

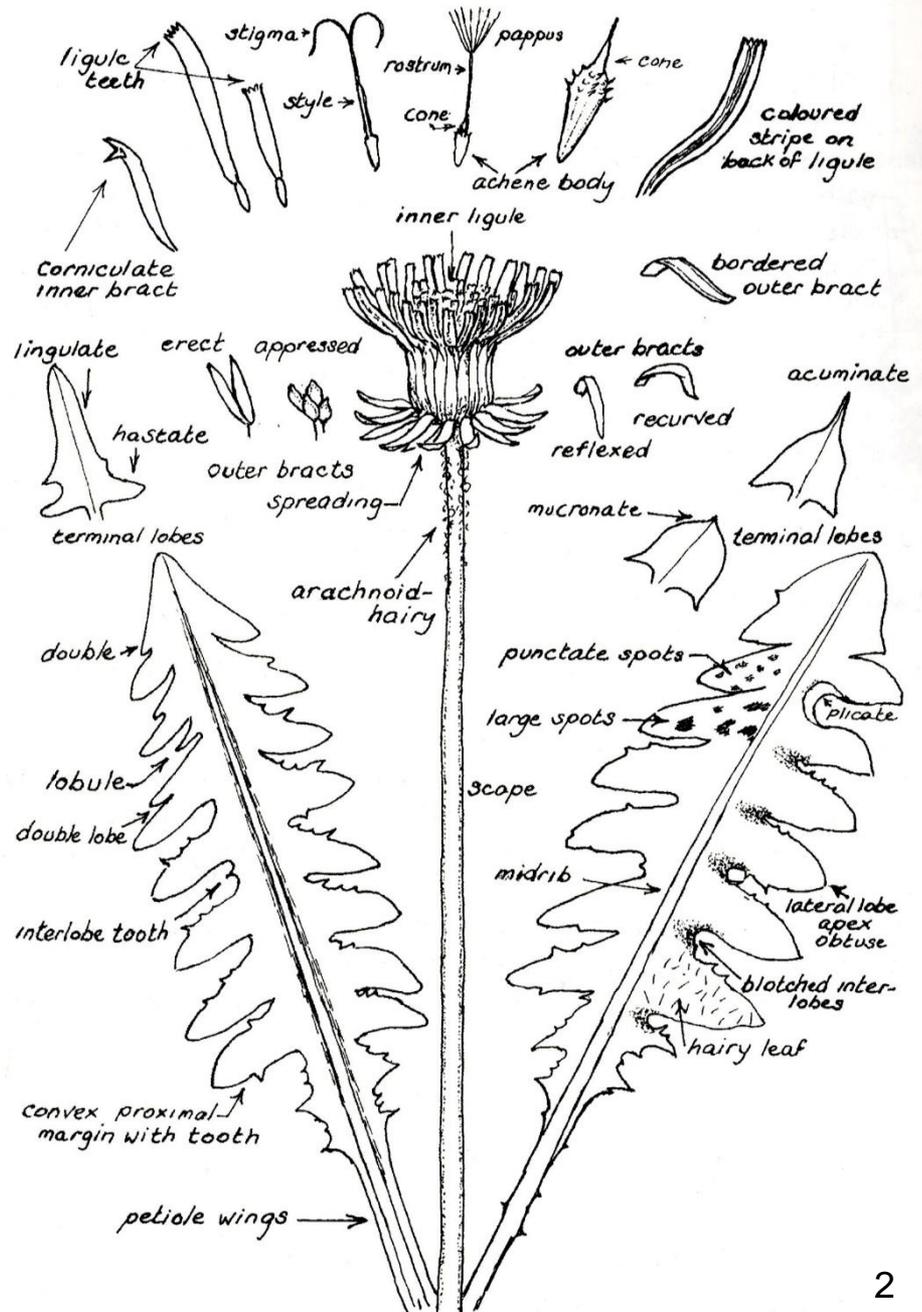


**3. Introduction to  
dandelion  
characters.  
BSBI 2018**

Tim Rich

Handbook gives some characters

- may have to look carefully at more than one leaf etc.
- some take a lot of experience to use
- can change through season



