

Key to genera of foliose Bangiales in the UK

1. Blade monostromatic or distromatic, pale pink to crimson red, thin, 12.5-35 μm in TS; monoecious; spermatangial and zygotosporangial sori in separate sectors of the blade or scattered intermixed.....*Wildemanina*
1. Blade monostromatic, pale brown, olive green, brown-red, purple-red; monoecious or dioecious; spermatangial and zygotosporangial sori in separate, discrete sori.....2
2. Blade grayish, brown, red, mauve, purple, ranging from 25 to 50 μm in TS; monoecious; spermatangia in pale yellow lozenge or streak-shaped sori or gametangia in separate sectors of the blade.....*Pyropia*
2. Blade red-brown, olive green, ranging from 27-75 μm in TS; monoecious with gametangia in separate sectors of blade separated partially, or dioecious with sori forming a zone around the margin of blade.....*Porphyra*

Key to the species of *Pyropia*

Pyropia

1. Blade suborbicular to elongate; colour light brown (fresh), grayish mauve (dry); thallus thickness 25-35 μm ; upper to mid shore; one record in May from man-made structures, Sussex.....*P. elongata*
1. Blade oval, elliptical or variable in shape; fresh colour brown, purple mauve, dark red, purple; thallus thickness 34-50 μm thick; mid to lower shore or shallow sublittoral; epiphytic or epilithic.....2
2. Blade oval to elliptical, with a minute but distinct stipe; colour dark red-purple (fresh), magenta (dry); shallow subtidal, epiphytic on *Laminaria hyperborea* and *Saccorhiza polyschides*; June-August.....*P. drachii*
2. Blade variable in shape, elliptical to elongate, sometimes umbilicate; colour chocolate brown, purple mauve to light brown (fresh), purple-mauve (dry); epiphytic on other algae, e.g. *Fucus serratus*, *Mastocarpus stellatus*; April-September.....*P. leucosticta*

Key to the species of *Porphyra*

1. Blade linear, occasionally pear-shaped, with a minute but conspicuous stipe; appearing dioecious; colour red to brownish red; on rock, upper shore-splash zone; November-April.....*P. linearis*

1. Blade narrow to broad, lanceolate, ovate, umbilicate, sometimes lacinate (ribbon-like); if monoecious, frond with male and female sectors; if dioecious, reproductive sori in a narrow zone around frond edge; colour olive-green, brown, golden brown, grey-brown, brownish-red, purple brown; upper to lower shore throughout year.....2

2. Blade narrow to broad, almost ovate, often falcate (sickle-shaped); monoecious, blade with male sector (pale yellow) and female sector (red); colour olive green to brown or reddish brown; mid shore on rock or stones on sheltered shores; all year but most conspicuous in summer months.....*P. purpurea*

2. Blade normally dioecious; upper to lower shore.....3

3. Blade narrow to broadly ovate, folding in half when held; colour olive-green to purple-brown; upper to lower shore on rock and boulders in sand (often very abundant) on exposed shores or exposed regions of sheltered shores.....*P. dioica*

3. Blade wedge-shaped to almost orbicular to rosette-shaped; colour light-dark reddish-brown, with a distinctly grey-olive region above the holdfast; mainly upper shore on rock on sheltered and exposed shores*P. umbilicalis*

Species of *Wildemanina*

There is only one species in the UK, *Wildemanina amplissima* and it is only found north of the Isle of Man/Yorkshire. It can be monostromatic or distromatic.

Comments

NB Times of year are typical but specimens can sometimes be found just outside these ranges. There are other species of *Pyropia* which can occur occasionally on UK shores which may look very similar. It's worth keeping careful ecological notes and making herbarium specimens.

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