

TARAXACUM Section RUDERALIA

Taraxacum section *Ruderalia* Kirschner, H. Øllg. & Stepánek is the largest and most difficult of the dandelion sections in Britain and Ireland. More than 120 species have been recorded, some of which are very common and widespread (e.g. *T. ancistrolobum*, *T. ekmanii*) and others very rare casuals (e.g. *T. vanum*, *T. quadrangulum*). Apart from the few select endemic species, the vast majority are introduced and are ecologically robust, weedy species of road verges, gardens, meadows and grasslands. They are triploid.

Section *Ruderalia* species can be recognised by the following characters (the guides to other *Taraxacum* sections may also help):

- Robust plants
- Leaves often complexly folded and lobed in three dimensions
- Leaves usually not spotted (cf. section *Naevosa*), though blotches may be present at internodes
- Midribs usually uniformly green or red (no interwoven red and green stripes)
- Bracts often recurved to reflexed and more than 10 mm long
- Pollen present (except 3 species)
- Achene body short and stubby, 2.5-3.5 mm, with cone 0.3-0.8(-1) mm

It is not helpful to try to provide a key to all the species in the section. Instead, a key to 12 informal 'Groups' with fairly well-defined characters is presented, and then the chief features for species in each of the groups are described and illustrated. Several of these groups have been informally used by Taraxacologists for many years ('Alata', 'Piceata'). Correct identification very much succeeds or fails on the key to the groups, which many will probably get wrong initially, but with time and familiarity it should provide a framework for narrowing down the choices. It gives something of a marker as to the state of play of section *Ruderalia* taxonomy at this moment, and provides a basis for further work.

This account should be used in conjunction with the BSBI Dandelion Handbook (Dudman & Richards 1997), and it includes some updates and revisions since it was published. Species numbering follows the BSBI Dandelion Handbook (Dudman & Richards 1997). Pictures are by John Richards, Tim Rich and Thomas Pedersen.

Key to informal section *Ruderalia* groupings

An indented key with illustrated characters to diagnostic features of the 12 main (informal) groupings of *Taraxacum* section *Ruderalia* found in the British Isles is given below.

The key is to be used on fresh or very well preserved material only, and much depends on coloration of the fresh plant. Material is best examined by excising below the rosette at the top of root with a knife or trowel to enable careful examination of the petioles bases (the roots will regrow!).

A few of the very rare introductions are not included, and *T. obtusilobum* is deliberately left out because of the hybrids (it is a very rare introduced sexual species which rarely persists for long, sometimes forming hybrid swarms with apomictic dandelions which are usually sterile).

Plant Crib 3

A1. Petioles (midrib at base, outside) white to green

NB petioles of some A2 species may fail to colour in dense vegetation, e.g. long grass.

B1. Petioles (at base) winged

C1. Midribs above darker than petiole, often reddish and/or with dark marks on or alongside midrib; exterior bracts > 3.5 mm wide, spreading to erect, often suffused pink or purple **5. Piceata (page 20)**

C2. Midribs green, or if reddish, then exterior bracts rarely suffused with colour

D1. Exterior bracts oblong, usually > 3.5 mm wide, abruptly acuminate then subobtusate at apex; exterior bract posture sigmoid (proximally recurved, distally patent); leaves ± flat **1. Alata (page 7)**

D2. Exterior bracts ovate-lanceolate, > 3.5 mm wide, subacute at apex; exterior bract posture suberect to spreading, not sigmoid; leaves crisped, fleshy, three-dimensional **2. Undulata (page 11)**

D3. Exterior bracts lanceolate, usually < 3.5 mm wide, subacute at apex; exterior bracts posture recurved (to sigmoid in bud); leaves rarely crisped, and if so, not fleshy **3. Croceiflora (page 13)**

B2. Petioles at base unwinged (mostly consisting of midrib)

4. Stenacra (page 18)

A2. At least some petiole midribs at base outside pink, red or purple, sometimes faintly so

NB petioles of some A2 species may fail to colour in dense vegetation, e.g. long grass.

E1. All petioles with reddish midribs and clearly demarcated green wings

F1. Interlobes with blackish suffusion, often clearer beneath, sometimes enhanced in dried condition

6. Maculata (page 25)

F2. Interlobes not suffused blackish.

