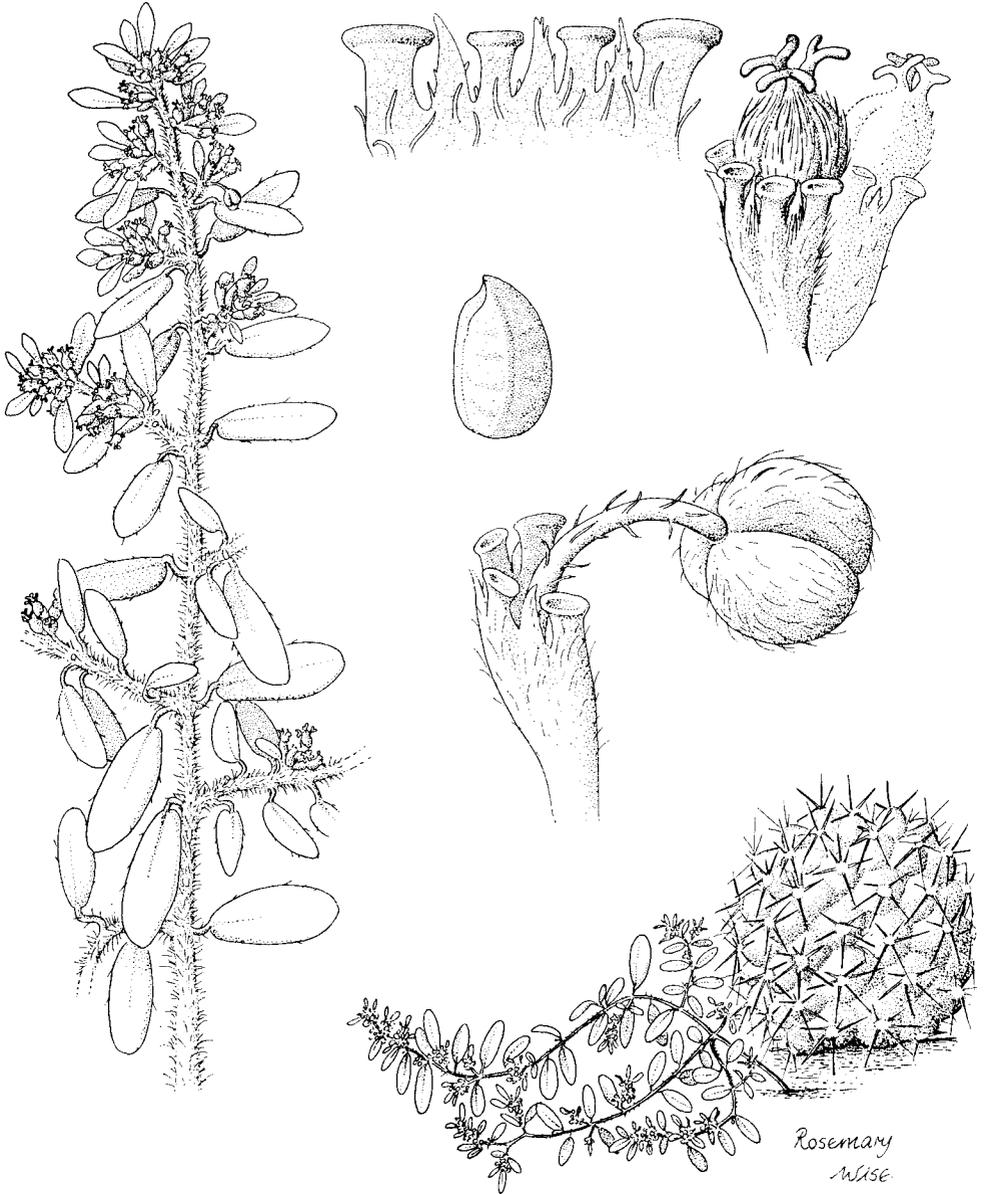


B.S.B.I. NEWS

Edited by KENNETH A. BECKETT
Bromley Cottage, Stanhoe, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 8QF

September 1976
No. 13



Euphorbia Maculata

EDITOR'S NOTES

News 13 does not seem to have suffered in any way the lack of luck that traditionally goes with that number. Indeed, interesting items flowed in steadily and certain less pressing items have had to be left over for next time. Please note however that there is only a bare 3 months between the arrival of this issue and *News* 14 and that deadline for copy is October 30. So please do not sit back thinking that there is plenty of time before you write that interesting observation, ask for help or reply to a provocative letter. As a special plea, may I ask all members to type or get typed their contributions for *News*, if at all possible. One of the most time consuming tasks that an editor has to do is to type out all the hand written contributions, sometimes having trouble with indifferent handwriting, so that it can be sent to the printers in an understandable form. Nevertheless, receiving, reading, editing and putting together your contributions as an issue of *News* is an interesting and satisfying occupation and one I can recommend to somebody with spare time he or she wishes to use constructively. This is one way of saying that my period as caretaker editor must come to an end owing to pressure of other work and I am seeking a successor. If any one of you is interested in taking on the *News* editorship please let me know as soon as possible. I shall be happy to outline the work involved and act as adviser after the take-over, should this be needed.

KENNETH A. BECKETT

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Conference and A.G.M. 1977

With this *News* you will have received the Advance Notice of the Conference "Plant-Insect Relationships, with special reference to pollination" to be held, jointly with The Linnean Society, in Newcastle, *April 14th-17th 1977*. It is hoped that both professional and amateur members will consider booking for this Conference at which, apart from papers on these fascinating subjects, there will be discussion between specialists in many aspects of this field with opportunity for us to meet them and for general exchange of ideas. We are also inviting entomologists to this Conference. Another advance date for your 1977 diaries is the A.G.M. to be held in Plymouth on *May 7th 1977*, 1400 hours, at Plymouth Polytechnic where we hope to use rooms in the newly opened library complex. Besides papers by local speakers on the Saturday, associated field meetings are planned in Devon on the Sunday and Monday following the A.G.M., also in Cornwall at the end of the previous week—providing a 4/5 day programme for those members who are able to extend their visit to the South-West. It is customary for the B.S.B.I. to hold the A.G.M. in London in alternate years, and when out of London to visit other Regions in turn as far as possible, and we are pleased to be holding this event in the S.W. in 1977. The full programmes and application forms for both meetings will be circulated to all members in the New Year mailing, and we thank Dr John Richards in Newcastle and Dr David Wigston in Plymouth for organising these two meetings.

Churchill Scholarships and Warburg Award

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust asks us to remind members that travel awards are again available in 1977. Next year the categories relating to botany are

(1) Landscape and Environmental Reclamation and (2) Forestry and Tree Surgery, and there is also again the additional category for outstanding or unusual projects. Any member wishing to apply should send name and address only on a postcard *immediately* to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queens Gate Terrace, London, SW7 5PR, when an explanatory leaflet and application form, to be returned by November 1st, will be sent to you. Meanwhile we know of 3 members who have travelled on Churchill Scholarships recently: Mrs Barbara Everard in the U.S.A. painting threatened wild flowers, Tony Hamilton visited Turkey to study wild *Gladioli* sp. for classification and future cultivation; and Quentin Cronk who has been studying plant life on Ascension Island. Congratulations to them all, and possibly they might send a note of their botanical adventures for *News* or to the Exhibition Meeting?

Also in this *News* page 30 is notice of a Warburg Memorial Fund Award in 1977. A report from the 1975 award winner, Mr Jonathan Jones, will be published in *News* 14.

Who Does What

New members (and sometimes older members too), having joined through the B.S.B.I. Reading address, then find the rest of the administrative structure of the Society somewhat confusing. Possibly a summary here may be helpful. You will know that apart from membership subscriptions, the Society's affairs are entirely run by voluntary officers and committees. All publications are collated and prepared for publication by voluntary editors. Incoming post is received at our official address, c/o Dept. of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), where Mr John Cannon sorts and redirects it as appropriate—an unrewarding task week by week, for which the Society is very grateful. But members please note that the B.S.B.I. has no office at the B.M. and therefore no telephone number there. The Hon. Gen. Sec. has no office but does have a telephone, please note the new number: 0403—(Slinfold) 790201.

Membership subscriptions and addressed labels for mailing are dealt with by our Administrative office, Harvest House, Reading. These, the premises of the Society of General Microbiology, were set up to provide office services commercially for Societies, and ten Societies now use this S.G.M. address. B.S.B.I. subscriptions are handled at present by Mrs A. Medhurst, an S.G.M. employee who also acts for the International Association for Ecology and the British Society for Parasitology. Only subscription enquiries or changes of address should be sent to the B.S.B.I. Administrative Office at 62 London Road, Reading. Any more detailed enquiries relating to membership should be sent to Mrs Rachel Hamilton who as Hon. Membership Secretary co-ordinates the Membership procedures and to whom thanks are due this year for the efficient publication of the new membership list—a mammoth task. All general enquiries should be sent to the Hon. Gen. Sec.

Orders for books and journals published by B.S.B.I. have been for some years handled by Mr E. W. Classey as our Agent, but new arrangements are in hand for the distribution of our publications. Council is due to meet on September 28th to discuss alternative proposals and the new address for orders will be announced in the next mailing. Meanwhile please from November 1st send all orders for B.S.B.I. publications on the "Classey" list, c/o Department of Botany B.M. and they will be forwarded.

