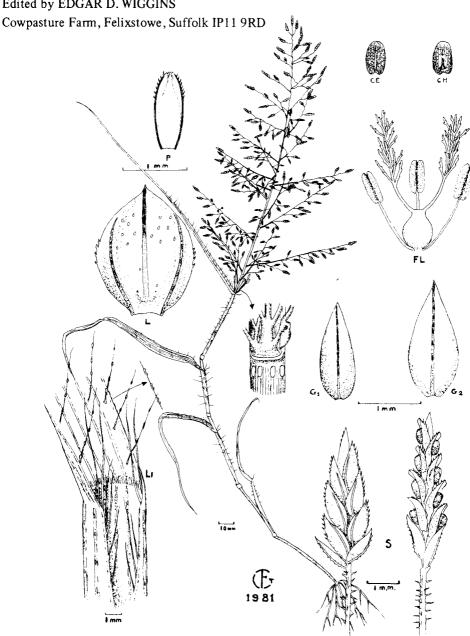
# B.S.B.I. NEWS

Edited by EDGAR D. WIGGINS



Eragrostis neomexicana Vasey del. T.G. Evans © 1981

See P.10

### **ADMINISTRATION**

HON. GEN. SEC. (General Enquiries)

Mrs M. Briggs, White Cottage Slinfold, HORSHAM, West Sussex RH13 7RG.

HON. TREASURER. (Payment of Subscriptions and change of address).

Mr M. Walpole, 68 Outwoods Road, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics. LE11 3LY.

(Please quote membership number on correspondence concerning membership or subscriptions).

HON, FIELD SEC.

(Information on Rare Plants, Field Meetings etc.)

Miss L. Farrell, N.C.C. P.O. Box 6, Godwin House, George Street, HUNTINGDON PE18 6BU.

#### **CHANGES IN RECORDERS**

#### RESIGNATIONS

v.c. 1 W. CORNWALL:

Mr L.J. Margetts

1 SCILLY:

Mrs C.C. Harvey

37 WORCS:

Mr F. Fincher

104 N. EBUDES (RHUM): Dr J. Eggeling

We thank all for good work for the Society. Fred Fincher has been Recorder for Worcestershire for twenty-one years; Len Margetts, West Cornwall, Recorder since 1967, and co-author of the recently published *A Review of the Cornish Flora*; we particularly thank both for very long service.

#### APPOINTMENT OF NEW RECORDERS

v.c. 1 W. CORNWALL: Mr K.L. SPURGIN, 8a Rosewin Road, TRURO, Cornwall TR1 1HG.

1b SCILLY: Mrs R.E. PARSLOW.

13 Tithe Close, Hilton, HUNTINGDON

PE18 9NR.

37 WORCS: Mr J.J. DAY,

3 Rectory Bungalows, SUCKLEY, Worces-

ter WR6 5DF.

104 N. EBUDES (RHUM): Mrs C. MURRAY, B.Sc., as for 104 N. EBUDES (Skye

and other Isles):

Prabost, Skeabost Bridge, Portree, Isle of

Skye.

110 OUTER HEBRIDES: Mr A. CURRIE, M.I. Biol., Glaiseilean, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9AO.

We apologise for mis-spelling the name of Irene Weston's new house, BSBI News 32 p.7; this should read 'LINDHRIS'.

## HON. GEN. SECRETARY'S NOTES

#### People

Congratulations to **Professor David Wigston** on his recent appointment to the Chair of Forestry at the University of Lae, Papua New Guinea. Prof. Wigston has been a member of the *Watsonia* Editorial team since 1977, responsible for Reports of all meetings. In particular, many members will have been in contact with him for the preparation of possibly his most taxing reports — those of the Annual Exhibition Meetings, where assorted descriptions of varied exhibits were welded by him into a coherent Exhibition Report. We also recall the enjoyable AGM organised by David at Plymouth Poly in 1977 — there his particular interest and knowledge of trees and forestry was evident. While sending him our sincere thanks for his work for BSBI, we also warmly wish him well in his new environment with every success in this new venture.

Members seeing on TV and in magazines the wholesale destruction of tropical forests in S.E. Asia, will be glad to know this problem is a top priority for David in his new post.

This year we also lose another officer when Lynne Farrell retires as Hon. Field Secretary. In the last seven years Lynne has arranged many excellent field meetings for us and looking through the programme for 1983, we must commend her for the variety of her ideas. Members this year have opportunities ranging from:

Rashers and eggs in a Chiltern dawn to a special study of reedy emergents and stringy submergents; from limited numbers to Brittany to an unlimited party along the River Thames; from brambles for beginners to batology for the experts; from a fairly strenuous climb in Snowdonia with Tim Blackstock, to a 6 mile walk in wellingtons with John Ounsted in the New Forest or a walk on Ashdown Forest with David Streeter. Habitats that members are invited to visit by joining these meetings include: shingle beds, glens and corries in Scotland; wetland limestone, acid bogs and dried-out peat bogs in Wales; dunes on Merseyside — and more, as you see in the current programme. We are very grateful to Lynne whose organisation has provided us with such programmes of rich opportunities.

We shall not lose contact, as Lynne's non-honorary occupation is the Rare Plants member of the NCC Chief Scientists Team, and she counts on receiving reports from BSBI members on all Rare Plant sightings, i.e.:- new records, present status reports whenever seen and/or habitat destruction of rare plant sites.

Nominations for successors will be put to the Annual General Meeting for election:- **Dr John Akeroyd** to join the *Watsonia* Editors, and **Jeremy Milton** as Hon. Field Secretary.

We would like to endorse the Editor's thanks to **Eric Clement** on the publication of the last - No. 23 - of his *Adventive News*, *BSBI News* 32 (p. 18). A little speedy research reveals that this represents some 76 closely packed pages - for which we send thanks and admiration to Eric.

#### Other people's jargon

Gillian and Ken Beckett recently replying on behalf of BSBI to a request from landscape architects for salt-resistant plants, found this sentence in the request somewhat daunting: "We have put a lip on the toe of the haunching, how do we plant it?"

#### Churchyards

Interest in Churchyards is widening. The Winter 1982 issue of *Natural World* (the magazine of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, taking the message to all County Naturalists Trusts) published "Life in the Graveyard" by Arthur Chater; he has also been asked to contribute an article to *Churchscope* No. 3 1983, published by the Council for the Care of Churches, which will be widely distributed in influential church circles. This month the National Association of Women's Institutes has sent Churchyard questionnaires to 9,000 Institutes, with plans to publish a book on the flowers and plants of churchyards in due course. Some members may find themselves wearing their W.I. hat and assisting with this survey also; we plan to share information collected to promote churchyard conservation as fully as possible.

It is good to hear of BSBI members who are enjoying recording their local church-yards for the Network Research Survey. Kate Cosway sent her survey form from a West Sussex churchyard of half an acre in which she has recorded 138 spp. of flowering plants and ferns, including four uncommon in the area and the largest colony of *Ceterach officinarum* in the vice-county; over 20 spp. of bryophytes and the Knopper Gall, caused by the minute wasp *Andricus quercuscalicis*. In addition to the plant life there were tracks of Badgers and Rabbits; nesting Nuthatch and Little Owl, and several spp. of Lizard, Snails and Ants.

At the 1982 Exhibition Meeting early Vascula on loan for display had been requested and John Edmondson caused a minor sensation on arrival, when he walked jauntily in with a four foot vasculum slung over his shoulder. John, who assured us — with feeling — that it weighted 30 lb, had brought it from Liverpool, on loan from Merseyside County Museums. Thought to have been presented by Prof. Maclean Thompson, a speculative identification is that it was a Malayan Tree Vasculum

#### Tail piece

On closer examination of the photograph of the 'Jolly Green Giant' prize weed BSBI News 32 (p. 3), its identification is suggested as Helianthus annuus (or jolly gold sunflower).

Mary Briggs

#### **REGIONAL COMMITTEES 1982 - 1983**

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Mr G.H. Ballantyne
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Mr A.A. Slack
Mr A. McG. Stirling Chairman
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Dr R.E. Thomas Hon Field Sec
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Mr M. Porter

# FRANK PERRING Snr. a filial appreciation

My father Frank Perring, died suddenly on 30th November 1982 in his eighty-third year. He had been in poor health for some time but, to the end, took an active interest in the the BSBI and its publications. He was the 'F' of 'F & M Perring' which he had run in partnership with my wife Margaret for the last five or six years.

An antique dealer and furniture restorer by profession he retired from his business in Old Harlow, Essex in 1962 and with my mother spent the next ten years living mainly on the South coast of France between St. Maxime and Menton — a fortunate choice for their botanical son

However, since 1973 they have lived near Oundle in east Northamptonshire: first in Glapthorne, a village two miles north, and since 1979, in the main street of this small stone town. He soon became involved helping to distribute botanical publications — initially pre-publication offers to members, of Floras, such as Staffordshire and Surrey but, when Classey's gave up handling our Conference Reports, he agreed to distribute these as well, and BSBI Publications was born. Gradually other books were added, particularly local Floras, and the last list, distributed in Autumn 1982, had nearly 90 titles.

He thoroughly enjoyed the work: it appealed to his business training, occupied him for two or three hours every morning and gave his ever agile mind problems to solve and ideas to formulate; I shall always be grateful for the many happy conversations (and arguments) which the business provided. One of the last was on the result of the Exhibition Meeting on the Saturday before he died: he wanted a report as soon as Margaret and I returned home.

Margaret has now taken on the business and intends to maintain the service which my father gave. She will try to ensure rapid despatch of all BSBI Publications, Conference Reports, Handbooks, Posters etc., and also aims to keep all local Floras currently available, in stock. Gradually she will add other titles which provide information on identification or distribution of plants of interest to the British field botanist, not only in this country but in neighbouring Europe — especially books published in English.