7. Dilatata (page 29)

E2. If petioles winged at base, then wings whitish and not clearly demarcated from midrib

G1. All petioles strongly coloured pink to purple and unwinged at base outside

8. Stenoglossa (page 35)

G2. Outer petioles whitish and/or winged at base outside

H1. Outer petioles wings expanded and sheathing at base

9. Trilobata (page 41)

H2. Outer petioles wings not expanded and sheathing

I1. Some subdivisions of end-lobes rounded

10. Pannulata (page 43)

I2. If end-lobes subdivided, then divisions not rounded

J1. Heterophyllous; inner leaves at flowering time with large rounded end-lobes contrasting with small acute end-lobes of outer leaves **11. Ekmania (page 47)**

J2. Homophyllous; distinction between end-lobes of inner and outer leaves not marked

12. Acutifida (page 555)

Plant Crib 3

Character A1. Base of petiole outside white or green



(*T. pallidipes*)

Character A2. Base of petiole outside pink



(*T. aberrans*)

Character B1. Base of petiole winged



(*T. laeticolor*)

Character B2. Base of petiole unwinged



(*T. tenebricans*)

Character C1. Petiole white/green, midrib darker; exterior bracts spreading, suffused purple



(*T. cyanolepis*)

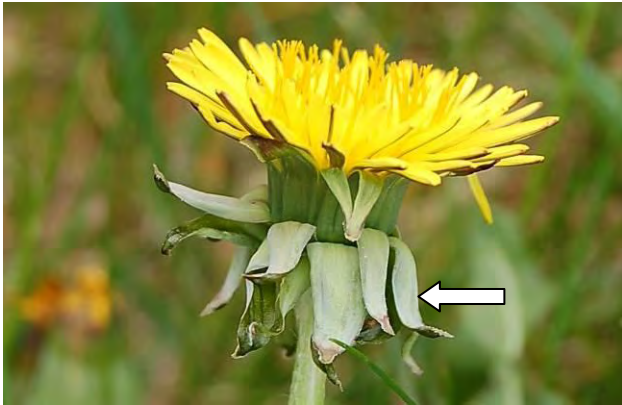
Character C2. Midrib same colour as petiole; exterior bracts not suffused with colour



(*T. laticordatum*)

Plant Crib 3

Character D1. Exterior bracts posture sigmoid, usually >3.5 mm wide, oblong, subobtuse



T. pallescens

Character D2. Exterior bracts mostly not sigmoid, erect to spreading, ovate-lanceolate, subacute, >3.5 mm wide



T. laeticolor

D3. Exterior bracts recurved, lanceolate, subacute, usually <3.5 mm wide



T. undulatiflorum

Character E1. Mid-ribs uniformly reddish with clearly demarcated green wings



(T. dilatatum)

Character E2. If petiole winged, then wings whitish at base and not clearly demarcated from midrib



(T. exsertum)

Plant Crib 3

Character F1. Interlobes suffused blackish



(*T. subxanthostigma*)

Character F2. Interlobes not suffused blackish



(*T. hepaticum*)

Character G1. All petioles strongly coloured and unwinged outside at base



(*T. stenoglossum*)

Character G2. Outer petioles whitish and/or winged outside at base



(*T. hepaticum*)

Character H1. Petiole wings expanded at base and sheathing



(*T. trilobatum*)

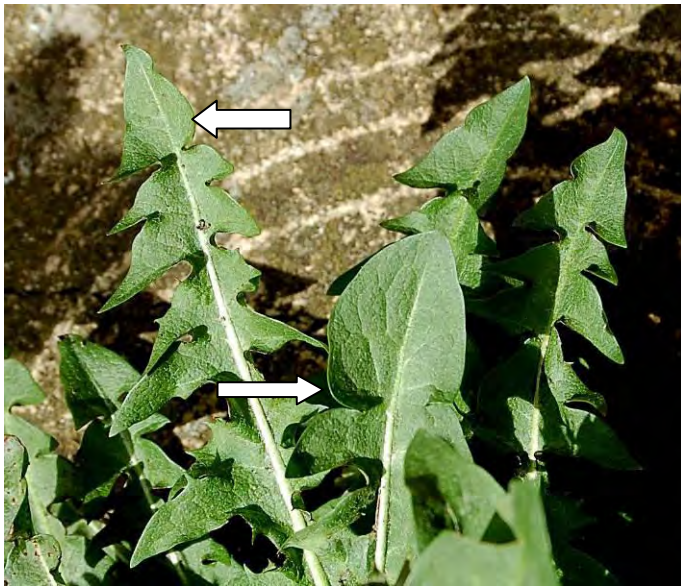
Character H2. Petiole wings not expanded or sheathing



(*T. acutifidum*)

Plant Crib 3

Character I1. Some subdivisions of end-lobes rounded



(*T. rhamphodes*)

Character I2. If end-lobes subdivided then divisions not rounded



(*T. speciosum*)

Character J1. Leaves heterophyllous, with end-lobes of outer leaves markedly different to inner leaves



(*T. polyodon*)

Character J2. Leaves homophyllous, with end-lobes of inner and outer leaves much the same



(*T. acutifidum*)

Plant Crib 3

Guide to *TARAXACUM* Section *RUDERALIA*

Group 1. *Alata*

Exterior bracts oblong, >3.5 mm wide, sigmoid posture; petioles green, winged; leaves not crisped.