Most of the post sent to our B.M. address is from non-members—members can find the names and addresses of officers, assistant secretaries and secretaries of committees from the membership list, having identified them in the Annual Report or the B.S.B.I. Calendar sent in January.

Some 1,500 letters from non-members are dealt with each year and I was concerned by these postal expenses until it occurred to me that spread over the membership each member subsidises only one stamp. About 60% of these enquiries relate to education, careers, research and projects, etc., and about 25% to conservation in some form. The remainder are very assorted and continually surprising.

Vascula

In *News* 12 there was a request for vascula no longer in use to be given to the Society to be passed on to younger botanists. Mrs Dorothy Lousley has generously given those which had belonged to her husband and 3 of these have already been allotted to Messrs. Rodney Burton, Alan Leslie and John Akeroyd. We also have a good offer by Mrs Nancy Shorrocks of an 8" x 15" Vasculum, so if any member could put a vasculum to good use in the field please let me know.

Leaflets on the New Law

We are sending you a copy of "A Law for Wild Plants" recently published by the Council for Nature, with a generous grant from the Nature Conservancy Council. This leaflet was designed for the general public so may be helpful to members explaining to others the new law. A second more detailed leaflet which covers wild creatures too is the C. for N. Information leaflet No. 6 "Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975". Copies of both leaflets are available from C. for N. Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY—"A Law for Wild Plants" free on receipt of a s.a.e. (or postage refund for larger quantities). "Council for Nature Information Leaflet 6"—up to 5 copies free on receipt of s.a.e. or 3p each for larger quantities. (Both leaflets are 8½" x 6").

The B.S.B.I. "Fritillary" Code of Conduct is now out of print. We hope to arrange for publication of an up-dated version of this useful leaflet in 1977.

Deaths

With deep regret we report the deaths of two long standing members, Mr W. E. Warren and Mr A. J. Souter. Wilf Warren used to recount how his father had offered him for his 21st birthday a greenhouse or life membership of the B.S.B.I.! He chose the latter and often told us that he had not regretted this. But feeling that he had done well from the Society through his father's foresight, on a number of occasions Wilf unobtrusively donated towards the costs of B.S.B.I. meetings.

Alan Souter died suddenly while botanising one evening, he was found on the hillside with his C.T.W. open beside him. We send our sympathy to all relatives, especially to Mrs Souter who participated with her husband on many Scottish field meetings. Obituaries will be published in *Watsonia*.

Rules

Those who wish to update their copy of the Society's Rules (1975) may like to note the following amendments:—

(1) Rule 24—Annual Subscription—add:

“That persons who have been members of the Society for 40 years or more should have their annual subscriptions fixed at the rate current on their attaining 40 years of membership”.

This amendment was passed at a Special General Meeting on 27th November 1971, and is published in *Watsonia* 9 (2) p. 180.

(2) Amendments to Rules 6, 9, 10 and 30 were passed as printed in the Agenda, A.G.M. 1976, and these will be published in *Watsonia* 11 (3) January 1977 in the Report of Annual General Meeting.

(3) New terms of reference for Standing Orders of the Permanent Working Committees of the Society (Schedule II of Rules 2-4) have been passed by Council, to ensure rotation of Committee Members who will not in future normally serve for longer than 4 years consecutively.

MARY BRIGGS

J. E. LOUSLEY

A Memorial Service for the late J. Edward Lousley was held on February 20 at St Olave's Church, Hart Street, London, where William Turner “the Father of English Botany” was buried in 1568. The church was transformed into a spring garden with early blossom provided by the kindness of the Directors of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the University Botanic Garden, Cambridge.

The service, arranged by Mrs Lousley, was very beautiful and included the carol King Jesus hath a garden, sung by the Morley College Singers. Dr C. T. Prime M.A., F.L.S. read the lesson and appreciations were given by Mr Frank K. Sherborne, for Barclays Bank, and by John Dony, Ph.D., Hon. F.L.S. for the B.S.B.I.

Among those attending were Mr E. L. Swann, President of the B.S.B.I., Mr R. Ross, Keeper of Botany, British Museum, Dr R. M. Harley with Mr P. S. Green and Mr R. Brummitt from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Dr William Stearn, Dr Norman Robson and Mr J. Cannon, also from the British Museum Botany Department. Many other botanical and biological organisations were represented.

JOCELYN RUSSELL

AWARD TO DR W. T. STEARN

The Linnean Society of London, at its Anniversary Meeting 24 May 1976 awarded a Gold Medal (given annually since 1888) to Dr Wm T. Stearn of the British Museum (Natural History). Dr Stearn's contribution to biological knowledge, amounting to over 300 papers and books, are too varied to be easily summarized. As a historian and bibliographer (in the widest sense) his knowledge of everything pertaining to botanical and horticultural books from ancient to modern times is unrivalled. As a scientist he has reduced to order many problems concerning well loved and familiar plants such as lilies, peonies, etc., while completing a *Flora of Jamaica*. His most scholarly writings are also eminently readable by amateur as well as professional plant lovers and at least two of his books are world classics, notably his Introduction to the facsimile edition (Ray Soc. 1957) of Linneaus' *Species Plantarum*, 1753, the basis of modern botanical nomenclature, and his *Botanical Latin*, 1966 ed. 2 1973, an indispensable companion volume.

COURSES AT MORLEY COLLEGE

Morley College offers a wide variety of classes which are held weekly during the morning, lunch-hour, afternoon, rush-hour and evening. The Autumn Term begins on Monday 20th Sept. and the fee for a three-term class is £5.50 plus 50p registration fee.

The College has many facilities including a canteen, bar, and library, and also daytime creches and playgroups. It is situated opposite Lambeth North Underground Station (Bakerloo Line), within easy reach of Waterloo and the South Bank. Enquiries are welcome; phone 928-8501 or write to 61 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HT. The following courses on various aspects of botany are now available:

Wildflowers for Beginners

Pearl Small/Thurs 1.30–3.30

This two-term course is intended for those with no knowledge of botany but a desire to name the wildflowers they find. Instruction will be given in the use of simple keys and of floras, the principles of classification and the concept of families. The identification of common plants will be the aim of the course.

British Flowering Plants—Identification and Biology

A. P. Paterson/Wed. 6.30–8.30

(*University Extension Course*). This course of 24 classes will make a practical study based on some of the families of the British flora. Attention will be given to aspects of identification, biology and ecology, illustrated by slides and specimens. Some previous knowledge of botany is desirable.

The Diversity of Plant Form

Adaptations and Modifications in English Garden Plants

Allen Paterson/Tues. 6.30–8.30 beginning 26th April, 1977

All plants display their ability to adapt to the habitat from which they originally came. These adaptations can be in response to climate or soil, to season or to predators. This one-term course will examine the botanical and ecological background to this diversity: it will be illustrated throughout with living examples. Visits will be made to the Chelsea Physic Garden in order to emphasise this aspect of the subject.

The Study of Wildflowers

Cecil T. Prime/Wed. 2–4

This two-term course is intended to further interest in and enjoyment of wild plants. Special attention will be devoted to wild flowers, trees, and ferns to be found in and near London, and in places likely to be visited on holiday. Topical problems of conservation will be discussed. The course will be non-technical and illustrated with the lecturer's own colour slides and specimens.

BOOK NOTES

The January part of *Watsonia*, Vol. 11(3), will contain reviews of the following books:—

The Naturalist in Britain by D. E. Allen.

The Seeds of Dicotyledons by E. J. H. Corner.

The Flora of Lincolnshire by E. Joan Gibbons.

The Natural History of Upper Teesdale, published by Durham County Naturalists' Trust.

Cytotaxonomical Atlas of the Arctic Flora by A. & D. Löve.

Biological Identification with Computers, edited by R. J. Pankhurst.

Heukel's *Flora van Nederland geillustreerd*, ed. 18, edited by S. J. van Ooststroom.

A Treatise on Limnology. 3, Limnological Botany by G. E. Hutchinson.

British Water Plants by S. Haslam, C. Sinker & P. Wolseley.

Hayley Wood, Its History and Ecology by O. Rackham.

Flore de France, 2 by M. Guinochet & R. de Vilmorin.

Bedfordshire Plant Atlas by J. Dony.

Plant and Animal Habitats in Town and Country by G. E. Simmons.

Palaeobiology of Angiosperm Origins by N. F. Hughes.

The Chemistry and Biology of the Cruciferae, edited by J. G. Vaughan, A. J. Macleod & B. M. G. Jones.

Flowering Tropical Climbers by G. Herklots.

As well as important works on the flora of the British Isles and the history of British natural history (mostly by B.S.B.I. members), the above list includes floristic accounts of France and the Netherlands. Apart from these books, however, there are some more general ones that should be of interest to many B.S.B.I. members, of which Professor Corner's monumental work on Dicotyledon seeds is particularly noteworthy.

The following books have been received recently; those that will *not* be reviewed in *Watsonia* are marked by an asterisk: —

Flora Europaea, 4 (Plantaginaceae to Compositae, and Rubiaceae), edited by T. G. Tutin, V. H. Heywood *et al.*

Nature through the Seasons by R. Adams & M. Hooper.

**Water and Plants* (Tertiary Level Biology) by H. Meidner & D. W. Sherff. Blackie, Glasgow. 1976. £5·80 (cased) £2·90 (limp).

