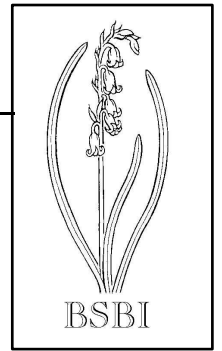


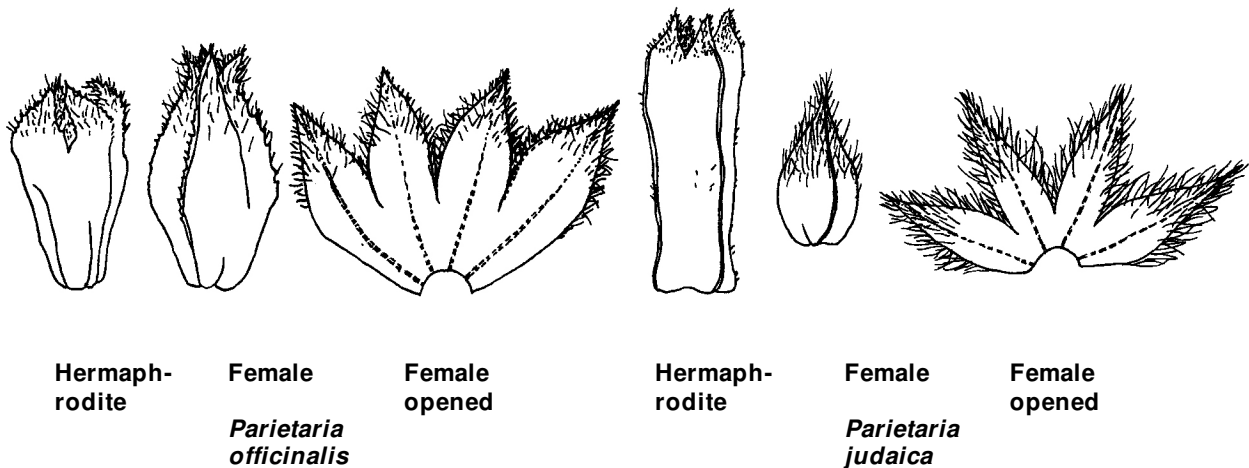
# Plant Crib



## **PARIETARIA JUDAICA / P. OFFICINALIS**

The larger-leaved, more erect, alien *P. officinalis* is occasionally recorded in Britain (cf. Wurzell 1993) but is easily overlooked with the smaller, more decumbent native *P. judaica* (NB these names have historically been much confused). They can be distinguished as follows (Townsend 1968) (see also figures overleaf):

	<i>P. officinalis</i> L.	<i>P. judaica</i> L.
Female flower	2.7-3 mm in fruit, much exceeding the bracts, conspicuous; perianth segments broadly lanceolate	2-2.3 mm in fruit, just exceeding bracts, inconspicuous; perianth segments narrowly lanceolate, sub-aristate
Hermaphrodite flower	Perianth remaining campanulate in fruit, not exceeding 3 mm	Perianth tubular in fruit, growing larger to 3-3.5 mm
Achene	1.5-1.8 mm long, frequently distinctly asymmetrical	1.0-1.2 mm long



**Reference** Townsend, C. C. (1968). *Watsonia* **6**: 365-370.  
 Wurzell, B. (1993). *BSBI News* **63**: 27.