

# Dandelion Sections

Stage 3 Key with altered layout; numbers in brackets denote Stc Stage's details section & HB BSBI Handbook pages - ver 2019-01-20

1	<p><b>Plants</b> delicate</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> usually with strongly dissected (often nearly pinnate);</p> <p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of mostly &lt;8mm, with small outgrowth near apex on lowerside</p> <p><b>Capitula</b> rarely &gt;3cm across</p> <p>→ 2</p>	<p><b>Plants</b> usually medium to robust</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> rarely with nearly pinnate leaves</p> <p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of mostly &gt;8mm without subapical outgrowth</p> <p><b>Capitulum</b> usually &gt;3cm across</p> <p>→ 3</p>
2	<p><b>Achenes</b> greyish-brown with pyramidal cone c.0.4mm</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> often with &gt;=6 pairs of lateral lobes</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Obliqua</b> (Stc 2, HB p75-76/15-15a - No Crib)</p>	<p><b>Achenes</b> usually purplish-violet, reddish or yellowish-brown with cylindrical cone mostly 0.6-1mm</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> rarely with &gt;6 pairs of lateral lobes</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Erythrosperma</b> (Stc 1, HB p49-74 - See Crib)</p>
3	<p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of appressed ovate with broad scarious border</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> very narrow usually scarcely lobed</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Palustria</b> (Stc 3, HB p77-80 - See Crib)</p>	<p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of appressed to recurved linear to narrowly ovate with no or with narrow to very narrow scarious border</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> broader usually distinctly lobed</p> <p>→ 4</p>
4	<p><b>Leaves</b> and petioles green</p> <p>rare plants of a few mountain cliffs in Sc</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Taraxacum</b> (Stc 6, HB p84-89, See Crib)</p>	<p>Lowland plants or if on mountain cliffs then</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> usually dark or blotched or spotted with purple and petiole usually purple</p> <p>→ 5</p>
5	<p><b>Achenes</b> (excl. cone and beak) &gt;=4mm nearly cylindrical</p> <p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of erect to appressed</p> <p><b>Ligules</b> usually with dark red stripes on lowerside</p> <p><b>Pollen</b> usually 0</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Spectabilia</b> (Stc 4, HB p81-83, See Crib)</p>	<p><b>Achenes</b> very rarely &gt;4mm narrowly top-shaped</p> <p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of rarely appressed</p> <p><b>Ligule</b> stripes rarely dark red</p> <p><b>Pollen</b> present or 0</p> <p>→ 6</p>
6	<p><b>Leaves</b> with large dark spots covering &gt;10% of surface</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Naevosa</b> (Stc 5, HB p90-101, See Crib)</p>	<p><b>Leaves</b> unspotted or with spots covering &lt;10% of blade (beware leaves damaged or attacked by pathogens)</p> <p>→ 7</p>
7	<p><b>Petiole</b> and midrib uppersides green or solid red or purple</p> <p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of mostly 9-16mm usually recurved not dark on lowerside</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> often complexly lobed and folded in 3 dimensions</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Ruderalia</b> (Stc 9, HB p154 on, See Crib)</p>	<p><b>Petiole</b> and midrib uppersides usually minutely (lens) striped red or purple</p> <p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of mostly 7-12mm often (often not) patent to erect dark on lowerside</p> <p><b>Leaves</b> relatively simply lobed</p> <p>± flat</p> <p>→ 8</p>
8	<p><b>Lateral</b> leaf-lobes broad-based with convex front and concave rear edge commonly 4 pairs</p> <p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of usually arched to varying degrees often subobtuse</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Hamata</b> (Stc 8, HB 136-153, See Crib)</p>	<p><b>Lateral</b> leaf-lobes rarely broad-based rarely with convex front and concave rear edge often 5-6 pairs</p> <p><b>Phyllaries</b> outer row of erect to recurved all ± to same degree often acute</p> <p>= T. sect. <b>Celtica</b> (Stc 7, HB 102-135, See Crib)</p>

## GLOSSARY

Acute = less than right angle  
 Apex = end point  
 Appressed = pressed onto (here unbent)  
 Beak = see end diagram  
 Capitulum = flower head

Concave = deviating inward  
 Cone = see end diagram  
 Convex = deviating outward  
 Dissected = deeply divided  
 Lateral = side  
 Lobe = large division of a leaf  
 Ovate = widest near base

Patent = projecting ± at right-angles  
 Petiole = Leaf-stalk  
 Pinnate = Leaf is a stem with paired smaller leaves  
 Phyllaries = see 'involucral' in diagram

Reflexed = bent back (/down)  
 Scarious = thin/papery  
 Subapical = almost at apex  
 Sub- = almost

