Identify mountain flowers

A downloadable file (27Mb, free) from www.alanrwalker.com that can be viewed on a phone, tablet or laptop that can read pdf files.

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.

Scale bar: flower only

Leaves pinnate, in pairs of three.

4 sepals.

Stamens with long filaments and large anthers.
Asteraceae: flower structure

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 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.

Section through flower-head of Coltsfoot.

- 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.

Bog asphodel, Narthecium ossifragum
Asphodelaceae

Leaves pinnate or simple.