My father was a very contented man who enjoyed living to the full. I am sure something of his merriment and good humour spilled over into his correspondence. My mother, my wife and the rest of my family are grateful to all those who have written to us so sympathetically. We will endeavour to fill the gap for you which can never be filled for us.

Franklyn Perring

#### ERRATUM BSBI News 32 p. 29

Conservation Committee:

British Bryological Society representative is Dr C.D. Preston (not Dr P.D. Coker as printed, who has now retired from this position).

#### THE BLACK POPLAR SURVEY

Members who are interested in trees — and there don't seem to be many of them — may like to know that our Black Poplar Survey, started in 1973, is still very much alive and progressing. Following a rush of information in the early years, it continues to make slow but highly useful progress.

The Survey has shown that the Black Poplar is as plentiful as anywhere in North Wales and is not an infringement on the Usk Valley, in spite of Hyde, Welsh Timber Trees (1931) stating "rare in Wales, even as a planted tree" and Hyde & Wade, Welsh Flowering Plants (1957) omitting it altogether, presumably because they did not consider it native. The Survey is supported by Alexander Irvine writing on "The Botany of the Clent Hills" in the Plytologist (1856) who states the Black Poplar is plentiful in the counties of Denbigh and Montgomery.

What I find an interesting phenomenon is that some of the more important recent records have not come from locally resident members, but from distant visitors!

For instance, I know that at one time there was a Black Poplar on Putney Heath, as there was a specimen from a female tree in the Kew Herbarium, collected by that one-time authority on *Mentha*, John Fraser, in 1924. But it was not until 1979 that I was informed of this tree by my young Dorset botanist friend, Desmond Hobson. That same year the first and only record from Lancashire was sent me by my Berkshire friend, John Souster, who spotted a tree on the bank of the River Lune near Lancaster.

Quite recently, following an article about the Survey in *Popular Gardening* (20 Nov. 1982) by Tony Nunn, I received from a resident in Purtency Street, Bath, a Mr. D. Holt, (apparently not a BSBI member) a picture postcard showing the famous Polteney Bridge with *Populus nigra* as a backcloth. This tree, growing on the bank of the River Avon near the centre of Bath, had not been reported to me until now, 9 years after the Survey started and I first appealed for records. It is not mentioned in J.W. White, *The Bristol Flora* (1912) though it must have been a sizeable tree in his day.

It has taken six years to obtain the first record from Yorkshire, when Richard Gulliver sent me particulars of two Black Poplars at Huntington (v.c. 62) in 1979. Three years later he has found one at Tadcaster (v.c. 64) and a third fine specimen by a road at Stonegrave (v.c. 62). It is strange that a typical tree in an obvious roadside situation should have remained unrecorded for so many years.

Peter Wanstall has recently discovered one in a Jewish Cemetary near Queen Mary College in East London. In my own county, and my local 10km square too, five very large Black Poplars were found last year by a retired local G.P., Dr K.T. Brown, beside a stream at Corn Hall, Bures St. Mary, a site not visible from any public road. And so the records continue trickling in.

Will members, please, keep their eyes open for Black Poplars, especially in areas of countryside not easily visible from roads? I still have only one record from West Kent (v.c. 16) and none from East Kent (v.c. 15). Can anyone find out whether any of the "small, old, and very stunted trees" mentioned by Elwes & Henry (1913) as being in Penshurst Park are still there?

E. MILNE-REDHEAD, 43 Bear St., Nayland, COLCHESTER, Essex CO6 4HX.

#### FIELD STUDIES

The Field Studies Council have arranged their 1983 programme of courses according to subject, instead of each of the nine centres listing their activities in date order as hitherto. It will not surprise members to discover that a high proportion of the tutors are B.S.B.I. people. These include Dr Francis Rose, Dr Alan Pentecost, Derek Wells, Dr Anne Bebbington (who is the wife of the Warden of one of the Centres, Juniper Hall, near Dorking), Dr Richard Gulliver, Rachel Hamilton, John Keylock, Dr Oliver Rackham and Juliet Brodie (who is on the staff of the Dale Fort Field Centre in Pembrokeshire).

There are, naturally, a variety of courses in various centres catering for those interested in Flowers, their identification and habitats, or a general introduction to botanical studies. In some cases the flower courses are related to plants of the particular region in which the centre is located; for example, Pembrokeshire (3 courses), South Devon and Dartmoor (3 courses), North Devon and West Somerset and the limestone of the Pennines. Actually a number of such regional courses deal with both animals and plants of the areas concerned.

Groups within the higher plants singled out for special courses are Orchids (2 at Juniper Hall), Grasses, Sedges and Rushes either altogether or separately or in combination have several courses devoted to them. Derek Wells and Rachel Hamilton each have a full week on Grasses alone, the former at Flatford Mill considering grassland and its management, the latter concentrating, more in structure and identification of individual species. There are three outstanding courses on Trees: Dr Oliver Rackham's 'History and Ecology of Trees and Woodlands' at Flatford Mill in late June, Dr Richard Gulliver's 'Trees: their appreciation and recognition' at Malham Tarn in early July and Alan Mitchell (author of the Collins' 'Field Guide to the Trees of Britain & Northern Europe' and the country's leading expert on trees) at Juniper Hall in August.

A notable feature of these programmes over recent years has been the increasing number of courses covering lower plants. Dr Alan Pentecost of Chelsea College has a full week's course entitled 'The Identification and Ecology of Lower Plants' at Malham Tarn in July. Next are four courses on 'Lichens', the rising popularity of which may be accounted for by their acting as air pollution indicators. Frank Dobson of the Richmond Publishing Co. conducts three of them, at Juniper Hall (mid June), Slapton Ley (early August) and Orielton (late August). The fourth is by Dr Mark Seaward of Bradford University at Malham Tarn for a half-week at the end of June. Mosses and Liverworts, a full week course by Dr Martha Newton at Preston Montford is to be held in late August and two weekends on Ferns with Matt Busby at Preston Montford in early August, and a second at Drapers' with Dave Quorrol and John Hall in early September. Seaweeds attract two full weeks, one with Dr Eifion Jones at Orielton in early August and a second at Dale Fort conducted by Teresa Bennett. Autumn, of course, sees a spate of courses and weekends on Fungi — at Slapton Ley (2), Malham Tarn, Juniper Hall (3), and Leonard Wills' Centres.

Those who like a practical slant to their studies would find 'Medicinal Plants' (weekend) and Herbs and Herbalism (whole week) at Leonard Wills with Liz Cole and Tony Biggington in early June to their liking. And at the same Centre, in mid September, there is a whole week on Plants and Their Uses and a weekend on Natural Dyes from Plants with David Hill from Bristol University. Another week of Plants and Their Uses takes place in early September at Juniper Hall with Sarah Vernon and there is another, at Flatford Mill, in the same month.

Climate and Plant Ecology under the guidance of two experts from the Royal Meteorological Society for a week at the end of July at Preston Montford should be a useful and practical introduction to microclimate measurement. Perhaps the most popular practical activity amongst botanists is the pictorial recording of their observations either on paper or on film and there is no dearth of courses to assist them with the necessary techniques. Nature Photography, offering a wide field, is at the Drapers' Centre (mid June and mid July), Juniper Hall (2 weekends; end of April and early August and a week in early September). At Preston Montford a week's course entitled Black and White and Colour Photography and Processing conducted by Gerry Luty (ex Training Officer at Kodak) appears three times - in June, July and at the end of August. Somewhat similar is a course by Michael Proctor (who provided most of the photographs for the monumental 'New Naturalist' volume on 'The Pollination of Flowers' by Peter Yeo) in the latter half of August at Juniper Hall. In a half-week on Advanced Natural History Drawing, Ken Bowers will range over pencil, pen and water colour; Dr Kery and Claire Dalby will give two linked weekends (20 May and 30 October) at Juniper Hall. Flatford Mill has five weekly course on Plant Drawing and Painting; due to their popularity another one has been added which is not shown in the programme. This is from 20-27July, to be directed by Joanna Langhorne.

For those who would like to pursue their studies overseas, Ros Evans has arranged a wide variety of courses in various parts of the world. There are nineteen in all, on various aspects of Natural History. 'Flowers and Scenery of the High Pyrenees' is from 29 July -12 August, directed by Ros Evans herself, with Keith Chell. (Details of these overseas courses may be obtained from Miss Ros Evans at Flatford Mill Field Centre, Colchester CO7 6UL).

In addition to the above there is a series of COURSES FOR TEACHERS concentrating on Field Study Methods and covering Freshwater, Rivers, Seashores, Woodlands, Climate, Photography, Climate and Site evaluation for Conservation. Further information, dates and costs regarding all of them is available in a comprehensive set of information sheets from:

The Information Office (BSBI), Field Studies Council, Preston Montford, SHREWSBURY SY4 1HW

THE SCOTTISH FIELD STUDIES ASSOCIATION also runs a full programme of courses from March to October at its centre at Kindrogan, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH10 7PG from which a leaflet of particulars is obtainable. Courses of interest to Botanists include: 'Trees and Forests', 'Poisonous fungi', 'Mountain Flowers'\*, 'Field Botany' (a course run in association with the BSBI), 'Illustrating Mountain Flowers'\*, 'Botanical Illustration'\*, 'Bryophytes', 'Ferns and their allies'\* and 'Lichens'\* — all those asterisked being tutored by B.S.B.I. members. Five week-long courses on Ecological Fieldwork are equally concerned with plants and animals and aim to give instruction in basic principles and technique and are essentially for the student with no field experience.

