

Juncaginaceae

arrowgrass family

These are herbaceous perennials or annuals which are acaulescent and without turions. Generally rhizomatous, the leaves are basal and with persistent sheaths and auricles. The inflorescence may be racemose, spikelike, corymbose, but is rarely of solitary perfect flowers. The perianth is present, subtending bracts are absent. Tepals are solitary or in sixes, arranged in 1–2 series. Fruit is a nutlet or schizocarp, with a single seed.

Triglochin L.

Arrowgrass

The range of this genus is cosmopolitan. The plants are perennial, occasionally tuberous, arising on stout rhizomes. Leaves are erect and terete; sheath has a ligule which may be entire or bilobed at the tip. The inflorescence is a spikelike raceme, the scape may be longer or shorter. Flowers are bisexual, distinct and yellow-green, with 4–6 stamens. There are six pistils, three fertile, three sterile or six fertile, separating when mature. The ovules are carried one per locule. The styles are absent. Fruits are schizocarps, globose to linear.

Key to species

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|---|-----------------------------|
| A. Ovaries 3; follicles linear, >6mm long. | <i>Triglochin palustris</i> |
| aa. Ovaries 6; follicles ovoid, <5mm long. | B |
| B. Height of leaves equalling that of the scape, very narrow. | <i>T. gaspense</i> |
| bb. Height of leaves shorter than the scape, leaves slender to thick. | <i>T. maritima</i> |

Triglochin gaspense Leith & D. Löve

troscart de Gaspésie



Photo by Sean Blaney

Plants have the previous year's leaves persistent at the base, 10–15 cm tall. The leaves are divergent from the sheath, slender, almost terete, equaling or slightly longer than the scapes, at 5–10cm. Leaf blades are very slender, 0.5–1 mm wide, their apices acute. The scapes are often purple near base, the racemes usually 3–5cm tall. The fruiting receptacle is wingless; the schizocarps are linear, their beaks recurved,



Photo by David Mazerolle

As only a limited number of collections have been made from Nova Scotia, the flowering season here is unknown.

Intertidal or saline sites.

Known from Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens and Richmond counties.

Ranges from NF to QC; ME.

STATUS: remains undetermined.



Photo by Roger Lloyd

***Triglochin maritima* L.**

Arrowgrass; troscart maritime



Photo by Sean Blaney

Arising on an erect simple stem, this plant reaches 70cm in height. The basal leaves are from 1–3mm wide. The terminal raceme is long and narrow, with flowers borne on erect recurving pedicels. The oblong fruits are dry, the six stigmas persistent, cleft at the apex.

Flowers from early June into July.

Frequents saltmarshes and saline soils elsewhere. Sometimes found in highly acidified lakeshores or ponds.

Scattered and even common throughout Nova Scotia.

Ranges across the continent to AK, south to CA, NM and MD.



Photo by Roger Lloyd

***Triglochin palustris* L.**
troscart des marais



Photo by Sean Blaney



Photo by Roger Lloyd

A slender species, rarely exceeding 40cm tall, noticeably smaller than our other common species. The dehiscent fruit are linear or clavate, rather than oblong. Flowers have only three short stigmas. Scape is broadly winged.

Early flowering from May to July.

Typical habitats include inner brackish saltmarshes and sand flats. Rarely on mere peat.

Scattered throughout but often overlooked.

Greenland; NF to AK, south to PA, IL and CA.