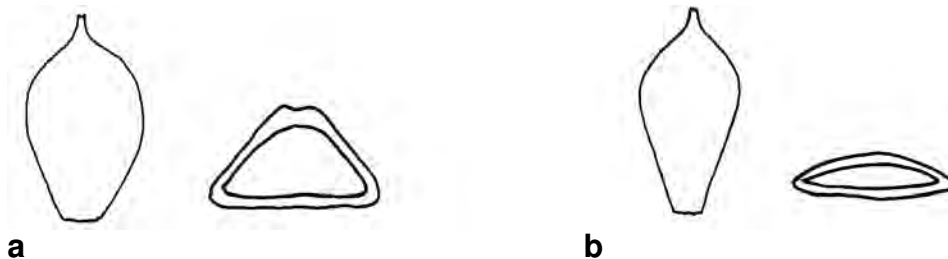


SCHOENOPLECTUS LACUSTRIS* / *S. TABERNAEMONTANI

The size and colour characters can help to pick out *S. lacustris* and *S. tabernaemontani* from each other when they are growing together in the field, or to indicate plants to be examined more closely. The characters are not diagnostic, and the plants should be checked using the inflorescence characters (see also Stace's *New Flora*). Intermediates have been recorded (Easy 1990), but it is unclear if these are hybrids or due to variable species. Some authors regard these as subspecies. Lousley (1933) provides a detailed review of the genus.

S. lacustris (L.) Palla: Generally green and tall, but may have slightly glaucous stems; glumes smooth (awn often papillose); stigmas usually 3; nut at least bluntly trigonous.

S. tabernaemontani (C. C. Gmel.) Palla: Generally 30-60 cm shorter than *S. lacustris* and glaucous; glumes densely beset with small, dark-brown, bluntly-hooked papillae on back, especially near the midrib; stigmas usually 2; nut biconvex or plano-convex.



Fruits (a) *S. lacustris*, (b) *S. tabernaemontani*.

References Easy, G. M. (1990). *Nature in Cambridgeshire* **32**: 58.
Lousley, J. E. (1933). *Journal of Botany* **69**: 151-163.