**Uptake of Ions by Plant Roots* by D. J. F. Bowling. Chapman & Hall, London. 1976. £6·50.

**The Development and Function of Roots*, edited by J. G. Torrey & D. T. Clarkson. Academic Press, London. 1975. £12·50.

**Mathematical Models in Plant Physiology* by J. H. M. Thornley. Academic Press, London. 1976. £9·80.

**Cell Division in Higher Plants*, edited by M. M. Yeoman. Academic Press, London. 1976. £16·50.

**Lichenology: Progress and Problems* (The Systematics Association Special Volume No. 8) edited by D. H. Brown, D. L. Hawksworth & R. H. Bailey. Academic Press London. 1976. £19·00.

**Wildlife Conservation by Young People* by Neil Arnold. Pp. 208, with numerous black and white illustration. Ward Lock Educational, London. 1976. £2·25 (paper).

This "practical guide for teachers and parents" (of 9–13-year-olds) is a very informative handbook dealing with school activities concerned in various ways with conservation—of both plants and animals. The appendices on "Natural history book series" and "Useful addresses" are particularly valuable, the former being a remarkably comprehensive list that will give the British or Irish beginner in any

branch of natural history a good idea of what is available in that field.

**The Lusitanian Flora* (Irish Environmental Library, No. 14) by Florence Donaldson. Pp. 31, including numerous coloured illustrations by the author. Folens, Dublin. 1976. 66p. An account of the Lusitanian element in the Irish flora for 10-15-year-olds.
N. K. B. ROBSON

BOOKS ON THE BRITISH FLORA CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

This list has been compiled to help members to find out where books on the British flora may be purchased. Please send your order to the addresses given. As far as is known the prices stated includes postage, but with rapidly increasing charges these could soon become out of date.

F. H. PERRING

General Works

- A Bibliographical Index of the British Flora*. N. D. Simpson. Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough. £4·00.
- The Botanist in Ireland*. R. L. Praeger. E.P. Publishing Ltd., Bradford Road, East Ardesley, Wakefield, Yorkshire. £4·20.
- Census Catalogue of the Flora of Ireland*. M. J. P. Scannell & D. M. Synnott. Government Publications Sale Office, G.P.O. Arcade, Dublin 1. 60p.
- Welsh Ferns*. H. A. Hyde & A. E. Wade, Eds. Revised by S. G. Harrison, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. £1·55. (New edition in preparation).
- British Rubi*, W. C. R. Watson. E. W. Classey Ltd., Park Road, Faringdon, Berks. £5·00.
- Atlas of the British Flora*. F. H. Perring and S. M. Walters (Eds.) E.P. Publishing Ltd., Bradford Road, East Ardesley, Wakefield, Yorks. £20·00.
- Critical Supplement to the Atlas of the British Flora*. F. H. Perring (Ed.) Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough. £5·00.
- Watsonian Vice-counties of Great Britain*—Maps folded in slip case £1·70. Maps Flat £1·40. Ray Society, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.
- British Charophyta*, J. Groves & G. R. Bullock-Webster (1920 & 1924) Reprint of 2 Vols. Johnson Reprint Ltd., 24/28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX. c. £14·00.

Local Floras

- The Wild Flowers of Guernsey*. D. McClintock. (S) Collins, 1975. £4·75.
- **A Check List of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Wild in Alderney and its Off-Islets*. F. Le Sueur & D. McClintock revised by H. Prentice, 1974. 20p.
- **A Check List of Flowering Plants and Ferns Wild on Sark and its Off-Islets*. F. Le Sueur & D. McClintock. 1963. 22½p.
- **Wild Flowers of Herm*. F. Le Sueur & D. McClintock. 1962. 10p.
- *Obtainable from Société Guernesaise, St Peter Port, Guernsey.
- Flora of the Isles of Scilly*. J. E. Lousley. (1b) Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough. £2·50.
- Wild Flowers in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly*. J. A. Paton. (1) D. Bradford Barton, Ltd., Truro Bookshop, 18 Frances Street, Truro. 65p.
- Flowering Plants of the Lizard*. F. A. & S. M. Turk, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, Gandy Street, Exeter. c. £1·00.

- The Bristol Flora*. J. W. White. (6) Reprint. John Roberts Bookshop, 43 Triangle West, Bristol BS8 1ES. £5·25.
- Supplement to the Flora of Wiltshire*. L. F. Stearn. (7 & 8) The Museum, Devizes. £4·50.
- A Geographical Handbook of the Dorset Flora*. R. d'O. Good. (9) Dorset County Museum, Dorchester. £2·40.
- Flora of Sussex*. A. H. Wolley-Dod. (13 & 14) Reprint. John Roberts Bookshop, 43 Triangle West, Bristol BS8 1ES. £3·25.
- The Wild Flowers, Ferns and Mosses of the district round Folkestone*. J. W. Walton. (15) 1950. E. W. Classey Ltd., Park Road, Faringdon, Berks. £1·00.
- Flora of Surrey*. J. E. Lousley. (17) Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough. £13·25.
- Flora of Essex*. S. T. Jermyn. (18 & 19) Essex Naturalists' Trust. Fingringhoe, Colchester. £10·00.
- Historical Flora of Middlesex*. D. H. Kent. (21) Ray Society, c/o British Museum (Natural History), London SW7 5BD. £15·00.
- **Flora of Norfolk*. C. P. Petch & E. L. Swann. (27 & 28) 1968. £2·00.
- **Supplement*. E. L. Swann. 1975. £1·75.
- *Both from E. L. Swann, 282 Wootton Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3BJ
- Flora of Cambridgeshire*. F. H. Perring *et alia*. (29) Paperback version. Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough. £1·10.
- Ray's Flora of Cambridgeshire*. Translated and edited by A. H. Ewen & C. T. Prime. Booksellers. £4·20.
- Atlas of Flora of Bedfordshire*. J. G. Dony. (30) Luton Museum. £3·00.
- Flora of Oundle*. (15 mile radius of Oundle). (32) J. Rees. Biology Dept., Oundle School, Peterborough. 60p.
- Flora of Gloucestershire*. H. J. Riddelsdell *et alia*. (33 & 34) Reprint. £9·65.
- The Bristol Flora*. J. W. White. Reprint £5·25.
- Both from John Roberts Bookshop, 43 Triangle West, Bristol BS8 1ES
- Flora of Monmouthshire*. A. E. Wade, (35) National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. £2·55.
- Plants of Herefordshire*. L. E. Whitehead. (36) Herefordshire Botanical Society. £3·00.
- A Computer-mapped Flora of Warwickshire*. D. Cadbury *et alia* (38) Academic Press, 24/28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX. £10·00.
- Flora of Staffordshire*. E. S. Edees. (39) Booksellers. £6·05.
- A list of Flowering Plants and Ferns of Carmarthenshire*. R. F. May, (44) West Wales Naturalists' Trust, 4 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, Dyfed. 60p.
- Plants of Pembrokeshire*. T. A. W. Davis. (45) West Wales Naturalists' Trust, 4 Victoria Place, Haverfordwest, Dyfed. 61p.
- A Supplement to the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Cardiganshire*. A. E. Wade. (46) 1952. University of Wales Press, 6 Gwennyth Street, Cathays, Cardiff. 25p.
- Flora of Lincolnshire*. E. J. Gibbons. (53 & 54) Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union, Lincoln. £3·50.
- Flora of Rutland*. K. G. Messenger. (55) City Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester. £2·70.
- Flora of Nottinghamshire*. R. C. L. & B. Howitt. (56) Farndon, Newark. £2·50.

- **Flora of Derbyshire*. A. R. Clapham *et alia*. (57) £2·73. (A limited number available for libraries and research).
- **Supplement*. 29p.
- **Natural History of Derbyshire* (with a section on plants). 41p.
 *All available from The Museum and Art Gallery, Derby.
- Flora of Cheshire*. A. Newton. (58) Cheshire Community Council, Watergate House, Watergate Street, Chester CH1 2LW. £2·95.
- Travis's Flora of South Lancashire*. J. P. Savidge *et alia*. (59) Miss V. Gordon, 23 Alder Grove, Waterloo, Liverpool 22. £2·30.
- A Check List of the Vascular Plants of Co. Durham*. G. G. Graham. (66) The Rectory, Hunwick, Crook, Co. Durham. 40p.
- The Flowering Plants and Ferns of the Isle of Man*. D. E. Allen. (71) Manx Museum, Douglas. 30p.
- Check List of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright and Wigtown*. H. Milne-Redhead. (72, 73 & 74) Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough. 60p.
- The Flora of the Clyde Area*. J. R. Lee. (75, 76, 77, 99) John Smith & Son (Glasgow) Ltd. 57-61 St Vincent Street, Glasgow C2 may have second-hand copies.
- Field Club Flora of the Lothians*. I. H. Martin. 1934. (82, 83 & 84) C. Rowcliff, 35 Comely Bank Road, Edinburgh EH4 1ZS. £1·05.
- A List of the Flowering Plants and Ferns recorded from Fife and Kinross*. W. Young. (85) A. D. Lilly, Charenton, Cliff Road, Hythe, Kent. £3·30.
- Checklist of Flowering Plants of Kirkcaldy and District*. G. H. Ballantyne, 3 Asquith Street, Kirkcaldy. 50p.
- A Check List of the Flora of the Culbin State Forest*. M. McCallum Webster. (95) Rose Cottage, Dyke, By Forres, Moray. 40p.
- Flora of Islay and Jura*. J. K. Morton. (102) E. W. Classey Ltd., Park Road, Faringdon, Berks. 95p.
- The Botanist in Skye*. C. W. Murray. (104) Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough. £1·15.
- List of the plants of Rhum*. W. J. Eggeling. A. D. Lilly, Charenton, Cliff Road, Hythe, Kent. £3·30.
- A Checklist of vascular plants*. Elaine R. Bullard. (111) Orkney Trust Office, Kirkwall, Orkney. 40p.
- A Check-list of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of the Shetland Islands*. R. C. Palmer and W. Scott (112) Out of print. Loose-leaf photocopy available. R. C. Palmer, c/o Oxford Latin Dictionary, New Bodleian, Oxford. £1·50.
- Notes, and further notes, on the Flora of Co. Waterford*. I. K. Ferguson, (H6) Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. 5p each.
- Flora of Co. Wicklow*. J. P. Brunner. (H20) H. J. Hudson, The Bungalow, Hampstead, Whitehall, Dublin 9. c. £1·75.
- A supplement to Colgan's Flora of the County Dublin*. (H21) Government Publications Sales Office, G.P.O. Arcade, Dublin 1. c. 50p.
- **A Flora of the North-east of Ireland*. Ed. 2. (H38) R. L. Praeger & W. R. Megaw, £1·50. **Supplement Ed.* M. P. H. Kerkland. £2·00.
- *Both from Hon. Sec. Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, c/o Ulster Museum, Belfast BT9 5AB.

