LC Least Concern</b>
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: <u>Denmark</u> –/–, <u>Estonia</u> –/NT, <u>Finland</u> –/NA, <u>Germany</u> –/0 (Extinct), <u>Latvia</u> –/–, <u>Lithuania</u> –/–, <u>Poland</u> –/–, <u>Russia</u> –/–, <u>Sweden</u> –/–		

### Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

*Chara connivens* is a rare species in most of the Baltic Sea area. It was probably introduced to the Baltic Sea with ballast sand and stones already several centuries ago. This view is supported by the fact, that on the Swedish coast its distribution is restricted close to former ballast dumping sites. Currently, the species is known from Estonia, Finland and Sweden.

In western Estonia *C. connivens* is quite common and its distribution area has increased during the past 20 years (Torn 2008). Since 2008 *C. connivens* is found in the southwestern parts of the Gulf of Finland. In the Finnish waters, it is also known to occur in the northern Åland Archipelago. In Sweden, the species has been found in several locations in the Öregrund Archipelago (Torn & Martin 2003). In Germany it has disappeared from Greifswalder Bodden and Darss-Zingster Bodden Chain since the beginning of the 20th century (Luther 1979, Torn & Martin 2003).



*Chara connivens*.

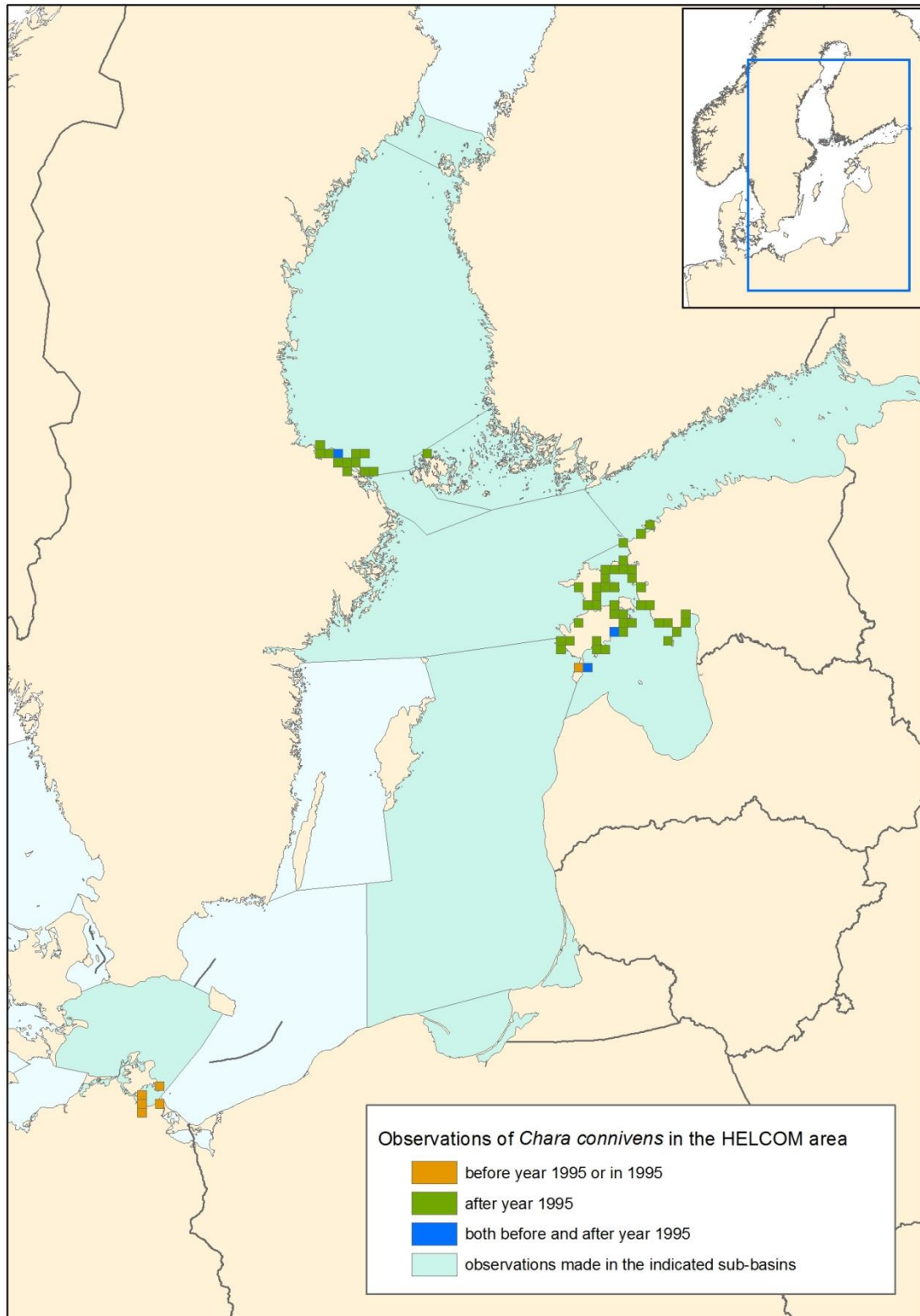
Photo by Gustav Johansson, Hydrophyta Ekologikonsult.

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### Distribution map

The records of species compiled from the database of the Estonian Marine Institute (EMI), the Swedish Species Gateway ([www.artportalen.se](http://www.artportalen.se)), the German database for macrophyte occurrences (MARIDATA), and from literature.



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### Habitat and ecology

In the Baltic Sea *C. connivens* is found in a salinity range of 1–8 psu. It grows on sand, muddy sand, muddy clay or mixtures of sand with pebbles. It thrives in sheltered, rarely in relatively exposed locations in a depth of 0.2 to 4 m.

### Description of major threats

The species is not considered threatened at the moment. Eutrophication and habitat destruction seem to be the main causes of the decline of charophytes in many regions of the Baltic Sea. Motorboat traffic has been suggested to affect charophytes by increased turbidity and mechanical damage (Blindow, et al. 2003).

### Assessment justification

*C. connivens* is not native to the Baltic Sea area but it is assumed to have been introduced already several centuries ago. It was included in the previous HELCOM list of threatened and/or declining species (HELCOM 2007). Currently the species is rather rare and its geographic range in the Baltic Sea is restricted in the form of the extent of current occurrences (EOO) and of the area of occupancy (AOO). However, the population is neither regarded severely fragmented, nor continuingly declining and therefore the species is categorized as Least Concern (LC). In the Estonian waters *C. connivens* has become more common in the recent decades and the species is rather frequent also along the Uppland coast in Sweden.

### Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

Combatting eutrophication by removing local sources of nutrient run-off. Restrictions on constructions and dredging in shallow coastal lagoons and archipelago areas.

### Common names

Denmark: glat kransnål, Estonia: sile mändvetikas, Finland: suppunäkinparta, Germany: –, Latvia: –, Lithuania: glaustašakis maurabaragis, Poland: ramienica wiotka, Russia: хара сходящаяся, Sweden: tuvsträfsse

### References

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- EMI, the database of the Estonian Marine Institute.
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- MARIDATA, the database of MariLim GmbH including all German literature references given in Nielsen (1995), Blümel et al. (2002), Schubert et al. (2003), Kiel herbarium references and all occurrences of the German HELCOM, BSPA and WFD monitoring.
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- Swedish Species Gateway. Swedish Species Information Centre and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Available at [www.artportalen.se](http://www.artportalen.se).