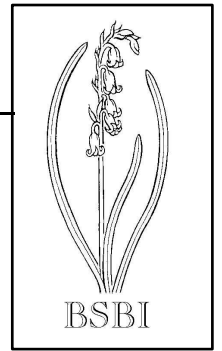
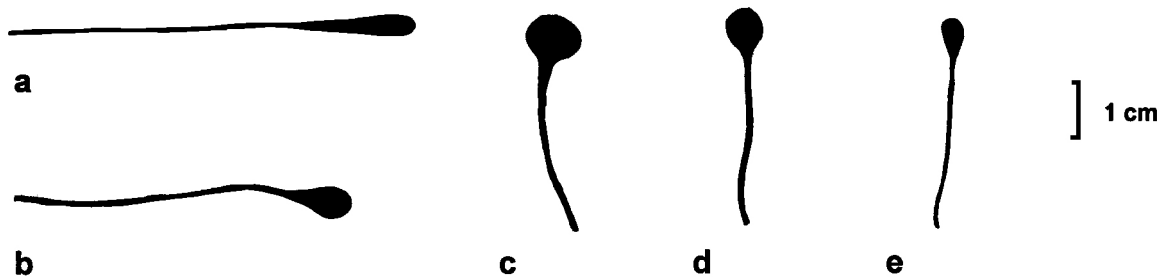


Plant Crib



DROSERA

The three species of British and Irish sundews are readily distinguished in the field using a combination of leaf shape and position. Problems occur when the two hybrid taxa are present: *D. × beleziana* is probably very rare, and *D. × obovata* probably under-recorded. To further complicate matters, stunted or juvenile material tends towards a round leaf shape in all species and in these cases mature inflorescences must be found.



Leaf shape in (a) *D. anglica*, (b) *D. × obovata*, (c) *D. rotundifolia*, (d) *D. × beleziana*, (e) *D. intermedia*.

- 1 Petioles round to elliptic in transverse section, glabrous; lamina (1-)2-3 × longer than wide (see note 1); inflorescence as thick as stem, arising laterally and reaching up to twice the length of the leaves (see note 2); seeds papillate (x20 lens)
 - 1 Petioles flattened in transverse section, glabrous or hairy; inflorescence slender, (1-)2-4(-5) × longer than the leaves, arising centrally at least at flowering; seeds reticulate, winged or undeveloped 2
 - 2 Lamina ± round, length 0.5-1.5 × width; leaves rarely exceeding 5 cm, held against substrate or raised up to 40° from horizontal 3
 - 2 Lamina ± obovate to oblong, length (1-)2-6 × width; leaves usually exceeding 3.5 cm long, held at least 40° above horizontal, more usually nearly vertical 4
 - 3 Lamina usually broader than long, leaves rarely raised above 30° to horizontal (except in lush *Sphagnum*), green to red-green (-red); inflorescence bearing swollen capsules; seeds fusiform, elongate-reticulate, mid-brown ***D. rotundifolia* L.**
 - 3 Lamina generally round or longer than broad, leaves usually raised, some above 30°, red-green to red-maroon (-deep maroon); inflorescence with narrow capsules; seeds undeveloped, pale brown to straw ***D. × beleziana* E. G. Camus (*D. intermedia* × *D. rotundifolia*)**
 [Specimens with well developed capsules are likely to be stunted plants of *D. rotundifolia*]
 - 4 Lamina length (3-)4-6 × width in at least some leaves, leaves green with red tentacles; inflorescence bearing swollen capsules; seeds irregular-elliptic to rhomboid, reticulate, dark brown
***D. anglica* Huds. (*D. longifolia* L.)**
 - 4 Lamina length 2-3 × width, leaves green to red-green; inflorescence bearing narrow capsules; seeds undeveloped, linear, straw brown
***D. × obovata* Mert. & W. D. J. Koch (*D. anglica* × *D. rotundifolia*)**

NOTES

1. Lamina length is measured to the base of the lowest tentacle on the leaf. Tentacles are not included in the measurements.

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2. In *D. anglica* and *D. rotundifolia* new leaves grow in the centre of the rosette after flowering which makes old inflorescences look as if they arise laterally, resulting in some possible misidentifications if other characters are not checked.

Author A. Culham, February 1988, updated 1997.