

Juncaceae

As described previously, the rushes are somewhat grass-like in general appearance. However, when the flowers are viewed close-up it becomes apparent that the members of this family are quite different. The flowers appear to be more similar to traditional flowers: they are definitely 3-parted, with a 3-parted style, 3 or 6 stamens, 3 small “petals”, and 3 small “sepals”. The “petals” and “sepals” are bract-like in appearance, but their number indicates that they are rushes. The fruit is a capsule but the remnants of the “petals” and “sepals” are usually seen. So far we have found only the single species, *Juncus effusus*, in our wetlands.

Juncus effusus is described on the following page. As more species of Juncaceae are encountered this page will become a key to those species.