



HOLCUS

When vegetative, the two species can usually be separated readily by examination of the rooting system. *H. lanatus* is usually tufted and not rhizomatous, whilst *H. mollis* always has long, creeping rhizomes. However, *H. lanatus* var. *soboliferus* Duwensee (Duwensee 1995) has creeping rhizomes; such plants can usually be distinguished from *H. mollis* by the indumentum and awn characters. *Holcus lanatus* var. *soboliferus* is reported from throughout the range of the species, including Scotland.

Hairiness is variable in both species. *Holcus lanatus* also varies considerably in colour and is sometimes not purple-striped at base. In *H. mollis*, the awn sometimes projects very little beyond the glume, such plants then liable to be mistaken for *H. lanatus*.

Sterile hybrids may also occur and are probably under-recorded (see Stace's *New Flora* for characters).

Reference Duwensee, H. A. (1995). *Phyton* **35**: 291-293.