

Identify mountain flowers

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Identify mountain flowers of Britain and Ireland

2019 alanwalker.books Edinburgh www.alanwalker.com ISBN: 0-9545173-3-4

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Alpine meadow-rue, *Thalictrum alpinum*

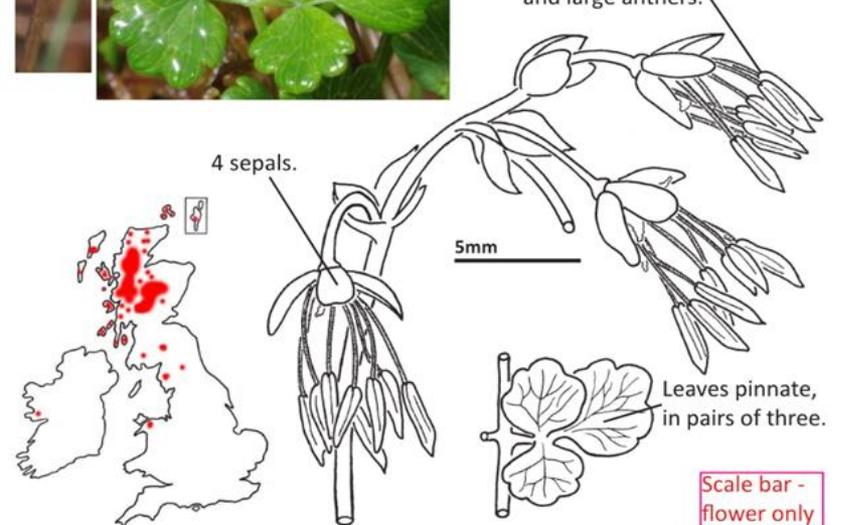
Ranunculaceae



- Early to late summer; localized mostly on mountains and uncommon or inconspicuous amongst grass.
- Erect stems to 15cm, bearing an inflorescence with small group of delicately beautiful hanging flowers.
- Flowers dominated by about 8 stamens with large anthers which may be coloured yellow or orange.
- Leaves are characteristic: smooth, hairless and shiny, in a pinnate arrangement with pairs of 3 leaflets.
- **Similar:** Lesser meadow-rue.



Stamens with long filaments and large anthers.



Scale bar - flower only

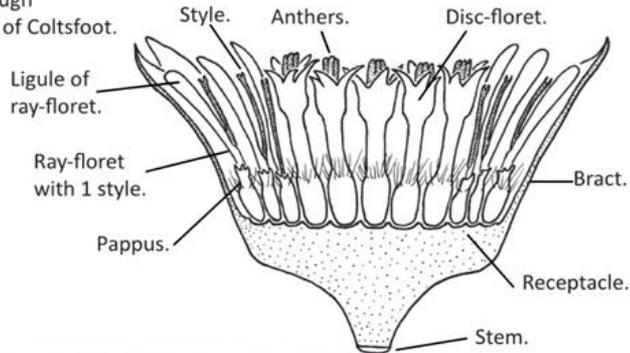
The daisy family, Asteraceae (formerly Compositae) have flowering heads comprising several forms of individual flowers as the basic reproductive units. The floral composite is the flower-head, the units are the florets.

Florets are typically as an outer ring of ray-florets in which one of the petal lobes is elongated into a strap-like ligule. Ray-florets are female or bisexual, with a single long style and the ovary produces a single fruit that is wind dispersed with the aid of a ring of long fine hairs (a pappus).

The inner disc typically consists of many male or bisexual disc-florets with only very small petal lobes. Also bisexual tubular florets occur, with long petal lobes (see Marsh thistle, pg.105) and various other arrangements of the flower-heads.

Leaves pinnate or simple.

Section through flower-head of Coltsfoot.



Coltsfoot flower-head, fully opened out.

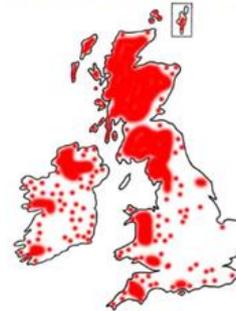
Ligules of ray-florets.

Styles of ray-florets.

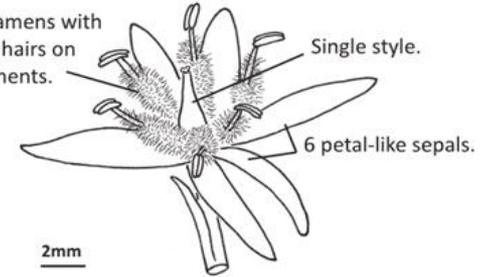
Disc-florets, with anthers.



- Flowering in late summer as a bright patches of spikes on dull wet moors.
- Single stems to 40cm with about 10 flowers - frilly stamens and sepals only.
- Leaves are simple, grass-like, and all in a basal rosette.



6 stamens with fine hairs on filaments.



Single style.

6 petal-like sepals.

2mm