



Perennial wetland to amphibious plant. Erect stems 10–40 cm tall, circular in section, arising from a deep creeping rhizome. Narrow linear alternating leaves usually superior to the inflorescence, form basal sheath, flowers monoecious, fruits follicules.

Distribution and ecology

Circumpolar boreal-montane element. Scattered irregularly and rarely in all CE countries except HU, mainly in uplands to mountains comprising peatlands. Very wet habitats in peat bogs and raised bogs (blanket bogs), typically margins of bog lakes, sometimes as amphibious, always very acidic, base-poor soils and waters (pH ca. 3.5–5). Does not tolerate eutrophication, facultative psychrophilic and stenotopic.

Anatomy

Circular flower stalk with a diameter of 2 mm (1).

A small, compact peripheral zone surrounds a central net-like aerenchymatic tissue (1). Vascular bundles occur in both parts (1).

Numerous collateral vascular bundles are circularly arranged at the periphery and a few are irregularly distributed in the center (1).

A sheath of lignified fibers surrounds the vascular bundles (2, 3). The centrifugal part of the vascular bundles consists of an arc of vessels and a round to oval part of phloem consisting on large sieve tubes and small companion cells. A few large cells at the periphery contain dark stained substances (3). Crystals are absent.

Circular rhizome with a diameter of 3–4 mm (4).

The central part is surrounded by an unlignified endodermis (5) and a large zone of a net-like aerenchyma, which contains vascular bundles (4, 5, 6). The center consists of an aerenchymatic tissue and circularly arranged circular concentric vascular bundles (4, 5). A sheath of hardly lignified fibers exists mainly in the centripetal part of the vascular bundles (5). Unlignified vessels surround totally or partially a round phloem (7). The centripetal lignification of the epidermis cells is something special (7). Crystals are absent (8).