60. *T. alatum* H.Lindb. Leaves narrowly oblong, rather simple; petioles with long entire narrow wings; exterior bracts glaucous, pink-tipped



60a. *T. horridifrons* Rail. Leaves laciniate, greyish with short hairs (lens); exterior bracts grey-white; stigmas dark.



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60b. *T. densilobum* Dahlst. Leaves lacinate, \pm glabrous, double lobed; exterior bracts grey-green above, recurved, not pink-tipped, <4 mm wide; stigmas yellowish



59b. *T. dilaceratum* M.P.Christ. Similar to *T. densilobum*, but leaf-lobes with a broader, \pm convex base; exterior bracts spreading, >4 mm wide.



Involucre *T. densilobum*



Involucre *T. dilaceratum*

63a. *T. pallescens* Dahlst. Involucres very like *T. horridifrons*; leaves with regular, triangular, recurved, dentate lobes.



Plant Crib 3

64. *T. sublaeticolor* Dahlst.. Involucres like *T. horridifrons* but exterior bracts shorter and capitula smaller; terminal leaf-lobes cordate at base; lobes spaced.



56. *T. laeticolor* Dahlst.. Exterior bracts very like *T. sublaeticolor* but dull leaden green above; at least some (proximal) leaf-lobes forward-pointing.



57. *T. pannucium* Dahlst.. Exterior bracts like *T. sublaeticolor*. Leaves with long narrow subacute terminal lobes.



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57a. *T. subexpallidum* Dahlst.. Very similar to *T. pannucium*, but exterior bracts more like *T. alatum*; terminal lobes narrow but obtuse-rounded at apex.



68. *T. leucopodum* G.E.Haglund. Exterior bracts like *T. alatum*. Leaf end-lobes short, rounded and abruptly acuminate, like 'German helmet'.



56a. *T. macrolobum* Dahlst.. Exterior bracts like *T. laeticolor*. Leaves like *T. densilobum* but more 3-dimensional and heterophyllous with big inner end-lobes. Ligule stripes pink-purple.



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Group 2. *Undulata*.

Differs from Group 1 *Alata* by ovate, spreading (-erect) non-sigmoid posture exterior bracts and fleshy, crispate, often prostrate leaves.

58. *T. corynodes* G.E.Haglund. Leaf-lobes strongly 'humped' at base; some lobes forward-pointing, obtuse.

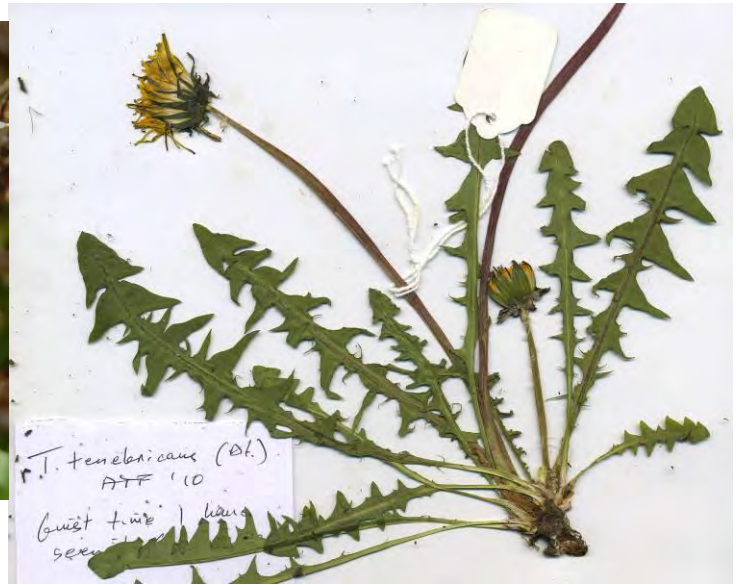


59. *T. undulatum* Dahlst. Exterior bracts more recurved and more coloured than *T. corynodes*; leaves broader and less crisped.