PROPOSED FLORA OF FERMANAGH, TYRONE AND ARMAGH

No comprehensive flora has ever been produced for the counties of Fermanagh, Tyrone, or Armagh. A committee consisting of members of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club and the Armagh Field Naturalists' Society has been formed to examine the possibility of compiling a combined flora of the three counties. This flora would be complementary to the Flora of the North-East of Ireland by S. A. Stewart and T. H. Corry, which covers the counties Down, Antrim, and Londonderry. The proposed flora would be based mainly on existing records, and confined to Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Angiosperms. Anyone who has any records of plant distribution in Fermanagh, Tyrone, or Armagh or other relevant observations is invited to send them to: Dr J. S. Faulkner, Plant Breeding Station, Loughgall, Armagh BT61 8JB. Please give the Latin name of the plant species, the name of the locality (preferably with an Irish Grid reference), the year of recording, and any interesting details about the habitat and abundance of the plant. If you did not make the record yourself, please state who did. Your records will be especially welcome because of the scarcity of active resident or visiting botanists in the three counties.

BOOK REQUESTS

Mr C. R. Boon, 7 Duck End Lane, Maulden, Bedford MK45 2DL is attempting to complete a set of *Drawings of British Plants* by Stella Ross Craig and wishes to obtain Parts 7 (*Leguminosae*) and 16 (*Compositae* 2). If anyone wishes to dispose of these two parts will they please contact Mr Boon direct.

COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF THE SCOTTISH FLORA

Twenty-first Annual Report (to 31 December 1975)

The Committee met twice in Perth (by kind permission of the Curator of the Museum and Art Gallery) and arranged an Exhibition Meeting at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (by kind permission of the Regius Keeper) and the University of Edinburgh (by kind permission of the University Court). Eleven field meetings were included in the Scottish programme for the year.

The Exhibition meeting was held on Saturday 1 November 1975 and about 85 were present. The following exhibits were shown: flora of Kinross-shire (G. H. Ballantyne); paintings of British flowers (Miss M. Benstead); a railway flora of Teviotdale (M. E. Braithwaite); protected plants in Scotland (Miss L. Farrell); *Kobresia simpliciuscula* and *Agropyron donianum* from E. Perth (B. S. Brookes); Hebridean pondweeds and Lochaber's springtime flora as shown on postage stamps (Mrs J. W. Clark); grasses and sedges from the Isle of Lewis (A. Copping); the British Lichen Society's distribution maps scheme (B. J. Coppins); plants from the Scotland-England border area (R. W. M. Corner); *Isoetes echinospora*, *Potamogeton gramineus*, *P. berchtoldii* and *Scirpus fluitans*, believed to be new to E. Sutherland (Miss U. K. Duncan); *Taraxacum* specimens (A. G. Kenneth); the Cryptogamic Society of Scotland (P. A. Mason); Scottish ferns and fern allies (C. N. Page and F. N. Blair); botanical photography (R. Parks); *Hedera*, particularly Irish Ivy, in the 19th and 20th centuries (Miss A. Rutherford); stamp-mounting strips for herbarium specimens and *Mimulus guttatus*, *M. luteus* and

their hybrid (A. J. Silverside); *Taraxacum* specimens from B.S.B.I. field meeting, Dumfries, 1 June 1975 and flower drawings (Mrs O. M. Stewart); progress in recording the Dunbartonshire flora and ferns from Spain (A. McG. Stirling); the genus *Umbilicaria* in Scotland (F. P. Topham); recording and mapping fungi (R. Watling); Scottish plant records and live specimens of comparatives (Miss M. M. Webster); and colour transparencies (J. Brownlie, R. W. M. Corner and R. Page). After tea provided by the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, illustrated talks on recording Cryptogams in Scotland were given (to mark the centenary year of the Cryptogamic Society of Scotland) by Dr D. Chamberlain on mosses, Dr B. J. Coppins on Lichens, Dr C. N. Page on ferns and Dr R. Watling on fungi. Following a buffet supper in the David Hume Tower, University of Edinburgh, colour transparencies of C.S.S.F. and Cryptogamic Society of Scotland field meetings held in 1975 were shown by J. Brownlie, Elizabeth R. T. Conacher, J. D. S. Martin, Mary Noble, R. E. Thomas and Mary M. Webster and of one C.S.S.F. 1974 meeting by R. Parks.

The elected members appointed Dr U. K. Duncan, Mr P. Harrold, Professor J. A. Macdonald and Mrs O. M. Stewart as members of the Committee for the calendar year 1976. Mr R. Mackechnie was appointed Chairman, Mr B. W. Ribbons Honorary Secretary, Mrs Alice H. Sommerville Honorary Treasurer, Miss Elizabeth R. T. Conacher Honorary Meetings Secretary, Mr B. S. Brookes Honorary Field Meetings Secretary and the Chairman a member of the B.S.B.I. Conservation and Records Committee for 1976. The Chairman attended the B.S.B.I. Council on 31 May and was represented by Mr Ribbons on 25 February, 13 May and 28 October. Mr Ribbons also represented him at B.S.B.I. Records Committee on 31 January and 21 October. Mr Brookes represented him at B.S.B.I. Conservation Committee on 24 September but he was not represented at this Committee on 21 January.

The vice-county recorders for 96 and 97 have been processing data during the year on behalf of the working party arranging for the publication of the results of the Inverness-shire survey. The list of recorders for Scottish vice-counties was kept under review and recommendations were made to the B.S.B.I. Some members of the Committee agreed to participate in a scheme to promote the interests of the parent societies by offering to lecture to natural history societies and Mr Ballantyne spoke about the Committee's recording work at a conference (Biorec '75) held at Dundee 11-13 April.

In view of criticisms expressed at Central meetings of the parent societies, each society was asked whether the Committee was felt to be discharging its remit satisfactorily. The B.S.E. Council expressed the opinion that the C.S.S.F. is successfully carrying out the brief as outlined in its terms of reference.

The accounts showed a net expenditure of £77·01 and £50 of this has been refunded in equal sums by the two parent societies.

The Committee wishes to express thanks to Mr G. H. Ballantyne, Mr A. A. P. Slack and Mr A. McG. Stirling for serving as members for 1973-75, 1965-75 and 1969-75 respectively, to the officers of the parent societies, to the leaders of the field meetings and the exhibitors at the Exhibition Meeting and to other members and friends who helped the Committee during the year.

B. W. RIBBONS *Hon. Secretary*

LETTERS

c/o Oxford Latin Dictionary,
New Bodleian,
Oxford

17th February, 1976

The Editor, B.S.B.I. News

Dear Mr Beckett,

Could I draw attention to a possibly overlooked source of escapes?

In recent years, in parts of central Oxford, I have noticed certain ornamental annuals in cracks of pavements, among cobbles or at the foot of walls, and have been puzzled to account for their appearance at some distance from any garden: for example Sweet Alison (*Lobularia maritima* (L.) Desv.), Lobelia (*Lobelia erinus* L.—including a white-flowered specimen by the New Bodleian last year), Petunia (*Petunia x hybrida* (Hooker) Vilm.), and even a French Marigold (*Tagetes patula* L.). The truth has only just dawned on me—these all occur below or in close proximity to *window-boxes*, from which the seed has no doubt fallen.

By the way, although the fruit of *Arbutus unedo* certainly had a reputation for indigestibleness, Pliny's derivation of the name *unedo* from *unum edo*, "I eat one only", (*Naturalis Historia* 15.99), quoted by two recent correspondents of *B.S.B.I. News*, should not be taken seriously. It would, I think, be a form of compound unexampled in Latin; worse, Romance derivatives indicate that the first syllable of *unedo* was short, not long as in *unus* (see W. Meyer-Lübke, *Romanisches etymologisches Wörterbuch* (3rd edn.), 1935).

Yours sincerely,

R. C. PALMER

117 Vicarage Hill,
South Benfleet,
Essex

27th July, 1976

Dear Sir,

This is a cry for help!

For three years now I have been working on a distribution atlas of part of Southern Spain. I have got the project nearly to the point where I could stop.