#### ARE VICE-COUNTIES OUTMODED?

I am sure that most readers will welcome the new 'Plant Records' section in B.S.B.I. News (No. 31, pp. 26-27) that summarises the plant records published in Watsonia. However, its advent raises the question of whether the present system of botanical recording is the best available. Some B.S.B.I. members may have noticed that there are discrepancies between the number of records submitted to Watsonia by different vice-county recorders; Watsonia 13(4) contains records from only 40 of the 112 vice-counties that comprise mainland Britain (there are no records from Ireland). Furthermore, 28% of the 351 individual records are from only three vice-counties (38, Warwickshire; 42, Breconshire; 74, Wigtownshire). Are botanists in these three vice-counties hyperactive? Are 72 vice-counties so thoroughly botanised that there are no new species to be found in them?

I suspect that the answer to both questions is 'No'. I have heard several eminent botanists/vice-county recorders comment that the Watsonian vice-county system is archaic and irrelevant to modern botanical recording. Therefore they do not submit records to *Watsonia*.

The centrad (10 km square) system used in the Atlas of the British Flora provides an obvious alternative. However, the average vice-county contains about 20 centrads so that many more records would be eligible for inclusion in Watsonia if this system was adopted. Their number could be reduced by omitting records of common species (unless at the edge of their geographical range in the British Isles), and printing the remaining records in smaller type. Recorders could be allocated centrads that largely coincide with the vice-counties for which they are presently responsible. Such a system would be more in accordance with modern recording schemes, such as the Biological Data Bank at Monks Wood Experimental Station and would facilitate phytogeographical studies.

Perhaps the Society should follow the example set by the new series of *Nature in Wales* (No. 1, supplement) which contains an excellent 'Plant Records' section based on central records provided by B.S.B.I. vice-county recorders.

R.M. BATEMAN, 3 Jersey Lane, ST. ALBANS, Herts., AL4 9AD.

#### PERENNIAL CENTAURY IN THE LAWN?

Two recent new records for Perennial Centaury, Centaurium scilloides (L. fil.) Samp. (Centaurium portense (Brot.) Butcher), are of interest as in both localities it is found growing on neglected lawns. At Southborough, Kent, the plants were found by Mrs Mary Page and published in Atlas of the Kent Flora Eric G. Philp FLS (1982); at Cooden, East Sussex, they were found in 1982 by Kenneth E. Bull on "the vast neglected lawns of an abandoned nursing home".

In Britain *C. scilloides* is native in Pembrokeshire, where it grows on cliff heath, in short turf and on dunes. First found by J.E. Arnett in 1888, it is described by the late T.A. Warren Davis in *Plants of Pembrokeshire* (1970) as "the beautiful Perennial Centaury above the cliffs and on the dunes near Newport". It is recorded also from Cornwall, where it is reported as "Extremely rare and impermanent" in West Cornwall and "now gone" from the East, in *A Review of the Cornish Flora* L.J. Margetts and R.W. David (1980). The plant is recorded also, in *C.T. & W.* (1962), in N.W. France, N.W. Spain and N.W. Portugal, where it normally grows on grassy cliffs within ½ mile of the sea.

Centaurium scilloides is however listed by Ingwersens of Gravetye, East Grinstead (possibly by other nurserymen also?). In both the recent records the plants flowered in lawns which had been unmown for some weeks, or months. In Southborough the house had changed hands during the year, and the Centaury was not introduced into the garden by the present owners; at Cooden the lawn was not mown this year and in September resembled heathland with Calluna vulgaris; C. scilloides rooting and growing in the mosses, covering the surface of the lawn, and when it was in flower Kenneth Bull described the lawn as a "mass of pink".

Could the Perennial Centaury be more widespread as an escape from rockeries — but inconspicuous and possibly undetected unless given an opportunity for the plants to flower?

Mary Briggs

#### A SEVERE OUTBREAK OF ST. LUCIE CHERRY IN W. KENT

For 13 years I have observed the very attractive species *Prunus mahaleb L.* spreading by seed along a Minor railway near Southfleet (v.c. 16) until the colony (remote from houses) now numbers at least 500 specimens, some being 20 feet high. Some years ago the railway became disused and seedlings are now abundant on the large-sized ballast of tracks, particularly by the rails, on which the birds perch after taking the abundant fruit from the larger bushes.

The bushes are a magnificent sight in early May; their thin branches weighed down by an abundance of very beautiful white blossom. The origin of the colony was for some time a mystery, until it was noticed that a hedge not far away across the fields consists of *Prunus cerasifera*, *P. mahaleb* and other species. Has anyone else seen *Prunus mahaleb* planted for hedging?

The colony is threatened by a proposal to redevelop the railway as a private Bluebell-type line with steam engines, and already some of the scrub along the track has been cleared.

J.R. PALMER, 19 Water Mill Way, S. Darenth, DARTFORD, Kent DA4 9BB.

## ALIENS and ADVENTIVES

#### **ADVENTIVE NEWS 24**

compiled by Adrian L. Grenfell

I follow Eric Clement, who has compiled this article with such professionalism since its inception eight years ago, not without some trepidation: I should like to think that my knowledge of the subject might one day be as extensive as his. I hope that you will all help me by sending in your suggestions and criticisms, especially the latter; and that most of my determinations will be correct!

#### CYPERUS FLAVUS (VAHL) NEES - NEW TO BRITAIN

Cyperus flavus (Vahl) Nees: Single clump on little used railway line, Cumberland Basin, Bristol, Oct. 1980. C.M. Lovatt & A.L. Grenfell. Det. Dr C.D. Adams. Hb. ALG & BM. Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc. 41, 90 (1982). This Caribbean sedge, which is widely naturalised in the central and southern states of the USA, from whence it was probably introduced, persisted into 1981 but was then destroyed by successive applications of herbicide. It was identified from material grown on in the writer's garden.

Also present was an atypical form of *Cyperus longus* L., differing from the type in its weakly trigonous, almost subteretes, stems, det. Dr C.D. Adams, Hb. ALG, and a variety of uncommon adventives brought in with American grain. Most noteworthy were *Eragrostis cilianensis* (All.) Lutati, A.J. Byfield, det. EJC and *Echinochloa utilis* Ohwi & Yabuno, C.M. Lovatt & A.L. Grenfell, Hb. ALG.

After a barren year in 1981, Eragrostis neomexicana Vasey appeared in 1982, A.L. Grenfell, Hb. ALG: a fine illustration by Trevor Evans adorns the front cover of this issue. Further visits by local workers also yielded Panicum capillare L., much Setaria verticillata (L.) Beauv., Digitaria sanguinalis (L.) Scop. and single plants of Echinochloa colona (L.) Link and Amaranthus albus L. All Hb. ALG.

#### **MIXED BAG**

Amaranthus capensis Thell. ssp. uncinatus (Thell.) Brenan: Potato field manured with shoddy, Rothwell, Yorks., Mrs M. Bradbrook. Det. & Hb. ALG. British records have hitherto been incorrectly asisgned to A. dinteri Schinz var. uncinatus Thell. Brenan, J.P.M., Watsonia, 14:241 (1983). This uncommon wool adventive from S. Africa is characterised by its strongly hooked (uncinate) bracteoles (which explain its presence in wool). A. dinteri, which lacks this character, is almost certainly not known in Br.

Amaranthus lividus L.: Waste ground, La Corbiere, Guernsey, Aug. 1982. Mrs J. Page, comm. D. McClintock. Det. ALG. Dump at Fort Le Crocq, Guernsey, Aug. 1982. Mrs P. Ryan. Det. ALG. Hb. ALG. Two further records of this rare introduction (see News 28:14) which differs from the similar A. deflexus L. in its larger fruit and (sometimes) spotted, emarginate leaves.

Asperula orientalis Boiss. & Hohen.: Roadside, Caerllan, Gwent, 1982. P. Carpenter, comm. & det. T.G. Evans, Hb. TGE.

Campanula portenschlagiana Schultes differs from the next species in its infundibuliform rather than campanulate corolla. It is rarely encountered outside gardens but John Latham reports it abundant in Launceston Place, London, W.8. (1982). John, a newcomer to our panel of artists, kindly depicts both species opposite.

Campanula poscharskyana Degen: An invasive and freely seeding perennial of rock gardens, increasingly found in wild situations. See News 19:14. Probably more often dumped than birdsown, however! This, sometimes incorrectly referred to C. repunculus, and the preceding species are both W. Yugoslavian endemics long and widely cultivated in Br and much confused by British botanists. Painswick, Glos., the late W.R. Cubbon, (seen here during BSBI Field Meeting, 1982), Hb. ALG. Minster Lovell, Oxon., wood bordering quarry, July 1982. Mrs C. & M.A.E. Kitchen. Common as a street weed in the Kensington area of London and notably naturalised on the old wall of the Coptic Church, Allen St., London, W.8., far from nearest garden, John Latham, 1982.

Pilea microphylla(L.) Liebm.: Single plant in fern pot ex Bristol University Botanic Garden, 1982. A.C. Titchen. Det. & Hb. ALG. At first mistaken by the writer for a Herniaria species which it much resembles: a member of Urticaceae lacking stinging hairs and much grown in hot houses.



Campanula poscharskyana Degen Campanula portenschlagiana Schultes del. J.B. Latham © 1982

Epimedium pubigerum (DC.) Morren & Decne: Spreading in derelict garden, Bishop's Walk, Fulham, Middx., May 1982. John Latham. An attractive ground-cover plant which retains it leaves in winter; native of Asia Minor and the Caucasus. Finely depicted opposite by John Latham.

Gnaphalium undulatum L.: A large clump growing through brambles on the cliffs near Seaton, E. Cornwall, Sept. 1982 (BSBI Field Meeting). Miss B.G. Cusworth, conf. EJC. Hb. EJC. Miss Cusworth refers to the (sickly) smell of the leaves when rubbed, a character which immediately separates it from the much less common G. luteoalbum, for which it has frequently been mistaken.

