

Edited by R. Gwynn Ellis

No. 69

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HON. FIELD SECRETARY (Enquiries on Field Meetings)

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Officers and Members of Council – 1995 Nominations

The following have been nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting on May 13 1995:

President, 1995-1997: Mr D.A. Pearman

Vice-Presidents, 1995-1999: Mr R.G. Ellis, Mr C.D. Preston

Council, 1995-1999 Mr M.E. Braithwaite, Mr R.M. Burton, Mr D.E. Green

To fill a one-year vacancy 1995-1996: Dr F.J. Rumsey

Retiring Officers:

Dr F.H. Perring (President)

Mr P.S. Green, Dr G. Halliday, Mr A.C. Jermy (Vice-Presidents)

Retiring Council Members:

Dr J.R. Akeroyd, Mr J.M. Montgomery

A complete list of Officers and Council as on March 21st 1995 is published on page 2 of the Annual Report for 1994.

MARY BRIGGS, Hon. General Secretary

CONTRIBUTIONS INTENDED FOR

BSBI NEWS 70

should reach the Editor before

JULY 28 1995

COMMENT

PRESENTATION TO OUR PATRON

When *Scarce Plants in Britain* appeared with a fine photograph of the Oysterplant, *Mertensia maritima*, on the cover it was remembered how our Patron, H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother had taken members of the BSBI to see this species growing on the shore below her Caithness home, the Castle of Mey.

So, at Chris Preston's suggestion and with the blessing of the Treasurer, a copy of *Scarce Plants in Britain* was sent to Her Majesty, from whose office we received the reply which follows.

FRANKLYN PERRING, President



CLARENCE HOUSE
SW1

20th January 1995

Dear Doctor Perring,

I am commanded by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to thank you for your letter of 12th January and for sending "Scarce Plants in Britain". Her Majesty is delighted to have it and is very grateful to the Botanical Society of the British Isles for such a useful present. The book is a most valuable and erudite work of reference and will take its place in Her Majesty's Library.

The picture on the cover is very effective and you will be glad to know that the plant is still to be found on the shore. It is interesting to see that so many locations have been found for *Primula Scotica*, that other Caithness rarity.

The Queen Mother is so glad that the members who came to The Castle of Mey enjoyed their visit.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth II

Treasurer to
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Dr. Franklyn Perring, OBE,
President,
Botanical Society of the British Isles.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

The joint BSBI and Linnean Society Conference on 'Present Progress and Future Prospects in studying the Taxonomy and Distribution of the Flora of NW Europe' took place at Burlington House on Thursday 9 February 1995 and attracted an audience of over 80 including representatives of all the countries of NW Europe from Finland to France.

The aim of the Conference was to bring together botanists from countries with much of their flora in common and look at ways in which closer collaboration might have beneficial effects in a number of areas: the current situation in each of the countries was admirably demonstrated by the speakers during the day.

On the Friday our 10 overseas guests were joined by a similar number from Britain, representing the main interests of the meeting, and the day was spent assessing the situation and looking at three main areas where we might co-operate with advantage – conservation, publications and databases.

Conservation

With so much of our floras in common it was agreed that we should work more closely together to prepare regional lists of threatened taxa and identify those countries which hold the major populations. Country lists alone direct attention and resources to species which whilst apparently threatened within that country, might well be flourishing across the border.

Co-operation would enable us to prepare more objective lists for the Berne Convention with less risk that those proposed by biologists would be altered at the last minute for political reasons as has happened in the past. It was further suggested that there might be three regional Red Data Books or lists in NW Europe: Fennoscandia, Western Europe (including Ireland, Wales, SW England, W France and the Iberian Peninsula), and the rest including Denmark, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, France S to the Loire and the rest of Britain.

The common theme was to have this information ready in advance of the calls of the 'conservation bureaucrats'. In many countries, it seemed, botanists had an inadequate input into the decision making process. Preparation of databases of threatened taxa, incorporating rigorously derived categories appropriate to NW Europe and good data on populations (magnitude and distribution, including maps) was agreed to be a worthwhile endeavour. Agreement to use a common unit of recording for threatened species, such as the 1km square, was regarded as a useful step which might be taken.

An early approach for funding for regional projects might be made to the new Environment Agency being set up in Paris, after consultation with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre which concentrates either on global analysis or on country Red Data Books. Margaret Palmer undertook to carry this forward.

The value of pooling research information on the autecology of threatened species was also recognised: the Ecological Flora Database at York University could perhaps adopt responsibility for this.

Publications

In addition to the possible preparation of regional Red Data Books three other areas of collaboration in botanical publication examined seemed to have possibilities.

1. A Flora of NW Europe

Clive Stace reported that he and Dr Ruud van der Meijden, one of the trio of Dutch delegates, had carried out a feasibility study for a simple Excursion Flora for NW Europe – it would include c.4,500 taxa. They had concluded that it was a feasible project for a small group of not more than six people to carry out in about four years but they themselves were not proposing to do this. However it was generally agreed that an up-to-date, authoritative checklist of taxa down to subspecies level, with authorities and basionyms, would be invaluable. A draft list could be prepared from the already

computerised lists for the British Isles, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands and Norway. A Linnean Society meeting in Leiden in May might be an opportunity to inaugurate such a project. A working group of Prof. Stace, Dr Bisby and Dr Pankhurst from UK, Dr Haeupler from Germany and Dr van der Meijden from Netherlands was designated to carry the idea forward.

2. Handbooks/Monographs

No other country represented had, or was proposing, a series of Handbooks to match those of the BSBI. The question was therefore asked as to whether, by including more taxa (only a few in some cases), the Handbooks could be more widely sold and used. The general view was that for Sedges and a new one on rushes, if it was prepared, there could be appreciable interest in NW Europe. English versions would be adequate throughout Scandinavia, but the Dutch would need a translation and to include common names. Not all Handbooks could become directly acceptable in the wider area just by adding a few species – the Pondweed Handbook being prepared by Chris Preston, which has a strong British historical element, was an example. Max Walters welcomed the idea of Handbooks covering a wider area – additional taxa could alert British botanists to those which might occur here undetected: he was still dreaming of writing a Handbook on *Alchemilla* and this would only require a few non-British taxa to make it relevant to NW Europe.

It was generally agreed that advance information on what was in preparation so that collaboration could be effected at an early stage was desirable and that the possible use of the artwork in other publications should be considered.

3. Glossaries

Simultaneous interest by Philip Oswald for the BSBI and Dr Jaap Mennema in Holland in preparing information on the sources of generic and specific names in their floras has already led to an agreement to exchange information to their mutual benefit and, ultimately, to ours.

Databases

It was not easy to discuss publications independently of databases and the checklist of NW European Vascular Plants already referred to is an example. Another arose in a discussion which began as an enquiry into the production of interactive identification keys, particularly those aimed at helping young or inexperienced botanists. It emerged that in Finland a professional photographer has been used to prepare a disk covering 100 common species. It is planned to increase the number to 700 and to produce text in other languages. BSBI will be looking at these to see how relevant they may be for teaching purposes in this country.

Other areas discussed included:

1. *Atlas Florae Europaea*

Prof. Uotila stated that with two more parts, 11 & 12, the Atlas will have covered vol. 1 of *Flora Europaea*. This magnificent achievement had nevertheless taken over 30 years to complete. There was now an urgent need for production of the remaining maps. Manual map-making up to now and difficulties of getting data from some parts of S and E Europe held back publication. One way of speeding production, at least as far as NW Europe is concerned, does seem possible. Prof. Uotila reported that a computer program had been written which draws dot maps on the screen. It is proposed to combine modern distribution maps which are available from most NW European countries with country presence/absence data (shaded areas) for the rest, from the Flora Europaea database, so that draft maps could be available quickly. It was suggested that a 'two-speed' Europe might be considered with an Atlas for NW Europe as soon as possible.

2. *BSBI Abstracts*

It was proposed that our *Abstracts*, or something like it, be extended to cover N Europe where no equivalent publications exist. It was clear that at the moment the BSBI does not have the manpower to do this – indeed we are incredibly lucky to have had the dedicated service of Dougie Kent over so many years. The importance of continuing and possibly expanding *Abstracts* needs to be addressed. Dr van der Meijden will look into possible sources of funding for this in Holland.

The future

All present felt that the meeting had been extremely worthwhile and productive and that the initiative should not be allowed to die. Dr van der Meijden agreed to reconvene the group in Leiden next year and is proposing the second half of May. Any further developments will be reported in the autumn 1996 issue of *BSBI News*.

My thanks to Vicky Morgan, Philip Oswald, Richard Pankhurst and Robin Walls for keeping splendid notes of the meeting which made preparation of this summary simple and uncomplicated.

FRANKLYN PERRING, President

THE PRESIDENTS' AWARD

As announced in the last issue of *BSBI News* (68: 6) an anonymous donor has created a fund from which an award may be made each year for the most useful contribution to the understanding of flowering plants and ferns of the British Isles.

