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+ key to non-yellow species of Rhizocarpon

Edited by P. D. Crittenden Dept. of Life Science University of Nottingham

A PROVISIONAL RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE NON-YELLOW SPECIES OF *RHIZOCARPON* OCCURING IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Introduction

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The account of Rhizocarpon in Purvis et al. (1992) mentions a number of species where there are apparent problems eg R. hochstetteri and R. obscuratum. In the process of carrying out ecological research for my PhD thesis on British montane lichen vegetation it became necessary to study the non-yellow Rhizocarpon species in some detail as they constitute an important part of the montane vegetation. Many of my collections failed to fit in with current taxonomic concepts; in particular Feuerer's 1991 revision, which used a rather broad species concept, failed to do justice to the variation I was encountering. It soon became clear that most upland/ montane specimens called R. obscuratum were in fact R. lavatum and that there were also at least two very distinct entities included within R. hochstetteri. I have, consequently, paid special attention to these groups, collecting them extensively and subjecting all my collections to a detailed microscopic analysis. I have followed this up with herbarium work in the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and I have also seen a small number of collections from Scandinavia (principally in the R. copelandii group).

The keys presented here must be considered provisional for three main reasons:-

- i) The genus is relatively poorly represented in the British Isles compared with, for instance, Scandinavia. Many species are rare and it will be necessary to examine foreign material to gain a clearer concept of these.
- ii) More work is needed on a number of problem areas *eg* the *R. copelandii* group.
- iii) Although the main taxonomic entities are established the correct names for them are not. In particular, there are numerous previously published names included in the synonymy of *R. hochstetteri* and it will be necessary to examine the type material of many of these.

In cases of doubt, I have tended to retain species as separate entities rather than "lump" them together as it is easier to combine separately recorded species than it is to separate ones recorded together. Consequently, R. *cinereonigrum* and R. *jemtlandicum* are retained as distinct from R. *badiotrum* and R. *cyclodes*, respectively, although I strongly suspect that they are, at most, only worthy of 'variety' status. Not included in the key are the lichenicolous R. advenulum (on Pertusaria spp) and R. ochrolechiae (on Ochrolechia parella).

Key to the species

1	Ascospores 1-septate (occasionally 3-septate or submuriform) 2 Ascospores 3-septate to eumuriform
2(1)	Ascospores remaining colourless (over-mature spores sometimes becoming brown, but then usually distorted)
3(2)	Medulla I+ blue; ascospores occasionally becoming 3-septate or submuriform
4(3)	Thallus usually C+ red (gyrophoric acid). Epithecium K-, maritime species
5(3)	On basic rock
6(5)	On slightly calcareous rocks (epidiorite, basalt, andesite) in oceanic areas. Rarely on semi-inundated siliceous rocks further east (Scotland). Thallus grey, K-, Pd Apothecia flat to slightly convex, to 1.5mm diameter, \pm inmarginate. Spores 16-18 (-19) x 7-8µm. Epithecium aeruginose, especially in K. R. caesium Fryday in ed. Usually on more strongly basic rock, especially limestone. Thallus white; apothecia smaller. Epithecium olivaceous to brown7
7(6)	Epithecium K+ purple
8(7)	Exciple K Apothecial disc usually pruinose. Thallus K+ yellow, Pd+ orange (stictic acid)
9(5)	Ascospores >24 μ m long, usually becoming brown when old. Paraphysoids with only slightly swollen pigmented cap; remaining \pm conglutinate in K

Ascospores usually <22 µm long, rarely becoming brown when old. Paraphysoids with ± distinct, abruptly swollen pigmented caps: ± separating in K.....11 10(9)Thallus grey-brown; Usually K-, Pd- (stictic acid absent). On exposed upland/montane siliceous boulders. Thallus red-brown: Usually K+ yellow, Pd+ orange (stictic acid). Restricted to high altitude 11(9)Thallus thin, olivaceous-brown, ±continuous; K-, Pd-. Apothecia with thin, persistent exciple. Ascopores 19-21x9-11µm. Epithecium brown. Frequent oceanic species, becoming scarce in Scotland although extending as far north as Knoydart. Usually on boulders in woodlands but becoming upland/montane in SW England (Dartmoor) and SW Ireland (Brandon Mountain). Thallus white, grey or brown, areolate to slightly warted. Apothecia with thicker exciple or occasionally ±immarginate. Ascospores 14-16(-18) x 7-8µm. Epithecium brown or blue-black. Upland or 12(11) Thallus pale grey to brown, areolate; either K+ red, Pd+ yellow (norstictic acid), K+ yellow, Pd+ orange (stictic acid) or K-, Pd- (no substances). Epithecium blue-black (occasionally olivaceousbrown); paraphysoids with distinct, pigmented cap and separating in K......R hochstetteri Thallus white or pale grey, warted-areolate, K+ red, Pd+ yellow (norstictic acid). Epithecium bright blue-black; paraphysoids less distinctly capitate and only slightly separating in K. On disused metal-mine spoil, montane rocks and coastal shingle. Medulla I+ blue; ascospores 12-16 x 6-8µm; exciple K+ purple 13(2)15(14) Thallus K-, Pd- (no substances). Sub-montane; usually on semiinundated boulders in streams or the margins of lakes