A common casual in the Channel Islands where it has been known since 1859, G. undulatum is a native of S. Africa – hence its trivial name, Cape Cudweed.

Several seedlings, Bitton, Glos., June 1982. A.L. Grenfell. Hb. ALG. Undoubtedly brought here by a Channel Island freight service vehicle garaged nearby.

The only previous mainland record is from Par Harbour, E. Cornwall, 1927. L.T. Medlin. BEC, 1927. Comm. Dr A.C. Leslie.

Helleborus orientalis Lam.: This striking species was found by the writer while checking a record of Geranium nodosum for the v.c. Recorder in 1980. Beech wood, Edge, Glos. Hb. ALG. Flowering in March 1982 — perianth segments purplish rather than the usual greenish-cream. (?) 1st British record. Associated species include Hepatica nobilis L., Mrs C. Kitchen, det. & Hb. ALG., Cyclamen hederifolium Aiton and Vinca minor L.

In 1978, a single plant of S. European *Cardamine chelidonia* L. was noted in the wood, ½ mile from Edge village where it was new to Britain in 1954 and persisted until ca. 1962. The late Mrs E.L. Sell, det. at BM. Hb. ALG & BM.

Papaver orientale L.: Well established in three localities, on dunes S. of Bamburgh Castle and near Seahouses, NE. Northumberland, June 1982. D. McClintock.

Physalis peruviana L.: (S. America). Widely cult. for its edible fruits. Two plants in kitchen garden onion patch, Tutshill, Chepstow, Gwent, Sept. 1982. Miss C.A. Shirley. Comm. & det. T.G. Evans, Hb. TGE.

Saponaria ocymoides L.: Eastney Beach, Portsmouth, Hants., 1982. Mrs J. Fryer. Frequently seen in gardens as the type and several cultivars, this European alpine species seldom persists for long in the wild. T.G. Evans reported it from Newport Tip in 1978, Hb. TGE.

Symphytum bulbosum C. Schimper: Profuse at several points at Webbery Cross, nr. Bideford, N. Devon, April 1982. W.H. Tucker, det. Dr A.C. Leslie, EXR. 3rd British record of this S. European native. Mr Tucker writes ".... presumably this recorded at this station in 1958 as S. tuberosum".

Trifolium spumosum L. A single plant in newly sown grass on gallery over Portway under St. Vincent's Rocks, Avon Gorge, Bristol, June 1982. A.J. Byfield & C.M. Lovatt. Det. C.M. Lovatt, Hb. CML. Referred in error to T. stellatum in Alien Plant News – 1982, WFS Magazine, Autumn 1982. Also present was much Anthoxanthum aristatum Boiss. ssp. aristatum (A. puelii), A.J. Byfield and C.M. Lovatt. Later in the year, several plants of Apera spica-venti (L.) Beauv. and abundant seedlings of the French Bean, Phaseolus vulgaris L. were noted A.J. Byfield & A.L. Grenfell.

This article has considerable local and personal bias, regretfully unavoidable. At the time of

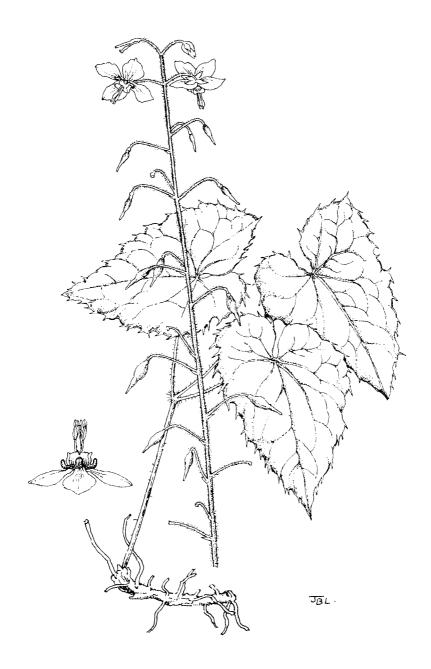
This article has considerable local and personal bias, regretfully unavoidable. At the time of going to press, very little feed-back had been received from members following the change in authorship. So plenty of northern records for future issues please, to redress the balance.

Please continue to send your records and problems; also your criticisms — these are equally welcome. Drawings are also solicited, preferably of, or close to A5 format. If you submit larger drawings, please remember to check all measurements and sizes and, most importantly, bear in mind that lines become *thinner* on reduction. Also that fine shading can completely close up, giving solid, black areas. The fate that befell Trevor Evans' otherwise excellent drawing of *Agrostis scabra*, which appeared on the cover of News No. 27, sadly illustrates this point.

I shall continue to use the 5" x 3" record slip system employed by Eric Clement and would be pleased to forward printed slips to members on receipt of SAE. Duplicates of these will go to Eric in connection with his work on the Alien Check-List.

I am deeply indebted to Eric for his constant help and encouragement (we remain in close touch): also to Professor Brenan for his help with *Amaranthus* nomenclature.

ADRIAN L. Grenfell, 19 Station Road, Winterbourne Down, BRISTOL, BS17 1EP.



Epimedium pubigerum (DC.) Morren & Decne del. J.B. Latham © 1982

#### CICERBITA MACROPHYLLA (WILLD.) WALLR.

The illustration opposite is based on a specimen of Cicerbita macrophylla collected in Wales (Dyfed) 2 km South of Llangadog on the A 4069 (SN 714264) during the Summer of 1982 on a Reading University field course. We shortly afterwards observed the same species in Bristol, and colleagues have noted other occurrences in scattered localities throughout Britain and Ireland. Flora Europaea, 4:331 (1976) states that this species is native in western U.S.S.R. including the Caucasus, and is reported to be naturalized in Britain, Ireland, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway and Sweden. Our records (and all others from Britain) are apparently referrable to subspecies uralensis (Rouy) P.D. Sell, but it is conceivable that subspecies macrophylla from the Caucasus may be present also. Subspecies macrophylla has dark violet as opposed to lilac ligules and thicker main peduncle branches, 2.5-3.5 (-5) mm rather than 1.5-2.5 (-3) mm in subspecies uralensis. The species is apparently spreading in Britain and Ireland, but records are diffuse and/or poorly documented. It is probably present in most vice counties, but overlooked. We would be very interested to have further records which should be sent to the address below. Peter Sell at Cambridge is preparing a detailed account of C. macrophylla in Britain and Ireland for publication in Watsonia. One aspect of this plant that puzzles us is its origin in these islands: does anybody grow it in their gardens? It is scruffy and invasive and to our minds a very poor garden plant.

A.J. AKEROYD S.L. JURY & F.J. RUMSEY, Department of Botany, Plant Science Laboratories, University of Reading, Whiteknights, READING, Berkshire RG6 2AS.

BSBI Representatives on other organisations:

1982 - 1983

Biological Council - Dr A.S. Thorley

British National Committee for Biology:

- a) Botany subcommittee Mr R.J. Pankhurst
- b) Environmental Botany subcommittee Dr P.E. Brandham

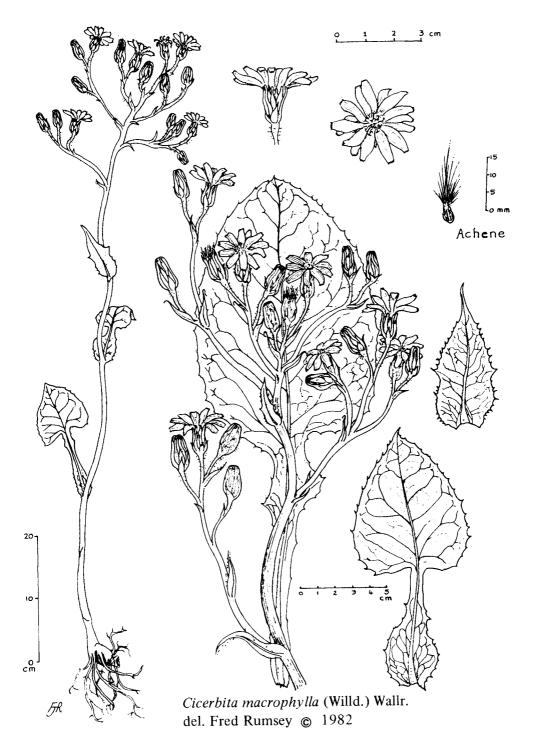
British Lichen Society – Mr F.H. Brightman

Mr A.C. Jermy, Mr P.J. Wanstall, Dr S.J. Woodell

Field Studies Council - Mrs R.M. Hamilton

NCC Cypripedium Committee - Mr E. Milne-Redhead

Wildlife Link - Mrs M. Briggs, Dr P.M. Wade



### NOTICES

#### **BSBI** (official) Notices

#### FIELD MEETING - CHANGE OF DATE

The field meeting to study brambles in S. Derbyshire, shown on the list as due to be held on Sat. 23rd July 1983 will now take place the following week, on Sat. 30th July to avoid clashing with the Herefordshire meeting.

ROY SMITH, Sawmills, Ambergate, DERBY DE5 2JQ.

#### RARE PLANT VISITING

Over the past 5 years botanists have been asked to refrain from visiting sensitive sites of British rare plants, and especially those of the orchids. The Lady's-slipper was suffering from erosion around the plant cuased by the feet of adoring visitors. In 1982 the numbers of visitors to this site had decreased considerably and the immediate surroundings of the plant were recovering well. 5 flowers bloomed.

This is a very encouraging trend from all points of view. I would like to thank botanists and conservationists for their co-operation, and take advantage of the situation to ask them to 'hold their horses' for a while longer. Conservation and autecological work is under way at present on many rare British orchid species, and I hope to have some optimistic news to report on this in the future.