The decision is made by the Presidents of the BSBI and the Wild Flower Society. Franklyn Perring and David Bellamy had no difficulty in agreeing that the first recipients should be Eric Clement and Sally Foster for their superb book *Alien Plants of the British Isles* published by the BSBI at the end of last year.

Unfortunately neither Eric nor Sally can be at the BSBI AGM in Dublin where it was planned that winners should receive their awards so these and their certificates will have to be presented 'in another place' – but we all send them our warmest congratulations on being the first and most worthy winners of the Presidents' Award.

MARY BRIGGS, Hon. General Secretary

DIARY

N.B. These dates are supplementary to those in the 1995 Calendar.

APRIL 30	Deadline for applicants for Pat Brenan Memorial Fund awards (see page 57)
MAY 27	<i>Campanula</i> Open Day (see page 57)
JUNE 4	<i>Cotoneaster</i> Open Day (see <i>BSBI News</i> 68 page 44)
17	<i>Campanula</i> Open Day (see page 57)
JULY 1	Deadline for 'Monitoring Scheme Report' half-price offer (see page 57)
SEPTEMBER 2-8	'Plant Europa' conference, Hyères, France (see page 45)
NOVEMBER 23	Orchid Conference, Linnean Society, London (see page 8)

See also pages 59-60 for dates of 1995 Botany Courses

EDITOR

EDITORIAL

This is now the 27th issue of *BSBI News* that I have had the privilege of editing and producing and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those hundreds of contributors who have helped ensure its continued success. This would also seem an opportune time to print a revised guide to contributors.

Guidance to contributors to *BSBI News*

The success of a journal like *BSBI News* depends on the editor receiving many relatively short contributions of topical interest. There must be many members who have something interesting, informative or just plain amusing that they would like to share with others and this journal is meant to be the place for the 'ordinary' member to express her or his opinions. So please do continue to send in your notes or letters and I will do my best to publish them. I am prepared to accept copy in any form but it is so much easier for me if this can be sent typed or printed. The following recommendations will, if followed, ease the burden of an overworked editor (cue the violins):

1. Keep it short! Preferably to less than two pages of finished print. Longer articles can be accepted but it may be more difficult to fit them in quickly. As you will see by looking through any issue, many contributions are half a page or less.
2. It is nice to have typed copy but if you don't have access to a typewriter or computer, just write it out making sure that your handwriting is **legible**, especially for names of persons, places and other words which cannot easily be checked.
3. Contrary to what I wrote in *BSBI News* 58, I would now prefer to have computer produced copy as a printed page rather than on disc. This obviates the need for virus-checking and the scanner I use to scan in text is very accurate.
4. When typing or printing, please use double (or 1½) line spacing and use a new ribbon which gives a **dark** image, especially if using a dot-matrix printer.
5. To make it easier to scan accurately, any corrections to a typed or printed page are best confined to the margins using a **pale-blue** pencil, but do ensure that the instructions are clear. If necessary, send two copies, one with, the other without, corrections.
6. Where emphasis is required, mark the words to be in *italic*, **bold** or underlined fonts in the normal way or print them using the correct fonts. There is no need to put Latin names in italics but it would be a help.
7. Latin names must conform to Stace's *New Flora of the British Isles* (1991), Kent's *List of Vascular Plants of the British Isles* (1992) or Clement & Foster's *Alien Plants of the British Isles* (1994). No authorities are needed for names in these books but if the taxon is not included then an authority should be given.
8. English names must also conform to Dony et al. *English Names of Wild Flowers*, Stace (1991) or Clement & Foster (1994), and if available **must** be given when a species is first mentioned in the text. The only exceptions are long lists of taxa which may consist of Latin names only.

PLEASE NOTE: to save postage, contributions will not now be acknowledged when first received.

All contributors will receive, if time allows, a proof for checking, so that you will be able to see what your note looks like before it is printed and will have the opportunity to alter anything at that stage. Any contributions received, which appear to be more suitable for inclusion in *Watsonia* as a 'Short Note' will be passed on to the editor of that journal.

Suitable illustrations accompanying notes, in the form of line drawings, black and white or colour negatives, prints or slides are also welcomed.

EDITOR

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY'S NOTES

Congratulations to: Prof. Stephen Blackmore and to Prof. Chris Humphries appointed as Visiting Professors to the Botany Dept., University of Reading. Associated Institute Status has been announced for the Dept. of Botany The Natural History Museum, and the Dept. of Botany University of Reading.

Also to Dr Sue Robinson and Dr Charles Nelson on their engagement, announced on St Patrick's Day, 17th March, 1995. Charles, who was also on that day on Radio 4 speaking on Shamrock, is one of the BSBI Editors, *Watsonia*. To Sue from Wisbech and Charles from Dublin we send our very best wishes.

Exhibition Meeting 1995

This will be held at the University of Leicester on Saturday, November 25th, by kind invitation of Prof. C.A. Stace, and our thanks to him for his good offer to organise this meeting. Full details will be sent in the Exhibition programme notice with application forms and a map, in the September mailing. Meanwhile these advance comments on the plans for the day may be helpful. With travel distances in mind, the Exhibition will open at 11.30 am (exhibitors from 10.00 am if convenient, to set up their exhibits). As late evening travel becomes increasingly difficult for us all, from all centres, it has been decided this year to replace the evening *Conversazione* buffet with a lunch buffet (which must be **booked in advance** when the booking forms are sent in September). As a trial new venture, this lunch will be from 12.30-2.00 p.m. Tea will be available and the meeting will end with a talk illustrated by slides **see following note** from 4.45-5.45 p.m..

Ailsa Burns is intending to give a short talk on BSBI Meetings at the AEM and would be most grateful for the loan of slides. She is looking for fairly recent photographs of members of the Society, as much as, if not more than, plants. She will take great care of any slides – and would like, if possible, to receive them by mid-August.

The Exhibits will include a demonstration (hands-on if desired) of the BSBI Database; possibly also a database suitable for members to use themselves for field records, and Hugh McAllister has offered some bulk seed of British native plants as a self-service opportunity for members at the meeting. We hope that this new central location for our Annual Exhibition Meeting will be a convenient venue for a large number of members. We know that it is not possible to please all, but hope that the University at Leicester will be within reach for many members, and possibly for some who have not been able to attend an Exhibition Meeting before? Those members who find London more accessible will be relieved to know that in 1996 the Exhibition Meeting will again be in London.

Those coming to Leicester can be assured of an interesting and varied day, with the opportunity to meet very many members – so plenty of botanical talk and discussion. Members are also reminded that exhibits are welcome, and anyone with a theme in mind could plan ahead to prepare an exhibit; these will be particularly welcome from members working on aspects of the flora of Britain and Ireland.

Conference Meeting additional to the Calendar in *BSBI Yearbook 1995*, is announced in the Diary of Events, page 6. A conference at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London on Thursday, November 23rd 1995. This will be organised jointly by the BSBI and the Linnean Society, the subject is: Population biology in some terrestrial orchids (mainly British species). A full programme and booking form will be sent in the September mailing, meanwhile, if you are interested, note the date in your diaries.

Membership Survey II – offers of help

Because of the long delay in computerising the offers from the Survey, I have only just seen all the offers of help with varied Society activities which was offered by a large number of members on the

Questionnaire forms in 1993. We will be in contact with all the members who volunteered within the next few months. The names of all those who offered to help with adult field meetings are being given to Margaret Lindop in England, and to the Committees for Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and similarly other offers will be passed to the appropriate Secretaries or Committees. With so many offers it may still take a while before all are into the programmes, or accepted and announced.

Meanwhile our thanks again to all those members. Thanks too, to Brian Rushton who has listed and tabulated the offers.

Tailpiece

BSBI Historian Dr David Allen sends a note that the ground floor of 20 Bedford Street in Covent Garden, where the BSBI's ancestor, the Botanical Society of London, had its rooms for many years in the middle of the last century, is now a fast-food outlet called 'The Hungry Cowboy'!

