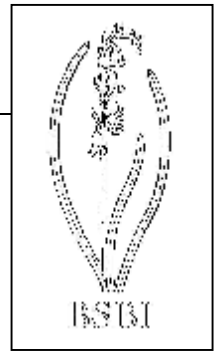


Plant Crib



CATABROSA AQUATICA

[Editorial note: The following account was drawn up for the *Plant Crib* by John Trist in 1992, but var. *grandiflora* was not included by him in his subsequent extensive revisions for Sell & Murrell (1996); we have included it here to encourage a re-investigation.]

The infraspecific varieties of *C. aquatica* (L.) P. Beauv. have been revised as follows:

	<i>Var. aquatica</i>	<i>Var. uniflora</i> Gray	<i>Var. grandiflora</i> Hack. ex Druce
Culms	Erect	Procumbent	Ascending, often geniculate
Leaves	Parallel but tapering to a blunt tip	Gradually tapering to a blunt tip	Gradually tapering to a blunt tip
Upper cauline leaf blades	5-13 cm × 4-6 mm	1.5-4 cm × 1.5-5 mm	8-15 cm × 5-10 mm
Panicle length	7.5-14 cm	3-6.5(-8) cm	11-17 cm
Spikelet length	2.2-4 mm	2.6-3.9 mm	3.5-4.9 mm
Florets	1-2	1-2	1-3
Upper glume	1.0-1.7 mm	1.1-2.4 mm	2.2-2.8 mm
Lemma	2.0-3.3 mm	2.4-3.1 mm	3.3-4 mm
Growth habit	Commonly as single plants in wet ground	Single plants to very large patches, generally in fresh water beach flows	Groups in ditch water

Var. aquatica is an inland variety of lowland wet areas; its growth is erect and the panicle is open-ovate. The plicate leaves are equally wide in length. The upper cauline blade is 5-13 cm long, which is three times as long as *var. uniflora*.

Var. uniflora lies decumbent in fresh water flows across beaches. Its panicle length is much less than *vars. aquatica* and *grandiflora*. *Var. uniflora* has been incorrectly described as having spikelets of 1-floret only: 1-2 florets are common and 2-florets are frequent.

Plant Crib

Var. *grandiflora* is larger in all its parts than the other two varieties. In spite of its fresh water ditch habitat, it is found within half a mile of the sea, and is known from North Uist (V.c. 110), Shetland Isles (V.C. 112), Coll and Tiree (V.c. 103) and one old record from Caithness (V.c. 109); further exploration is required.

Author P. J. O. Trist **U**, July 1992.