

Short Course Details:	Small Streams Characterisation System	Internal
Practical Task:	Weed Identification and Recording	By
<p>This checklist is designed to aid assessment of the practical tasks relating to the identification and recording of aquatic weed observed at sampling sites. It is recognised that it may require modification to suit the specific site conditions experienced during its use. Any changes made should be recorded in the comments box.</p>		Date
		Verification

Candidate's name:	Date of observation:	Assessor:
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Skills / activities observed:	√	Comments
Mosses and liverworts above the water surface are accurately identified and recorded		
Mosses and liverworts below the water surface are accurately identified and recorded		
Filamentous algae are accurately identified and recorded		
Emergent higher plants are accurately identified and recorded		
Submerged higher plants are accurately identified and recorded		

Devised by
Date

Knowledge and understanding apparent from this observation	√	Comments

Observer's Comments

I confirm that the candidate's performance was satisfactory:

Assessor's signature:

Date:

Candidate's signature:

Date:

Devised by
Date

If there is insufficient evidence of the candidate's knowledge and understanding relating to plant identification and recording from their practical activities, oral questioning may be used to supplement this.

Examples of the types of question and expected answers are given below.

Question

Why is it important to record weed type and abundance at the sampling site?

Weed growth, particularly filamentous algae can be an indication of stream enrichment.
The presence of weed will also have an effect on the types of invertebrate present.

Question

Which three broad categories of weed does the SSCS require to be identified?

1. Mosses / liverworts 2. Filamentous algae and 3. Advanced / flowering plants.

Question

What two growth type habits does the system distinguish for liverworts, mosses and advanced plants?

Those growing above the water and those growing submerged in the water

Question

What conditions may affect relative abundance of mosses and liverworts recorded above and below the water?

Changes in flow levels

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Date