MARY BRIGGS, Hon. General Secretary

PROFILES

DAP – THE PPP

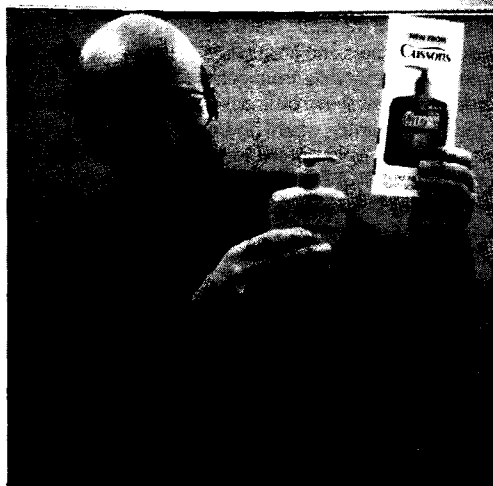
When I began the SW England Rare Plant Survey in 1988, I had as usual a few names of people to contact about the work, and had been told that 'David Pearman is active in Dorset'. If I had looked up the dictionary instead of picking up the telephone, I might have been better prepared for an encounter which changed my life. The Shorter Oxford Dictionary says '**Active**...Originating or communicating action...Working, effective; opp. to *quiescent* or *extinct*...Abounding in action; energetic; diligent; brisk...On the credit side of the balance sheet.' All these qualities can be ticked by everyone who has worked with David, but before our first meeting I was shy and doubtful of this person who hadn't appeared through the usual BSBI networks. What won me instantly were the other great Pearman qualities – kindness and hospitality, enthusiasm, style. The effect of the first day at Frome St Quintin was entirely memorable, from consulting a treasury of file cards while a large black cat slept on an enormous stuffed sheep beside me, to the deliciousness of my first Anita-cooked meal, to the first look at the hilltop garden where peculiar sedges and medicks lurk among the most plantspersonally of perennials. I would have wanted to come back just to gaze and enjoy; luckily for me frequent visits were clearly compulsory if I wanted to do the Dorset survey justice, because I found here an encyclopaedic collection of Dorset records, current and historical; a guide to all essential county references and institutions (and one who meant I was welcomed everywhere I went); an imaginative and enlightened approach to conservation and the problems of rare species; and enthusiasm which could even sustain **not** finding *Polycarpon* on blazing shingle under deafening navy helicopters.

At the time I didn't realise the almost miraculous nature of this expert, impressive botanical status, but a startlingly short time before David had been a star business man, mainly in accountancy, in Kenya and England. He is the only person I know who has been talented and successful enough to be able to take early retirement **in order to do botany**! (The BSBI crowd should definitely here rise to their feet!). He has thus been able to bring invaluable business skills and wisdom into the rapidly expanding minefield of conservation policies. The diagnostic glabrous dome is detested by the owner, but I always feel that its dehiscent state is a sign of the blazing brain power within, which has literally burnt off the indumentum! (See photo page 10).

A Pre-presidential Profile should probably be more serious, with proper lists of qualifications and achievements, but David is unusual in coming from a world quite outside British and Irish botany, where he was highly successful but even so chose to transfer his talents to our discipline. Rather than trying to describe his previous work, I would like to emphasise the good fortune which has brought

him to us in the BSBI – in terms of chance and life's rich pattern, this is a definite plus. His achievements within the botanical community are well known, notably the production (with Andrew Mahon) of the first county Red Data Book for Dorset in 1993, publishing his own local atlas of a favourite group *Sedges & their Allies in Dorset* in 1994, and of course his partnership with Chris Preston and Alison Stewart in the wonderful *Scarce Plants in Britain*. But as well as these very public achievements, he has given, and continues to give, immense amounts of time and energy to a multitude of projects in conservation, to committees, fund-raising, publications, field meetings, even to recording micro-lepidoptera. Dorset Environmental Records Centre, Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, the Kingcombe Centre, Dorset Trust for Nature Conservation, Plantlife, and of course the BSBI – there's an intimidating list of organisations who get Pearman-time. He has given particularly important support to the principle of potentially valuable conservation sites (PSSSI's, SNCF's etc.) having recognised status and accurate county audits.

I rely on David's clear thinking to illuminate conservation problems, and value his advice immensely, but my professional admiration cannot be separated from the rich mix of other interests which everyone who meets him comes across, all of which get shared with passionate enjoyment and interest. Food, wine, travel, birds and shells, I was already addicted to, but former minor interests such as postcard collecting, and looking at British and Irish postimpressionist paintings and 19C genre paintings, have developed with Pearman encouragement into really endlessly rewarding parts of my life. I am still resisting rugby football, great railway disasters, and cricket (even with the lure of a picnic cold-bag in MCC colours), but others (including the editor?) share some of these enthusiasms, and I am learning to appreciate botanical illustration properly, not only through David's knowledge of rare botanical books, but because Anita is a talented plant painter (as well as being the *Carex strigosa* spotter *par excellence*). And its reassuring, when I feel overawed by the burgeoning talents in Frome St Quintin, to reflect that even if David is going to lead the BSBI inspiringly towards the 21C, he will still be wearing his school dressing gown from 1953! [Not to mention his 5th Form raincoat which so elegantly protected him from the elements at last year's AGM at Oxford. Ed.]



Best 'air restorer in the world Guv. Honest!!

All of us must think of and miss Dick David again and again, and I treasure memories of his *Carex humilis* hunts with David in Dorset, of shared meals, of successful grovels for the little sedge in both sleet and sun, of the teaching and encouragement they gave me in this genus so dear to them

both. So I would like to end this appreciation by referring to Dick's classic presidential address title 'Gentlemen and Players', because David Pearman seems to me to be the ultimate result of that subtle balance, symbiosis almost, between amateur and professional in this Society. He has come from business not academic life, and has always been endearingly humble in the presence of 'real botanists', but now that he has become one of them himself with a vengeance, he is giving his time and abilities to the BSBI with a dedication which I can only see as truly professional.

I hope I never have to write another Pre-presidential Profile. Trying to balance between being too serious and too frivolous, offhand and gushing, impersonal and embarrassingly matey, has made me long to be tapping out some light little number for *Watsonia* instead! But this is offered with both respect and affection to David, (and to Anita, who is an essential part of the equation). I look forward with the happiest anticipation to a presidency which will have a very special kind of vision and energy (and may even produce THE BSBI POSTCARD!).

RO FITZGERALD, Beggars Roost, Lilstock, Nr BRIDGWATER, Somerset TA5 1SU

EDGAR MILNE-REDHEAD

Editorial comment:

The formation in 1993 of a national black poplar working group as a result of the tireless efforts of Edgar Milne-Redhead through 40 years to draw attention to the importance of this tree, makes the publication of this Profile very opportune.

It is difficult to find words adequately to describe Edgar Milne-Redhead. Over his lifetime he has been such a force in conservation, yet so unassuming about his achievements.

I write as someone over 60 years his junior, yet, throughout my life I have been struck by his ongoing successes and victories, combined with a modesty and grace which is an example to us all. My involvement with Edgar has been primarily through black poplars and what better way to celebrate his achievements. Without Edgar the black poplar (*Populus nigra* var. *betulifolia*) would still be a species gradually declining to extinction in Britain, forgotten by botanists so often content to look towards their feet, rather than above their heads.

Black poplars have long been of interest to Edgar, since he was an undergraduate at Cambridge in the 1920s. However, it was not until he retired that he began to devote his time and effort to this species. Since 1974 Edgar has worked tirelessly, recording almost every specimen of the black poplar in Britain and building up a team of assistants throughout England and Wales to record and verify records. Each individual tree has been meticulously recorded, photographed and its details sent to the Biological Records Centre. His tenacity and enthusiasm is ceaseless and he has managed to obtain funding from the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Welch Bequest Fund to record the species, first in mainland Britain, then Ireland and now continental Europe.

The initial black poplar hunt was a BSBI survey, organised by Edgar who processed the returned recording cards. The results of the survey were published in *Watsonia* 3: 295-6, together with Edgar's 1990 paper in *Watsonia* 18 and at least four articles in *BSBI News*.

Others have been equally enthused by Edgar and have established their own local black poplar studies, such as the one set up by his sadly missed friend Sonia Holland in Gloucestershire.

Now, entirely as a result of Edgar's determination, the fruits of his efforts have become apparent. A working party has been established, series of articles have appeared in national newspapers spawning a torrent of records, all of which must be verified and checked against existing records, and the plight of the black poplar has been brought to the attention of national bodies such as English Nature, the National Rivers Authority, the Forestry Authority and the Tree Council. Edgar's eyes and ears now operate throughout Britain protecting existing trees and planting the next generation. Due to him the black poplar has been brought to the forefront of species' conservation and is destined to

survive in Britain for many more centuries. As he told me recently 'At last people realise that for the last twenty years I have been barking up the right tree'.

However, it is not just the black poplar that survives thanks to Edgar's efforts. The 'Badgeworth Buttercup' (*Ranunculus ophioglossifolius*) was saved in its last site in Gloucestershire thanks to Edgar's efforts in the 1930s. The Lady's-slipper orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*) also owes much to Edgar's tenacity for its survival in its last location in Britain. He convened the 'Committee for the Conservation of *Cypripedium*' in 1968 and remained on the committee until 1990. Over the last 25 years the one remaining plant has been safeguarded and has been propagated by the Sainsbury Orchid Foundation at Kew where it has become a flagship species for British conservation.

Edgar is a life member of seven county wildlife trusts: Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Gloucestershire, BBONT (Berks, Bucks, Oxon), Surrey and Somerset, reflecting the areas with which he is associated. He has also been a tireless supporter of WWF, the Worldwide Fund for Nature.

