4. ISOETACEAE  水韭科

DEVOL, CHARLES E.

Usually aquatic perennials, growing submersed, emersed or rarely terrestrial; stem corm-like, 2-4 lobed giving rise to numerous dichotomously branching roots and a tuft of elongated grass-like leaves. Leaves with 4 longitudinal air-channels and a central vascular strand, some species with peripheral vascular strands, many species with stomata. Sporangia large, borne at base of sporophylls, containing either large tetrahedral megaspores, or minute ellipsoidal microspores; ligule borne above sporangium; a thin velum often more or less covering the sporangium; basal portion of sporophylls expanded, winged. Megaspores white, gray or black, smooth, warty, echinate or reticulate.

A family with only one genus.

1. ISOETES L.  水韭屬

Characters of the family.

About 100 species, and many varieties, only one species in Taiwan.


台灣水韭  P1. 14, Photo 38

Corms 3-4 lobed. Leaves widely spreading, 7 to 24 cm long, in tufts of 15 to 90 or more, flattened on upper side, rounded on lower side, the base expanded with membranaceous margins, with scattered stomata near the tips, peripheral fibers absent; ligule elongate, triangular; velum rudimentary, only covering top of the sporangium. Megasporangium oval; megaspores gray when wet, white when dry, rugulate on basal side, other sides of megaspores tuberculate, 280 to 390 μ in diameter; microspores gray, elliptic, with small spines, 25 x 15 μ.

Only known from Taiwan. Growing in shallow ponds, submersed most of the year.

TAIPEI: Chonghu(Chihsingshan), *Hsu & Chang 1715, DeVol 8005*, *Huang 13558*. 