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59a. *T. tenebricans* Dahlst.. Exterior bracts as in *T. undulatum*, but leaves more skeletal and petioles almost lacking wings.



63d. *T. margettsii* C.C. Haw.. Similar to *T. tenebricans*, but leaf-lobes fewer, more spaced and with a rounded, subdivided end-lobe.



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Group 3. *Croceiflora*

Petioles green, winged; exterior bracts recurved, <3.5 mm wide.

- 63b. *T. subhuelphersianum* M.P.Christ. Pollen absent; capitula small, scarcely exceeding involucre.
Leaves greyish-green with a large, often dentate, end-lobe.



66. *T. croceiflorum* Dahlst.. Pollen present; ligule teeth reddish; end-lobe small on outer leaves, triangular.

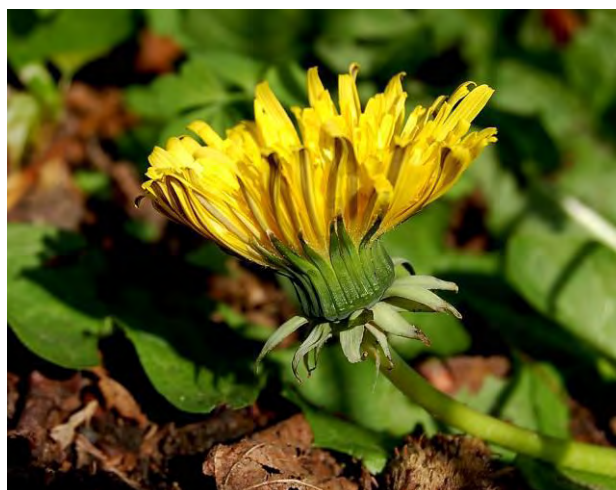


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66a. *T. lacerifolium* G.E.Haglund. Very similar to *T. croceiflorum*, but ligule teeth yellow; leaves more lacinate.



63. *T. laticordatum* Markl. Pollen present; leaf-lobes broad, regular, recurved, \pm overlapping; petioles broadly winged.



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65. *T. expallidiforme* Dahlst. (includes 65a *T. subcyanolepis* M.P.Christ). Similar to *T. laticordatum*, but end-lobe smaller on outer leaves with a bluntly acuminate tip.



65b. *T. pallidipes* Markl.. Pollen present. Petioles white and exterior bracts whitish; end-lobes rather large, subsagittate; side lobes slender, somewhat recurved, expanded at dentate base.



Plant Crib 3

62. *T. pannuliforme* Dahlst.. Similar to *T. pallidipes*, but interlobes blotched dark; end-lobe trilobate



89c. *T. lunare* M.P.Christ.. Similar to *T. pallidipes*, but petioles shorter, green; side-lobes swept back, semi-lunate



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64a. *T. lepidum* M.P.Christ. Leaves dark green; lobes very dentate; involucre small, dark, exterior bracts clawed.



63c. *T. necessarium* H. Øllg. Leaf-lobes triangular, regular, scarcely dentate; ligule teeth blackish.



(Compare with early season *T. laticordatum*)

61. *T. insigne* Ekman. Leaf side-lobes narrow, patent, double; exterior bracts quite unmistakable, long narrow to base, patent, 'like wheel spokes', grey-purple. **61a *T. lacinosum* Dahlst.** is similar but larger with extenuate obtuse end-lobes. It has not been recorded in the UK for many years.



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Group 4. *Stenacra*

Petioles green, unwinged at base; exterior bracts recurved, <3.5 mm wide; leaves often subskeletal.

67. *T. stenacrum* Dahlst. End-lobes trilobate; side-lobes double, linear but subobtuse.



67a. *T. cherwellense* A.J.Richards is similar, but lacks pollen; leaves even more skeletal (not illustrated; silhouette in Dudman & Richards 1997).

67b. *T. porrigens* Markl. is also similar, but side-lobes finely acute; exterior bracts whitish above.



Plant Crib 3

69. *T. undulatiflorum* M.P.Christ. Leaf side-lobes narrowly triangular, some forward-pointing; end-lobes triangular, large in inner leaves; exterior bracts green, reflexed, <3.0 mm wide.



69a. *T. chloroticum* Dahlst. Similar to *T. undulatiflorum*, but leaves paler; end-lobes smaller, trilobate; leaves not heterophyllous.



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TARAXACUM Section *RUDERALIA*

Group 5. *Piceata*.