He has been a member of the BSBI since 1929 and was elected President between 1969 and 1971. He also served as Vice-President between 1958 and 1962 and has been a member of countless committees, such as the Maps Committee, Fieldwork Committee, Conservation Committee, Development Sub-Committee and has represented the BSBI on the Council for Nature and at the Staines Moor Inquiry in 1972.



Edgar Milne-Redhead on the bench presented by his colleagues on his 80th birthday
Photo © East Anglian Daily Times and Associated Papers

After reading Botany at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, Edgar's professional career at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew was no less glittering. He was based at Kew from 1928 until his retirement in 1971 and rose to become Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium and head of the Africa Section, a just reward for his botanical expertise, combined with a meticulous approach and charm. Edgar's management style at Kew was to choose not necessarily the most qualified applicant, but the most able applicant, regardless of their professional background, and he never chose wrongly. Countless botanists (myself included) owe their careers to Edgar's encouragement and infectious enthusiasm.

The conservation movement of the 20th Century has been greatly enriched by the contribution of Edgar Milne-Redhead. And that contribution continues - even in his 89th year he continues to devote many hours daily to conservation, working meticulously in his study sifting through the latest sack of black poplar records.

DESMOND HOBSON, Little Cansiron, Hazelbury Bryan, STURMINSTER NEWTON, Dorset
DT10 2EB

DAVID ELLISTON ALLEN

Dr David Elliston Allen needs no commendation to this Society of which he is so well known and distinguished a member, one indeed of about 45 years standing, moreover a past President and the historian of the Society's ups and downs. Quite unnecessarily I have been asked to say a few words on this happy occasion of his being made an Honorary Member in appreciation of his many services to the Society as well as of his notable achievements.

In 1968 I read a fascinating and highly original work entitled *British Tastes, an Enquiry into the Likes and Dislikes of the Regional Consumer*. This made clear that, despite all influences and all efforts towards general conformity, so convenient for government central planners, 'each of the regions of Britain has at bottom a detectable set of interwoven attitudes, a distinctive trend in its underlying psychology'. Naturally, as a born East Anglian, I noted with interest Havelock Ellis's conclusion that East Anglia was 'one of the three great foci in England of intellectual ability' and that (I quote) 'the careful, patient, judicious, cool-tempered people bred by this region solid and down-to-earth, shone in the accumulation of facts, as classifiers and collators'. The author of the book with this pleasing stuff was one D. Elliston Allen, an anthropologist and market researcher. His very readable well-written book impressed me not only by its sound foundation in extensive and detailed enquiry but also by its emphasis on the characteristics of communities, basically a matter of human ecology.

I knew nothing then of David's botanical and historical interests. These became immediately evident in his entertaining *The Victorian Fern Craze, a History of Pteridomania*, published in 1969. There followed in 1976 *The Naturalist in Britain: a Social History*, then, ten years later, *The Botanist: a History of the Botanical Society of the British Isles through 150 years*. All these have a distinctive quality, almost unique in botanical literature, which goes beyond assembling and critically analysing information: they put naturalists, especially botanists, in the social setting of their times, with particular regard to trends important but not necessarily obvious. Moreover, like his contributions to periodicals, they are well-written and readable. Of David's floristic and taxonomic work, on such matters as *Rubus* and the flora of the Isle of Man, you probably know sufficient already to make any remarks of mine superfluous.

Such achievement has its background in David's study of archaeology and anthropology at Cambridge and an interest from boyhood in natural history, permeated by literary appreciation and scholarship. Add to that his activity for this Society as Secretary and Chairman of two Committees, Council Member, Honorary General Secretary and President and you will agree that his honorary membership has been very well deserved indeed.

WILLIAM T. STEARN. 17 High Park Road, Kew Gardens, RICHMOND, Surrey, TW9 4BL

[This profile is published to commemorate David being made an Honorary Member of the BSBI at the AGM in Oxford, May 1994.]

RECORDERS AND RECORDING

Amendment no. 1 to List of BSBI Vice-county Recorders in *BSBI Year Book 1995*

New appointments – we welcome:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| v.c. 1 West Cornwall: | Dr Colin French, Chylowen, Labour-ny-Vain, Off Bridge Road, Illogan, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 4QR |
| v.c. 25, 26 E & W Suffolk | Mr Martin N. Sanford B.Sc. F.L.S., 78 Murray Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9AQ |
| v.c. 65 NW Yorks | Mrs Deborah J. Millward, Manor House, Thorton Rust, Leyburn, N. Yorks DL8 3AN |

and send sincere thanks to those retiring:

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| v.c. 1 | Keith Spurgin (since 1983) |
|--------|----------------------------|

v.c. 25 & 26 Mrs Enid Hyde (since 1986)

v.c. 65 Tom Medd. Tom will continue as Recorder for v.c. 62 NE Yorks

Amendments to addresses published in List of Recorders in *BSBI Year Book 1995*

v.c. 33 & 34 E & W Glos. Clare & Mark Kitchen, The Cottage, Bevington, Berkeley,
Gloucestershire GL13 9RB

v.c. 89 E Perth Dr Ros. Smith, Holburn, Dalcruie Road, Pitcairngreen, Perthshire
FK15 9LF

Amendment no. 1 to Panel of Referees and Specialists in *BSBI Year Book 1995*

We welcome the following new Referees:

ROSACEAE

Rosa: Mr Roger Maskew, Coppice House, Banalls Lane, Stoke Bliss, Tenbury Wells, Worcs
WR15 8RZ, joins the 'Rosa team' – Rev. Gordon G. Graham and Rev. Tony L.
Primavesi. They send the following notes on specimen requirements:

Rev. G.G. Graham. Fresh fruiting material only. Sender retains duplicate.

Rev. A.L. Primavesi. Fresh material preferred. Herbarium material will be dealt with if
required

Mr R. Maskew. Fresh fruiting material only. Sender retains duplicate.

A portion of stem with fully developed (not necessarily ripe) hips; approx. 20cm. of
mature leading stem with leaves and characteristic prickles, some notes on size and
type of bush. If sepals are falling a representative sample should be included
separately. See also *Rosa Handbook*, pp. 40-43. **Material in flower is impossible to
determine.**

Please note that Gordon Graham is happy to continue to referee *Rosa* specimens, but
will only name **fresh** material which need not be returned (i.e. sender keeps
duplicate). He would also like to emphasise that **without genetic research** certain
hybrid specimens of wild roses should remain **unnamed**.

TILIACEAE

Tilia: Dr C.D. Pigott continues as *Tilia* Referee; and, for general specimens, Dr Pigott requests:
Shoots with flowers or fruits from the exposed part of crown: *shoots from deep
shade or from sprouts can not be identified reliably*.

Hoping soon to be able to devote more of his time to monograph *Tilia*, Donald sends
a special note to travellers as he would be happy to referee *Tilia* from **anywhere**
(particularly eastern Asia). China is the real problem for *Tilia*, but can we help with
ripe fruits from native populations of *Tilia* in Greece and Turkey? From these two
countries in particular, he would be 'grateful for ripe fruits (collected after
mid-September) of *Tilia* (including *T. tomentosa*) from native sites. About 20-50
fruits are required from a tree, dried for a few days, then packeted in small polythene
bags or tubes and sent to him as soon as possible after returning to England!!'. [N.B.
Check in *BSBI News* 70, September 1995, for Dr Pigott's new address from
mid-September].

VALERIANACEAE

Valerianella: Mr Phil J. Wilson, 4 Prospect Place, Grove Lane, Redlynch, Salisbury, Wilts.
SP5 2NT. Fruit, ripe or unripe, is required

(N.B. In our List of Members we have another Mr P.J. Wilson – of Reppahm, Lincoln – Hello,
but not to be confused with our new *Valerianella* Referee!).

ALIENS

Mr Brian S. Wurzell, 47 Rostrevor Avenue, London N15 6LA
joins the 'Aliens team' as a General Aliens Referee with Mike Mullin.

Amendments to addresses published in List of Referees in *BSBI Year Book 1995*

GRAMINEAE

General: Dr T.A. Cope. Please ensure that all specimens are sent to Dr Cope at The Herbarium,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE **and not to his home
address.**

Again, we send sincere thanks to all our vice-county Recorders, Referees and Specialists.

Updates, Amendments & Corrections to *BSBI Year Book 1995*

p. 9 EDITORS, COMPILERS, INDEXERS

Add:

BSBI HANDBOOKS

Hon. Editor: Mr P.H. Oswald, 33 Panton Street, CAMBRIDGE CB2 1HL

p. 11

BRITISH LICHEN SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary: **Delete** Mr T.H. Maxham

Add: Dr O.W. Purvis, The British Lichen Society, c/o Dept. of Botany, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

p. 48 **Change** Wing Comd. **C.P.J.** Coulcher
p. 70 Dr & Mrs Macpherson

Corrections to List of Members – from p. 38 – are sent on to Michael Walpole for the membership computer, will be used on mailing labels, and updated in the *BSBI Year Book 1996*.

