KEY TO THE BRITISH SPECIES OF ENTEROMORPHA AND BLIDINGIA

(Compiled by W. Eifion Jones from Bliding (1963))

1a. Thallus small, cells in surface view not more than 5 by 7 microns diam. base — Blidingia minima

1b. Cells in surface view larger than 5 by 7 microns- - - - - - - - - 2

2a. Thallus solid or with very small central cavity. Branches small and infrequent- 3

2b. Thallus obviously tubular, branched or unbranched- - - - - - - - -4

2c. Thallus flat, elongated and unbranched, tubular nature not obvious but can be seen in TS at the edges of the thallus, which can be opened with difficulty- E. linza

3a. Very slender thallus of 2-4 rows of cells forming atrata on mud or muddy sand; numerous pyrenoids in each cell- - - - - - -E. ralfsii

3b. Slender thallus of 3-12 rows of cells; forming strata on mud in estuaries or on sea shore, with one pyrenoid (occasionally 2-3) in each cell- -E. torta

4a. Unbranched, or sometimes with a few branches at the base- - - - - 5

4b. More or less profusely and irregularly branched- - - - - - - - - -6

5a. Plant very variable in form, cells not in longitudinal rows — E. intestinalis

5b. Cells in longitudinal rows, at least in parts of plant — E. prolifera

6a. Cells arranged in longitudinal rows over a large part of the thallus or all of it- 7

6b. Cells not in rows or, if so, then only in small, very localised patches- -E. compressa

7a. Plant much branched, form very variable; cells large, 20 by 30 microns to 20 50 microns with 2 or more (up to 12) pyrenoids in each cell- -E. clathrata

7b. Cells large, 30 by 40 microns in lower parts, not in rows; cells smaller (15 by 20 microns) in upper parts and in longitudinal rows; pyrenoids 2-10 in each cell. Much branched, branches bearing numerous short spine-like ramuli- - - - - - - - E . ramulosa

7c. Cells smaller than this- 8

8a. Each cell with 1 or 2 pyrenoids, 2 in at least 25% of cells. Plants soft and fragile, sometimes with monoseriate ramuli
E. flexuosa

8b. One pyrenoid in almost every cell- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 9

9a. Cells in longitudinal rows in parts of thallus, particularly towards base. Cells in surface view 9 to 18 microns long
E. prolifera

9b. Cells very regularly arranged in longitudinal rows, often also in lateral rows, cells in surface view 12 by 20 microns, sometimes up to 15 by 30 microns- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - E. ahlneriana