Mid-rib darker than whitish petiole above, often coloured reddish and/or with black streaks alongside. Exterior bracts >3.5 mm wide, heavy, often purplish and spreading.

73. *T. ancistrolobum* Dahlst. Leaf side-lobes (2)3(4), broad, recurved and subobtuse; strongly heterophyllous; end-lobe massive and rounded in inner leaves.



74. *T. sellandii* Dahlst. Proximal leaf-lobes with big teeth, more forward pointing than distal lobes; heterophyllous, outer leaves with rather small, rounded, subdivided leaf-lobes; midrib lined black above.



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72. *T. intumescens* G.E.Haglund. Leaf side-lobes with convex proximal margins and large teeth/interlobes



70. *T. piceatum* Dahlst.. Outer leaves with acute, sagittate end-lobes; bracts spreading, leaden-violet



Plant Crib 3

70a. *T. cyanolepis* Dahlst... Leaf end-lobes cucullate (hooded), rounded, often subdivided; exterior bracts spreading-erect, blue-purple above



70b. *T. curtifrons* H. Øllg... Similar to *T. cyanolepis*, but leaf side-lobes more acute, leaves bright green.



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71. *T. tumentilobum* Markl. Similar to *T. curtifrons*, but leaf-lobes narrower; end-lobe with narrow apex; interlobes often with a large tooth; less heterophyllous than *T. piceatum*.



70c. *T. acutifrons* Markl. Similar to *T. tumentilobum* and *T. piceatum*, but end-lobes longer and more acute and leaves not heterophyllous.



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102d. *T. sublongisquameum* M.P.Christ.. Similar to *T. piceatum*, but bracts less purple and end-lobes not sagittate; interlobes blotched heavily for this group. Similar to *T. fasciatum* (Maculata) but petioles green.



70d. *T. chrysophaeum* Rail.. The most multilobate in this group, side-lobes 5-6, regular, with a few big teeth, or entire; exterior bracts pinkish-grey with red tips.



TARAXACUM Section *RUDERALIA*

Guide to Group 6. *Maculata*

Petiole midrib reddish, with clearly defined green wings; interlobes suffused dark.

103a. *T. subxanthostigma* M.P.Christ.. Lateral leaf-lobes commonly 5-6, triangular-acuminate; end-lobes rather small, leaves not heterophyllous; exterior bracts suffused violet above; stigmas discoloured.



103. *T. fasciatum* Dahlst.. Similar to *T. subxanthostigma*, but lateral leaf-lobes commonly 4; heterophyllous, end-lobes of inner leaves large, rounded; exterior bracts usually pale green above.



Plant Crib 3

102b. *T. scotiniforme* Dahlst.. Similar to *T. subxanthostigma* and *T. fasciatum* but lateral leaf-lobes commonly 3, not heterophyllous, end-lobes helmet-shaped; exterior bracts spreading, >4 mm wide; stigmas yellow.



102a. *T. longisquameum* H.Lindb.. End-lobes long, sagittate, subdivided on inner leaves; stigmas yellow. Exterior bracts recurved, < 4.0 mm wide.



Plant Crib 3

100b. *T. nitidum* Hagend., Soest & Zevenb.. Leaves dark green, shiny; end-lobes small, some with rounded subdivisions; side-lobes alternate, with large teeth and interlobes. Exterior bracts <4.0 mm. Stigmas +/- discoloured.



100a. *T. multicolorans* Hagend., Soest & Zevenb.. Similar to *T. nitidum*, but leaves paler, not shiny; end-lobes longer, obtuse-rounded, dentate; exterior bracts shorter and paler.



Plant Crib 3

104. *T. melanthoides* Dahlst. Leaves dark, bluish, roughly hairy with occasional small black spots; endlobes shortly sagittate; ligules striped dark brown-purple.



102c. *T. maculatum* Jord. Similar to *T. melanthoides* but leaves less hairy; ligules striped grey-purple.



Plant Crib 3

TARAXACUM Section *RUDERALIA*

Guide to Group 7. *Dilatata*

Petiole midribs reddish with clearly demarcated green wings; blackish markings absent.

93. *T. dilatatum* H.Lindb. End-lobes of inner leaves short, broad, obtuse, but not rounded, shallowly subdivided; lateral leaf lobes short, regular, sigmoid on distal surface; capitula mostly <40 mm diameter fully expanded.



93a. *T. diastematicum* Markl. Similar to *T. dilatatum*, but lateral leaf-lobes distant, often alternate, with a marked basal convex hump.