MARY BRIGGS, Hon. General Secretary

NEW ATLAS

We hope that everything is in place to begin recording for the new atlas this summer. Vice-county recorders and area co-ordinators have been briefed, and all either have the new recording card or know where to get hold of them. The best plan for this summer would be to approach your local recorder to see how you can best help.

There has (today) been an unexpected delay in the confirmation of funding for the Atlas organiser and the inputting of data but we hope to have more to say on that this autumn. In the meantime let's get out into the field, and we look forward to hearing of results at the Recorders Conference this September.

DAVID PEARMAN & DAVID McCOSH (23/3/95)

RECORDERS CONFERENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF St MARTIN, LANCASTER 8th - 10th SEPTEMBER 1995

Every two years the BSBI holds a 2 day meeting for vice-county Recorders. This year's Conference is at St Martin's College, Lancaster, where we have been several times before. I think the event is one of the Society's unknown strengths, for it is a chance to meet fellow members in a very relaxed atmosphere, and to actually have time to talk. Many of the Society's officers will be there, with Margaret Perring and her books.

We give v.c. Recorders the first choice, but at each meeting we always have quite a few ordinary members as well. In view of the fact that we will be concentrating on the new Atlas at Lancaster this year, members are invited to apply for a booking form to me.

FRIDAY 8th

7.30 TALK by GEOFFREY HALLIDAY – *Writing a Flora of Cumbria*

9.00 THE NEW ATLAS

2.00 FIELD TRIPS: a choice of
Rubi in the Lune Valley – G. Halliday
 Roses in the Lune Valley – G.G. Graham (to be confirmed)
 Limestone plants of Silverdale – E.F. Greenwood
 Recording for the New Atlas

SUNDAY 10th

Any other points – prior notice not essential but would be appreciated.

SCARCE PLANTS ATLAS

DAVID PEARMAN, The Old Rectory, Frome St Quinton, DORCHESTER, Dorset DT2 0HF

SCARCE PLANTS IN BRITAIN

In response to a request from Michael Braithwaite, Lissie Wright of JNCC provided the following details regarding the use of material from *Scarce Plants in Britain* which may of interest to other members.

‘We have no objection to the use of individual pages to illustrate talks or lectures. We are also happy to see the use of such material to support voluntary advice on local conservation issues. We would however request that the source of all such material is always acknowledged. In the case of species accounts the author of the individual account should also be acknowledged.

We would request that you seek copyright permission for the reproduction of pages, accounts, tables or maps in published books or leaflets. We would also ask you to seek permission if you intend to use substantial sections of the book for the provision of paid conservation advice’.

EDITOR

NOTES AND ARTICLES

COASTAL GRAVEL AS A SOURCE OF *COCHLEARIA DANICA* ON INLAND ROADSIDES

We have carried out botanical surveys of the verges of a number of motorways over the last few years and frequently noted inland colonies of *Cochlearia danica* (Danish Scurvygrass). As a result, we have been particularly interested in correspondence on the spread of this species and possible contributing factors (e.g. *BSBI News* 65). There has been much speculation about how *C. danica* arrives at inland sites and the reasons for variation in its distribution on the highway, but it is generally assumed to colonise new sites through transport of seeds on vehicles. I would like to suggest another more direct method which could also explain why colonies are generally more frequent on the central reservation.

French drains are a common method for collection and transport of stormwater run-off from carriageways (see, for example, Figure 21 in Ellis & Revitt (1991) where they are referred to as ‘Dutch’ drains). They are used along either side of the central reservation except where drainage is exclusively to the hard shoulder. They are generally only installed along the shoulders when the highway is in a cutting. French drains are comprised of a perforated pipe running along the base of a trench which is topped up with gravel. The origins of this gravel vary, but at least a proportion comes from coastal sites. Colonies of *C. danica* can often be seen to follow the gravel on these drains where they occur (for example on the northern end of the A404 at High Wycombe NGR SU/8430.9017).

Many of the sites where *C. danica* occurs on highways are well inland and there is no connection with colonies extending inland from the coast. One of the natural habitats of the plant is pebbly shores (Stace 1991) and *C. danica* may arrive on highways through transport of seeds or shoots with gravel used in construction of Dutch drains. This would enable *C. danica* to establish along the central reservation during highway construction, giving it an advantage over other plant species which would have to colonise from the hard shoulder. The survival of colonies is then likely to depend upon factors such as deposition of salt and competition with other plant species.

Until recently contracts for highway construction have been let to cover stretches between specified junctions. The origin of the gravel used in Dutch drains should be uniform within these stretches. The degree to which the origin of the gravel contributes to colonisation of inland sites by *C. danica* could be verified by polling the contractors to establish the origin of the gravel used and comparing this with the distribution of records of *C. danica*.

French drains need to be replaced every ten years and are no longer considered best practice for highway drainage. They may therefore be expected to decline as they are replaced by other drainage

systems. If the halophytic plants recorded on highways are associated with the gravels used in French drains, they may show a corresponding decline over the next ten years.

The authors would like to thank John Swift for advice on current trends in the use of French drains in highways.

References

- Ellis, J.B. & Revitt, D.M. (1991). *Drainage from roads: Control and treatment of highway run-off*. Urban Pollution Control Centre, Middlesex University, London.
- Stace, C. (1991). *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge, UK.
- RICHARD LANSDOWN, 4 Glentworth Cottages, Coombe, WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE, Glos. GL12 7ND.
- TIM PANKHURST, 44 The Avenue, LEIGHTON BROMSWOLD, Hunts PE18 0SH.

THE ORIGIN OF *OENOTHERA BIENNIS* L. *sensu stricto*: A NEW HYPOTHESIS

There are divergent opinions about the origin of *Oenothera biennis* L. *sensu stricto* (Common Evening-primrose) (European *O. biennis*). This paper examines the two principle hypotheses and sets out a case for a new hypothesis based on observations at Emscote, Warwick, and South Wales (Bowra 1992).

In *Watsonia* (1982 pp 5 & 11), K. Rostanski describes European *O. biennis* as a species of Temperate Europe and East Asia (Primorski Kraj in eastern U.S.S.R., southern Sachalin, northern Japan) but which does not occur in North America. Previously, in 1968, he claimed that the species was indigenous to the Eurasian continent and presented as evidence:

'(1) the wide distribution of *O. biennis* in Europe as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century; (2) the uniformity and widespread occurrence of *O. biennis* in Eurasia at the present time; and (3) the absence of the European *O. biennis* in North America' (Cleland 1972: p.314).

The late R.E. Cleland, however, considered Rostanski's evidence for the presence of *O. biennis* in Europe in the early 17th century 'very scanty or non-existent'; that there could be little doubt that the European plant was a typical member of the American *O. biennis* II race; and that its ancestor probably still existed somewhere among the hundreds of strains in eastern North America. 'One cannot be sure' he added, 'that the European *biennis* is absent in North America.' He agreed that no plants had been found with the European arrangement of chromosomes in circles of six and eight; but he considered the change from the usual American arrangement of circles of 14 to be a minor one that probably arose in North America (pp.314-316). In his opinion, *Oenothera* was a western hemisphere genus and 'European *biennis* probably derived directly from North America' (p.305). It was most likely introduced in soil carried in ballast in early cargo ships and deposited near European ports (p.303).

P.H. Raven in *Flora Europaea* (1968), describes *O. biennis* as a 'plant of American origin cultivated for ornament in Europe and widely naturalized'. C.A. Stace (1991) says it originated in Europe.

In 1980, a young colony of *Oenothera* subgenus *Oenothera* at Emscote, Warwick, was surveyed about five years after the site had been allowed to go wild. It was found to consist mostly of a central group of 1665 *O. biennis* with compact groups of 205 *O. glazioviana* (Large-flowered Evening-primrose) and 134 *O. cambrica* (Small-flowered Evening-primrose) on opposite sides, and 221 scattered hybrids. Eight years later the colony had become a hybrid swarm: out of 4,297 plants, only three 'pure' *O. biennis*, four 'pure' *O. glazioviana* and no 'pure' *O. cambrica* were found. *O. fallax* (Intermediate Evening-primrose) was treated as a hybrid (Bowra 1992).

This behaviour conformed with the footnote on page 1064 of Gray's *Manual of Botany*, 8th edition (1950), which describes subgenus *Oenothera* as 'a hopelessly confused and freely hybridizing group'. But in 1972, Cleland, who in 1927/8 had spent two summers and a winter in Europe, specifically refuted this description. In a chapter on the Evolution of the North American *Oenotheras* (Subgenus *Oenothera*) he says that 'it is not true that the evening primroses as a group are "freely

hybridizing",they are for the most part self-pollinators and rarely hybridize' (p 228). He describes how 'in most *Oenotheras*, the pollen bursts over the stigma 24 hours or longer before the flower opens, the stigma soon becomes receptive, and the eggs are often fertilized before the flower opens' (p.297). In a Chapter on the *Oenothera* Flora of Europe, *O. biennis* L. is shown as self-pollinating (p.304), and in an earlier publication (1964 p.94) he points out that insects probably effect more self- than cross-pollination as they travel from flower to flower on the same plant.

