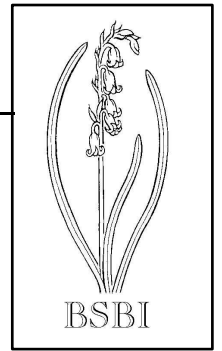


Plant Crib

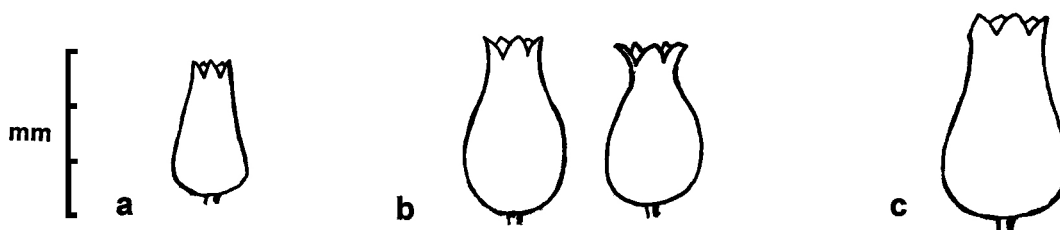


ARENARIA SERPYLLIFOLIA

Three subspecies of *A. serpyllifolia* L. are recognised in Britain and Ireland which form a series ranging from the slender subsp. *leptoclados* through subsp. *serpyllifolia* to the stout subsp. *lloydii* (subsp. *macrocarpa*). Subsp. *leptoclados* is scarce but widely distributed on open, sandy soils and on limestone walls and may be significantly over-recorded. Subsp. *serpyllifolia* is common. Subsp. *lloydii* is confined to the coast, and may not be distinct (cf. Stace's *New Flora*). A re-evaluation of the taxa in this genus including cultivation experiments would be worthwhile.

The best characters are seed size and capsule shape (Figs. a-c). The other characters help indicate the general look of the plant. The flower diameters and seed colours given in older accounts are not diagnostic.

	Subsp. <i>leptoclados</i>	Subsp. <i>serpyllifolia</i>	Subsp. <i>lloydii</i>
Ripe seeds	c. 0.4 × 0.4 mm	Reniform, c. 0.5 × 0.4 mm	Reniform, exceeding 0.6 × 0.4 mm
Capsule	Straight-sided, less than 3 × 1.5 mm, possible to indent without fracture when pressed at maturity with fingernail (Fig a)	Distinctly swollen at base, exceeding 3 × 1.5-2 mm, not possible to indent without fracture at maturity (Fig. b)	Slightly swollen at base, exceeding 3 × 2 mm, not possible to indent without fracture at maturity (Fig. c)
Pedicel in fruit	Slender, upturned at tip, longer than sepals	Stout, straight, longer than sepals	More stout, straight, often shorter than sepals
Inflorescence	Extremely lax	Lax	Usually very dense



Capsules (a) subsp. *leptoclados*, (b) subsp. *serpyllifolia*, (c) subsp. *lloydii*.