


Marsh Bedstraw

Regno: flora

Riparian vegetation

 [galiumpalustre.jpg](#) [1]

Marsh Bedstraw - *Galium palustre*

Perennial plant up to fifty centimetres tall with thin rhizome and four-edged stem, branched, weak, rough with small down-turned prickles.

Lanceolate leaves, flaccid to the touch, arranged in regularly spaced whorls of 4-6. The median leaves, which are the most developed, reach 15 mm in length.

The terminal or lateral inflorescences consist of many small flowers with a white corolla. It flowers from May to September.

The Marsh bedstraw particularly lives in peaty, temporarily flooded wet meadows, in Sedge beds and round the edges of pools; it can also often be found in the underbrush of European Alder hygrophilous woodlands .

At Lake Sibolla it often grows directly on the mounds of the Sedge beds, together with the Marsh Pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and Milk Parsley *Peucedanum palustre*.

In Italy it is only found in suitable habitats in the northern regions, Tuscany and the Pontine Marshes; it must be considered a rarity everywhere.

Its Latin names comes from the Greek *gala*=milk, which refers to the old practice of using another plant of the same genus, Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) to set milk in cheese-making.

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Links:

[1] <http://www.zoneumidetoscane.it/sites/default/files/galiumpalustre.jpg>