According to their flower structure, the Emscote *O. biennis* should have self-pollinated: but the virtual disappearance of so many within eight years surely suggests that they did not.

In 1989, near Margam in South Wales (whence the Emscote *O. cambrica* originated), c.80% of plants previously considered to be 'pure' *O. cambrica* were found to be hybrids with *O. biennis* (Bowra 1992). Yet there had been no records of 'pure' *O. biennis* since the 19th Century (Rostanski & Ellis 1979). This hybridizing-out also suggests that the original *O. biennis* did not self-pollinate. Many other colonies in Britain are hybrid swarms of two or three species: and, Rostanski informs me, also in Europe where 'American newcomers' have come into contact with European *O. biennis*: in one colony near Katowice in Poland, the species has completely disappeared (pers. comm. September 1992).

O. cambrica is considered by American and some European botanists to be a phenotype of the American *O. biennis* (Dietrich 1991). In Britain it has been shown to differ from European *O. biennis* in that 'pure' species do survive in hybrid swarms (Bowra 1992). It seems therefore probable that *O. cambrica* is in fact a strain of American *O. biennis*: that its chromosomes are in circles of 14; and that it has at least a measure of self-pollination. The species has not been cytogenetically analysed.

Behaviour at Emscote and in South Wales strongly suggests that European *O. biennis* is self-incompatible, a condition involving sterility factors which prevent pollen grains germinating on any stigma with the same sterility factor. In a chapter on Self-Incompatibility, Cleland (1972) concludes that 'it is evident that sterility factors were at one time widespread among the ancestors of the present-day forms of subgenus *Oenothera*' (p.167). Those ancestors would have included the population known as *O. biennis* I, which is thought to have evolved and spread across North America during the third interglacial period (p.301).

A self-incompatible European *O. biennis* must lessen the chances of its being a strain of modern self-pollinating American *O. biennis* II, but the overall similarity must surely indicate a common ancestry, perhaps linked with the isolated population of probable descendants of *O. biennis* I called the *hookeris*. This population grows west of the Rocky Mountains and, probably because of isolation, 'still retains the open pollination' (but not the self-incompatibility (p. 231)) 'and mostly paired chromosomes' that must have characterised the early populations (Cleland (1972) p.256).

A time-span, say, of fifty thousand years would have provided suitable climate and ample time for a strain to spread from the west coast of North America to neighbouring Asia; and except for mutations ('conspicuous by their rarity' (p.326)), an isolated true-breeding population would have remained uniform as it slowly spread to Europe.

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- Rostanski, K. & Ellis, R.G. (1979). Evening Primroses (*Oenothera* L.) in Wales. *Nature in Wales* **16**: 238-249.
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JOHN C. BOWRA, 29 George Road, WARWICK CV34 5LX

DUEL ON THE A38

I write in response to Ray Gould's note in *BSBI News* 68: 27. There was no intention to impugn the reputation of the Rev. Rogers, in my article in *BSBI News* 67: 15-17. It was however necessary to put forward ideas as to the absence of *Sorbus devoniensis* and presence of *S. torminalis*, at the site in question. In addition, L. J. Margetts, in the foreword to the 1978 reprint of Davey's excellent *Flora of Cornwall* (1909) (with supplement by F. Thurston and C.C. Vigurs, 1922), makes the following observation:

'No less than twenty-four pages are devoted to the brambles, rather a pity, since this section is absolutely riddled with mistakes. The late Francis Rilstone, who spent a life-time studying the Cornish species, estimated that about 40% of those listed by Davey are wrong. The reason for this is quite clear. W. Moyle Rogers' handbook on the British brambles had only just been published, so what could be more natural than that Davey should send his gatherings to this specialist, and that he should accept Rogers' determinations? Neither of them at this time understood that the Cornish brambles were largely distinct from those of the rest of Britain.'

Reassessments are common place, and Ray Gould should accept that all people in history, will have been found to have made errors.

I don't shoot, but I could use a bow and arrow or a blowpipe!

DAVID C. CANN, Halbury, Morchard Road, COPPLESTONE, Devon

RARE PLANTS GROUP of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire

In late autumn 1993, a group of people concerned with the status of scarce wild flowers in Oxfordshire got together to form a Rare Plants Group. This was partly a response to Plantlife's 'Back from the Brink' campaign and aimed to follow its principles and effectively act as a county-based branch of the society. The Rare Plants Group was formed as an offshoot of the Ashmolean Natural History Society which generously provides some financial assistance and logistic support.

The preliminary aims of the group are to monitor the rarer vascular plant species occurring in Oxfordshire in order to record:

- the presence/absence of each at all historical sites and the exact status of each species where it still occurs.
- any external threats at individual sites to the species of interest.
- the current state of the habitat at each site, including vegetation surveys, mapping and taking fixed-point photographs.

We aim to collect data on all historical sites to assess both the long-term trends in distribution and the ecological requirements for each species. Studies of pollinators and autecology may also be necessary. In the light of this information, the next step will be to suggest suitable management prescriptions for those species requiring action, and to undertake work as appropriate in consultation with the landowners.

Where appropriate it is also planned to collect small quantities of seed from local populations to maintain local genotypes in cultivation at Oxford Botanic Gardens. This will provide a larger seed source from which reintroductions or introductions could be carried out.

The Rare Plants Group will enlist the help of local volunteers to help with field work (at all levels), hopefully culminating in the provision of a local contact who will be able to monitor each of the species on a year-by-year basis and suggest and/or carry out management work as necessary.

To begin with, we are concentrating on the most nationally threatened and locally important species, which do not currently have specific monitoring or management work in the Oxfordshire area. The 1994 'hit-list' was as follows.

Creeping Marshwort	<i>Apium repens</i> *
Green Hound's-tongue	<i>Cynoglossum germanicum</i> *
Mudwort	<i>Limosella aquatica</i>
Pasqueflower	<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i> *
Meadow Clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i> *
Perfoliate Penny-cress	<i>Thlaspi perfoliatum</i> *
Breckland Speedwell	<i>Veronica praecox</i>

We surveyed at least one site each for all of the above species, and undertook counts at all sites where the species were present. For example this included a new site, currently supporting 9% of the British population of Perfoliate Pennycress. Management and monitoring work at sites for the last three of these has already been organised for winter '94/'95 and next spring, but we would also like to increase the number of species involved, and include:

Dense Silky-bent	<i>Apera interrupta</i>
Maiden Pink	<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>
Early Gentian	<i>Gentianella anglica</i>
Sand Catchfly	<i>Silene conica</i>

In future, we are also considering the following species:

Pheasant's-eye	<i>Adonis annua</i>
True Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpina</i>
Ghost Orchid	<i>Epipogium aphyllum</i> *
◆ Broad-leaved Cudweed	<i>Filago pyramidata</i> *
Chiltern Gentian	<i>Gentianella germanica</i>
Grass-poly	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>
Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe silaifolia</i>
† Early Spider-orchid	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>
Burnt Orchid	<i>Orchis ustulata</i>
Small-leaved Sweet-briar	<i>Rosa agrestis</i>
◆ Downy Woundwort	<i>Stachys germanica</i>
Broad-fruited Cornsalad	<i>Valerianella ramosa</i>

A '◆' marks those species for which work is already being undertaken, and a '*' marks those that we believe are now extinct. Asterisks mark those for which all previous records would be particularly appreciated, as we would like to look at trends at the better known sites and to resurvey old, neglected sites where the species may still occur, or viable seeds may remain in the seed-bank. Also important in this respect (though under-represented in the list above due to logistic reasons) are arable-field annuals which appear to be making something of a comeback in many areas and about which relatively little is still known, as they occupy a seemingly under-recorded habitat. We hope to be proved wrong on this! (e.g. I now know of a farm in Berkshire where *Ranunculus arvensis* appeared in moderate quantity during 1994.)

The list contains species for which data have recently been gathered (e.g. Scarce Species Project) and which we will access via English Nature or the appropriate co-ordinating body, and, for example, any non-confidential records already passed on to the BSBI county recorder will be provided for use by the group. Thank you in advance if you have supplied information in this way. As a member of both the Wild Flower Society and the BSBI, I know that local knowledge of a species numbers and sites can be far better than that obtained through official channels!

If you can supply accurate information on sites and or numbers (with good dates) of any of the above species, the group would be most appreciative. This may be particularly important for small outlier populations persisting in hedgebanks or on the edges of woods, etc., for which no systematic recording has ever been carried out.

All the work is being carried out under the watchful eyes of English Nature and BBONT and with the support of Plantlife. If you think that you can help, **please** get in contact.

JOHN MUDDERMAN on behalf of RPG.

All correspondence to:

Dr C. HUXLEY-LAMBRICK, Rare Plants Group, Picketts Heath, The Ridgeway, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5EZ.

