ALISMA

*A. lanceolatum* differs from *A. plantago-aquatica* in a number of characters, of which the floral and fruiting are the most reliable. Leaf-shape is often distinct, but leaves of *A. plantago-aquatica* can approach those of *A. lanceolatum* in shape when young or when floating on the surface of the water (see illustrations), and it is unwise to record *A. lanceolatum* on the basis of leaf shape alone. There seems to be little consistent difference in flowering times. *A. lanceolatum* is under-recorded, at least in Ireland.

![Carpels (a) A. plantago-aquatica, (b) A. lanceolatum.](image)

*A. plantago-aquatica* L.: At least some leaves elliptical-ovate to ovate, rounded to subcordate at base (Figs. c-e); inner perianth-segments rounded; style arising about middle of carpel (Fig. a); anthers about twice as long as wide.

*A. lanceolatum* With.: Leaves lanceolate, gradually narrowed at base (Figs. f, g); inner perianth-segments pointed; style arising above the middle of the carpel (Fig. b); anthers about as long as wide.

The hybrid *A. × rhinocarpum* Schotsman seem to be regularly reported but also seems to be confused with the variation in leaf shape of *A. plantago-aquatica* even on the same plant (compare Figs. c, d with Fig. f). Hybrids are often best assessed in the presence of both parents, and appear to be highly sterile with no or only 1-2 fruits developing in each flower. Some putative hybrids have a combination of cuneate and cordate/truncate leaves on the same plant. Do not record on leaf shape alone (Fig. H); please collect voucher material.
Leaves (c) *A. plantago-aquatica* all from one plant, (d) *A. plantago-aquatica*, all from another plant, (e) *A. plantago-aquatica*, different plants, (f) *A. lanceolatum*, all one plant, (g) *A. lanceolatum*, different plants, (h) *A. cf. × rhinocarpum*, all one plant.