

APIUM

1. *Apium × moorei* (*A. inundatum* × *A. nodiflorum*)

Apium × moorei is probably now either rare or overlooked in Ireland and England. It can be distinguished as below but the smooth or scabrid rays character given in the BSBI *Umbellifer Handbook* does not hold for dried material seen at the Natural History Museum (BM).



Apium × moorei (Galway, material from NMW)

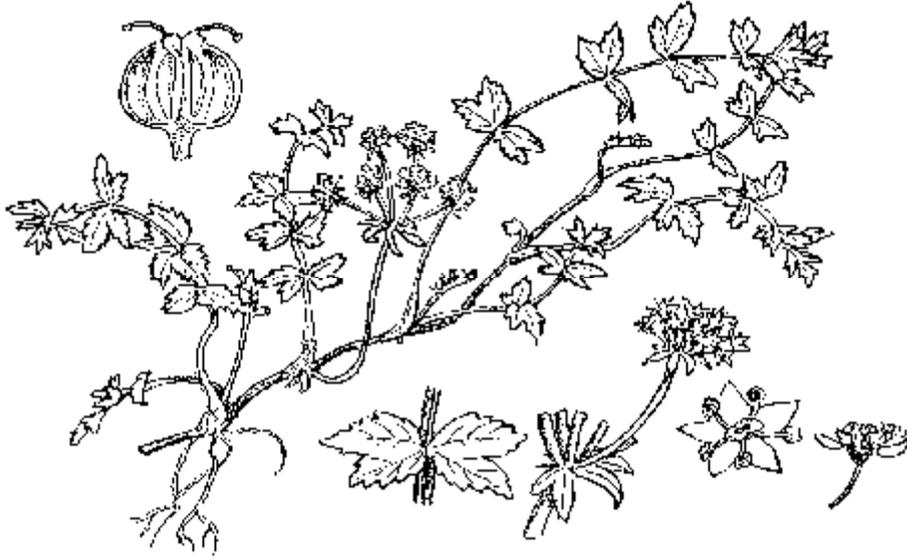
	<i>A. inundatum</i> (L.) Rchb.	<i>A. × moorei</i> (Syme) Druce	<i>A. nodiflorum</i> (L.) Lag.
Leaves	Submerged/lower 2- to 3-pinnate with linear lobes; upper/aerial leaves pinnate with oblanceolate to obovate often 3-lobed leaflets	All simply pinnate (whether submerged or aerial); leaflets usually obovate in outline, toothed or lobed (see illustration)	Simply pinnate with lanceolate to ovate; often somewhat toothed or shallowly lobed leaflets
Rays	2(-4)	2-3	3-15
Fruits	Fertile; fruits 2.5-3 mm	Fruits not formed	Fertile; fruits 2-2.5 mm

2. *Apium repens* / *A. nodiflorum*

Apium repens is rare and scattered in lowland Britain. While usually a much more slender plant, it is easily confused with *A. nodiflorum*. On Port Meadow, DNA analysis (RAPDs) has been used to confirm that there are plants present which resemble *A. repens* in their small prostrate form but carry the genetic

Plant Crib

markers of *A. nodiflorum* (Grassly, Harris & Cronk 1996); these plants are referred to as the *A. nodiflorum* meadow plastodeme. However there is some overlap of genetic markers though there is no evidence for first generation sterile hybrids (cf. Stace's *New Flora*). The bract number is better correlated with the DNA evidence than the leaflet lobing (Q. C. B. Cronk pers. comm.). Peduncle length is greater in *A. repens* when growing in tall vegetation. Grey/brown streaks or patches at the base of the leaflets are sometimes present in both species.



Apium repens plant from the north population, Port Meadow, grown at the Oxford University Botanic Garden (del. E. A. Beckett 1996).

Another difficult population is found at Chippenham Fen where tiny floating plants have small leaflets and resemble *A. repens*. However under cultivation it shows the short peduncles of *A. nodiflorum* (C. D. Preston, pers. comm.). Other forms of *A. nodiflorum* can change markedly in cultivation.

	<i>Apium repens</i> (Jacq.) Lag.	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i> (L.) Lag.
Bracts	(0-)2-6(-8)	0(-2)
Peduncle length	(1-)2-8(-11) cm	0.5-1.5 cm
Leaflet lobing	(0-)1/3(-1/2) way to midrib	Toothed only
Leaflet width	Leaflets as wide as long	Leaflets longer than wide
Petiole base	Scarcely sheathing	Expanded and sheathing the stem
Rooting at nodes	Usually prostrate and rooting freely at the nodes	Often erect and rarely rooting, but roots freely in short turf when it grows prostrate
Fruit shape	Slightly wider than long	Longer than wide

Reference Grassly, N. C., Harris, S. A. & Cronk, Q. C. B. (1996). *Watsonia* **21**: 103-111.

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