THE NEW LIST OF 'NATIONALLY SCARCE' PLANTS

Having been involved to some extent, behind the scenes, with *Scarce Plants in Britain*, it is good to see the book in print at last. The editors are to be congratulated on an excellent production. It will surely be of enormous value to all those engaged in the business of trying to conserve the less common members of our indigenous flora.

My one criticism of the book is that it fails to question the continuing wisdom of labelling as 'nationally scarce' any plant found as a native in 16-100 10-km squares. The editors acknowledge, of course, that knowing a species is present in a particular 10-km square provides no indication of its population size. The use of tetrad frequencies for some species is helpful, and would certainly be worth extending to other species as sufficient field data become available. One thing highlighted by the tetrad data is that two species found in a similar number of 10-km squares may have very different tetrad totals. For example, *Pilularia globulifera* (Pillwort) (90 10-km squares) is known to occur in 155 tetrads, whereas *Mimuartia verna* (Spring Sandwort) (92 10-km squares) is known from 276 tetrads. Thus, while 10-km square records for these species suggest a similar level of 'scarcity', tetrad data indicate that *Pilularia* is markedly 'scarcer' than *Mimuartia*. One is forced to conclude (surprise, surprise!) that the recording of presence/absence on a 10-km square grid fails to give us a particularly good measure of 'scarcity'.

The tetrad data indicate that a species occurring in, say, 120 squares (labelled 'not scarce') might in fact be 'scarcer' than another species occurring in 90 (labelled 'scarce'). Of course the 'old list' (Nature Conservancy Council 1989) suffered from the same problem as the new one in this respect, but it has been highlighted again because so many species included on the old list have now been found in more than 100 10-km squares (from 1970 onwards) – and have therefore been labelled 'not scarce' and dropped from the new list.

The irony here is that many of these 'relegated' species are now considered not scarce because we have put so much effort into finding them – which, put another way, simply means that the harder we search for a species the less scarce it appears to be (although, needless to say, finding a plant in a 'new' locality doesn't change its abundance one jot – it only changes our *perception* of its abundance). And so it is that we now find ourselves in the unenviable position of having to say, on the one hand, that a particular species which we used to consider 'scarce' is now 'not scarce', yet on the other hand knowing that this very same species has declined.

I don't wish to labour this point but take, as an example, *Myosurus minimus* (Mousetail). It was included on the old list, having been recorded in the *Atlas* in 58 10-km squares from 1930 onwards. However, from 1970 onwards it was recorded from 111 squares, and so can no longer be regarded as nationally scarce. Yet there is no evidence that this species is increasing; indeed, the account by Clive Chatters suggests that it is in marked decline; it has 'declined throughout its range...[the map suggests] a larger and more stable population than actually exists...the decline is due to intensive arable and grassland management and the abandonment of extensive grazing of agriculturally marginal lowland grasslands...'

The case of *Rumex palustris* (Marsh Dock) is even more unfortunate – in 69 squares in the *Atlas*, and from 1970 onwards found in 101 squares, it has duly been dropped off the list despite the fact that, according to Owen Mountford, it is ‘declining in Britain’. *Rumex maritimus* (Golden Dock) too has gone, even though it has ‘declined sharply... due to elimination of farm ponds and surplus ditches, the drainage of wet grassland and the increased regulation of water levels’.

In my more cynical moments I find myself wondering whether, if we had tried a bit harder we could have removed even more species from the list! The species on the front cover, *Mertensia maritima* (Oysterplant), (found in 100 squares) is only there by the skin of its teeth, and by adding a few new records seen by me last year I could render *Orobancha hederaceae* (Ivy Broomrape) (97 squares) ‘no longer scarce’!

Of course, one could argue that the practical consequences of the changes to the list are unlikely to be of much significance. Yet, as the book makes clear, nationally scarce species ‘are used in evaluating the conservation importance of sites: their presence is one of the criteria used to select Sites of Special Scientific Interest’. Changing the list means that there may be currently unprotected sites which now qualify for notification as SSSIs. This is fine, but (more worryingly) there are likely to be many SSSIs which were originally notified, in part, on the basis of species which are no longer regarded as ‘nationally scarce’. For example, there must be quite a few grassland SSSIs in southern and south-west England which were originally notified in part because of *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* (Corky-fruited Water-dropwort), a species now regarded as ‘not scarce’. It would of course be wrong to claim that such sites are somehow ‘less important’ now that the plant has been dropped off the list – SSSI notification is, after all, recognition of the value of an entire ecosystem, not just of one species in isolation – but nevertheless one wonders to what misuse the new list might be put where, for example, an SSSI containing ‘no longer scarce’ species was in the way of a proposed development scheme.

Perhaps *Scarce Plants in Britain* has missed an opportunity here. In my view it should have examined, in the light of the increased intensity of survey, whether or not the 100 10-km square upper limit is still appropriate. Should this limit perhaps have been raised? Surely, if we were happy to have 100 squares as the upper limit using as our information-base the *Atlas* (and knowing that for so many species the survey coverage for the *Atlas* was incomplete), then the relative completeness of the more recent survey should lead us to ‘reset’ this upper limit. A quick look at the book suggests that for most species the number of ‘recent’ records has roughly doubled (despite the fact that many of them have continued to decline); perhaps, then, a case could be made for raising the upper limit to, say, 200 10-km squares.

When all’s said and done, it does seem more than a little perverse that our list of ‘nationally scarce’ plants has got shorter, while our perception is that habitat destruction and the loss of scarce species’ populations should have made the list a good deal longer!

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FIFTY PENCE WELL SPENT

Yesterday – I’ve wasted no time in setting hand to keyboard – I picked up a well-used copy of *Illustrations of the British Flora* by Fitch and Smith, 1931 for just 50p. It would have been a bargain just as that but, as soon as I opened it, I could tell that this was no ordinary wild flower book, for it contained a number of interleaved additions and was covered in annotations.

I once found a dictionary in this state. The previous owner had checked just about every word and cross-referenced the whole thing! Perhaps a crossword fanatic, I thought, but I was not terribly impressed by that ridiculous waste of effort. Yesterday’s find is a different matter. The owner had written around each illustration notes taken from local plant catalogues and lists and then he had systematically set down his own records, each of which he marked with his own tick and ‘B’ symbol to show that he’d seen it himself. *B*

Now, this book could not have found a more appropriate new owner: one with a botanical bent who has already brought back to life the ancient civic musicians of York, the city waites (Merryweather, 1988), and published the biography of a forgotten Victorian village fiddler, Lawrence Leadley (1827-97) after the discovery of his music manuscripts (Merryweather & Seattle, 1994). I have a fascination with those who are gone, perhaps forgotten, but have left something of themselves behind. Next I have to find out more about Percy Burnett, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Whitby Naturalists' Club in 1948, resident at 'Longmynd', 19 Ruswarp Lane, Whitby, North Yorks who bought his Fitch & Smith in 1933.

Percy signed and dated the inside front cover and enclosed the 1948 summer programme of the Whitby Nats. He also kept paper cuttings, a card with twelve *Gentiana verna* stuck on it, maps, a photograph of *Trollius* at Goathland in 1947 and bits of squashed orchids, etc. Almost every plant illustration is surrounded by annotations. Many of the notes are given initials, e.g. E.R., R.B., T.N., K.M.C. This man was so careful with his records that, on page 1, he has provided a key to his sources: R.B. was Robert Braithwaite whose plant catalogue of 1848 is in Whitby museum. 'Notes from F. Snowden taken from his book of records loaned to me July, 1939. R.B.' T.N. appears to have been T. Newbitt whose old records in miss are also in Whitby museum. There is more to be discovered by careful working through. Remember, I have only had this book for 24 hours and I already know an awful lot about Percy Burnett.

Between the pages there is also a photograph of six men, five women and a dog in someone's garden. It's pretty obvious what was going on: they've just had a good day out in the field, and now they're having a summer out-door tea. Frustratingly out of character for our man, he hasn't labelled the picture, so it will take some time to find out who they were, where and when, but it should be possible and I bet Percy Burnett turns out to be one of them.

BSBI News is just about the best place to tell this story. I'm sure that there are members who knew Percy Burnett in person or by reputation. He must have been a significant figure among Whitby and North Yorkshire naturalists – he was botanical recorder for Whitby Nats. If I get myself to the University Library and check through the excursion schedules of the YNU or *The Naturalist*, he'll turn up, and when I start to talk to people, information will flood out.

I'd love to know who Percy Burnett was and what happened to him. If one small book makes it so obvious that he was a systematic recorder, then he must have had a herbarium and stacks of books and files of notes which, I hope, found a safe home. My instinct is that his effects, including my chance find, were sold off when he died (I apologise to him if he's still around) and scattered all over the place.

If readers know anything of Percy Burnett I'd be very grateful to hear from them.

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CASES OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY, OR *HEDERA* HEADACHES

Despite Hugh McAllister's and my work for 20 years on ivies and publishing the findings, pennies are not dropping as much as they might!

