



ALNUS

1. *Alnus glutinosa* × *A. incana*

Hybrids between these two species have been twice recorded from wet woodlands in Ireland and also occur in Britain. Morphologically the hybrids are intermediate in most respects between the two species, though somewhat more similar to *A. incana* (L.) Moench than *A. glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn. The hybrids are difficult to identify conclusively as they overlap in nearly all morphological features with one or other parent. The only diagnostic character of the hybrid appears to be much higher gland density on the underside of its leaves (*c.* 6 per mm²): the parent species have a much lower density (*c.* 0-2 per mm²) on the under-surface of their leaves.

Reference Parnell, J. (1994). *Watsonia* **20**: 67-70.

Author J. Parnell, January 1998.

2. *Alnus rubra*

Alnus rubra Bong. (see Stace's *New Flora* 2nd ed. 1997) is occasionally planted and may be confused with *A. incana*. The leaves differ in shape and are rolled under at the edges (flat in *A. incana*), and the twigs are reddish and glabrous (hairy at ends of last years twigs in *A. incana*).