24(23)	Asci 2-spored
25(24)	Medulla I+ blue. Epithecium usually K+ purple; exciple K+ purple <i>R. distinctum</i>
	Medulla I
26(25)	Epithecium K+ purple. Apothecia innate. On semi-inundated rocks
27(26)	Ascospores submuriform, usually <25µm long
28(27)	Ascospores (16-)18-22 x (10-)11-13µm. Length/breadth ratio 1:5- 2.0. Thallus indistinct, K-, Pd- (stictic acid absent). Rare upland/ montane species
29(27)	R. lavatum
	Ascospores usually <30µm long. Length/breadth ratio 1.5-2.0
30(29)	Thallus brown, granular-areolate. Ascospores $22-33 \times 11-19\mu m$. Only brown pigments present internally; epithecium K+ grey (at least in places)

Notes.

R. amphibium - new to the British Isles. The specimen from Caenlochan provisionally placed here by Purvis *et al* (1992:539) belongs in *R. lavatum*. However *R. amphibium* has subsequently been recorded from NE Scotland (Glen Quoich) and NE England (Upper Teesdale).

R. *?anaperum* - new to the British Isles. A number of collections from damp north-facing corries and near areas of late snow-lie in Scotland are provisionally placed here. This entity has also been recorded from Snowdonia and four disused metal-mines in mid-Wales. Feuerer (1991) referred this

a - spore septation o - spore colour	e -	excipl	e K+				h - st	rsticti ictic a	cid	
c - medulla I+ b	f - 1	f - gyrophoric acid					i - calcareous rock			
Species	a*	b†	c	d	е	f	g	h	i	
R. badioatrum	1	d	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	
R. cinereonigrum	1	d	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	
R. copelandii	1	d	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	
R. ?cyclodes	1	d	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	
R. jemtlandicum	1	d	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	
R. simillimum	1	d	+	- ,	+	-	±	±	-	
R. caeruleoalbum	1	с	-	-	-	-	-	±	+	
R. "caesium"	1	с	-	-	-	-		-	±	
R. chioneum	1	с	-	+	+		-	+	+	
R. cinereovirens	1	С	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	
R. "colludens"	1	с	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
v. "rufoatrum"	1	с	-	-	÷	-	-	+	-	
R. expallescens	1	с	-	-	+	-		-	+	
R. hochstetteri	1	с	-	-	-	-	±	±	-	
R. "oceanicum"	1	с	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
R. polycarpum	1	с	+	+	+	<u>+</u>	-	±	-	
R. richardii	1	с	+	-	-	±	-	±	- 1	
R. oederi	3	с	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	
R. submodestum	3	с	-	-	÷	-	-	+	-	
R. amphidium	sm	с	4	+	+		<u>_</u>	-		
R. distinctum	sm	с	+	+	+	±	-	±	-	
R. postumum	sm	с	-	-	-	-	±	-	-	
R. reductum	sm	с	-	-	-	-	±	+	-	
R. geminatum	m	d	-	+	+	-	-	±	-	
R. ?anaperum	m	с	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
R. petraeum	m	с	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	
R. furfurosum	m	с	4	-	-	-	-	+	-	
R. lavatum	m	с	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	
R. subgeminatum	m	с	-	-	+	÷	-2.	±	-	
R. "sublavatum"	m	с	-	-	-	• •	-	-	-	
R. umbilicatum	m	с	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	

* sm = submuriform, m = eumuriform † d = dark, c = colourless

species to *R. obscuratum* but even allowing for the previous concept of that species it is clearly morphologically and anatomically distinct.

R. badioatrum. As suggested in Purvis *et al* (1992) records of *R.* badioatrum from the Cairngorms (in particular from the late-lying snow bed in Ciste Mhearad (Gilbert and Fox, 1985) belong in *R. jemtlandicum*. This accounts for the reports of stictic acid in British specimens of *R.* badioatrum (also mentioned by Purvis *et al*) although it is possible that some records are of *R. cinereonigrum*.

R. badioatrum is most frequently a species of siliceous rocks in or on the edge of upland-montane lakes and streams. Two distinct entities are recognised within R. badioatrum although only one has been recorded from the British Isles.