LYNNE FARRELL, Chief Scientist's Team, NCC, P.O. Box 6, Godwin House, HUNT-INGDON PE18 6BU.

#### WELSH BULLETIN

No 37 (Feb. 1983) is in a new format, 16pp, with illustrated front cover, and contains business details, particulars of forthcoming field meetings and two articles on the Lleyn Peninsula, by Ann Conolly, one on the Carmarthenshire recording schemes first year. Short pieces on *Campanula patula* and *Cotoneaster intergerrimus* and an interesting account of a field meeting to Penally Marsh, Tenby comparing it with those of over a century, earlier complete this issue.

Members desirous of receiving the Welsh Bulletin regularly (2 issues a year) should send 50p plus two 8½" x 6" s.a.e. to G. ELLIS, Dep't of Botany, National Museum of Wales, CARDIFF, CF1 3NP.

#### **GETTING TO GRIPS WITH GRASSES**

Rachel Hamilton is running three courses this year for people who have "a bit of a block" about grasses. These are:

- (1) at MORLEY COLLEGE, LONDON SE7 two hours every Wednesday afternoon from 20th April to 9th June.
- (2) at DALE FORT FIELD CENTRE, DYFED a week's field course from 3rd 10th August.
- (3) at EPPING FOREST, CONSERVATION CENTRES, HIGH BEECH, LOUGHTON ESSEX a non-residential grasses weekend July 9-10th.

Further details are available from the centres named, or from:

MRS R. HAMILTON, Shambles, Whitewell, HITCHIN, Herts.

#### Other (non-BSBI) Notices

THE BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY would be pleased to welcome BSBI members on field meetings – further details from the local Secretaries as given below:Spring field meeting, Ilkley, 6 - 13 April 1983.

Local Secretary: Mr T.L. Blockeel, 20 Heathfield Close, Bingley, West Yorkshire

BD16 4EQ.

Summer field meeting, Co. Kerry, 20 July – 3 August 1983.

Local Secretary: Dr D. Synnott, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

#### A NEW ROCHDALE FLORA

Listing over 900 species found in this area plus all previous historic records, this has been compiled by Allan Marshall from whom a limited number of copies are available, at £3 post free. Apply A. Marshall, 56 Willows Lane, ROCHDALE OL16 4BQ.

#### DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE IN FIELD BIOLOGY

Courses for these (2 years for the Certificate and 1 further year for the Diploma) combine directed home study with full-time courses of practical work. The next practical course will be held at Flatford Mill Field Centre in Suffolk from 3 – 17 August 1983.

They are designed to give the basic knowledge and techniques necessary to carry out independent work in the field. Instruction is given in planning ecological surveys, methods of observation, record keeping and conducting ecological experiments. Teachers will find the courses useful in planning syllabuses for children of all ages. They are also intended for people professionally involved in conservation, planning, forestry, agriculture and landscape architecture as well as those who wish to develop a scientific approach to their natural history interests.

Further details from MISS H. BOONE, Dep't of Extra-Mural Studies, Univ. of London, 26 Russell Square, LONDON WC1B 5DQ. Telephone: 01-636 8000 Ext. 3862.

#### THE BOTANICAL RESEARCH FUND

This small private Trist Fund exists to aid individual research workers in botany. Grants, usually not in excess of £150, are awarded for specific items of expenditure connected with their work and are generally made to those who are not in receipt of any official funding to support their research.

Applications should be made in time to be considered at the Governors' Meeting held annually, generally in late April. Applicants should give a concise statement of their research experience, an outline of the research in hand for which assistance is sought and details of the nature and estimate of the expenditure. The name and address of a referee familiar with the applicant's work should also be included.

Apply in writing to the Secretary: Dr K.L. ALVIN, 2 Little Gaynes Lane, UPMINSTER, Essex RM14 2JP.

Contributions for inclusion in BSBI News 34 must reach the Editor before

23 July 1983

EDITOR'S PHONE NUMBER
This is now (0394) 283657

## REQUESTS

#### EOUISETUM SPP.

I am currently working on all British species of this genus, and would be glad to hear of sites where the plants can be found growing, either in an unusual habitat or with an unusual growth form. I would be most grateful if anyone has recently seen any of the gametophytes (small green balls of tissue, 2-10 mm diam.), which occasionally occur on drying mud.

J.N.B. MILTON, School of Biol. Sci., Queen Mary College, LONDON E1 4NS.

#### MOEHRINGIA spp.

I am at present engaged in systematic and biological research into the genus *Moehringia* L. (Caryoph) and would like to obtain, both this year and next, herbarium specimens, seed material and if possible, live material of several species.

In the British Isles only *M. trinervia* (L.) Clairville (Three Veined Sandwort) is present. In Europe it is considered very variable and although widely distributed in the British Isles (but apparently absent from the Hebrides, Orkney and parts of Scotland) the extent of its variation has not been reported. I would be most grateful for any information on its distribution, herbarium specimens, seed material and if possible live material. It is unlikely that in any locality the removal of seedlings — with permission if necessary — would endanger a population. Notes including location, habitat (including associated species), frequency and especially floral details would be most useful.

Within Europe there are some twenty species. Many of them form a significant part of local cliff communities when they are found, although most are very narrowly endemic. Collections of the more variable species, including *M. trinervia, muscosa, ciliata* and *bavarica*, would be most welcome. Should any members consider keeping an eye open for species in the Maritime Alpes or the Bresciana, Bergamasca, and Dolomitic Alps in Italy I will gladly supply further information.

Postage will naturally be refunded for specimens received.

D.J.N. HIND, Department of Botany, University of Reading, READING, Berks RG6 2AH.

#### JAPANESE KNOTWEED — WHY WORRY?

Many gardeners will have good cause to respect the regenerative capacity of this introduced species, otherwise known as Reynoutria japonica or Polygonum cuspidatum. But why is it regarded as such a threat, seeing it is one of only two land plants scheduled as undesirable under the 1981 Wildlife Act? Whilst the BSBI Atlas now considerably underestimates its distribution it has been around for over a century now and is far from dominating whole areas. Nevertheless it is an intractable weed of urban fringes and, increasingly, woodland.

As part of a project on knotweed control, I would welcome comments on the effect of its spread into new areas. In particular, I am interested to learn of localities where it poses a threat to a specific plant habitat. Also, on the plus side, can anyone list some good points for the species?

RICHARD SCOTT, ITE, Merlewood, GRANGE-OVER-SANDS, Cumbria LA11 6JU.

#### MOUNTAIN PLANTS OF CAIRNGORMS N.N.R.

As a warden of the above I have been recording the plants of the crags, corries and high plateau and would like to contact members having a knowledge of the area with a view to collating information on distribution and status of the Reserve's mountain plants. Records of the rarer species (treated in strict confidence) together with population sizes and any other relevant details would be specially appreciated.

D. BATTY, N.C.C., Lilybank, BRAEMAR, Aberdeenshire.

#### RECORDS FOR S.E. YORKS, FLORA

I am writing a 'Flora of S.E. Yorkshire (v.c. 61)', and maps on a tetrad basis, are being constructed for all but the rarest and commonest species. Uncommon species will be recorded in the 'Flora' in the usual way, i.e. specifying the nearest village.

This mapping scheme is an ambitious one as there are 848 tetrads wholly or partly in the vice-county. I would be grateful for help with inadequately covered areas and for recent records of uncommon species from BSBI members visiting the vice-county, as well as from those resident here. I would like to complete the fieldwork in the next two seasons.

MISS F.E. CRACKLES, 143 Holmgarth Drive, Bellfield Avenue, HULL HU8 9DX.

#### TAXONOMY OF BRITISH FUMARIA SPP.

I am particularly interested in the small flowered forms: F. vaillantii Lois. and F. parviflora Lam. If any members could supply me with seed of these taxa it would be very helpful. Seed of F. micrantha Lag. (F. densiflora DC) and any species/forms which members consider unusual would be greatly appreciated as I am trying to build up a large greenhouse collection for experimental purposes. Careful packing, e.g. wrapping in dry tissue paper, would help preserve fruit shape, a useful taxonomic character. Postage refunded if requested.

PAUL M. SMITH, Dep't of Botany, The University, Woodland Road, BRISTOL BS8 7UG.

#### BOOKS WANTED

Can any member provide the following:

Briggs & Walters, Plant Variation and Evolution

de Beer, Sir Gavin, Atlas of Evolution

Daubenmire, R.F. Plants and Environment

Oosting, H. Study of Plant Communities

Whittle, T. The Plant Hunters

Journal of Botany All issues Nature in Wales Vols. 1-7

North Western Naturalist All issues

Watsonia Vol. 2 Part 6

Tansley, A.G. Types of British Vegetation (1911)

Ross-Craig, S. Drawings of British Plants parts 8, 10, 12, 13, 15 & 16

Lluyd, E. Archaeologia cambrense (1707)

Any offers please to . . . .

GORONWY WYNNE, Gwylfa, Lixwm, HOLYWELL, Clwyd.

#### PERENNIAL BROMUS SPECIES

Dr P.M. Smith would be grateful for any material — seeds or living plants of perennial species of *Bromus. B. benekenii* and *B. erectus* would be particularly welcome, but any material would find a use. Please contact:

Dr. P.M. SMITH, Botany Dep't, The University, Mayfield Road, EDINBURGH EH9 3JH.

#### Pollination of LOBELIA DORTMANNA by insects

I am interested in the fertilisation of plants which have alternative methods of pollination, and can therefore reproduce under a variety of conditions. One such species is *Lobelia dortmanna*. This grows in water at the margins of lakes in upland Britain; some in very exposed situations, others in woodland, and in many the water level varies considerably.