By the time this gets into print I shall be a "senior citizen". My expectation of life is minus according to assurance companies as I weigh 140 Kg or more.

I particularly want therefore to mount three expeditions next year and call it a day.

I know the fortnights do not sound cheap but for what you get for your money they are very good value. For further details see the separate leaflet enclosed.

I want thirty people to join me (ten in each tour) so that we can make just the one more great effort to bring the project to a point where I can leave it.

I am,

yours sincerely,

JOHN W. CARR, F.L.S.

ADVENTIVES IN NEW ZEALAND

18 March, 1976

Dear Mr Beckett,

The latest issues of *Watsonia* and *News* arrived here recently with other items of general interest from the B.S.B.I. It is always a great pleasure to me to have this literature and the fact that circulars and so on are out-of-date does not matter as I obviously have no chance in participating in activities or meetings. Nevertheless, I read all with interest both to know what goes on in the Society and to learn more of the links connecting two floras so far apart.

In the articles on adventive plants, particularly, I observe that not only do adventives in the British Isles also occur in New Zealand, but a number of species native to each country are to be found as aliens in the other. Mrs G. Crompton's note on rare East Anglian species mentions *Lythrum hyssopifolia* which is common as a wayside weed here where I live in suburban Auckland.

Many New Zealand plants, recorded by my former colleagues on the London Natural History Society Botanical Committee, Bruno Ryves and Eric Clement, meet my eye, for example the native *Carex virgata* which I have collected in the Auckland area and the alien *Cyperus eragrostis* which grows at the bottom of my garden in a swampy patch. *Modiola caroliniana* is naturalised in New Zealand as well as in Australia and is a common roadside and wasteground plant.

In addition to the many British grasses introduced here as pasture grasses, such as species of *Poa*, *Lolium*, *Festuca* and *Agrostis*, there are several adventives common to both countries, notably *Echinochloa*, *Panicum*, *Paspalum*, *Eleusine* and *Phalaris*.

On any of these or other plants I shall be very happy to answer any queries from fellow members. Two enquiries have, indeed, reached me here already, which made me appreciate that I am not entirely isolated, if somewhat insulated, in these islands. Again, if by chance any members find themselves in this neck of the woods, they would be most welcome at the address below or, in case I should have shifted, at wherever I may be, which can be easily ascertained from the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

With best wishes for the continued well being of the Society,

Yours sincerely,

E. B. BANGERTER
412 Beach Road,
Mairangi Bay,
Auckland 10,
New Zealand.

B.S.B.I. REFEREES

The new Referee for *Lactuca* is Dr L. A. Boorman, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Colney Research Station, Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7UD.

PLANT REQUESTS

Alopecurus

Mrs Vivien Sieber of the Department of Botany and Chemistry, Westfield College, (University of London), Kidderpore Avenue, London NW3 7ST, is carrying out a cytogenetic study on *Alopecurus* and would welcome material of any species and particularly authentic hybrids. Members of the Society with plants or propagules to spare should contact Mrs Sieber direct.

Veronica

Mr R. Allkin of The Polytechnic of London, 115 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8JS, is undertaking post graduate research into an aspect of taxonomy known as character set optimisation, with particular reference to computer aided identification. Among plants he is looking at the genus *Veronica* and would like representative samples (about ten plants) from populations of as many common species as possible ideally from a variety of habitats. Please send specimens direct to Mr Allkin.

Senecio paludosus

The following is extracted from a letter to Mr Peter Lawson from Mrs G. Crompton, B.S.B.I. Recorder for V.C. 29:

I appreciate very much the request for permission to take a party of botanists to see *Senecio paludosus*, as I feel very strongly that this site should not be visited. I realise that many people know its whereabouts, but to take a party would only multiply the number infinitely. The danger is not so much that the plant will become extinct through collecting, but that the habitat will become degraded by the avid photographers—as it was only too obviously last year. There are splendid plants of this species now growing in the Cambridge Botanic Garden, and a much better picture of its old fenland habitat can be seen where it is growing through the *Cladium* in the B.G., than in the only British site. I don't think that people realise the damage they are doing by trampling the surrounding vegetation. This is a plant which must have the support of its surrounding vegetation. I do hope that you will be able to convince anyone who knows the site, not to take other people there. The site is being managed with the permission of the farmer, by the Cambridgeshire Naturalists' Trust, and the Trust has not shown the site even to its members.



Verbascum pyramidatum

This beautifully executed drawing of *Verbascum pyramidatum* Bieb. by G. M. S. Easy shows all the distinguishing characters of the species which were discussed in *B.S.B.I. News* No. 12, page 13-14. A further Cambridgeshire (V.C. 29) locality has been turned up by Mr Easy. This is on waste ground, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Fordham (GR 52/618718), where he reported hundreds of plants naturalised in 1975.

Eric Clement has passed on to me a continental reference to *V. pyramidatum*. In *Bot. Not.* (1934) page 361 it is recorded as alien in Norway and Sweden. In the same paper, hybrids with *V. phoeniceum*, *V. nigrum* and *V. ? lychnitis* are listed for Sweden.

Alan Leslie

WILD SERVICE TREE SURVEY

The Wild Service Tree Survey continues for its third and final year. Hundreds of records have been received so far, mainly from B.S.B.I. members but much useful material has also been sent in by others as a result of radio and television appeals and articles in various papers and magazines. Indeed, it is most encouraging to note the considerable interest in and enthusiasm for our native flora among members of the public with only a marginal knowledge of botany.

The survey shows a distribution of the Wild Service very similar to that which could be inferred by studying floras and hand-lists that have been published over the centuries. Surprises include what appears to be a relative abundance of the plant in Pembrokeshire and a wide distribution in Derbyshire. On the other hand there are areas where the species has declined since the last century. There are no current records from Leicestershire and this is now the only English county south of the Humber–Morecambe Bay line of which this is true. We have only one record from Dorset and very few from central Wales counties. There are also no records from North West Wales where the tree formerly grew and only one from the Tamar Valley which was once clearly a stronghold of the species.

All these areas deserve particular attention during 1976 as do two other areas where the possible existence of the species may be reasonably hypothesised. The first is the Magnesian limestone country running from South/Central Yorkshire to Co. Durham. The Wild Service shows a clear affinity for the southern part of this formation and occurs in scattered locations from Nottingham to Southern Yorkshire where it suddenly stops. The second area is South-Western Scotland from where we have two post-war records—one in Dumfriesshire and one in Ayrshire—both from reliable botanists. Unfortunately we have so far been unable to obtain confirmation of either with actual plant material, but there is no overriding reason why the tree should not occur here. Records from South-West England, Wales and Morecambe Bay show that the species flourishes in sheltered situations towards western coasts and parts of South-Western Scotland would be by no means the coldest area where the tree is found.

P. ROPER

B.S.B.I. IRISH IVY SURVEY

There has been a gratifying response; some members have covered vast areas ivy-hunting, but there are many who have not yet tried their hand. Alas for hederophobia—the very mention of ivy conjures up ruined owl-infested towers, visions of a dangerous parasite remorselessly digging its fingers into ancient walls and strangling all trees in its path. The smell of Common Ivy is displeasingly acrid in many nostrils while the purples and bronzes of its winter leaves are a depressing reminder of the cold season. Irish Ivy is however very different! It is not much of a climber and I have never seen it choke a tree. The odour of Irish Ivy is closer to the turpentine smell of Canary Ivy and its fresh green foliage can scarcely bronze.

If you have not yet found *Hedera helix* var *hibernica* and can overcome your dislike of the genus, I would be grateful for a sample. People have supposed their records must come from a wild-seeming habitat, but this is not so, sightings from built-up areas, boundary walls, estates and plantations are all useful. But please, please be careful which part of the plant you sample. The cost of postage, the trouble of gathering the shoot and the searching surely make it worthwhile taking the right twigs. Many sprays have had to be rejected because they come from the flowering stage or the stage just before. The "typical element" the piece *Hedera* is identified by, is from a mature *climbing* shoot with at least some of the leaves as large as they can grow, this may mean cutting off the tips for packing. Ivies lose a lot of their characteristics when pressed. Please send a sample with your first record. It is not necessary to use a pink card or give a grid reference, though it helps; the VC name or number, the nearest town or village and if possible the altitude. It is also useful to note if there are berries, some clones are unable to fruit though flowers may be produced.

Last summer I visited Ireland with a friend and we went south from Dublin round the coast to Connemara and back. We passed the rocks of Ballybunion in Kerry, reputed to be the place of origin of the Irish ivy. The aridity was such, we wondered how any ivy could ever have grown there. We saw none, but have since heard that there is a *Hedera* in the vicinity. We found Irish ivy to be very scarce everywhere except the roadside of the main route to Bray out of Dublin where it was abundant, otherwise it only occurred in a few places. It has since been found in Sligo in some quantity. We did not have time to visit Northern Ireland except for the train journey from Belfast south and there we saw two colonies, so far only one other record has come from Northern Ireland.

Many ivies other than the Irish have been sent, but as the whole genus is being reviewed, all are of interest and help to complete the picture of this most variable plant. How far north does the Canary ivy occur and how far south the Irish? These were confounded throughout the 19th century and even as late as 1933 Canary ivy was given an Atlantic distribution. Should anyone visit Southern Europe, Madeira, the Canaries or the Azores and be able to bring back *living climbing* (juvenile) shoots they would make a valuable contribution to the study. Ivies are most adaptable and take happily to life in a polythene bag; cuttings will root in damp tissue, tolerate much crushing and a long journey. Pink record and ivy cards are available and living shoots of Irish ivy for those unsure of its appearance.

