



Viola odorata var. sulfurea

Coming Soon!

The Viola Mini-Handbook

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Viola odorata var. subcarnea

Contents include:

- Detailed descriptions of species and hybrids
- New drawings by Sarah Holme
- Photos of species, habitats and diagnostic characters
- Comparative tables showing hybrids with both parents
- Comparisons of similar species
- Illustrated general key
- Detailed key to species and hybrids
- Distribution maps
- Associated species lists and NVC details



Leaf of *Viola rupestris*



Petiole of *Viola odorata*

Sample comparative table

| <i>Viola rupestris</i> | <i>Viola</i> × <i>burnatii</i> | <i>Viola riviniana</i> |
|--|--|---|
| Leaves truncate to slightly cordate at base, rounded at apex | Leaves moderately cordate at base, slightly pointed at apex | Leaves deeply cordate at base, apex acute |
| Leaves glabrous or with scattered very short hairs on upper surface, usually located near lobe edges | Leaves with long hairs on the upper surface and (sometimes) very short hairs near the lobe edges | Leaves with relatively long sparse hairs on upper surface |
| Leaf and flower stalks densely covered with short hairs (or glabrous) | Leaf and flower stalks densely covered with short hairs (or glabrous) | Leaf and flower stalks almost always glabrous |
| Soboles absent | Soboles sometimes present | Soboles often present |
| Stipules toothed towards base, sometimes with short fimbriae | Stipules toothed, sometimes with short fimbriae | Stipules toothed and with long fimbriae |
| Corolla pale blue-violet; dark zone absent | Corolla pale blue-violet; dark zone very faint or absent | Corolla blue-violet; dark zone usually present |
| Capsule globular or very slightly trigonous | Capsule absent but withered remains of aborted flowers present | Capsule trigonous |

Comparison of similar species (*Viola riviniana* and *V. canina*)

- 1) *V. riviniana* has a non-flowering rosette of leaves at the top of the rootstock (not always easy to find). With *V. canina* all leaves are on flowering stems.
- 2) *V. riviniana* leaves are ovate-orbicular with a strongly cordate base. *V. canina* leaves are roughly triangular in shape with a shallowly cordate or truncate base.
- 3) The leaves of *V. riviniana* are mid to bright green; those of *V. canina* are dark green and feel thicker in texture.
- 4) The upper surface of the leaves of *V. riviniana* often has many short patent hairs on the upper surface (Use lens and bend leaf over finger to determine this character). The upper surface of the leaves of *V. canina* is glabrous or almost so.
- 5) The stipules of *V. riviniana* have numerous, fimbriate, sideways pointing teeth; those of *V. canina* have few, short, usually forward-pointing teeth.
- 6) The corolla of *V. riviniana* is violet in colour; that of *V. canina* is usually (but not always) bluer and lacks the violet tinge of *V. riviniana*.
- 7) The lowest petal of *V. riviniana* very often has a dark zone immediately below the white patch in the throat; *V. canina* lacks this dark zone.
- 8) The spur of *V. riviniana* is white, pale yellow or violet; that of *V. canina* is usually a deep, often very striking, yellow.



Viola reichenbachiana

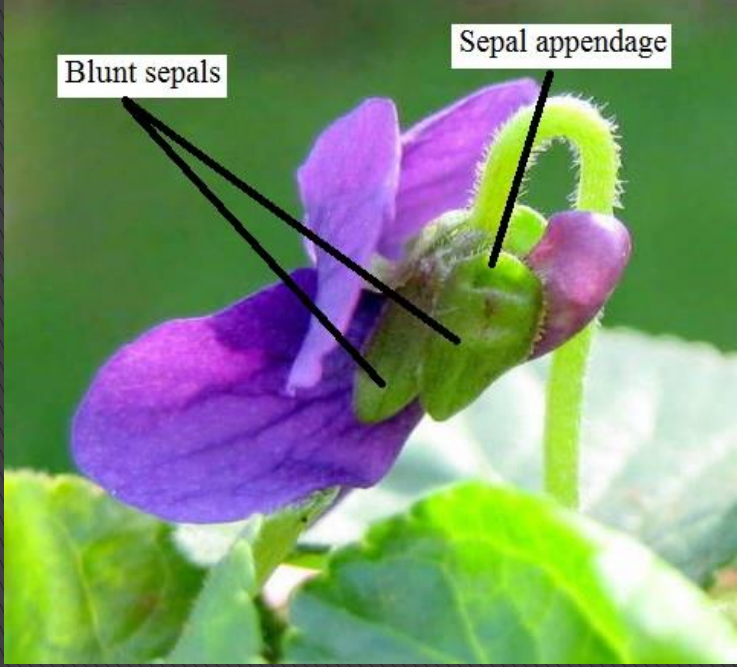


Viola cornuta



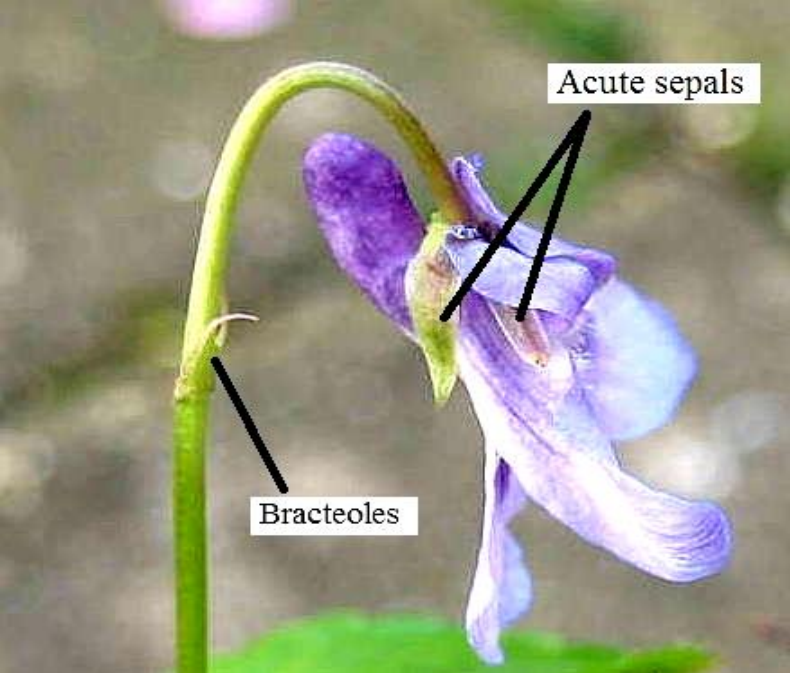
Viola lutea (yellow form)

(below) Part of Illustrated Key



Key to Violets

2. Leaves and flowers arising from creeping underground rhizome, no stems above ground ...3
2. Leaves and flowers arising direct from base of plant or from above-ground stems.....4
3. Leaves long-stalked, kidney-shaped, flowers long-stalked pale violet, leaf stalks usually glabrous but sometimes hairy; in marshes mainly in the W of British Isles.....*V. palustris*
4. Leaves and flowers arising direct from base of plant, no leafy stems, sepals blunt.....5
4. Plants with leafy flowering stems, sepals acute.....6
5. Leaf and (sometimes) flower stalks with dense, spreading hairs, stolons absent, flowers unscented, pale blue-violet.....*V. hirta*
5. Leaf and flower stalks with dense, short, deflexed hairs, stolons present, flowers scented, dark violet (often white, occasionally other colours)*V. odorata*



Viola canina

The Viola Mini-Handbook:
scheduled for
publication early in 2017
Watch out for the pre-publication offer in *BSBI News*



Viola lactea