

Quick Waxcap Key

This quick key contains the species in David Boertmann's book *The Genus Hygrocybe* which are claimed to be British. It is designed to help with learning the field characters of the genus. To use it, start on this page. Decide whether the cap and stem are dry or viscid (you need good fresh material), then choose a column. Then work down the left hand column until you find the row which best describes the cap. Look at the box where the chosen column and row coincide. If there are several species listed in the box, select the number listed and turn over the page where a short key will be found to the species listed against that number. The page number after the name of each species, for example "helobia p 134", refers to Boertmann's book. His book gives full data and descriptions including species variability.

Note that this is a field learning key and should not be used for critical determination.

	Stem viscid	Stem dry + cap viscid	Stem dry + cap dry
Cap turning black	conica 1 conicoides	conica 1 conicoides	conica 1 conicoides
Cap dark grey to black, gills and flesh reddening		ovina	ovina 2 radiata
Cap white		virginea 3 russocoriacea	pratensis var pallida 4 fornicata
Cap or stipe with at least some green	psittacina var psittacina	laeta	citrinovirens
Cap violet, lilac or blueish	lilacina		calyptriformis 5 lilacina viola
Cap grey or grey-blue	irrigata	fornicata 6 lacmus flavipes	fornicata 8 canescens nitrata radiata
Cap brown	irrigata	ingrata 7 spadicea colemanniana	ingrata 7 spadicea colemanniana
Cap yellow + conical	persistens	persistens 9 aurantiosplendens	citrinovirens
Cap yellow + convex or applanate	chlorophana 10 vitellina glutinipes var glutinipes insipidus citrinopallida xanthochroa	chlorophana 11 ceracea citrinopallida aurantiosplendens subpapillata	turunda 13 citrinopallida xanthochroa quieta
Cap orange + gills free, adnate or adnexed	mucronella 12 insipida xanthochroa	aurantiosplendens 9 persistens var konradii persistens var persistens	quieta 14 miniata calciphila substrangulata intermedia helobia reidii
Cap orange + gills decurrent	insipida 15 laeta xanthochroa	laeta	pratensis 16 turunda cantharellus
Cap red + gills free, adnate or adnexed	glutinipes var rubra 17 psittacina var perplexa	coccinea 18 punicea marchii salicis-herbaceae	mucronella 19 splendidissima helobia miniata calciphila reidii coccinea constrictospora
Cap red + gills decurrent	coccineocrenata 20 mucronella		cantherellus 21 coccineocrenata constrictospora mucronella

1. Coastal dunes often where the sand is still moving **conicoides** p162
Various habitats, cap red, orange or yellow **conica** p158

2. Dark grey medium size, gills and flesh reddening **ovina** p78
Small, greysih cap radially translucent, gills decurrent **radiata** p60

3. Strong smell of Russian leather/cedar pencils **russocoriacea** p 46
Smell indistinct, mild coconut **virginea** p 48

4. Gills adnate or adnexed **fornicata** p 72
Gills decurrent **pratensis var pallida** p 40

5. Cap narrowly conical **calyptriformis** p 136
Cap convex or omphalinoid **B**
B Cap < 5 mms, omphalinoid, gills adnate **viola** p 70
Cap > 5 mms, convex, gills decurrent **lilacina** p 68

6. Gills adnate or adnexed **fornicata** p 72
Gills decurrent **B**
B Stem base yellow **flavipes** p58
Stem base matches cap **lacunae** p 56

7. Gills decurrent **colemanniana** p54
Gills free or adnexed **B**
B Gills yellow **spadicea** p 150
Gills cream **ingrata** p 76

8. Gills decurrent
Medium, cap felty **canescens** p44
Small, cap translucently striate,
stem silvery grey **radiata** p60
Gills adnate or adnexed **B**
B Stem white or cream **fornicata** p 72

9. Stem smooth, gills adnate **aurantiosplendens** p 130
Stem fibrillose, gills free or adnexed **persistens var persistens** p 152
or **persistens var konradii** p 154

