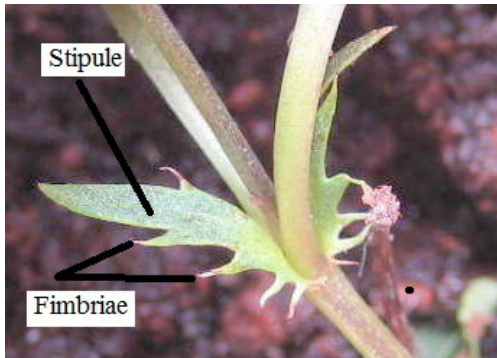


## ILLUSTRATED KEY TO VIOLETS

1. Stipules lanceolate, entire to toothed, the teeth often tipped with hair-like points(fimbriate) **VIOLETS**.....2
1. Stipules leaf-like, deeply lobed but not toothed or fimbriate **PANSIES**.



### Growth habit of Violets

This can be extremely useful in deciding to which group of Violets an individual plant belongs.

The four main types are illustrated below:



Leaves and flowers arising directly from creeping rhizome (*V. palustris*)



Left above - leaves and flowers arising directly from base of plant; no leafy flowering stems (*V. hirta* and *V. odorata*).

Right above -flowers on leafy stems; no leaf rosette (*V. canina*)

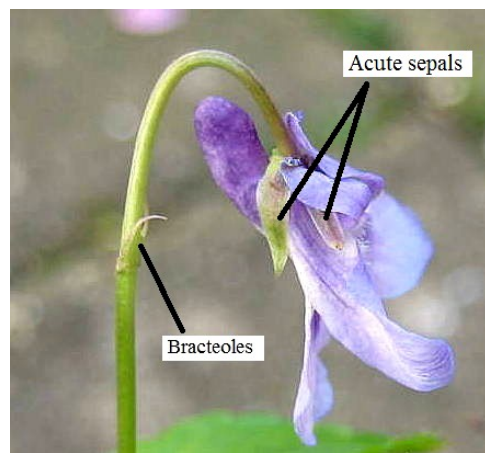
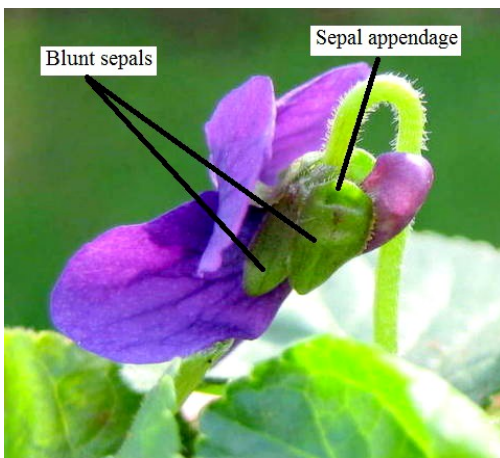


Leafy flowering stems arising from around a rosette of leaves (*V. riviniana*, *V. reichenbachiana* and *V. rupestris*)



## Key to Violets

- 2. Leaves and flowers arising from creeping underground rhizome, no stems above ground .3
- 2. Leaves and flowers arising direct from base of plant or from above-ground stems.....4
  
- 3. Leaves long-stalked, kidney-shaped, flowers long-stalked pale violet, leaf stalks usually hairless .....*Viola palustris*
  
- 4. Leaves and flowers arising direct from base of plant, no leafy stems, sepals blunt.....5
- 4. Plants with leafy flowering stems, sepals acute.....6

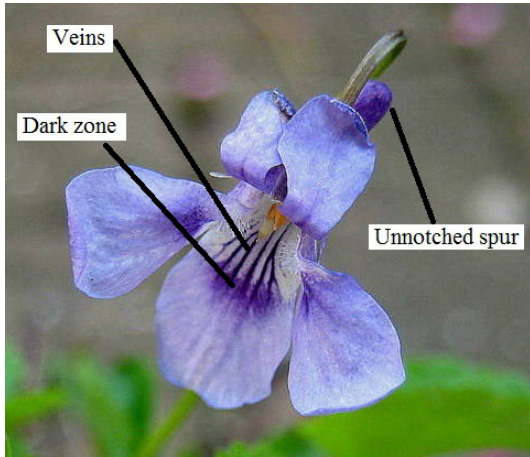


- 5. Leaf and flower stalks with frequent, spreading hairs, stolons absent, flowers unscented, pale blue-violet.....*Viola hirta*
- 5. Leaf and flower stalks with dense, short, down-turned hairs, stolons present, flowers scented, dark violet (often white,) .....*Viola odorata*



Hairiness on the leaf stems of *Viola odorata* (left) and *V. hirta* (right)

- 6. Leafy flowering stems arising from around or below a rosette of leaves, leaves little longer than wide..... 7
- 6. Leafy flowering stems arising from base of plant, no rosette of leaves, leaves distinctly longer than wide, sometimes twice as long as wide..... 8



- 7. Leaves oval to roundish with cordate bases and blunt tips leaf and flower stalks (almost always) hairless, flowers violet often with dark zone on lowest petal, veins usually much branched, spur notched, usually paler than corolla (plants in exposed situations may be very small)..... *Viola riviniana*
- 7. Leaves oval to roundish with cordate bases and often pointed tips, leaf and flower hairless, flowers violet with a slight tinge of red, often with dark zone on lowest petal, veins usually little branched, spur unnotched, usually darker than corolla..... *Viola reichenbachiana*
- 7. Plants very small, leaves almost round with shallowly cordate base and raised edges (like scoop), leaf and flower stems sometimes covered with short, dense hairs (but occasionally hairless or nearly so), flowers pale violet-blue (white at Arnside Knott), no dark zone on lowest petal, spur short, pale, unnotched; two sites in Cumbria..... *Viola rupestris*
- 8. Leaves ± triangular with truncate or shallowly cordate bases, becoming more lanceolate higher up the stem, flowers often but not always slatey-blue, spur straight and (often strikingly) yellow, usually notched..... *Viola canina*

