

## Uryunuma-shitsugen

## High Moor

Geographical Coordinates: 43°41'N, 141°36'E / Altitude: 850-900m / Area: 624ha / Major Type of Wetland: High moor / Designation: Special Protection Zone of Quasi-National Park / Municipalities Involved: Uryu Town, Hokkaido Prefecture / Ramsar Designation: November 2005 / Ramsar Criteria: 3



Uryunuma viewed from the east (Photo by H. Okamoto)

### General Overview:

Uryunuma-shitsugen is situated on the eastern slope of Mt. Shokanbetsu, at an elevation of 850m above sea level, 70km north of Sapporo, the capital city of Hokkaido. This wetland covers an area of approximately 100ha, stretching 4km from east to west and 2km from north to south. It developed on a large basin created from volcanic lava flow. It slopes gently from northwest to southeast with the river named Penkepetan flowing through the center and plunging down the eastern cliff into a narrow gorge. Although the Shokanbetsu mountain range is relatively low at less than 1,500m, this area receives one of the heaviest snowfalls in Hokkaido because the mountain range directly faces the Japan Sea. This wetland is

covered with more than 3m of snow and is snowbound for over half a year. Over many years, the ample water from the melted snow caused the wetland to become the second largest high moor after Oze.

### Diverse Wetland Plant Communities:

Diverse vegetation of approximately 150 species of plants, such as *Moliniopsis japonica* - *Sphagn papillosum* community, *Moliniopsis japonica* - *Carex middendorffii* community and *Calamagrostis langsdorffii* - *Veratrum stamineum* community. The summer months of June-September would be an excellent season to appreciate the flower garden of *Hemerocallis dumortieri*, Arctic Iris and *Hosta sieboldii* var. *rectifolia*.

The most remarkable characteristic of this wetland is the pond clusters of over 100 small ponds scattered in the wet-



A cluster of ponds of Uryunuma (Photo by H. Okamoto)



Uryu Spatterdock in a pond (Photo by H. Okamoto)

land and the small floating islets of water plants in the ponds. These pond clusters support a unique habitat for a variety of rare wildlife, including *Erebia neriene* and *Luehdorfia puziloi yessoensis*.

### Protection of Native Species:

Local people are engaged in various efforts to protect the natural condition of this wetland. They eradicate invasive alien species, such as Tall Goldenrod, periodically and recommend that visitors wash the bottoms of their shoes before entering the area.

**[Pond Cluster]** Pond clusters were recharged with water in the process of forming high moor. These pond clusters are known as "Chito".

### Contact Information:

Uryu Town Office  
<http://www.town.uryu.hokkaido.jp/>