10. Gills adnexed or adnate **B**
Gills sub-decurrent to decurrent **C**
B Stem opaque, fungus robust **chlorophana** p140
Stem hyaline, fungus small **glutinipes var glutinipes** p142
C Gills edge viscid **vittellina** p 90
Gills edge dry **D**
D Stem red at least at the apex **insipida** p 122
Stem orange yellow or white **E**
E Stem orange, at least at the apex **xanthochroa** p 66
Stem white, or yellow at the apex **citrinopallida** p 64

11. Gills distinctly decurrent, stem yellow or white **citrinopallida** p 64
Gills otherwise **B**
B Stem fibrillose or pruinose at least at apex **aurantiosplendens** p 130
Stem smooth **C**
C Cap with small papilla **subpapillata** p 146
Cap without papilla **D**
D Stem < 5mms diameter **ceracea** p 120
Stem > 5mms diameter **chlorophana** p140

12. Cap reddish-orange, taste bitter **mucronella** p 132
Cap yellowish-orange, taste neutral **B**
B. Stem smooth, gills adnate **xanthochroa** p 66
Stem fibrillose, gills free or adnexed **insipida** p 122

13. Cap yellow or orange with dark squamules **turunda** p 112
Cap smooth or finely pruinose **B**
B Fungus robust, stem > 5mms diameter **quieta** p 98
Fungus delicate, stem < 3 mms diameter **C**
C Stem violaceous at apex, spores 6-7.5 µm x 4-5µm **xanthochroa** p 66
Stem pale yellow or white, spores 8-10µm x 4.5-5.µm **citrinopallida** p64

15. Gills edge viscid, stem dull **laeta** p 84
Gills edge dry, slips red or orange **B**
B Stem red at least at apex **insipida** p 122
Stem orange, hyaline, sometimes with violet **xanthochroa** p 66

16. Fungi robust, cap dull matt orange **pratensis** p 40
Fungi small **B**
B Cap orange with dark squamules **turunda** p 112
Cap edge scalloped **cantharellus** p 110

14. Cap squamulose or tomentose **B**
Cap smooth **F**
B Gills free or adnexed, stem fibrillose **intermedia** p 148
Gills adnate or decurrent **C**
C Cap bright red, fragile, smell of garlic **helobia** p 134
Cap orange or dull red, tough, no smell **D**
D Spores 9-12 µm long **substrangulata** p 106
Spores 7.5-9 µm long **E**
E Spores "triangular" **miniata** p 102
Spores oblong **F**
F Cap yellow, smell of Lactarius quietus **quieta** p 98
Cap orange to orange-red, smell of honey
at least in stem base **reidii** p 92

17. Fungus brick red, cap convex **psittacina var perplexa** p 82
Fungus orange red, cap applanate **glutinipes var rubra** p 144

18. Fungus robust, stem fibrillose **punicea** p 128
Fungus small, stem smooth **B**
B Under dwarf *salix*, flesh tastes bitter **salis-herbaceae** p 126
Other habitats, flesh mild **C**
C Gills red, at least at base **coccinea** p 116
Gills pale **marchii** p 118

19. Cap squamulose **B**
Cap smooth of finely pruinose **D**
B Fungus scarlet, squamules pointed, faint smell of garlic **helobia** p 134
Fungus red, orange or yellow, squamules obtuse **C**
C Spores "triangular" **miniata** p 102
Spores oblong **calciphila** p 104
D Taste bitter **mucronella** p 132
Taste neutral or mild **E**
E Fungus medium to large, bright red **splendidissima** p 94
Fungus small to medium, orange red **F**
F Gills yellow or orange, smell of honey in stem base **reidii** p 92
Gills red with yellow edge, smell neutral **coccinea** p 116
Gills pale then cream, cap dries brownish **constrictospora** p 100

20. Taste bitter **mucronella** p 132
Taste mild **coccineocrenata** p 114

21. Cap smooth **B**
Cap squamulose **C**
B Gills deep orange, paler edge, flesh tastes bitter **mucronella** p 132
Gills paler than cap (it dries brownish) **constrictospora** p 100
C Squamules concolorous with cap **cantharellus** p 110
Squamules distinctly dark **coccineocrenata** p 114