Plant Crib 3

95b. *T. pachylobum* Dahlst. Similar to *T. dilatatum*, but lateral leaf-lobes 6 or more, triangular; sides of some end-lobes rounded.



82b. *T. obtusifrons* Markl. End-lobes uniformly large and rounded, lateral leaf-lobes 3, dentate; exterior bracts spreading-recurved, >4 mm wide.



Plant Crib 3

105. *T. lucidum* Dahlst.. Similar to *T. obtusifrons* but end-lobe very long and subdivided, lateral lobes 2, lacerate



86. *T. vastisectum* Markl.. Similar to *T. obtusifrons*, but end-lobe obtuse, not rounded; proximal margins of side-lobes dentate.



Plant Crib 3

76. *T. aequisectum* M.P.Christ. Leaves dark, hairy, narrow; side-lobes recurved, end-lobes of inner leaves long, subdivided; exterior bracts narrow, recurved (**NB** if dark blotches present, may key as Group 6 Maculata)



94a. *T. lacinosifrons* Dahlst. ex Wiinst.. Similar to *T. aequisectum* but leaves mid-green; side-lobes patent, deltoid.



Plant Crib 3

80c. *T. edmondsonianum* H. Øllg. Leaves clear mid-green; some end-lobes with rounded side lobules; capitulum diameter > 50 mm diameter.



80b. *T. latens* H. Øllg. Very like *T. edmondsonianum*, but end-lobes lacking rounded lobules, on outer leaves very small and trilobate; heterophyllous with broad dissected end-lobes on inner leaves; ligule teeth red.



Plant Crib 3

96b. *T. hepaticum* Rail. End-lobes uniformly large, sagittate; ligule stripes brown-purple, capitulum >55 mm maximum diameter. **NB** may key as *Maculata* or *Stenoglossa*; compare with *T. huelphersianum*.



Plant Crib 3

TARAXACUM Section *RUDERALIA*

Guide to Group 8. *Stenoglossa*

All petioles narrow, unwinged, bright pink to purple.

82. *T. exacutum* Markl. Leaves flat, clear dark green; end-lobes with a finely acuminate apex; side-lobes recurved, also finely acuminate; exterior bracts spreading, acuminate, forming a stellate involucre.



81a. *T. exsertum* Hagend., Soest & Zevenb. Similar to *T. exacutum*, possibly synonymous, differing in light green, rather crisped leaves; exterior bracts recurved, twisted (not illustrated; see silhouette in Dudman & Richards 1977).

82c. *T. leptodon* Markl. Also similar to *T. exacutum* but end-lobes not finely acuminate; exterior bracts longer, slightly twisted, suffused violet; stigmas yellowish when dry.



Plant Crib 3

79. *T. adiantifrons* Ekman. End-lobes of inner leaves large, broad, angled; exterior bracts reflexed; capitulum <45mm diameter. 79a *T. retroflexum* H.Lindb. is similar but with yellow stigmas and bordered bracts.



88. *T. sagittipotens* Dahlst. & Ohlsén. Similar to *T. adiantifrons*, but endlobe long, narrow, sagittate, entire.



Plant Crib 3

82a. *T. valens* Markl.. Very similar to *T. sagittipotens*, but end-lobes no bigger than side-lobes; side-lobes 4



98a. *T. caloschistum* Dahlst.. Leaf side-lobes short, acuminate, often double, 5-6; some distal side-lobes rounded or humped; exterior bracts reflexed, < 3.5 mm wide.



78a. *T. mimulum* Dahlst.. Similar to *T. caloschistum* but end-lobes of outer leaves small, very acute, diamond-shaped to trullate (trowel-shaped).



Plant Crib 3

97a. *T. pulchrifolium* Markl.. Leaf side-lobes forward-pointing; end-lobes narrowly acuminate; exterior bracts spreading-erect, long and wide, \pm equalling inner bracts.



94. *T. sinuatum* Dahlst.. Like *T. caloschistum*, but side-lobes 4; exterior bracts spreading, > 3.5 mm wide.



Plant Crib 3

95. *T. stenoglossum* Brenner (= *T. dahlstedtii*). End-lobes large, subdivided; exterior bracts reflexed, < 3.5 mm wide



101. *T. incisum* H. Øllg.. Leaves highly dentate with blackish interlobes; more related to Group 6 Maculata but petioles usually unwinged.



Plant Crib 3

97. *T. subundulatum* Dahlst.. Some leaf side-lobes forward-pointing with large teeth proximally; exterior bracts spreading-erect, >4.0 mm wide.



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TARAXACUM Section *RUDERALIA*

Guide to Group 9. *Trilobata*.