In July 1982, on Loch Ricawr, Wigtownshire (elevation c. 300m) a patch of this plant, part of a band several metres wide in shallow shelving water, was observed through field glasses for some time, about midday. A Green-veined White butterfly *Pieris napi* was seen feeding systematically from these flowers, spending about 8 sec. at each, some 40-50 being visited while under observation.

L. dortmanna belongs to a generally entomophilous genus, and is said by Woodhead (Biological Flora of British Isles 1952) to be itself entomophilous, and by Proctor & Yeo (The Pollination of Flowers 1975 p. 287) to be self-pollinated although entomophilous in origin. It has been shown to be capable of setting seed under water, with obvious advantage in inhospitable conditions. It also grows in situations where bumble bees and butterflies are common and capable of carrying pollen from one plant to another; but records of visits by insects are lacking. I would be very interested to hear of any such observations.

LESLIE H. PINKESS, 17 Wheatsheaf Road, Edgbaston, BIRMINGHAM B16 ORZ.

## **LETTERS**

#### A NEW POLYMORPHISM IN ARUM MACULATUM L.

There is a widespread polymorphism in *Arum maculatum* L. which requires a name. The new polymorphism was noticed by myself while examining populations of this species in the Deeside area of north-easter Feints, v.c. 51. In essence, the upper and lower leaf margins of both spotted and unspotted morphs are often edged with an anthocyanin fringe. Prime (1960), in his book *Lords and Ladies* makes no mention of this phenomenon. Hence the polymorphism is hitherto unrecorded and merits a name, viz. the anthocyanin fringe polymorphism.

I recently sent a number of leaf specimens to Dr R.J. Gornall, Dep't of Botany, University of Leicester, who was able to confirm the existence of the phenomenon. The frequency of occurrence of the anthocyanin fringe polymorphism and its possible correlation with other known polymorphisms in A. maculatum L. (leaf spotting, spadix polymorphism etc.) is currently under investigation.

P. HARMES, 16 Firbrook Avenue, CONNAH'S QUAY, Deeside, Clwyd CH5 4PF.

## AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF RARE PLANT CONSERVATION FROM THE AVON GORGE

In BSBI News 32 (Dec. 1982), p. 4, Mary Briggs enquired whether anyone had a reference earlier than 1885 to the need for conservation of the British flora. The following example, referring to Arabis stricta, the Bristol Rock-cress, may be of interest.

In 1841, T.B. Flower (Phytologist 1, p. 68) claimed that 'the numerous stations given for this rare plant (in the Avon Gorge) have been nearly destroyed within the last two or three years; rewards having been offered for it by an individual in order to render it scarce'. This seems to refer to the exchange activities of our lineal ancestor, the Botanical Society of London.

In reply in November 1841, Frederick Russell (Phytologist 1, p. 132) wrote "I have much pleasure in thinking the habitat of Arabis stricta... may still be preserved. Some years since, I sowed a quantity of seeds in spots whence I had previously gathered plants, and have again done so this year". Russell added that he had received thanks for doing this 'from the most distinguished botanist of the day'.

Like conservation, grid recording is a familiar present-day interest of many botanists. I have discovered that an attempt was made to map the flora around Bristol using a square mile grid. Field work commenced in 1868 but was never completed, so that no results were ever published. Does anyone know of an earlier British attempt?

C.M. LOVATT, Biology Dep't, The Cathedral School, WELLS, Somerset BA5 2SZ.

#### YORKSHIRE and the BSBI

The proceedings of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History's Conference on "Yorkshire's Role in the Origin of Some National Societies" held at the University of Bradford, 21 November 1981, have recently been published in *The Naturalist*. The proceedings (six papers plus an introduction) include a contribution by David E. Allen on "Yorkshire and the Origins of the Botanical Society of the British Isles".

BSBI members can obtain copies of this issue of *The Naturalist* at a reduced rate of £1.30 each (including postage). (Make Cheque/P.O.'s payable to the "Yorkshire Naturalists' Union".) from:

Dr M.R.D. SEAWARD, School of Environmental Science, The University, BRADFORD BD7 1DP.

#### TASTIER WHEN YOUNG

Mary Briggs' note on jays eating the spathes of Arum maculatum (News no. 32) reminded me of some damage to bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta) buds which members of the British Bryological Society noticed on their visit to Arger Fen, Suffolk, on 13.4.1981. The damaged buds had been attacked before the inflorescence stalk had elongated, when they were creamy white in colour and fairly densely packed close to ground level. The buds had been carried a foot or two from the plants and each one was individually and neatly dissected. Only the anthers had been eaten, petals, ovary and style were all intact. The discarded remains were left in a neat pile. We could see no sign of the animals responsible, but my colleague Henry Arnold suggests that they could have been dormice, which are known to eat lots of pollen. Other possible culprits are mice or voles, but Mr. Arnold says that squirrels would not have performed such a delicate operation.

Any observation, further information or suggestions as to solution to this puzzle would be welcome.

Dr. C.D. PRESTON, Monks Wood, Exp't Stn., Abbots Ripton, HUNTINGDON PE17 22S.

#### LAUNDRY LIST: or TRIGONELIA HAMOSA L. IN CORNWALL (v.c. 1)

In the spring of 1982 the Laundry at Moresk Hill, in Truro, was demolished to make way for flats. This included a storehouse, built probably late last century (see below), and incorporated "leats" or small canals run from the nearby River Allen, which provided power to a small water wheel. Excavations also revealed a deep pit which may have been a well. The site is flanked by Danbuz Moor, an old stretch of common land, with wetland close to the river, and is near the site of the former Treseder's Nursery. As both Galinsoga parviflora and G. quadriradiata had been found at Moresk Road (Mrs B.E.M. Garrett, in Margetts and David's Review of the Cornish Flora) it was decided that the site was worth searching and in July Melilotus indica, M. alba and M. officinalis were noted, together with Reseda lutea and Verbascum virgatum. On 2nd August the cleared site was, alas, bulldozed, and so voucher material was rapidly collected, a single plant of Trigonella hamosa, some 90 cm tall, now being obvious as it was sporting its weird fruits. It otherwise mimicked the yellow melilot.

All the *Melilotus* spp. are uncommon in Cornwall, and *Reseda lutea* is rare but increasing; the Moresk specimen of this latter, variable, taxon could well be of a distinct, possibly Mediterranean, race (A. Grenfell, *pers. comm.*).

T. hamosa is absent from Europe as a native plant, being a Near Eastern sp. It has been recorded for Britain 50 — 100 years ago as occasional grain alien, but there are apparently no recent records (E.J. Clement, pers. comm.). There is one previous County record, from Falmouth Docks in 1917. This yellow-flowered legume much resembles the rather common, European T. corniculata (L.) L. which, however, ?always has a glabrous fruit and has longer peduncles (mostly 2-4 x length of leaves). This congener appears to be currently coming into Britain with bird-seed (but rarely), but this remains unproven (C.G. Hanson, pers. comm.).

Here the unlikely story of 'laundry-introduced aliens' would have ended, but for the interest and valuable researches of Messrs Douch and Penhallurick, curators of the County Museum. They discovered that there had been a mill in the close vicinity for hundreds of years — probably since the 17th cent., if not before, but new buildings were constructed in the 19th cent., as detailed below:

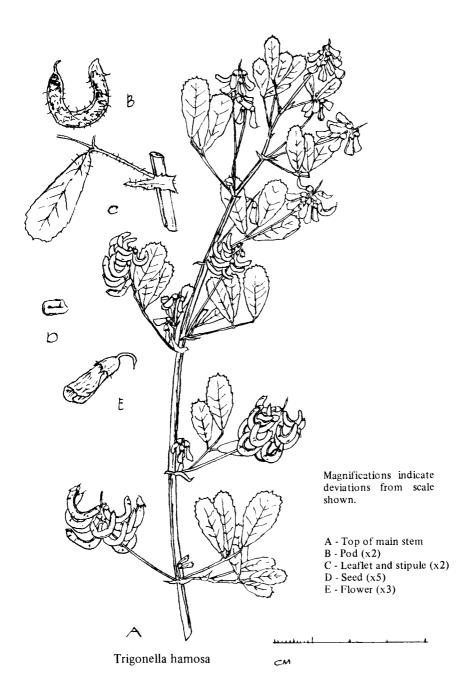
- 11.2.1853. Moresk Mill recently rebuilt (Roy. Cornwall Gaz.)
- 13.1.1872. Messrs Lake and Son of Moresk Mills have built next to the mills a corn store for 10,000 sacks of flour (l.c.).

It was further reported in 1893 that the mill was losing money, and that in 1895 it was put up for sale.

It thus seems almost certain that some, if not all, of these alien plants sprang from seeds which have been buried for almost 100 years. An interesting parallel is Graham Easy's article (BSBI News No. 19, Sept 1978) on Verbascum pyramidatum and the hybrid with V. thapsus where seed viability of nearly 100 years was suggested for the former. The longevity of legume seeds was similarly commented on, under Demolition Aliens, in BSBI News No. 17, Dec 1977.

I am much indebted to E.J. Clement for encouragement to write this article and for identifying the *Trigonella*, now deposited in *Herb. EJC*, and for confirming the other species.

K. SPURGIN, 8a Rosewin Row, TRURO, Cornwall TR1 1HG.



del. K. Spurgin © Sept. 1982

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTURE OF UMBELLIFERAE SPP. FROM DRY PLACES

A great many of the Umbelliferae of Southern Europe and the Mediterranean occur in habitats which are superficially very dry. Flora Europaea mentions 57 species as being found in 'dry places' and there are many more, for which no habitat is given, which appear to have been collected more or less exclusively from dry locations.

However, my experience suggests that the term 'dry place' is deceiving and that attempts to grow these plants in conditions similar to those required by succulents, or even household geraniums, are likely to end in disaster. The sad loss of much-prized specimens of *Elaeoselinum asclepium* (L) Bertol., and *Echinophora tenuifolia* L, has prompted me to study this matter and review my methods of culture, and one may well suppose that the experience is valid for plants of other families.

