

## TARAXACUM SECTION NAEVOSA

Section *Naevosa* species are mostly found in the western and northern districts of the British Isles, becoming scarce in the south-east and midlands of England where they are mostly restricted to marshy semi-natural habitats. Elsewhere, they occur in a range of habitats from mountain cliffs to lane banks and grasslands, but they are rarely found in waste places as ruderals or weeds. Thirteen species are known from the British Isles, but three of these are rare and restricted to Shetland, north-west Scotland, or Cornwall and have been omitted here.

*Naevosa* species are closely related to section *Celtica* species and might well be included in the latter section. They differ by a single conspicuous character, *dark spotting on the upper surface of the leaf*. This feature is nearly unique to sections *Naevosa* and *Spectabilia*. Otherwise it is found one section *Erythrosperma* species (*T. inopinatum*), one section *Taraxacum* (*T. pycnostictum*) species, and some western forms of *T. nordstedtii* (section *Celtica*) including the rare endemics *T. olgae* and *T. berthae* are occasionally spotted. *Taraxacum melanthoides* (section *Ruderalia*) can also have very small spots. Leaf spotting should not be confused with interlobe blotching (which is exhibited on both leaf surfaces in many section *Hamata* and *Ruderalia*), or damage from insects, fungi etc. (also usually on both surfaces). Examination with a lens should reveal whether spotting is innate or environmental in origin. Some but not all *Naevosa* species also have roughly hairy leaves. Several of the commoner species lack pollen.



Dark spotted leaves in *T. euryphyllum*

# Plant Crib 3

- 1a. Species lacking pollen or almost so (pollen is extruded from anthers by the stigmas; check with a x20 lens) (2a-2b)



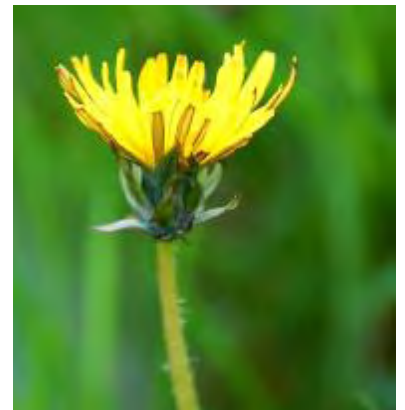
- 2a. At least inner (upper) exterior bracts erect (3a-3b)



*T. maculosum*

- 3a. Lateral leaf-lobes 2-4, sigmoid on distal margin; exterior bracts bluish-pruinose, rather few

*T. maculosum*



# Plant Crib 3

- 3b. Lateral leaf-lobes 5-7,  $\pm$  straight on distal margin; exterior bracts not bluish or pruinose, crowded  
**T. richardsianum**



- 2b. All exterior bracts spreading to recurved (4a-4b)

- 4a. Petioles winged; exterior bracts mostly  $>3.0$  mm wide, bordered, pruinose; ligules striped purple  
**T. euryphyllum**



# Plant Crib 3

4b. Petioles  $\pm$ unwinged; exterior bracts mostly  $<3.0$  mm wide, unbordered; ligules striped brown

**T. subnaevosum**



1b. Species bearing pollen (5a-5b)

5a. At least inner (upper) exterior bracts erect throughout (6a-6c)

6a. Leaves hairy; involucre crowded (see *T. richardsianum*); achenes with spines at top

**T. stictophyllum**



# Plant Crib 3

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- 6b.** Leaves glabrous, scarcely lobate; terminal lobe rounded; exterior bracts few; achenes lacking spines  
**T. drucei** (scarce, Atlantic rocks and cliffs, not illustrated)
- 6c.** Leaves glabrous, with 4-6 acute lobes; terminal lobe acute; exterior bracts few; achenes spinose at apex  
**T. ronae** (south-west England and Ireland)



- 5b.** All exterior bracts spreading to recurved (sometimes suberect at apex) (7a-7b)
- 7a.** Leaves heavily suffused with coalescing spots at first, spots fading, almost glabrous; exterior bracts <3.0 mm in width, recurved  
**T. pseudolarssonii**



# Plant Crib 3

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**7b.** Spots discrete, not coalescing, not fading; leaves very hairy, rough. Exterior bracts mostly >3.0 mm in width, spreading and often suberect at apex (8a-8b)

**8a.** Open capitula >50 mm in diameter; leaf-lobes subpatent

***T. naevosum***



**8b.** Open capitulum usually <50 mm in diameter; leaf-lobes heavily recurved

***T. naevosiforme***



# Plant Crib 3

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*References* Dudman, A. & Richards, A. J. (1997). *Dandelions of Great Britain and Ireland*.  
Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.

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Pictures A. J. Richards, P. A. Smith and T. C. G. Rich