Inner petioles coloured; outer petioles whitish or pink, broadly winged and sheathing at base.

99. *T. trilobatum* Palmgr... Leaves dark with blackish interlobes; heterophyllous, end-lobes of outer leaves small and trilobate; those of inners triangular, subdivided.



99a. *T. planum* Raunk... A neater, smaller, paler, more usually prostrate plant than *T. trilobatum* with small, very acute end-lobes on outer leaves.



Plant Crib 3

89b. *T. aurosulum* H.Lindb.. Leaf side-lobes regular, \pm overlapping with distal humps and linear processes; heterophyllous; end-lobes of inner leaves large, rounded; exterior bracts spreading.



89a. *T. ochrochlorum* G.E.Haglund. Leaves rather pale green; distal margin of side-lobes angled; scapes hairy; exterior bracts reflexed, bordered; ligule stripes violet-brown.



Plant Crib 3

TARAXACUM Section *RUDERALIA*

Guide to Group 10. Pannulata.

At least some petioles coloured at base, winged and/or the outer petioles whitish. At least some leaf end-lobes with rounded lobules.

81b. *T. exsertiforme* Hagend., Soest & Zevenb.. Pollen absent; exterior bracts spreading.



77. *T. interveniens* G.E.Haglund. Similar to *T. exsertiforme* but a smaller plant with abundant pollen and reflexed bracts.



Plant Crib 3

95c. *T. latisectum* H.Lindb.. Leaf oblong, end-lobes short, obtuse with rounded angles; exterior bracts spreading-recurved; tips of inner ligules smudged blackish.



83. *T. pannulatum* Dahlst.. Very like *T. latisectum*, but leaf less oblong, end-lobes more acute, inner ligule tips not blackish.



Plant Crib 3

96a. *T. fagerstroemii* Sältin.. Similar to *T. pannulatum*, but leaf end-lobes very subdivided and with an extenuate apex; exterior bracts reflexed, suffused pale violet.



85. *T. rhamphodes* G.E.Haglund. Proximal leaf side-lobes forward-pointing; exterior bracts whitish, bordered.



Plant Crib 3

85a. *T. procerisquameum* G.E.Haglund. Similar to *T. rhamphodes*, but a massive plant with an extenuate end-lobe to leaves and very long green bracts (16 mm+)



105a. *T. sundbergii* Dahlst.. Another massive plant; leaf side-lobes 3 with marked interlobe lobules; exterior bracts erect, 5 mm wide.



Plant Crib 3

TARAXACUM Section *RUDERALIA*

Guide to Group 11. *Ekmania*.

Some petioles coloured outside, winged and/or the outer petioles whitish, not sheathing or amplexicaul; heterophyllous; inner leaves with larger end-lobes lacking rounded lobules.

89. *T. ekmanii* Dahlst.. Leaves pale 'lettuce' green; leaf side-lobes broad-based, semi-lunate.



89d. *T. coartatum* G.E.Haglund. Similar to *T. ekmanii* but leaves mid-dark green, side-lobes less acute; ligules with red teeth. Compare also *T. cophocentrum* (Acutifida) and *T. vastisectum* (Dilatata)



Plant Crib 3

88a. *T. hexhamense* A.J.Richards. Resembles *T. coartatum* but with pale green leaves the colour of *T. ekmanii* and somewhat twisted bracts similar to *T. aequilobum*, but spreading, not recurved.



92. *T. pachymerum* G.E.Haglund. Often a squat prostrate plant with overlapping, regular, triangular, dentate leaf side-lobes; interlobes frequently smudged blackish.



Plant Crib 3

80. *T. aequilobum* Dahlst. Very variable, but typically with narrow, multilobate leaves with sigmoid side-lobe distal margins and dark interlobes; exterior bracts characteristically twisted.



80a. *T. latissimum* Palmgr. Differs from *T. aequilobum* by bracts less twisted, narrow, posture sigmoid; interlobes often with a lobule; proximal lobes \pm forward pointing. Compare also *T. rhamphodes* (Pannulata).



Plant Crib 3

95a. *T. obliquilobum* Dahlst. Similar to *T. aequilobum* and also with twisted bracts which are narrower and longer.



84. *T. lingulatum* Markl. Leaf end-lobes extenuate on outer leaves; side-lobes often alternate, sigmoid on distal margin, recurved; exterior bracts narrowly oblong, reflexed.



Plant Crib 3

90. *T. aberrans* Hagend., Soest & Zevenb.. A large pale plant; inner leaves with a large, acuminate, sub-dissected end-lobe; exterior bracts rather pale and short with a 'claw' posture.