The worst aspect of such losses is that they do not occur until the second year so that up to four growing seasons may be occupied in the learning of the lesson — very frustrating to the less patient. The explanation of such delayed failure is that the plant takes this long to discover that there are no reserves of moisture below. Having made the discovery, however, it acts upon it with disconcerting speed and what was a healthy-looking plant at the early-morning inspection may be a 'gonner' at lunchtime if there has been sunshine between.

The losses I had suffered were much in my mind during a visit to Crete in May 1982 and three observations made at that time seem relevant:-

- 1) The 'dry place' description was well confirmed. Among the perennials *Thapsia garganica* L. and *Ferulago nodosa* (L) Boiss, were seen in quite arid locations.
- 2) The majority of species were very restricted, occurring only in a few of many apparently suitable spots. This has been frequently reported by other visitors to Southern Europe.
- 3) In the gorges, the chasmophytes (notably Ferulago thyrsiflora (Sibth. & Sm.) Koch. and Smyrnium apiifolium Willd.) germinated and made first-year plants on the walls and on the floors. But no adult growth was ever seen on the floors, however rampant the plants were on the walls above.

The fairly obvious conclusion from my three observations, and my use of the expressions 'superficially dry places' and 'moisture below', is that the pots containing such plants should stand in saucers. That is, one should provide something like the moisture-yielding strata which presumably lie below some apparently arid spots all around the Mediterranean. As a general statement this has so far proved correct, notably with Smyrnium rotundifolium Miller, Ptychotis saxifraga (L) Loret & Barrandon, Pimpinella peregrina L and — driest of all — Seseli tortuosum L. Readers might, however, be interested in some further points which have emerged:

The rate of putting down roots varies enormously from species to species. Eryngium amorginum Rech. fil. (a chasmophyte) produces roots into a saucer of limestone chippings at a prodigious rate, having after six months about 4 inches of green leaves and 20 inches of complex roots. Most other Eryngiums refuse the water entirely. The four species in the previous para. also send down copious roots within a week or two but the two Cretan spp. of Obs. 1 take six to eight weeks and require water from above during this period.

One more cautionary point. If a plant is to be grown in a pot and fed water from a saucer of chippings it should be moved as a young plant — say at cotyledons plus two leaves — into its final pot. The difficulties of extracting large root systems through the

small holes in the bottoms of intermediate pots are many. It may be necessary to cut away sections of the pot and, if the main root has an unexpected kink in it, as was the case with my *Eryngium amorginum*, tragedy may follow.

Fortunately for me, the Eryngium seems to be recovering and, in any case, I have a second seedling to which I shall apply the advice I have just given.

M. SOUTHAM, 3 Orchard Park, Holmer Green, HIGH WYCOMBE HP15 6QY.

#### SURVEY OF CROHAM HURST (TQ 3463), CROYDON

The Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society (CNHSS), is currently conducting a detailed natural history survey of Croham Hurst SSSI in South Croydon. The Hurst is a wooded outlier of Blackheath Pebbles and Thanet Sand surrounded by chalkland—part of its interest thus residing in the botanical diversity resulting from such contrasting subsoils. Evidence from old maps, and the presence of such species as *Convallaria majalis, Polygonatum multiflorum* and *Galeobdolon luteum* has encouraged the opinion, too, that the Hurst may be primary or at least ancient 'climax' woodland. This possibility is now being examined in some detail, with assistance from archaeological and geological work as well as intended mapping of vegetational structure.

The earlier botanical work of C.T. Prime and others is now realised to have been related to an oversimplified picture of the geological structure and soils distribution on the Hurst. In addition to the 'solid' rock outcrops (which are now being mapped more accurately than appears on the official Geological Survey 6-inch sheets), there is extensive solifluction and landslipping, especially on the steep (25°) southern slopes; and sheets and fans of downwashed sand and pebbles complicate the soil pattern. Historical records are being compiled, too, of events which will have affected the vegetation. These include the major storms, perhaps two to three each century, which have from time to time stripped much surface soil from areas of the Hurst, leaving bare sand or chalk to recolonise. One such storm, the Great Surrey Hailstorm of 16 July 1918, is well reported. There was another in 1947. Fires have occurred too, from time to time. The Survey Director, Paul Sowan, helped fight one whilst a child in the 1950s. Prime's paper on the Vegetation of the Blackheath Pebble Areas . . . (Proc. CNHSS) also mentions work on the recolonisation of two flying-bomb craters, but he failed to record their exact locations. They have been tentatively identified, pending positive confirmation from living memory.

Any assistance readers may be able to give, especially with historical data on bombs, fires or storms, or on active survey work, would be most welcome.

PAUL W. SOWAN, CNHSS, 96a Brighton Road, SOUTH CROYDON, Surrey CR2 6AD.

#### WESTERN ISLES INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland has recently received EEC approval for an integrated Development Programme for the Western Islands of Scotland. This contains measures to support and improve agriculture, fisheries, fish farming, the planting of windbreaks and related infrastructure.

Land improvement measures aimed at making the machair and inbye land more productive include increased drainage, spraying with herbicide and reseeding with modern grass mixtures.

While supporting efforts to improve the standard of living in the Isles, concern for conservation has highlighted the fact that information as to the sites of botanical importance is incomplete.

Accordingly, we appeal to students who have vocational projects and to members of the Society to do field work in the Western Isles this summer.

We suggest that volunteers should contact Dr Pat Doody, NCC, P.O. Box 6, Godwin House, George Street, Huntingdon PE18 6BU for advice on which areas it would be most useful to have information.

PETER MACPHERSON, Hon. Secretary, BSBI Committee for Scotland.

#### THREATS TO WESTERN ISLES WILDLIFE

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland (DAFS) has recently received EEC approval for an integrated Development Programme (IDP) for the Western Islands of Scotland which contains measures to support and improve agriculture, fisheries, fish farming, the planting of wind breaks and related infrastructure. Some £20 million for the agricultural measures are involved over a five year period, the British Government splitting the cost on a 60:40 basis with the EEC. However, the scheme has important implications for the wildlife of the Western Isles which do not appear to have been considered fully by the Government. For example, while the programme details their scientific importance it provides no funds for the provision of advice or environmental monitoring, nor are any funds earmarked for site safeguard.

The proposed agricultural improvements likely to affect nature conservation interests are those concerned with common grazings, machair improvement, inbye improvement and pest control. The 'machair' habitat in particular is most vulnerable because of its uniqueness to the British Isles. These natural grasslands developed in calcareous sand behind dune systems are colonised by many lime-loving plants and support the highest densities of dunlin and ringed plovers in Britain together with other wading species. The perpetuation of machair depends on traditional crofting practices. In recent years a number of agricultural improvement schemes have damaged the ornithological interest—the Programme would speed up the destruction of machair even though BAFS has admitted that improvement is not 'economic' in normal agricultural terms.

The Western Isles also supports 40% of the remnant British cornerake population which favour the damp meadows of the inbye land. Much of this area is also earmarked for improvement under the Programme. Other species likely to be affected include the rare red-necked phalarope and winter populations of whooper swan, Greenland white-fronted goose and barnacle goose.

There are 35 SSSI's on the Western Isles, and a number of areas which qualify for protection under the EEC Bird Directive. However, many of the best ornithological areas are not within the present SSSI system. DAFS has indicated that it will consult the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) before undertaking works on SSSI's but consultations outside of these areas will only occur where large schemes are involved. The Nature Conservancy Council is now under strong pressure from voluntary wildlife bodies to press that all improvements on the machair are assess, and where necessary, modified so as to minimise their impact on this valued habitat; that areas meeting NCC selection criteria be scheduled as SSSI's; that NCC monitors the impact of the Programme of land improvement, particularly on the machair and inbye land, and on moorland; and that NCC presses for funds to safeguard those areas qualifying for protection under the EEC Bird Directive and SSSI's.

#### **Plant Records**

An analysis of the number of species recorded in this list shows that more records came from Scotland than from England, and Wales provided almost half the number as from England. There were no records from Ireland. Non-native plants accounted for more than half the number recorded from Scotland. In Wales there were a third more non-native taxa as against native, but in England the reverse was the case. Many of the Scottish records came from the north-east and north of the country.

The cryptogams provide some interesting records. Isoetes echinospora from Tiree, and Pilularia globulifera, the latter also from N. Lincolnshire. This plant has become increasingly scarce in recent years. Polystichum lonchitis in N. Lincolnshire is a noteworthy plant, but where could it have come from? Myosurus minimus, a decreasing plant these days will I hope persist in S. Northumberland.

There are several aquatics, usually throw-outs by aquarists, such as *Crassula helmsii* and *Elodea nuttallii* that are being increasingly found in the wild. To this group can be added *Lemna minuscula*, now being recorded in many ponds in this country.

The field meeting of the Hieracium study group in Peebleshire threw up several N.C.R.s of Hawkweeds. Berkshire has given us two interesting recent records, Cyperus fuscus near Marlow and confirmation that Cladium mariscus is surviving at Cothill. Several Carex records have interest, especially that of C, lasiocarpa from Fife, the first this century. Puccinellia distans from inland situations by motorways on roadside verges probably comes in with grit containing salt transported from maritime areas. I have seen it in Surrey beside the motorway south of Dorking.

E,C. WALLACE, 2 Strathearn Road, SUTTON, Surrey.

#### REMINDER

Contributions for inclusion in BSBI News 34 must reach the Editor before 23 July 1983

#### THOSE LATIN NAMES

As a beginner struggling to learn the Latin names of plants, I was interested to read the short article by A.O. Chater in the December *News*. It seems the spelling of Latin names is also in a state of flux, viz.