R. caeruleoalbum - not studied.

R. "caesium" - new to science. The record of *R. expallescens* from Ben Hope (Gilbert and Fox, 1986; Purvis *et al*, 1992) refers to this species. It most frequently occurs on slightly basic rocks in hyper-oceanic areas where it can be locally common.

R. chioneum - not studied.

R. cinereonigrum - new to the British Isles. Separated from *R. badioatrum* primarily by the presence of stictic acid and its ecology - R. cinereonigrum occurs only at very high altitudes, most often in the vicinity of areas of prolonged snow-lie. It probably only deserves recognition as a variety of R. badioatrum.

R. aff. cinereovirens. The type of R. cinereovirens (in BM) is a norstictic acid containing strain of R. hochstetteri. The description in the key refers to specimens from disused metal-mine spoil in Wales and Scotland which differ from R. hochstetteri in morphology and anatomy and for which it will probably be necessary to find a new name.

R. "colludens" - new combination, resurrected from synonymy. This is a common upland/montane species of siliceous rocks usually called *R.* hochstetteri by British and Scandinavian lichenologists. However, it differs from that species by its much larger spores and less distinctly capitate paraphysoids that remain \pm conglutinate in K. It has a grey-brown thallus and lacks stictic acid. The v. "rufoatrum" (new to science) differs in the

presence of stictic acid as well as the thicker red-brown thallus and its habitat of high altitudes only.

R. concentricum - see R. petraeum.

R. copelandii. The holotype of this species (in L) has a thallus composed of dispersed, grey, convex areoles and a K+ purple exciple. Timdal & Holten-Hartwig (1988) have a much broader concept of this species, including collections closer to R. jemtlandicum. These are here provisionally referred to R. cyclodes (see below).

R. ?cyclodes - resurrected from synonymy (see *R. copelandii*). This appears to be the earliest available name for those specimens included in *R. copelandii* by Timdal & Holten-Hartwig (1988) but which have a \pm continuous, areolate thallus and lack a K+ purple exciple. However, its separation from *R. jemtlandicum* is in need of further investigation. It is not rare at high altitudes in the Scottish Highlands although it has in the past been confused with *R. jemtlandicum*. British specimens are all morphologically similar and contain stictic acid. However, even after the removal of *R. copelandii* s. str., Scandinavian specimens are morphologically more varied and some also contain norstictic acid in place of stictic acid. The complex warrants further study.

R. distinctum - not studied. *R.* distinctum has a red-brown, K+ purple epihymenium. However, I have a collection (from East Lothian) which has a blue-black, K+ blue epithecium - although the exciple is red-brown, K+ purple. As all other characters coincide with those of *R.* distinctum I have no hesitation in placing it in this species.

R. expallescens. This is an extremely rare species recorded in the British Isles only from Coire Cheap (Ben Alder) and Caenlochan. The record from Ben Hope (Gilbert & Fox, 1986; Purvis *et al*, 1992) is referable to *R.* "caesium", whereas all other records, including those from disused Welsh metal-mines, belong in *R. hochstetteri* s. str.

R. furfurosum - not studied.

R. geminatum - not studied.

R. hochstetteri. The description in Purvis et al (1992) reflects the confusion surrounding this species in the British Isles, it being a composite description of R. colludens and R. "oceanicum". The description of this species in Timdal & Holten-Hartwig (1988) refers to R. "colludens". I have been

unable to locate the type specimen of R. hochstetteri but from the original description (Körber, 1861) and its location, along with the descriptions and opinions of subsequent German/Austrian authors (Poelt and Vezda, 1981; Wirth, 1987; 1995; Feuerer, 1987) I am confident that my concept of the species coincides with that of Körber. Specimens from disused mine spoil in mid-Wales with a pale grey thallus, appear to have a shallower thecium and be more intensely pigmented internally. These may represent a distinct taxon.

R. jemtlandicum. In the British Isles this species is confined to rocks in the vicinity of areas of prolonged snow-lie. Most previous records from the British Isles refer to the closely related *R. ?cyclodes. Rhizocarpon jemtlandicum* is morphologically and ecologically distinct from *R. ?cyclodes* although anatomically it differs in only minor respects. They are here retained as separate species pending a more detailed investigation of this complex.

R. lavatum. This species is very variable morphologically but is anatomically well defined by its large muriform spores and thick, tumid exciple. It is not restricted to lake and stream sides as stated by Purvis *et al*, but is far more widely distributed, being frequent on damp rocks throughout the Scottish Highlands and elsewhere. The ochraceous tinge to the thallus also mentioned by Purvis *et al* is only rarely encountered. The earliest available name for this species is *R. obscuratum* (see note under that species). However as this would cause considerable confusion it will be necessary to preserve the name *R. lavatum* by a formal rejection of *R. obscuratum* (see below).

