

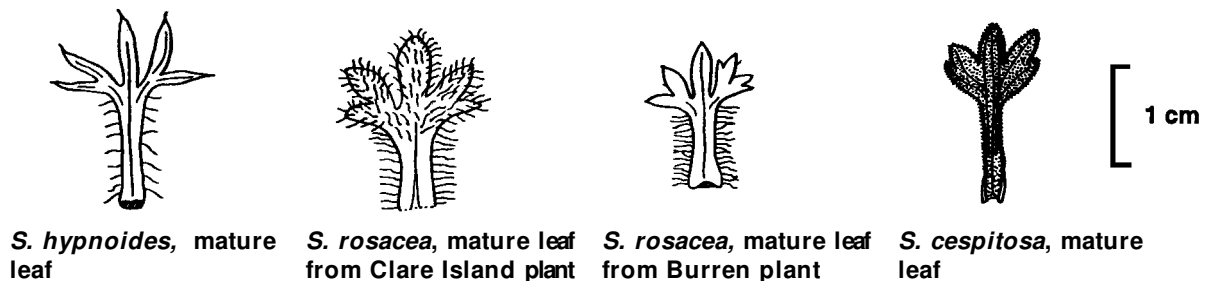
SAXIFRAGA

Webb, D. A. & Gornall, R. J. (1989). *A manual of Saxifrages and their cultivation*. (Timber Press, Oregon) is an excellent monograph of the genus which may help with identification. Specimens for identification should include sterile shoots as well as flowers/fruits.

1. *Saxifraga rosacea* / *S. hypnoides* / *S. cespitosa*

S. rosacea Moench is currently only known wild in western Ireland, but there is an old record for V.c. 49 (Cwm Idwal) and an unconfirmed record from V.c. 110 (Ben More, South Uist). The V.c. 90 record for Glen Doll is now thought to be an error resulting from a mixed collection. It could well occur at other sites, and hence any mossy saxifrages should be checked, especially in Scotland and the northern Pennines (Parker 1979).

The tip of the leaf lobe is the most important feature to distinguish *S. rosacea* from *S. hypnoides* L.. *S. hypnoides* has an aristate tip to the leaf lobe, while *S. rosacea* has an acute to obtuse leaf lobe which may be mucronate but is never aristate. *S. hypnoides* and *S. rosacea* both have, almost always, long non-glandular hairs. This contrasts with *S. cespitosa* which has leaves covered in short glandular hairs. *S. cespitosa* is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and must not be collected.



S. hypnoides, mature leaf

S. rosacea, mature leaf from Clare Island plant

S. rosacea, mature leaf from Burren plant

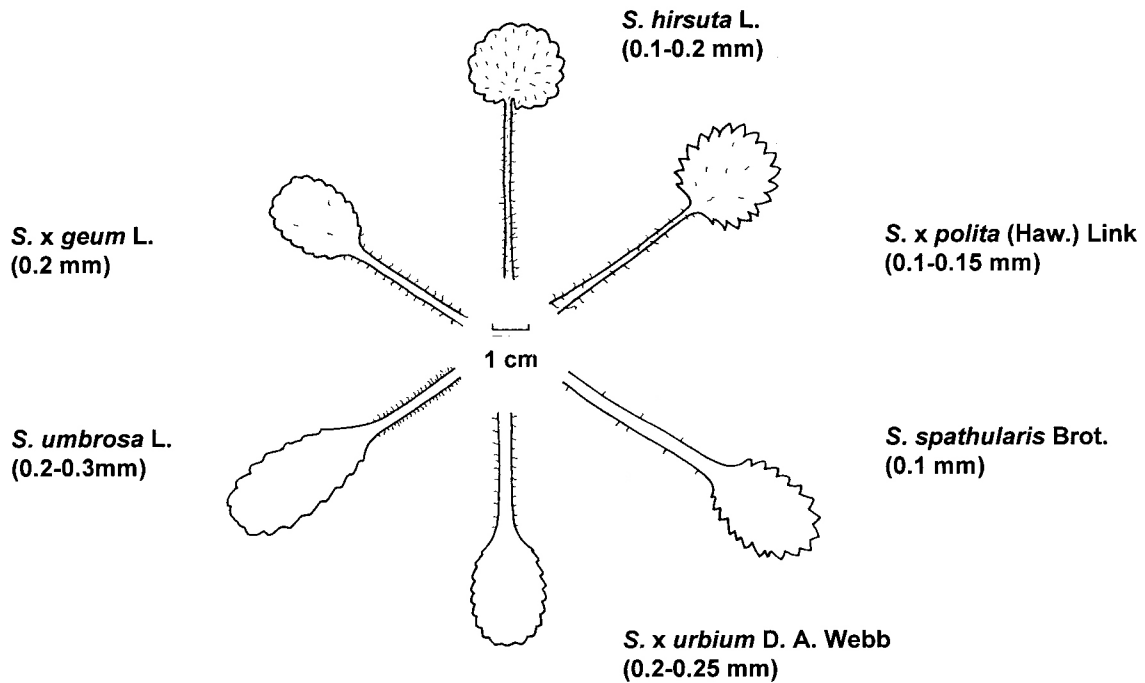
S. cespitosa, mature leaf

Reference Parker, D. M. (1979). *BSBI News* 21: 22-23.

Plant Crib

2. *S. hirsuta*, *S. umbrosa*, *S. spathularis* and their hybrids

S. hirsuta L., *S. umbrosa* L., *S. spathularis* Brot. and their hybrids can usually be distinguished by the relative shape, pubescence tooting, and width of the cartilaginous margin of the leaf-lamina (given in brackets) of the rosette leaves.



Author R. J. Gornall, February 1988.