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*Juncus acutus*

**SHARP RUSH** is a perennial. Native to the Mediterranean and the Middle East (including Israel) and western Europe (including Britain) it has greenish-brown flower heads. It is also known as Greater sea rush, Great sharp sea rush, *Llymfrwynen* (Welsh), Sharp-pointed rush, *Simar lixx* (Maltese), and Spiny rush.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

*Acutus* is derived from Latin *acuti-* (pointed, acute, sharp) component meaning ‘pointed without tapering or narrowing to an angle of less than 90<sup>0</sup> but not tapering’.

The short, sharply-pointed leaves are used locally to weave baskets and the dried stems have not only provided material for basketry too but also for thatching, for weaving mats and for making chair seats. The pith has been used in the past as a wick.