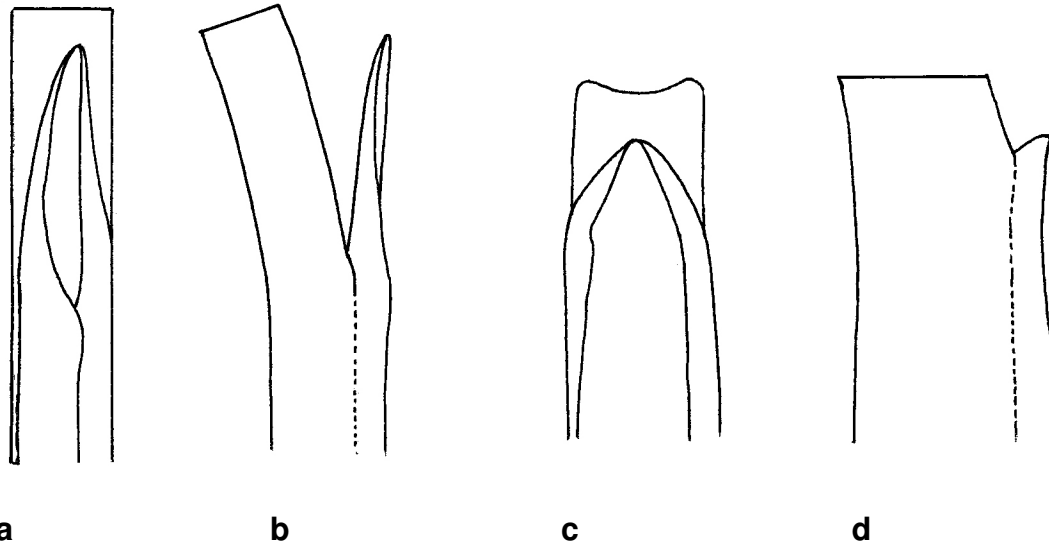


TRIGLOCHIN

Triglochin maritima L. and *T. palustre* L. are difficult to separate when vegetative using characters given in Floras, although they are easily distinguished when in flower or fruit. The former is usually larger and stoloniferous, and with flattened tips to the leaves; the latter is smaller and non-stoloniferous, without flattened leaf-tips. All these characters are variable however, and those given by Rose (1981) have not proved helpful when naming grazed specimens.

A consistent and reliable character however is ligule shape (Dalby 1988): relatively narrower and more pointed in *T. maritima* (Figs. a, b), and relatively shorter and blunter in *T. palustre* (Figs. c, d). Shape is much more important than size.



Ligule shapes in *Triglochin* (a, b) *T. maritima*, (c, d) *T. palustre*.

References Dalby, D. H. (1988). *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edinburgh* **45**: 127-129.
Rose, F. (1981). *The Wild Flower Key*. F. Warne Ltd., London.

Author D. H. Dalby, March 1988.