

Stem fragment regrowth of *Hydrilla verticillata* following desiccation

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*Hydrilla verticillata* (L.f.) Royle, Hydrocharitaceae, is one of the most aggressive invasive aquatic weeds. It can regenerate from vegetative fragments, which may adhere to water vessels and become a possible source of infestation to otherwise uninfested water bodies. The objective of this study was to find out if, after a period of desiccation, a fragment of dioecious hydrilla would survive and produce new growth when it is rehydrated. Hydrilla was collected from four different sites in Central Florida, United States. Fragments with one and four whorls were desiccated for 0 to 8 h and were monitored for 14 d after reintroduction to water. There was a significant effect of desiccation time on fragment survival and production of new growth. One-whorl fragments desiccated for 2 h or more had low survival post-desiccation when compared to four-whorl fragments. Desiccation time of 2 h or longer significantly decreased the sprouting of four-whorl fragments compared to controls. The results of this study could be used to improve cultural control of hydrilla by preventing fragment introduction and the colonization of previously uninfested water bodies.