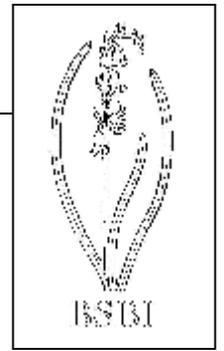


# Plant Crib



## CIRCAEA

The best character for separating the species is the nature of the inflorescence. In *C. alpina*, the inflorescence does not elongate until after the open flowers have dropped; consequently all of the flowers are clustered at the stem apex. In *C. lutetiana*, the rachis elongates before the flowers open, and the open flowers are well-spaced. In the hybrid *C. × intermedia*, the spacing of the flowers is somewhat similar to *C. lutetiana* but is somewhat more contracted, and it is known by its complete morphological intermediacy and sterility. The winged petiole and lobed stigma characters are of no use in distinguishing the species. When collecting voucher material collect flowers and if possible mature fruits.

*Circaea alpina* is a delicate little plant of seepage zones and stream sides, and occasionally under bracken. It has a very much more restricted distribution than the hybrid.

- 1 Inflorescence not elongating until the petals have dropped, the open flowers clustered at the apex; fruit  $2 \times 1$  mm, with one loculus; plant 5-30 cm high; leaves cordate at base, deeply dentate; petioles glabrous *C. alpina* L.
- 1 Inflorescence elongating before the petals have dropped, the open flowers well-spaced; fruit  $\pm$  with two loculi; plant 10-60 cm high; leaves truncate to shallowly-cordate at base, sparsely denticulate to dentate; petioles hairy at least above 2
- 2 Plants fertile; fruit  $3-4 \times 2.0-2.5$  mm; plant 15-60 cm high; leaves truncate to slightly cordate at base, sparsely denticulate; petioles hairy all round *C. lutetiana* L.
- 2 Plants sterile; fruit to  $2.0 \times 1.2$  mm, falling in the immature state, with one loculus abortive; plant 10-45 cm high; leaves shallowly-cordate at base, denticulate; petioles hairy above, sub-glabrous below *C. × intermedia* Ehrh.

*Reference* Raven, P. H. (1963). *Watsonia* **5**: 262-272.