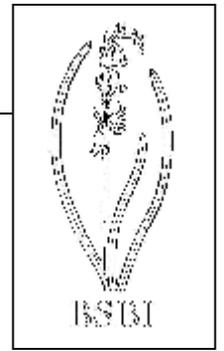


Plant Crib



OXALIS

The key and illustrations in Stace's *New Flora* are generally satisfactory for naming *Oxalis* L. plants. The key to yellow-flowered plants with stems (*O. corniculata* and its allies) below, which cause the most identification problems, should help. Additional details on garden escapes are given in the detailed account in the *European Garden Flora* (Watson 1997) and in Young (1958).

When collecting material for identification, please include the underground parts (rarely a conservation problem for these weedy aliens).

- 1 Plants creeping to caespitose, without septate hairs on vegetative parts; stolons absent; flowers solitary or in an umbellate inflorescence; fruiting pedicels deflexed to horizontal (rarely erect) 4
- 1 Plants erect to decumbent, with septate hairs on vegetative parts; stolons present; flowers in cymose inflorescence; fruiting pedicels erect (*O. stricta* L.) 2
- 2 Leaves and vegetative parts green 3
- 2 Leaves, and to a lesser extent all vegetative parts, suffused with purple-red pigments
O. stricta var. *rufa* (Small) Farwell
- 3 Leaves glabrous above *O. stricta* var. *stricta*
- 3 Leaves hairy above *O. stricta* var. *bushii* (Small) Farwell
- 4 Plant usually creeping, rarely decumbent; stipules auriculate to rectangular; flowers solitary or 2-8 inflorescence; seeds brown or occasionally grey on the ridges 5
- 4 Plant erect when young, becoming decumbent with age; stipules semi-circular, rarely auriculate; inflorescence 1-2(-3)-flowered; seeds with white patches on the ridges *O. dillenii* Jacq.
- 5 Leaves usually less than 5 × 6 mm; flowers solitary; capsule globose, with 3-4 seeds per locule
O. exilis A. Cunn.
- 5 Leaves usually more than 5 × 8 mm; inflorescence usually 2- to 8-flowered; capsule cylindrical, with more than 4 seeds per locule (*O. corniculata* L.) 6
- 6 Leaves and vegetative parts green 7
- 6 Leaves, and to a lesser extent all vegetative parts, suffused with purple-red pigments
O. corniculata var. *atropurpurea* Planch.
- 7 Leaves glabrous above, and hairy below only on midrib of terminal leaflet and basal halves of lateral leaflets *O. corniculata* var. *corniculata*
- 7 Leaves usually hairy above (sometimes plant glabrescent), and hairy over all the under-surface
O. corniculata var. *villosa* (M. Bieb.) Hohen.

References Watson, M. F. (1997). *European Garden Flora* 5: 18-26.
Young, D. P. (1958). *Watsonia* 4: 51-69.

Author M. F. Watson, December 1997.