**NIGELLA**

Five species of *Nigella* L. have been recorded in Britain; specimens should not be assumed to be *N. damascena*, the commonest taxon, without closer examination (Wurzell 1990).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Follicles united from base to tip, forming an inflated capsules, not tuberculate; flowers sky blue, surrounded by a conspicuous leaf-like involucre</th>
<th><em>N. damascena</em> L.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Follicles separating towards the tip (± united throughout in <em>N. sativa</em> but then tuberculate on back); involucre absent (rarely present in <em>N. arvensis</em>)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Follicles 3-veined, united for about 1/2 their length</td>
<td><em>N. arvensis</em> L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Follicles 1-veined, united for about 2/3 their length</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Follicles usually densely glandular; flowers 4-5 cm, bright blue</td>
<td><em>N. hispanica</em> L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Follicles smooth or scarcely glandular; flowers 2-3.5 cm, shades of pale blue, dull cream or grey-white</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Anthers distinctly mucronate; leaves with broadly linear segments</td>
<td><em>N. gallica</em> Jord.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Anthers not mucronate; leaves with narrowly linear segments</td>
<td><em>N. sativa</em> L.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>