



## **PLANTAGO MAJOR**

*Plantago major* L. is most commonly found as a weed of grassland and waysides, especially where there has been trampling (to which it is very resistant). However, this species is also found as a coloniser of river and lake-shores and arable fields and gardens. In these more open habitats there is a distinct variant, known by many continental weed scientists as *P. intermedia* Gilib. The two subspecies can be separated as below. Subsp. *intermedia* is often less robust than subsp. *major*, and has paler leaves and shorter, cylindrical (rather than tapered) inflorescences. Both subspecies are variable.

**Subsp. *major*:** Leaves subcordate to cordate at base, more or less glabrous, 5- to 9-veined; capsule containing up to 12 seeds.

**Subsp. *intermedia* (Gilib.) Lange:** Leaves cuneate at the base, hairy, 3- to 5-veined; capsule containing 13-25(-36) seeds.

**Reference** Akeroyd, J. R. & Doogue, D. (1988). *Irish Naturalists' Journal* **22**: 441-443.

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