

***Allium cepa* L. (Alliaceae)**

Seed with or without testa.

General shape: slice of a sphere or half-terete; ventral surface flat to concave; dorsal surface convex to ridged; cross-section semi-circular to triangular.

Normal size: 2.5-3.0 × 1.8-2.2 × 0.8-1.3 mm (note: some seeds as large as 3.25 × 2.25 × 1.5 mm)

Color: black

Texture: epidermal cells of testa with raised centers giving the surface a dull to slightly reflective granular appearance; dorsal surface uneven, wavy and rising to a longitudinal ridge.

Distinguishing features: sharp edge formed along outline of seed; hilum in basal notch along edge.

Embryo: linear, curved along seed outline, embedded in firm, semi-transparent endosperm (nutritive tissue).



Normal size seeds of *Allium cepa*



Cross section of seed*

*Schermann, Sz. (1966-1967). *Magismeret* (II) p.201 ; Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest