

Identification chart for large riparian sedges.

This chart is an appendix to the notes rather than the other way round. It uses shorthand terms for the table entries. If the table is used without reference to the notes, the shorthand used for the table entries may be misleading.

	riparia	acutiformis	acuta	aquatilis	nigra	elata
Tussocks	no	no	no	no	(no)	yes
Male spikes	3+	3-	4-	4-	3-	3-
	wide, loose	intermediate	neat	neat	neat	neat
Female spikes	wide	moderate	slender	slender	slender*	slender
No. stigmas	3	3	2	2	2	2
Utricles	inflated	barely so	not so	not so	not so	not so
Utricle length	5+ mm	<5 mm	<4mm	<3.5 mm	<3.5mm	<4mm
Beaks	>1mm	0.5mm	minute	minute	minute	minute
	bifid	notched	truncate	truncate	truncate	truncate
Nutlets	trigonus	trigonus	biconvex	biconvex	biconvex	biconvex
Flowering	early	mid	mid	late	mid	early
Leaf width	>5mm	>4mm	>3mm	>3mm	<3mm	>3mm
Stem angles	acute	acute	acuta	blunt	(acute)	acute
Lower bracts	>infl	>infl	>>infl	>>infl	(<infl)	<infl
Stomata	below	below	below	above	above	below
Sheaths	not red	red	not red	red	not red	not red (fibrillose)
Stem	acute	acute	acute	blunt	(acute)	acute
Leaf section	plicate	plicate	plicate	keeled/ channelled	plicate/ keeled	plicate
Lr bracts	>infl	>infl	>>infl	>>infl	(<infl)	<infl
Utricles	inflated	barely so	not	not	not	not
	5+ mm	<5 mm	<4mm	<3.5 mm	<3.5mm	<4mm
Beaks	>1mm	0.5mm	minute	minute	minute	minute
	bifid	notched	truncate	truncate	truncate	truncate
Flowering	(early)	mid	mid	(late)	mid	(early)
Habitats	neutral or brackish	(basic)	neutral	(acid)	any	basic

- But if short, the spikes appear relatively wide