90a. *T. pseudoretroflexum* M.P.Christ.. Similar to *T. aberrans*, but leaf apex extenuate; bracts reflexed.



Plant Crib 3

102. *T. xanthostigma* H.Lindb.. End-lobes of outer leaves acute-triangular, of inners broad, obtuse; interlobes blotched dark; stigmas pure yellow even when dry. Compare Maculata e.g. *T. longisquameum*, *T. fasciatum*



- 72a. *T. angulare* Hagend., Soest & Zevenb.. Similar to *T. xanthostigma*, but end-lobes of inner leaves with alternate, often angular lobules; stigmas discoloured when dry.



75. *T. altissimum* H.Lindb.. Very tall and erect with narrow leaves and long, subdivided end-lobes; exterior bracts >4.0 mm wide, spreading. Unmistakeable.



Plant Crib 3

84a. *T. macranthoides* G.E.Haglund. Similar to *T. altissimum* but semi-prostrate; exterior bracts mostly <4.0 mm wide.



87. *T. cordatum* Palmgr.. Leaf end-lobes sagittate, cordate at base; distal side-lobes \pm entire, distal margins sigmoid; exterior bracts spreading, rather short, grey-violet.



100. *T. polyodon* Dahlst.. Very heterophyllous; leaf-lobes highly dentate, interlobes blotched dark; exterior bracts small, <3.5 mm wide, suffused purple when mature, posture claw-like.



Plant Crib 3

98. *T. pectinatiforme* H.Lindb.. Leaf highly dissected into many linear segments, but flat; mid-rib bright pink; exterior bracts narrow, <3.5 mm wide.



- 93b. *T. tanyphyllum* Dahlst.. A very tall plant with extenuate obtuse end-lobes to inner leaves and ladder-like side-lobes.



Plant Crib 3

TARAXACUM Section *RUDERALIA*

Guide to Group 12. *Acutifida*.

Some petioles coloured outside, winged and/or the outer petioles whitish, not sheathing or amplexicaul, \pm homophyllous, end-lobes of inner and outer leaves similar, lacking rounded side lobules.

103b. *T. acutifidum* M.P.Christ. Leaf end-lobes small, acute, subdivided; exterior bracts usually colouring pinkish with time, recurved; capitula < 50 mm diameter, ligules striped brownish, teeth yellow. (Resembles *T. polyodon* in Ekmania, but homophyllous)



62a. *T. nigridentatum* T. Edm. Dubiously distinct from *T. acutifidum*, differing by leaves heavily black-blotched and ligule teeth smudged with black.

88b. *T. amplum* Markl. Leaves rather pale green, \pm unblotched, end-lobes long, sagittate; exterior bracts pale, bordered; stigmas yellowish when dry. Compare *T. sagittipotens* and *T. valens* (*Stenoglossa*).



Plant Crib 3

81. *T. acroglossum* Dahlst. A squat, robust, greyish-green plant with acuminate leaf end-lobes and broad, spreading bracts.



78. *T. angustiquameum* Dahlst. Plant rather small, semi-prostrate; leaves narrow, multilobate with regular acute lobation; exterior bracts narrow, acute, claw-like in posture.



Plant Crib 3

78b. *T. stereodes* Ekman. Very similar to *T. angustisquameum*, but hairier especially on scape; exterior bracts more oblong in shape, not claw-like in posture.



79b. *T. semiglobosum* H.Lindb. Very like *T. angustisquameum* but leaves greener; leaf-lobes semi-lunate; exterior bract posture recurved, rather wider, suffused violet.



Plant Crib 3

96. *T. huelphersianum* G.E.Haglund. Robust with regular recurved triangular leaf side-lobes, \pm angled on distal margin; end-lobes acute-triangular; interlobes blotched dark; exterior bracts spreading-recurved, stellate.



91. *T. oblongatum* Dahlst.. Leaf end-lobes obtuse-rounded; exterior bracts short, <12 mm long, recurved, suffused violet; capitula small, <40 mm diameter.



Plant Crib 3

91a. *T. cophocentrum* Dahlst. Similar to *T. oblongatum*, but with end-lobes to leaf larger than side-lobes.



69b. *T. speciosum* Raunk. Capitula deep almost orange-yellow, > 60 mm diameter; pollen absent.



References Dudman, A. & Richards, A. J. (1997). *Dandelions of Great Britain and Ireland*. Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.

Author A. J. Richards, 2015.

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