Base of petioles – outside at base

- white vs pink/red
- pink coloration often develops more when dried



- Petioles winged at base
- sometimes narrowly so



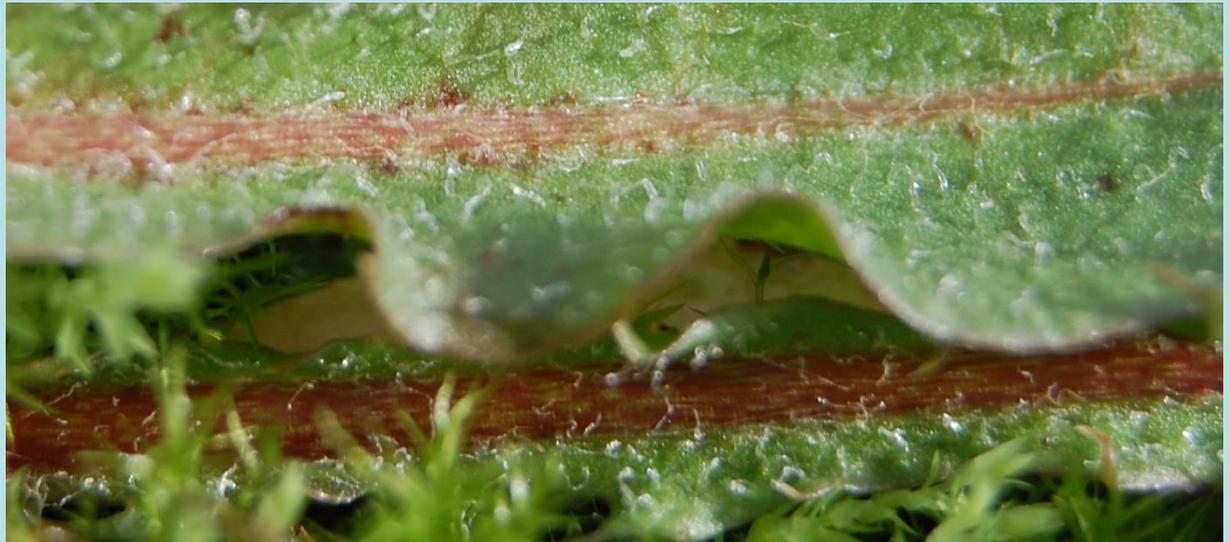
## Interwoven midrib

### Sections:

- Celtica
- Hamata
- Spectabilia
- Naevosa

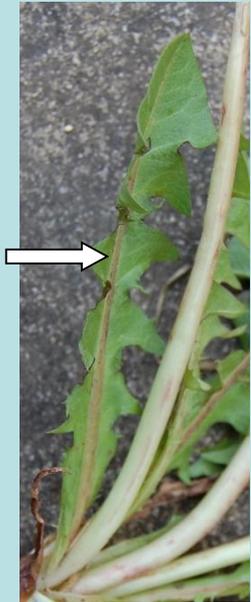


sahlinianum



palmeri

Petiole white/green, midrib darker



Petiole and midrib white/green

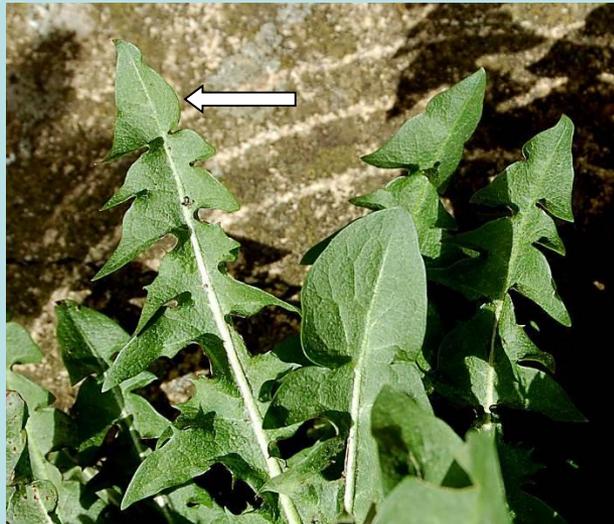


## Terminal lobes

- very important, select leaves with good endlobes



Some subdivisions of endlobes rounded



Heterophyllous - with endlobes  
of outer leaves markedly  
different to inner leaves



- Leaves with black spots
- spring leaves (may be absent in summer)



Interlobes  
suffused blackish



## Bracts have many characters:

- size – length and width (more variation than in handbook)
- shape – broad, narrow
- held in mature bud (appressed to reflexed, sometimes twisted)
- colour
- borders



## Capitulum width

- measure when fully open
- often more variation than given in handbook

## Ligule stripe colour

- surprisingly hard to decide which colour is which!



## Inrolled ligules (not opening properly)



Stigma colour (same as ligule=yellow, discoloured, blackish, orange)

- Occasionally colour obscured by abundant pollen



### Pollen

- X10 lens at least
- Varies in quantity
- Sometimes washed off by rain



## Achenes

- size (body, cone)
- colour - hints in young heads, best in mature
  - fade in herbarium specimens
- shape to some extent and spines

