

Key to the European species of *Russula* subgen. *Compactae*

- 1 Height of spore ornamentation not exceeding 0.5 μm 2
 Height of spore ornamentation exceeding 0.5 μm **roseonigra**
- 2 (1) Content of hymenial cystidia not reacting in sulfovanillin3
 Content of hymenial cystidia at least greying in sulfovanillin8
- 3 (2) Basidiomata sturdy and fleshy; lamellae thick and very distant; context quickly and strongly
 reddening before blackening; pileocystidia never exceeding 90 μm **nigricans**
 Lamellae thin and moderately distant; context not reddening before blackening or only
 slightly at the surface; pileocystidia often exceeding 90 μm 4
- 4 (3) Content of all cystidia oily guttulate **albonigra**
 Content of cystidia not oily guttulate5
- 5 (4) Pileocystidia absent or extremely rare and only near the pileus margin **ustulata**
 Pileocystidia at least widely dispersed and found throughout the whole surface of the
 pileus.....6
- 6 (5) Pileocystidia never with appendages or bifurcations **nigrifacta**
 Pileocystidia (at least some) containing appendages or bifurcations7
- 7 (6) Pileocystidia numerous, extremely long (some exceeding 200 μm), with both appendages and
 bifurcations present; hyphal terminations of the pileipellis with inflated cells **sp. 1**
 Pileocystidia widely dispersed, never exceeding 160 μm , lacking bifurcations; hyphal
 terminations of the pileipellis without inflated cells..... **ambusta**
- 8 (2) Taste mild.....9
 Taste, at least in the lamellae, noticeably acrid 10
- 9 (8) Context not clearly reddening but quickly and strongly blackening, sometimes with a slight
 menthol-like taste; pileocystidia absent; spore ornamentation up to 0.5 μm
 **atramentosa**
 Context turning slowly pale pink before greying (but almost simultaneously, and
 without strong blackening); smell of old wine barrels; pileocystidia present; spore
 ornamentation not exceeding 0.2 μm **adusta**
- 10 (8) Hyphal terminations of the pileipellis consisting of shorter, broad, swollen cells 11
 Hyphal terminations of the pileipellis consisting of longer, slender cells 12
- 11 (10) Context clearly reddening before turning grey-black..... **densifolia**
 Context not clearly reddening, first greying then blackening **densissima**

- 12 (10) Context quickly and strongly blackening; lamellae with a distinct pinkish shine; pileocystidia absent; hyphal terminations of the pileipellis sometimes containing blackish droplets in sulfovanillin**anthracina**
 Context not so strongly and quickly blackening, more greying or slowly blackening; pileocystidia present..... 13

- 13 (12) Context strongly reddening, then greying; taste burning acrid, in the flesh as well as in the lamellae..... **acrifolia**
 Context not clearly reddening, slowly blackening; taste acrid, but not burning and more prominent in the lamellae than in the context **fuliginosa**