C.T.W. end Edn. shows
Excursion Flora, 3rd Edn. HYPOCHAERIS
C.T.W. Illustrations index
" " HYPOCHAERIS
" HYPOCHERIS
which one please?

PATRICIA FORD (Mrs), Gosfield Vicarage, HALSTEAD, Essex CO9 1UD.

This letter was submitted to Arthur Chater, who replied:

Discussion of this case could be lengthy, but the simple answer is as follows. Under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, Latin names of plants should be spelt as their original author spelt them, unless it can be shown that his spelling was an orthographic or typographic error. As luck would have it, for the purposes of the Code, Linnaeus simultaneously published the name in Species Plantarum as Hypochaeris and in Genera Plantarum as Hypochaeris. It has been argued that the former is an orthographic error, as the name derives from Theophrastus who gave it, in Greek, as Hypochaeris (a rather far-fetched etymology has been suggested, hypo (beneath) — choeros (piglet), alluding to the bristles sometimes present on the under side of the involucral bracts). Yet Linnaeus stuck to the spelling Hypochaeris in most of his later works, and the Code states that in such cases of doubt the author's later usage should be followed. The spelling in the Excursion Flora ed. 3 is thus the correct one under the current code, and my advice to follow this work for Latin names still stands.

A.O. Chater

### The Plant-Atlas Illustrating Seb. Kneipp's Water-Cure

by Sebastian Kneipp, Paris (sic) Priest of Woerishofen (Bavaria) published in 1893 with 41 coloured plates claims in the Preface to the first German Edition (1891): "Infinite care has been bestowed upon the faithful representation of the plants; absolute correctness having been obtained by the use of photography—the first time to our knowledge—that this science has been made use of in a Botanical work." I would be interested in comment on this claim to be the first botanical work with photographic illustrations? These show the plants laid flat on pastel tinted backgrounds, in a manner recently seen again in some modern publications by Roger Phillips and Gerald Durrell. The striving for a "faithful representation of the plants", both by pen and paints and with camera, is one which still claims considerable attention today, completely successful results being still elusive in many publications.

(See Book Notes on page 30)

Mary Briggs

#### Careers in Botany

Many requests are received for information on careers in botany. Two books recently published by Kogan Page: Careers Working Outdoors by Judith Humphreys, gives information on careers in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, rural crafts and aspects of countryside conservation; Careers in Conservation by John McCormick describes career opportunities in teaching, research and forestry, working overseas and in this country. Both have lists of useful addresses, journals and books, courses and qualifications with advice for finding and applying for jobs. Careers in Conservation has chapters on working for the Government, for statutory bodies and in education and research as well as on careers in the voluntary movements. Both are priced at £2.50 (paperback) or £6.95 (hardback). Another booklet recommended on our BSBI Information sheet is Careers in Biology (£1.00 post free), published by the Institute of Biology. This gives an account of opportunities in biology, routes to qualifications, where biologists work and what they do. Also from I.B.:- A leaflet 'Careers in Biology' (free for s.a.e.); for graduates 'Organisations in the UK employing biologists' (65p); for teachers Careers in biology slide packs (£7.50).

All these available from the INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY at its new address: 20, Queensbury Place, LONDON, SW7 2DS.

Mary Briggs

#### Letters of the late Dr. C.E. Hubbard

The Records Committee at their meeting of Oct. 5 1982 agreed that the collection of originals and copies of letters to members, should be lodged with other Hubbard Papers already in the keeping of Kew. The collection has been sent and was acknowledged by the Chief Librarian and Archivist on 21 Feb. 1983.

The Archivist at Kew reminds members that anyone intending to study available archives, should give notice in writing prior to the intended day of visit. P.J.O. TRIST, Glovers, 28 High Street, Balsham, CAMBRIDGE.

THIS IS YOUR BSBI NEWS
THE EDITOR WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU
AT ALL TIMES -

**BRICKS OR BOUQUETS!** 

DON'T KEEP THE BSBI NEWS TO YOURSELF - TALK ABOUT IT, TELL YOUR FRIENDS.

#### **BOOK NOTES**

In July part of Watsonia, Vol. 14(4), it is hoped to include reviews of the following books:

The Origin of Garden Plants, by J. Fisher.

Loder Valley Reserve, edited by A.D. Schilling.

Flora Europaea Consolidated Index, by G. Halliday and M. Beadle.

Flora Europaea Checklist and Chromosome Index, by D.M. Moore.

Discovering Churchyards, by M. Child.

Simpson's Flora of Suffolk, by F.W. Simpson.

The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Anglesey, by R.H. Roberts.

Discovering the Countryside with David Bellamy - Woodland Walks, Coastal Walks (2 vols.) by D. Bellamy and others.

Wild Orchids of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, by D.J. Steel and P.C. Creed.

Aromatic Plants. Basic and Applied Aspects, edited by N. Margaris, A. Koedam and D. Vokou.

The Book of Nature Photography, by Heather Angel.

An Introduction to Plant Taxonomy (ed. 2), by C. Jeffrey.

The Green Planet, edited by D.M. Moore.

A Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Guernsey, by Jenny Page and Patience Ryan.

Anatomy of the Monocotyledons, VII Helobiae (Alismatidae), by P.B. Tomlinson.

Flore de France, Vol. 4., by M. Guinochet and R. de Vilmorin.

The Flavonoids. Advances in Research, by J.B. Harborne and T.J. Mabry.

A Natural History of Aberdeen, by P. Marren.

Nature in Wales, New Series, Vol. 1(1).

The following books have been received recently. Those that will NOT be reviewed in Watsonia are marked with an asterisk:

The Ferns of Great Britain and Ireland, by C.N. Page.

Plant Collecting and Herbarium Development - a manual, by J. Womersley.

The Complete Guide to Water Plants, by H. Muhlberg.

British Mosses and Liverworts (ed. 3), by E.V. Watson.

Bryophyte Ecology, edited by A.J.E. Smith.

Ecology of Woodland Processes, by J.R. Packham and D.J.L. Harding.

A Dictionary of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics, by R.J. Lincoln, G.A. Boxhall and P.T. Clark. Studies on Irish Vegetation, edited by J. White.

Man's Impact on Vegetation, edited by W. Holzner, M.J.A. Werger and I. Ikusima.

\*Environment and Plant Ecology (ed. 2), by J.R. Etherington.

This is a useful undergraduate textbook dealing primarily with the factors of plant ecology rather than the plants themselves. The last chapter, on "Plants in ecosystems," and the Appendix Tables showing the development of ecology will be of particular interest to B.S.B.I. members.

\*Flora Malesiana, Series I, Vol. 9(2), Dipterocarpaceae, by P.S. Ashton.

Pp 316, with 118 figs. Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague, etc. 1982. Price Dfl.158.00 ISBN 90-247-2696-4).

Although not strictly the concern of the B.S.B.I., this latest contribution to *Flora Malesiana* contains much of interest to anyone concerned with taxonomy, phytogeography or evolution. It is, in effect, a monograph of more than 75% of the family, whose members play such a dominant part in the forest of S.E. Asia. It is admirably comprehensive and accurate; but I would quibble with Peter Ashton's claim that stellate or glandular hairs are absent from the Guttiferae (p. 281), even if one excluded the Bonnetioid genera from that family.

\*Axioms and Principles of Plant Construction, edited by R. Sattler.

Pp 186, with 28 text-figs. Martinus Nijhoff/Dr W. Junk, The Hague, etc. 1982. Price Dfl.80.00 (ISBN 90-247-2714-6).

This reprint of Acta Biotheoretica Vol. 31A contains a series of papers on theoretical aspects of plant form, too highly specialised for the general reader but fascinating – even essential – reading for workers in the field. The first paper, by G. Gusset on "The Conceptual Bases of Plant Morphology", gives an original historical account of the ways in which botanists have interpreted plant form.

\*Ant-Plant interactions in Australia, edited by R.C. Buckley. Dr W. Junk. 1982. Price not stated (ISBN 90-6193-684-5).

NORMAN K.B. ROBSON

#### **BSBI PUBLICATIONS**

#### NOW IN STOCK

#### ATLAS OF THE BRITISH FLORA - THIRD EDITION - £37.00

As with the second edition in 1976, publication of the above has coincided with the completion of an edition of the *British Red Data Book* 1: *Vascular Plants*. So that the two are compatible all the maps of the 321 species included in RDB 2 have been updated where necessary and those so altered are shown by an asterisk. Otherwise this edition of the *Atlas* is identical with the second edition which itself was only revised for RDB species.

Plants of the Balearics £4.00. English translation, 138 pages, 4 coloured plates and many line drawings.

British Red Data Book (2nd Edn.) £7.00

All prices include postage & packing.

At the AGM at Bristol there will be a copy of the *Atlas* on display, with extra copies if they have been ordered (thus saving £2.00). I hope to have all current titles with me on May 7th — these will include the 20-30 new titles in our Spring supplement (send s.a.e. if you would like one sent to you). *British Herbaria* is not out of stock — it is a bargain at £1.00!

Mrs M. PERRING, Oundle Lodge, Oundle, PETERBOROUGH PE8 5TN.

P.S. We were amused and flattered to see a drawing of our house — made by Franklyn's brother in BSBI News 32. Alas the Taxus baccata was blown down in a gale a few years ago.

## **STOP PRESS**

Recorder's change of address:

v.c. 72 DUMFRIES Mrs. M.E.R. MARTIN Rogate, Rankine Heights, Lochmaben LOCKERBIE, DG11 1LJ

R.J. Pankhurst, BM (Nat.Hist) desires records from v.c. 110 in preparation for flora of Outer Hebrides Telephone 284444

(Ask operator to ring 248 internal)

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