ALISON RUTHERFORD
Rosslyn Cottage,
Church Road, Rhu,
Helensburgh,
Dunbartonshire G84 8RW

BRITISH HYBRIDS

It is now just over 12 months since *Hybridisation and the Flora of the British Isles* (July 1975) appeared, and already several new hybrids have been detected, many extra research papers have appeared, and many additional field records have been made. At the November 1975 Exhibition Meeting, for example, three new hybrids were exhibited: one (*Solanum nigrum* x *S. sarrachoides*) entirely new; one (*Puccinellia distans* x *P. rupestris*) confirmed for the first time anywhere; and one (*Polystichum lonchitis* x *P. setiferum*) recorded for the first time in the British Isles.

The synthesis of all information on hybrids in the British Isles up to 1974 in one book seems to me an ideal opportunity to use this as a starting point for future recording, because for the first time we can all see what is known (or thought by the author to be known) about each hybrid. In the hybrid book information on distribution is given mainly in one of four ways: precise localities, where they are few in number; lists of vice-counties; references to other publications (often the *Atlas* or its *Critical Supplement*) containing information or maps; or vague comments. The last method implies a lack of more precise information, and an exact statement replacing it is very desirable in all such cases. For many species treated by the other three methods some records must have been overlooked, and new ones will be made; it is important that all these are brought to light. Perhaps it should be stressed that the recording of hybrids must be carried out most meticulously, which entails, for critical genera, their confirmation by an acknowledged expert.

Additional data such as these, as well as new findings on the existence, variation, fertility, etc., of hybrids, could be treated in one of three ways:

1. If the data form a single, rounded topic, they could be written up as a paper or (if less than two pages of *Watsonia* in length) Short Note and submitted for consideration to the Editors of *Watsonia* (or to other journals).
2. If the data consists of new vice-county records, they should be sent to the Vice-county Recorder, and they will eventually appear under Plant Records in *Watsonia*.
3. If the data are various or piece-meal in nature they could be sent to me, and I will store them with the other supplementary information on hybrids that I possess. If and when they are published, their authorship will, of course, be acknowledged in full.

This is one of the ways in which a large proportion of B.S.B.I. members can help to increase our knowledge of our flora, and I hope that many will do so. If anyone cares to write to me concerning the suitability of material for publication or other purposes, I shall be glad to try to help.

C. A. STACE

PROSTRATE SPURGES IN BRITAIN

During 1975 *Euphorbia maculata* L. was found by E. C. M. Hacs (and communicated by Mrs M. Briggs) as a nursery weed at Ashington, Pulborough, W. Sussex. It was initially identified as the very rare native *E. peplis*, and allowed to thrive, until by October the almost shrub-like prostrate mats were three feet in diameter; the impostor was then exposed by D. McClintock and they were uprooted, but being an annual it had already shed prodigious seed. In contrast, in the arid conditions of the cactus greenhouse where it was first noticed the specimens were minute—it may have come in with nursery plants from Alicante in Spain (or possibly from S. Africa). It is a native of N. America but it is widely naturalized in S. Europe and elsewhere.

Later in the year E.C.M.H. found this plant in another succulents nursery, at Durrington, Worthing, W. Sussex, where it has resisted eradication for five years and they now regard it as a potentially troublesome weed. It apparently came to this site with plants from Aden (or possibly Ascension Island).

Great care must be exercised in using American literature—for example the plant described in Gray's *Manual of Botany* (1950) as "*E. maculata* L." is not the plant described in *Flora Europaea* 2 under this name. It seems deplorable to me that taxonomists should still be arguing about the correct application of Linnaeus's name (which admittedly differs in his 1753 and 1771 publications). As our cover drawing by Mrs Rosemary Wise shows, I use the name in the European sense. We are indebted to Mrs Mary Briggs for supplying this specimen which now rests in my herbarium.

I know of no previous record of this species for Britain although two similar procumbent American annuals have occurred—**E. prostrata** Aiton (nursery weed at Christchurch, Hants, 1897; W. Whitwell) and **E. serpens** Kunth (Avonmouth docks, W. Glos., 1959-60; Miss M. McCallum Webster).

The four species may be keyed out as follows (but beware of additional species which could occur):

Stems glabrous; seeds smooth

Plant somewhat fleshy; capsule 3-4.5mm—*E. peplis*

Plant not fleshy; capsule 1.5mm—*E. serpens*

Stems pubescent, at least above; seeds not smooth

Capsule appressed hairy; seeds weakly transversely furrowed—*E. maculata*

Capsule hairy on keels only; seeds deeply transversely furrowed—*E. prostrata*

Only *E. maculata* is found with dark blotches on the upper side of the leaves, but these can be inconspicuous or absent.

I have probably missed a number of references in the literature: please drop me a line if you can add to these records.

E. J. CLEMENT

ADVENTIVE NEWS 5

Some Wool Aliens

During Sept.-Oct. 1975 Mrs M. Burnip, P. Moses and M. J. Wigginton explored the sewage works at Darlington (Durham) and on dried sludge largely covered with *Chenopodium album*, *Atriplex patula*, *Polygonum* spp., etc., were some common wool aliens: *Medicago arabica*, *M. minima*, *M. polymorpha*, *Abutilon theophrasti* Medicus (one plant), *Xanthium spinosum*, *Erodium crinitum* Carolin (several plants, "petals almost Gentian blue", native of Australia) and *Trifolium tomentosum* L. (one plant). I saw specimens of the last two which will be deposited in the Durham herbarium. There is little doubt that the Patons wool factory in Darlington was responsible for these interesting plants.

On 2 Nov. 1975 J. R. Palmer searched hop fields near Watlington (Kent) and also found wool aliens still present although no "shoddy" has been used here for at least four years; both *Tagetes minuta* L. and *Xanthium spinosum* were abundant (perpetuating themselves?). *Malva neglecta* and *Erodium cicutarium* were possibly natives here, but it was not so for *E. moschatum*, *Medicago arabica*, *M. laciniata* (L.) Miller and *M. polymorpha*. Not far away, at Nettlestead, *Malva pusilla* was most probably of similar origin: it was found to be abundant along one footpath and was discovered here earlier in the year by Mrs M. H. Dolling (conf. E.J.C.). The very similar *M. parviflora* is much more frequent as a wool alien but has little or no tendency to persist.

Grocery Aliens

Mrs J. Oldaker drew my attention to her Super Market botany! During 1974 she searched through packets of lentils purchased locally (in Kent) and from the impurities found she successfully grew *Malva nicaeensis*, *Trigonella foenum-graecum* L. "and may be also a *Trigonella*, but the plant is without pods, so we cannot be sure"; all were named by Miss M. B. Gerrans (at BM). This year Mrs Oldaker repeated the experiment and sent to me for confirmation *Lolium temulentum*, *Phalaris paradoxa* var. *praemorsa* Coss. & Dur., *Scorpiurus muricatus* L. and *Tragopogon hybridus* L. (*Geropogon glabrum* L.). The packets gave no indication of the country of origin of the seeds. Her letter also mentioned that "some years ago I found impurities in rice also."

J. H. Davidson showed me what was discovered in his meal of curry at his London works canteen: a spiny carpel of the fruit of *Tribulus terrestris* L. (*Zygophyllaceae*). Conf. R. M. Burton. Fortunately for him (and science!) the fearful object was not swallowed.

Mixed Bag

Agrostis scabra Willd. A very few plants, on waste ground, Glasgow docks (Lanark), 1973. Dr P. Macpherson & A. McG. Stirling. Det. Dr C. E. Hubbard. A native of N. America which is established in several spots in Britain.

Eragrostis multicaulis Steud. On the edge of railway and dock property, and adjacent to a grain silo in Lowestoft (E. Suffolk), 6 Nov. 1975. A. Copping. Det. C. E. Hubbard. It was growing among "a remarkable collection of alien grasses, the rarer of which included *Digitaria sanguinalis* (L.) Scop. and *Setaria verticillata*

(L.) Beauv." This *Eragrostis* species is a native of E. Asia and Malaysia but is naturalized in Europe and America; it resembles a small *E. pilosa* (L.) Beauv. but lacks the characteristic tufts of few long hairs at the mouth of the leaf-sheaths and in the axils of the panicle branches.

Erigeron strigosus Muhl. ex Willd. Well established at Longmoor airstrip (N. Hants), Aug 1975. Lady Anne Brewis. Hb. E.J.C. Det. J. B. Marshall (Composite specialist at BM). Submitted as "*E. philadelphicus?*", but *E. philadelphicus* L. differs in having clasping leaves. The flowers were reported as of the typical "pale mauve" colour (but looking white after pressing); it is a segregate of the critical *E. annuus* (L.) Pers. which is variously treated by different authors, including the in-vogue subspecific rank. But should these apomictic splits (they regularly set seed without fertilization according to A. J. Cronquist) really be treated as subspecies? If so, by analogy, surely almost all the *Taraxacum* spp. should be renamed at subspecific level. (Fortunately the current fashion of proliferating new subspecies does not command the support of all present-day taxonomists!) The complex is native of N. America and is now a common weed over much of Europe; the paucity of records for Britain is somewhat surprising. It appears to originate here primarily as a garden escape (it looks rather like an unusual Michaelmas daisy, *Aster* sp.)

