Plant Crib



CATAPODIUM

1. Catapodium marinum / C. rigidum

Branched forms of *C. marinum* (L.) C. E. Hubb. are not uncommon around the coast and have been misrecorded 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. rigidum	Subsp. <i>majus</i>
Height	3-12 cm	18-38 cm
Leaf	25-40 mm long \times 0.8-1.5 mm wide	$60-130 \text{ mm long} \times 1-3.5 \text{ mm wide}$
Ligule	1-1.5 mm	2-3.5 mm
Panicle	3.5-4 cm, outline pyramidal	3-9 cm, outline lanceolate
Spikelet s	3.5-5 mm	4.5-6 mm

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

Author P. J. O. Trist +, February 1991.

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