



CATAPODIUM

1. *Catapodium marinum* / *C. rigidum*

Branched forms of *C. marinum* (L.) C. E. Hubb. are not uncommon around the coast and have been mis-recorded as *C. rigidum* (L.) C. E. Hubb., especially in the north (pers. comm. A. J. Silverside 1997). Branches form in the larger specimens, perhaps growing in luxuriant conditions. If in doubt, the larger spikelets and flower parts should distinguish them from *C. rigidum* (see Stace's *New Flora*).



(a) *C. marinum*

(b) *C. marinum* branched form

(c) *C. rigidum*

2. *Catapodium rigidum*

Two subspecies of *C. rigidum* (L.) C. E. Hubb. can be distinguished as below, updated from Trist (1979). In Stace's *New Flora* they are treated as varieties. Variation in height may be partly due to nutrient-rich soil, so check other characters too. Subsp. *rigidum* is widespread. Subsp. *majus* (C. Presl) F. H. Perring & P. D. Sell occurs near the coast in S and W Britain and in Ireland.

	Subsp. <i>rigidum</i>	Subsp. <i>majus</i>
Height	3-12 cm	18-38 cm
Leaf	25-40 mm long × 0.8-1.5 mm wide	60-130 mm long × 1-3.5 mm wide
Ligule	1-1.5 mm	2-3.5 mm
Panicle	3.5-4 cm, outline pyramidal	3-9 cm, outline lanceolate
Spikelets	3.5-5 mm	4.5-6 mm

Reference Trist, P. J. O. (1979). *Watsonia* **12**: 261-262.

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