Nicotiana rustica L. Old tip, S. of National Gas Turbine Establishment at Pyestock (N. Hants), autumn 1975. D. N. Turner. Conf. E.J.C. The reappearance of this species (most probably from seed of Druce's era!) was the result of diggings by old-bottle seekers, a hobby which has recently become very popular and mildly profitable.

Solanum triflorum Nutt. One large plant flowering and fruiting in sandy soil beside the River Alde at Iken Cliff (E. Suffolk), Sept 1975. P. G. Lawson. G. M. S. Easy has provided the excellent illustration of this species, drawn from a plant seen this year at Icklingham (W. Suffolk) where it has been reported as an agricultural weed since 1968.

Psilurus incurvus (Gouan) Schinz & Thellung (this specific epithet is slightly earlier than that of *P. aristatus* (L.) Duval-Jouve, the name so often used). A few tufts in gravel in front of a caravan store, Summertown, Oxford, 1975. R. C. Palmer. Hb. OFX. Conf. Dr C. E. Hubbard. Native of the Mediterranean region eastwards to Persia and central Asia, often apparently in similar habitats to this one. Quoting R.C.P.'s letter, "A curious wispy grass with an inflorescence recalling *Parapholis* but with awned lemmas. An unexpected place to find an alien; I can only suggest it was brought on the wheel of a car or caravan, though elsewhere it has occurred, Dr Hubbard tells me, as a dock, grain or shoddy alien. There do not seem to be any British specimens in the Druce Herbarium" (although it appears in his *British Plant List*, 2nd edn. where it is in fact wrongly spelt.)

Verbascum blattaria x *nigrum*. A single plant appeared spontaneously in the garden of Mrs J. Swanborough at Pew Hill, Chippenham (Wilts.), Sept. 1975. Growing in the vicinity were both parents and also *V. lychnitis* and *V. thapsus*, so, perhaps not surprisingly, it was twice "expertly" misnamed (once as *V. virgatum*, which is most resembled at specific level) before a specimen and some good transparencies were identified by Dr I. K. Ferguson at Kew. I could not understand the presence of both white and purple hairs on the filaments until I

appreciated that *CTW2* is inexact: in pure *V. blattaria* the two lower filaments are clothed with purple hairs while the upper three have a mixture of white and purple hairs. Growing in newly-dug soil the hybrid (and also *V. lychnitis*) was flowering in its first year of growth.

Recent Records of *Crepis tectorum* L.

Members have contributed the following records, two of which appear to be reliably determined reports which antedate the occurrence given in *B.S.B.I. News* 10: 13-14 which was therefore wrongly claimed as a "second correct record".

1971. In newly sown grass, Norwich (E. Norfolk). E. T. Daniels. Det. E. L. Swann.

17.6.1973. Waste ground near Kirby Muxloe (Leics.) Mrs E. Hesselgreaves. Det. P. D. Sell. One plant was also re-found in 1974.

1974. Blaby by-pass (Leics). Mrs E. Hesselgreaves. Det. P.D.S.

6.8.1975. A single plant in newly sown garden lawn, Guildford (Surrey). J. Wheatley & A. C. Leslie. Hb. A.C.L. Conf. J. B. Marshall.

22.10.1975. One plant on road-works by Groby Pool (Leics). Mrs E. Hesselgreaves. Hb. BM. Conf. J.B.M.

25.11.1975. One plant on disturbed ground of road-widening between Ratby and Groby (Leics). Mrs E. Hesselgreaves. Hb. BM. Conf. J.B.M.

It now appears that this plant is being currently introduced not infrequently as an impurity with grass-seed, probably from N. American sources (where it is naturalized from Europe). I would be very pleased to hear of any other records or to see possible specimens.

Corrigenda and Finale

The record of *Geranium reflexum* L. in *B.S.B.I. News* 10: 14 is at best doubtful; my specimen is a better match with *G. phaeum* x *reflexum* (*G. x monacense* Harz)—this fertile hybrid probably replaces true *G. reflexum* in cultivation, being much more garden-worthy. It seems that specific rank as given in *Flora Europaea 2* is probably inappropriate; geographical subspecific rank would be suitable, whilst Hegi in *Illustrierte Flora von Mittel-Europa* goes to the other extreme and treats it as a variety of *G. phaeum* (var. *reflexum* (L.) Terracciano). K. A. Beckett and D. McClintock kindly brought this matter to my attention. This correction does not effect any of my comments on identification which were based on collections in Herb. BM of native plants and where I found no mention of possible hybrids.

Lack of space prevents me from quoting more records from the many letters that I received; but do, please, keep writing to me and sending specimens. Several artists have promised line-drawings for future articles, but I still need more help here, especially for illustrating our numerous alien grasses. Who can tackle this precision job?

I am again indebted to J. E. Dandy for reading and amending my typescript.

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PRIVATE EXPEDITIONS TO SOUTHERN SPAIN, 1974-1976

Algeciras, 7th April to 21st April, 1974

It was fortunate for me and the project that the first tour turned out to be a great success. Eric Clement led the botany—he had some experience of the flora—and worked marvels. I remember now that one of his many virtues is patience, how he would tell everybody what something was, again and again, like a good teacher. There is no doubt that without him I might have been discouraged from going on with the work, especially as I faced criticism from various directions.

We had the motor-caravan with us as well as the Range Rover and in spite of the rain recorded nearly five thousand sightings. The van made a very good refuge on several occasions. We had an excellent room for use as herbarium and library and everybody got quickly used to the idea of working after the evening meal!

I chose Algeciras for a start on the project as I knew the area so well from visits that had started during Hitler's war and had been more or less annual for twenty years. I also knew the Kreutz family the managers of the hotel where we stayed and the local botanists, all of whom have supported us right from the beginning: Betty Molesworth-Allen of Los Barrios, Diana Brinton-Lee of El Almendral, San Roque and Bill Smythies of San Diego, Estepona.

The pioneers were, in alphabetical order: Hilary Broad, John Carr, Eric Clement, Arthur Copping, Sean Edwards, John Fielding, Harold Fowkes, Vera Gordon, Richard Gorer, Rosalind Hadden, Dorothy Haythornthwaite, Geoffrey Haythornthwaite, Graeme Kay, Roger Minor, Allan Stirling, John Swindells, Connie Swindells and Rosemary Wise.

It was an excellent group: those who had little botany made themselves extremely useful in other ways. We had a resident motor engineer who kept our vehicles going—everybody had a happy fortnight each in his or her way. We covered 25 squares at an average density of 192 species per square, which for a start, was most satisfactory.

Notable finds were: *Arenaria cerastoides* Poiret, *Alyssum atlanticum* Desf., *Anthyllis hamosa* Desf., *Anthyllis polycephala* Desf., *Allium stramineum* B. & R., *Armeria hirta* Willd. *Asperula hirsuta* Desf., *Astragalus lusitanica* Lam., *Carduncellus caeruleus* (L.) C. Presl, *Cerinthe major* L. var. *purpurascens* Boiss., *Chaenorrhinum villosum* (L.) Lange and a lot more, beginning with D to Z.

Algeciras, 23rd March, 1975 to 7th April 1975

I left the booking of the tickets to Malaga too late so that the party had to come like smugglers via Gibraltar and Tangiers. This was great fun for the tourists as there were overnight stays at both places. The children were thrilled to bits as they travelled by air and boat, saw the apes, etc., etc. One of the party had difficulty getting her microscope through the customs. As she couldn't find the key to its case everybody assumed it had a bomb inside. A film was to have been made, a propaganda film to publicize the project. About 1000 ft. were exposed but nothing presentable emerged. The son of the house of Kreutz was killed in a motor-car crash, on his way home to spend Easter with his parents. Other disasters were minor—breakdowns of vehicles, etc.

I lost my concentration as they say nowadays so that the total result from my point of view was negligible apart from some excellent drawings by the resident artist ably assisted by their families. The whole thing was as we say in the family an experience.

Those present were: Godfrey Broad, Hilary Broad, Andrew Broad (7), John Carr, Niall Green, Chris Pead, Ursula Preston, Betty Tyrer, Frank Tyrer, Janet Webb, Rosemary Wise, Patrick Wise, Richard Wise (9) and Rebecca Wise (7).

Ronda, 19th May, 1975 to 2nd June, 1975

This was a most successful expedition. The area is exceptionally rich from a botanical angle and Grazalema is a well-known super-spot. Actually we gave a little extra attention to the square that includes the town so that it produced 444 species. Eric Clement led the botany and was delighted with many of our finds.

We stayed at the Hotel Reina Victoria on the edge of the gorge, a hotel that has also earned fame for its comfort and lovely back-drop of mountains for its site. We climbed the mountains and explored the valleys. Our herbarium and library was part of a suite, of which the bedroom part was Eric Clement's bedroom, so that he was never far from the work. Our resident artists, Sean Edwards and Rosemary, had lots of rarities to draw and made fifty beautiful illustrations. We also got plenty of additions to the herbarium, bringing the total number of species represented to 1,150.

We made about 7,225 recordings in the fortnight which makes an average of 289 species per 10 km. square, the best so far.

The expeditioners were: Kenneth Bull, John Carr, Eric Clement, Sean Edwards, Harold Fowkes, Vera Gordon, Malcolm Latto, Robert Mill, Allan Stirling, Reg. Usher, Janet Webb and Rosemary Wise.

