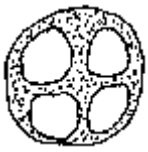
Plant Crib

VEGETATIVE LAKE-BOTTOM 'ISOETIDS' WITH TERETE LEAVES: *ERIOCAULON* / *ISOETES* / *LITTORELLA* / *LOBELIA* / *SUBULARIA*

The latter four of these taxa with ±terete (i.e. rounded in section) leaves are widespread and relatively frequent in clear lakes, lochs, etc. They look superficially similar vegetatively, but can easily be distinguished even from solitary leaves washed up on the shore. Note the characters given below are diagnostic only for these taxa. With practice, growth, form, colour etc. are also useful.

The Red Data Book species *Eriocaulon aquaticum* is easily distinguished from all by the segmented roots, which are very obvious. Under water, its narrowly triangular rosette leaves are also distinctive. *Isoetes* roots are brownish, the other species are white.

	Isoetes spp.	*Lobelia dortmanna* L.	*Littorella uniflora* (L.) Asch.	*Subularia aquatica* L.
Cross section at middle of leaf	 ± Round with 4 hollow tubes	 Compressed with 2 hollow tubes	 ± Round, spongy inside, with many white cells and air channels	 ± Round to triangular, solid
Leaves	Flattened and expanded at base, generally tapering gradually to point or terete and tapering in upper ¼ only	Strap-shaped, apex blunt and curving out; small quantity of milky latex exudes when leaves broken off	Cylindrical, narrowing suddenly at apex, variable in length	Expanded at base, tapering gradually to a fine point
Habit	Solitary	Solitary	Stoloniferous	Solitary

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