1	Plants annual, rarely biennial (in doubt cf. **R. Cantoniensis**)	(2)
+	Plants perennial	(5)
2 (1)	Carpels compressed, often with tubercles and spines, 4-6 mm long	(3)
+	Carpels always smooth, compressed or not, 1-3 mm long	(4)
3 (2)	Calyx reflexed. All the leaves entire or tripartite with broad, incised dentate segments	1 *Ranunculus muricatus*
+	Calyx not reflexed. Basal leaves entire or trifid, others with narrow, lanceolate to lanceolate-cuneate segments	2 *Ranunculus arvensis*
4 (2)	Stems and petioles glabrous, turgid. Achenes very small, 1-1.3 mm long	3 *Ranunculus sceleratus*
+	Stout plants. Stems and petioles covered with rigid, patent hairs. Achenes 2-3 mm long, compressed	4 *Ranunculus cantoniensis*
5 (1)	Aquatic plants or gr owing in muddy places along streams, with flaccid stems, sometimes floating, rooting at nodes. Flowers on long, axillary peduncles	(6)
+	If stems flaccid, plants gr owing in different habitats. (cf. **R. munroanus**)	(7)
6 (5)	Leaves orbicular to kidney-shaped, with deeply cordate base. Lobes nearly equal all around the margin, sometimes divided (var. **multifidus**)	5 *Ranunculus natans*
+	Leaves obovate to suborbicular, with cuneate base. Lobes confined to the distal part of the leaves	6 *Ranunculus lobatus*
7 (5)	At least the upper leaves entire or apically cuneate with a few teeth, lanceolate to ± oblong	(8)
+	All the leaves more or less deeply tripartite to palmatipartite or 2-3-pinnatifid	(9)
8 (7)	Leaves glabrous or slightly hairy, not with long, soft, appressed hairs	8 *Ranunculus pulchellus*
+	Leaves with long, soft, appressed hairs. Calyx hairy	7 *Ranunculus membranaceus*
9 (7)	Long creeping stolons absent	(10)
+	Long creeping stolons present	9 *Ranunculus repens*
10 (9)	Achenes flattened at maturity, with a distinct margin (sides slightly convex in **R. laetus** and **R. diffusus**)	(11)
+	Achenes more or less inflated at maturity, without a distinct margin	(15)
11 (10)	Stems never flaccid nor rooting at nodes	(12)
+	Stems flaccid, sometimes rooting at nodes	10 *Ranunculus diffusus*
12 (11)	Leaves usually longer than wide	(13)
+	+Leaves distinctly wider than long, kidney-shaped, tripartite with lobed segments, the central of which is much wider than the lateral ones	11 *Ranunculus afghanicus*
13 (12)	Root-stock not elongate, with numerous cylindrical, fleshy roots in addition to the fibrous ones	(14)
+	Root-stock woody, elongate. Roots fibrous. Stout plants 30-70 cm high, appressed hairy. Leaf-segments large, lanceolate	12 *Ranunculus laetus*
14 (13)	Stout plants (30-) 60-90 cm high with long-stalked leaf-segments of the first order which are 1-2 pinnate with linear lobes of the ultimate order. Flowers usually less than 20 mm in diameter	13 *Ranunculus pangiensis*
+	Slender plants 20-30 cm high, leaf-division similar, but stalks of the segments short. Flowers often 25 mm or more in diameter	14 *Ranunculus chaerophyllos*
15 (10)	Achenes glabrous from the beginning	(16)
+	Achenes hairy all the time or glabrescent at a very late stage (in doubt cf. **R. glacialiformis**which has hairy fruitlets sometimes)	15 *Ranunculus hirtellus*
16 (15)	Calyx glabrous or with whitish to dull yellowish hairs	(17)
+	Calyx densely covered with reddish-brown hairs	16 *Ranunculus rufosepalus*
17 (16)	Calyx never deep red	(18)
+	Calyx deep red, with a few whitish hairs, soon glabrescent. Usually small, caespitose herbs of higher altitudes	20 *Ranunculus rubrocalyx*
18 (17)	Stems usually erect, neither filiform nor flaccid. Flowers not axillary	(19)
+	Stems filiform, flaccid, ± erect or decumbent and sometimes rooting at the nodes. Flowers on long, axillary peduncles	(22)
19 (18)	Smaller plants with a different type of leaf-division	(20)
+	Stout plants with ternate leaves, the segments of which are lanceolate and sessile or shortly stalked, the central one undivided, the two lateral ones bifid nearly to the base, rarely	23 *Ranunculus palmatifidus*
20 (19)	Leaves cordate or subcordte at the base. Flowers 15-20 mm in diameter	(21)
+	Leaves obliquely tru ncate at the base. Flowers 24-30 mm in diameter	18 *Ranunculus stewartii*
21 (20)	Plants with numerous stems bearing several flowers. Style very short	19 *Ranunculus glacialiformis*
+	Plants with a single stem and a single rarely 2-3 apical flowers. Style very long, strongly recurved	17 *Ranunculus karakoramicola*

22 (18)	Flowers 5-10 mm in diameter. Leaves kidney shaped to orbicular, 10-25 mm in diameter. Stems not rooting at nodes	21 *Ranunculus munroanus*
+	Flowers 5-6 mm in diameter. Leaves 5-8 mm wide, kidney-shaped stems often rooting at the nodes	22 *Ranunculus jacquemontii*