Amongst the novelties were *Centaurea clementei* DC, *Chronanthus biflorus* (Desf.) Frodin & Heywood, *Cleome violacea* L., *Echinopartum boissieri* (Spach) Roth., *Echium flavum* Desf., *Endymion hispanicus* (Miller) Chouard, *Ferula tingitana* L., *Geranium malviflorum* B. & R., *Helianthemum cinereum* (Cav.) Pers., *Hippocrepis scabra* DC, *Ionopsidium prolongoi* (Boiss.) Batt., *Linaria amethystea* (Lam.) Hoffm. & Link and dozens of others. Must mention *Taraxacum plumbeum* Dahlst. and *Taraxacum polyschistum* Dahlst., both new to Spain and *Trigonella ovalis* Boiss., new to the Flora Europaea (the book).

Arcos de la Frontera, 11th April 1976 to 25th April, 1976

I got to the Mesón de la Molinera by the lakeside at Arcos in my Range Rover just a few seconds before Ross Cubbon. I had driven down from Bilbao, he from Cherbourg and we were both very pleased to meet each outside the hotel. Owing to a series of misunderstandings we got poor accommodation in a poor hotel and paid double for it. And it rained almost every day. Not of course that enthusiasts are dampened by rain. In spite of everything we got an extremely good result.

David McClintock led the botany and discovered all the British plants that are rare in Spain. He was pleased to see some of his Guernsey rarities. The organization did not break down. We examined our 25 squares at a density of about 184 species per square, which, considering that the area is not particularly rich botanically, was very good indeed.

We had some help from Bill Smythies, who showed us where the *Silene stockenii* Chater grew and took the leadership away for a day to see some heathers.

Ross Cubbon was a tower of strength: he helped me to transport the books, pressings, etc., both ways, saving me the price of a removal van from Algeciras. He also acted as second car for the fortnight without a moan, nay, thanking me for letting him be the (free) hired car.

Some notable finds were: *Leucojum trichophyllum* Brot., *Linaria latifolia* Desf., *Lippa canescens* Kunth, *Parapholis incurva* (L.) Hubbard, *Platycarpus spicata* (L.) Bernh., *Ranunculus bulbosus* L., *Rumex thyrsoides* Desf., *Silene stockenii* Chater, *Trifolium spumosum*, *Cerastium perforatum*, etc., etc.

The explorers were: John Carr, Ross Cubbon, Mary Daulman, Sean Edwards, Tom Hallam, Olive Hallam, Bunty Kitson, David McClintock, Roger Minor, Don Richards and Ted Wallace.

Torre del Mar, 30 km. east of Málaga, 23rd May to 6th June, 1976

We covered our 25 squares fairly easily as we were supported by three local people *and* their cars. They were: Bill Smythies of San Diego, Estepona and Kew, who gave precise instructions on the best way up the Sierra Tejeda; Stellan Holmdahl of Sweden and Marbella who joined us for a good day in VF 18 and failed to understand our spoken Latin; and Angel Hernandez, a lecturer in what we should call a College of Technology, attached to the University of Málaga. The latter joined in the project and our future co-operation is likely to be fruitful for him and for us. With all this outside help we scored an average of 288 species per 10 Km. square.

We found most of the species reported from the area by Modesto Laza Palacios, who made an exploration of the Sierras in 1935-6. We found more besides. We examined UTM square VG OO and declared it V GOOD. The square is entirely in the province of Granada—perhaps that it how it came to produce a score of species that are at the moment of writing (20th July) still not determined.

There were no untoward events except that the hired car got pinched for having worn tyres. The police stopped to help with a puncture and wrote out the ticket as a reward. The hired car firm paid up of course; but it shouldn't have happened. Allan Stirling is used to having adventures that make other people laugh. He has driven hired cars before.

The adventurers were: Hilary Broad, John Carr, Eric Clement, Beryl Daulman, Harold Fowkes, Mary Fuller, Vera Gordon, Malcolm Latto, Kathleen Saville, Allan Stirling, Ted Wallace and Rosemary Wise.

Notable finds included: *Amberboa muricata* (determined by JWC by logic rather than botany), *Berberis hispanica* B. & R., *Bromus uniloides* H.B.K., *Chaenorhinum macropodium* B. & R., *Cistus clusii* Dunal, *Cuscuta brevistyla* Braun, *Misopates calycinum* Rothm., *Saxifraga biternata* Boiss., *Trifolium physodes* Steven ex Bieb., *Withania frutescens* (L.) Pauquy, *Xeranthemum inapertum* Willd. and scores of others.

What have we achieved?

Our achievement so far is to have recorded nearly 30,000 sightings and incorporated them in our Distribution Atlas of the Flora of Part of Southern Spain, in

six volumes of maps, a map for each species of plant, nearly 2,500 maps in all. This Atlas will be exhibited I hope at the B.S.B.I. exhibition at the BM on the 27th November 1976. We have confirmed the continued existence of many rarities, found species new to the Provinces, new to Spain and new to us (this is important I feel). We have caused to be produced hundreds of useful botanical illustration in colour, from life, many of which have not so far been represented in any of the usual books. We have collected for future reference herbarium specimens of over 1,300 of the species to be found in the area being studied. We have made lots of new friends . . . and we have had fun.

Thank you all very much.

JOHN W. CARR

KEY TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF NATURALISTS IN THE FIELD

- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|----|
| 1 | Sedentary; always in groups; casual in grassy places and on roadside | COMMON PICNICKER | |
| | Active; generally distributed singly or in groups in any habitat | | |
| | | FAMILY NATURALIST | 2 |
| 2 | With inorganic associations; encumbered with equipment; rather local | | 3 |
| | With organic associations; unencumbered or sparsely equipped | | 7 |
| 3 | Equipment simple, normally only hammer and chisel; found on bare stony ground throughout Britain, especially old quarries and sea cliffs | GEOLOGIST | |
| | Equipment costly and elaborate | | 4 |
| 4 | Only active in fine weather, often three-legged; sometimes over-exposed | PHOTOGRAPHER | |
| | Not as above | | 5 |
| 5 | With conspicuous pick and shovel at first, trowel and brush appearing later; naturalised on old walls and in waste places | ARCHAEOLOGIST | |
| | Not as above | | 6 |
| 6 | Terrestrial, with metal detector and spade | FIELD NUMISMATIST | |
| | Aquatic, with snorkel and grapnel; furtive habit | TREASURE HUNTER | |
| 7 | Usually green; size variable; habits diverse | TRIBE BOTANIST | 8 |
| | Not as above | | 13 |
| 8 | With vasculum; form laterally compressed; garden escape, becoming rare | HERBARIUM KEEPER | |
| | Not as above | | 9 |

- 9 Woody climber; common and invasive; often introduced
 COMMERCIAL FORESTER
 With hand lens and excursion flora; usually native
 BRITISH BOTANIST agg 10
- 10 Always above 1800' (558m); aestival; scattered but very local, ascending
 to 4406' (1344m) in north; often cultivated ALPINE BOTANIST
 Occurring below 1800' (558m) 11
- 11 Conspicuous in autumn but never green; often short lived; local and
 decreasing MYCOLOGIST
 Aseasonal; found in damp places; evergreen 12
- 12 Lowly, procumbent; wet underfoot BRYOLOGIST
 Cliff-hanging or gorgeous; often in umbrage PTERIDOLOGIST
- 13 In flight or hovering 14
 Stationary or slow-moving; prostrate or crouching, rarely erect 15
- 14 Diurnal with net or, if nocturnal, with trap; often colonising open places
 ENTOMOLOGIST
 With binoculars or telescope, sometimes rings; very common, locally
 dominant ORNITHOLOGIST
- 15 With bag and gun in season; lower parts submerged; common on salt-
 marshes WILDFOWLER
 Not as above 16
- 16 Hardy annual; always with hat; locally abundant on uplands in Scotland
 and N. England DEER-STALKER
 Inconspicuous, nocturnal; woodlands, hedgerows, etc., throughout Britain 17
- 17 Usually single; hirsute; associated with disturbed ground and rural tracks
 MAMMOLOGIST
 Widespread but local; always in pairs COURTING COUPLE

This amusing key is printed inside a greetings card the cover of which depicts a composite field naturalist cleverly executed in black ink. The cards, designed by C. Holly and I. Bright, are 10p each and all proceeds go to local conservation funds.

They are obtainable, postage extra, from: Miss J. Martin, 54 Southwick Road, Dalbeattie DG5 4EW and Dr M. Atherden, The College, Ripon, North Yorkshire.

WARBURG MEMORIAL FUND

The Botanical Society of the British Isles and the British Bryological Society have jointly established a Fund, the purpose of which is to grant from time to time a travelling scholarship for field work to a botanist under the age of 21 years.

AN AWARD OF UP TO £100 WILL BE MADE IN 1977

Young botanists wishing to be considered for this award should write to the address given below with the following information:—

1. Full name and address of applicant;
2. Date of birth;
3. Education and examination record to date;
4. Proposed further education;
5. Short details of project involving travel, including an estimate of expenses and information relating to candidate's experience and other qualifications for carrying out the proposed work;
6. Name and address of two referees to whom Trustees can refer if necessary.

Successful applicants will be requested to submit a report on the work they have carried out as a result of the scholarship.

Application must be lodged not later than 31st December, 1976, and should be addressed to:

The Secretaries,
Warburg Memorial Fund,
c/o Botanical Society of the British Isles,
Department of Botany,
British Museum (Natural History),
Cromwell Road,
LONDON, SW7 5BD.

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