R. oederi - not studied.

R. obscuratum. The type material of Lecidea petraea var. obscurata Ach., upon which this name is based, is a small form of the species currently known as R. lavatum. As R. obscuratum has been used for R. reductum (see below) as well as small forms of R. lavatum, it seems wisest to reject the name altogether.

R. "oceanicum" - new to science. This species is closely related to *R*. *hochstetteri* and many British records of that species belong here.

R. petraeum - not studied. Feuerer (1991) showed this to be the correct name for the species previously known as *R. concentricum*.

R. plicatile. The syntype of R. plicatile (in BM) collected by Leighton from

Cader Idris (N. Wales) is small and in poor condition with only two immature apothecia. However, detailed anatomical notes were made by PW James in 1960 and the specimen was subjected to tlc in 1983 and found to contain stictic acid and atranorin. It is also sorediate. There is an annotation in pencil on the herbarium sheet (?Lamb) querying its placement in Rhizocarpon and an undated determination of R. obscuratum by Feuerer; who does not treat R. plicatile in his most recent work (Feuerer, 1991). The specimen is referable to a crustose Stereocaulon species very close to S. tornense (but with muriform rather than 3- septate spores) known from a number of localities in Scotland and one in North Wales. It was previously believed to be undescribed. Most other British collections named R. plicatile are referable to R. reductum. The position of the non-British R. rubescens, usually considered a synonym of R. plicatile, is less clear. I have not seen the type of this species but A Schade, in a letter to A L Smith housed with the type of R. plicatile, considers R. coniopsoideum to belong in R. rubescens. As R. coniopsoideum is a synonym of R. reductum it is probable that the name R. rubescens refers to the norstictic acid containing strain of R. reductum.

R. polycarpum - not studied. The chemistry of *R.* polycarpum and *R.* richardii is reported as *R.* richardii - stictic acid, gyrophoric acid or both; *R.* polycarpum - stictic acid or none. However, Mackenzie Lamb(1940)cites a collection from Somerset with a C+ red thallus and K+ purple epithecium (ie *R.* polycarpum with gyrophoric acid) and I have also collected similar specimens from Glen Coe. Two further collections from maritime rocks (Islay and Harris) have dark ascospores, a K+ purple epithecium and contain stictic and gyrophoric acid (ie *R. richardii* with a K+ purple epithecium). Laundon (1986) has shown that spore colour is very variable in *R. richardii* and these apparant intermediates reduce the distinction between the two species considerably. However, they are here retained as distinct entities pending a more critical investigation of this group.

R. postumum. The single British gathering of this species mentioned in Purvis *et al* (1992) is referable elsewhere; possibly to an apparently undescribed species known from two other collections, also from Ben Lawers (cf Gilbert *et al*, 1988 - as R. sp 'A'). However there are two specimens of R. postumum in BM, from Ben Lawers (Holl 1886) and Caithness (Willey 1905) and I have also collected this species more recently in West Sutherland. The type collection (in H-NYL) is also from Scotland.

R. reductum - resurrected from synonymy. This entity has usually been called *R.* obscuratum. (see note under that name). The only recent work

to recognise R. reductum as a distinct species is Foucard (1990).

R. richardii - not studied. See note under R. polycarpum.

R. simillimum - not studied.

R. subgeminatum - not studied. This species appears to be fairly frequent at low altitudes in the Scottish Highlands where it usually occurs on the sloping upper sides of siliceous boulders. British specimens are reported as containing no lichen substances (Purvis *et al* 1992). However, Timdal & -Holten-Hartwig (1988) report four chemotypes among Scandinavian specimens, which are also morphologically and anatomically rather varied. The complex clearly warrants further study, particularly with reference to the K+ purple exciple which does not appear to have been mentioned in previous studies.

R. "sublavatum" - new to science. Often occurs with R. lavatum on damp, montane rocks. In this situation R. lavatum is often the host to lichenicolous fungi but R. sublavatum always remains uninfected. It most closely resembles R. anaperum and its separation from that species and R. lavatum relies upon a number of small details. However all three species often occur together when they remain morphologically distinct.

R. submodestum - new to the British Isles. Not studied. The species with 3-septate spores are poorly understood. Both British collections (Glas Moal and Aonach Mor) contain stictic acid. Feuerer (1991) included this species in *R. obscuratum*.

R. umbilicatum - not studied.

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Alan Fryday

Note added in proof

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R. grande (Flotow) Arnold. This species has recently been collected from the British Isles (Field Meeting in Clwyd - this volume). I have not seen this specimen and cannot comment on it. In the key *R. grande* will appear as *R. geminatum* but it is readily separated from that species by its 8-spored asci, smaller ascospores, I+ blue medulla, C+ red thallus and K- epithecium (K+ purple in *R. geminatum*).