Starting with 'Irish' ivy, Hugh McAllister moved on to species from as many countries as he could. Working in a practical, systematic way, with no preconceived ideas, he examined and grew

material from each place, counting chromosomes, looking at trichomes and noting differences and similarities.

A discovery of considerable importance (where cultivated species are concerned) was that Willdenow's original Canary Islands ivy, endemic to that archipelago, does not occur, even as an escape, in any other part of Macaronesia – Madeira has its own endemic, the Azores another (endemic), while N Africa has a further two species, one of which is propagated by the thousand, and a form of the other is widely grown in S Spain.

Some workers dealing with names of cultivated ivies, have seen Willdenow's original pressed type specimen of *H. canariensis*. There is no doubt whatever that this is validly published and matches the plant there today, but agrees with no other. To apply the label '*Hedera canariensis*' to plants from Madeira, the Azores or N Africa, is to misapply a perfectly 'sound' name.

Hugh McAllister finds *Hedera* species fall into two groups: the large white-haired and the small reddish-haired. The former are, *H. helix*, *H. azorica* and *H. hibernica*, though the last falls midway between. All the rest belong to the other, much larger group.

A synonymy of '*H. canariensis*' has recently been completed. It reveals that *H. canariensis* of Willdenow was published four times after him, but in 1834 George Don added 'Irish'. By 1864, Atlantic ivy (*H. hibernica* including 'Irish') and Algerian were lumped in, and from then on most authors in France and Britain, meant the so-called Irish when using this name. But in the 1890s writers, especially if German, often referred to N African species. Later *H. azorica*, *H. maderensis* and a species from Portugal had crept under the umbrella. Who today would think it anything but quaint to say '*H. canariensis*' and be referring to 'Irish' ivy? In the last few years the curious position has arisen where in a single issue of a journal, *H. canariensis* may mean Algerian or true Canary, depending on the writer.

Species found in the area covered by '*Hedera canariensis*'

1. *H. canariensis* Willdenow, endemic to the Canaries
2. *H. maderensis* K. Koch ex Rutherford subsp. *maderensis* McAllister, Madeira
3. *H. azorica* Carrière, Azores endemic
4. *H. maroccana* McAllister, Morocco and western part of Algeria
5. *H. algeriensis* Hibberd, Algeria
6. *H. maderensis* subsp. *iberica* McAllister, SW Portugal, SW Spain
7. *H. helix* subsp. *helix* found as far south as S. Spain
8. *H. hibernica* (Kirchner) Bean, Atlantic ivy occurs from SW Scotland to the Straits of Gibraltar, along the Atlantic seaboard, but further south, inland also – Pyrenees, N Portugal, S Spain

1. *H. canariensis* 2n=48, reddish-haired group. It is a pity so few people are unfamiliar with *Flora de Gran Canaria*, which has a good description and an excellent colour portrait – one glance would suffice to show this plant is in no way the species popular in florists' and garden centres. *H. canariensis* is our only truly non-hardy ivy, though it has recently been planted out in the south of England. It is non-climbing, has poor adventitious roots, does not phase-change – has no fertile leaves and is very shy-flowering. When it does, there is one umbel. The foliage is dull greyish-green, flat and heart-shaped. Its nearest relative is *H. colchica*.
2. *H. maderensis* subsp. *maderensis* 2n=144, reddish-haired. Almost unknown to botanists and gardeners alike. The most common form is like a miniature 'Irish' ivy, except it is more yellow-green. It is an equally good ground-coverer, forming dense mats. Inland there is a more narrow-lobed form, which resembles the Iberian subspecies.
3. *H. azorica* 2n=48, white-haired. The form grown for about 150 years has matt grey-green leathery Fatsia-like leaves, when young, furry with trichomes. In the 1970s a cordate form was introduced, in the field, there is every permutation between.
4. *H. maroccana* 2n=48, reddish-haired. The form 'Spanish Canary' was introduced by the Clement's & Carr Expeditions to S Spain where it was copiously planted and has been found naturalised. It is also grown in the Botanic Garden on Tenerife, and is naturalised on Gran Canaria. It has huge glossy emerald sharply-five-lobed leaves up to 12cm tall by 10.5cm wide. The ruby petioles may

reach 11 cm long. It is so rampant it should be planted with care. It is hardier than both common and Algerian ivies.

5. *H. algeriensis* 2n=96, reddish-haired. Algerian ivy is presumed to have derived from the Moroccan ivy and another species. It is believed to occupy a smaller area of NW Africa than the hardier *H. maroccana*. The kind incorrectly labelled '*H. canariensis*' (usually the variegated 'Gloire de Morengo'), appears to be a lowland form; at higher altitudes, tough leathery foliaged forms are found, these have been used in gardens in the SE of France and have been found naturalised on the Isle of Man. The soft lowland form has naturalised in v.c. 99. The lowland kind has thin, soft-textured leaves puckered up slightly between the veins, if shade-grown; the outline is gently three-lobed, the central the longest, the bases cordate. Like the Moroccan, it has ruby petioles, but considerably less vigour, and it may be cut to the ground in winter.
6. *H. maderensis* subsp. *iberica* 2n=144, reddish-haired. This plant has probably caused confusion over the years; it is obviously different in foliage shape and colour, and the reddish trichomes make it distinct from the Atlantic and common ivies. Being a relict plant, it is variable, but it mostly has upswept leaf-bases and 3-5 lobes.
7. *H. helix* subsp. *helix* 2n=48, white hairs. This is found as far south as Andalucia where it occurs among colonies of the other subspecies and *H. hibernica*. As well as the 'usual', the 'south European cordate form' is seen, with heart-shaped foliage with grey veins.
8. *H. hibernica* 2n=96, hairs intermediate. The Atlantic ivy confuses many, as the way in which Kirchner and Bean referred to 'Irish', means the form has had to become the type, obscuring all other forms. This species is as variable as *H. helix*. It is not appreciated by some people that this is not a double chromosome *helix*, if it were, it would not occur in such variety over such a huge geographic range. There is a double chromosome *helix* from Sicily, and apart from possibly a greater hairiness and slightly more vigour, it differs in no way from the common ivy; it has the black-green, pale veined foliage – unlike the *hibernicas* which, we suspect, derive their yellow-green leaves, gloss, long petioles, intermediate hair type, greater size and vigour and sweeter sap scent from the Moroccan species.

These *Hederas* will be described more fully at a later date, with a full synonymy; this is just an interim report to keep members in the picture, especially over the position of what is Canary ivy.

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SEED COLLECTING IN SICHUAN

At the end of September 1994, I and two other students were lucky enough to go on a seed collecting trip to Sichuan in Western China. The BSBI, through the Warburg Memorial Fund, was one of our sponsors.

The main purpose of the expedition was to discover whether seed collected from individuals growing at the top of their altitude range would prove more hardy in Britain than those collected at the turn of the century at lower levels. We intended to go to five different locations in Sichuan and we had a list and descriptions of those plants we were interested in, as well as a schedule of observations and experiments.

Our base was the provincial capital Chengdu. With our guide from Sichuan University, we set off by mini-van to our first location, Wolong, the Dragon Forest. We took it in turns to drive and made frequent stops along the banks of the Yingaxiong River, primarily to look at *Actinidia* and *Acer* species. Our little van coped remarkably well as it was dragged and shoved across floods and landslides.



Photocopies of *Hedera* leaves. 1 *H. azorica* from Pico, 2 *H. azorica* from San Miguel, 3 *H. muroccana* 'Spanish Canary' (spray and large leaf below to left), 4 *H. canariensis* true (spray and bigger leaf below right), 5 *H. algeriensis* lowland form, 6 *H. maderensis* subsp. *maderensis*, 7 *H. maderensis* subsp. *maderensis* lobed form, 8 *H. maderensis* subsp. *iberica*, 9 *H. algeriensis* an upland form, 10 *H. algeriensis* 'Gloire de Morengo'.

Wolong is to the West of Chengdu and is a protected area. Here we were able to record the exact relation of species to altitude, as well as collecting some valuable seed of *Acer*, *Viburnum* and *Euonymus*.

Our next location was the species rich Emeishan, or Mount Omei. We were interested in finding seed of *Emmenopterys henryi*, one of Ernest Wilson's favourite trees, *Aucuba omeiensis* and some *Mahonia* species. We set off with a group of Buddhist pilgrims by bus from Chengdu. The journey is only 152km and the roads were good. There are several pilgrim's paths to the summit, (3120m), constructed of limestone steps. We stayed in some of the many, richly ornate monasteries on the mountain and tried to avoid the gangs of monkeys! Our best finds from Omei were *Acanthopanax evodiaefolius*, *Pterocarya macroptera* and an as yet completely unidentified *Cornus*.

Songpan, approximately 200km North of Chengdu is on the Tibetan highway. We went by bus again, but this time it took 48 hours to get there! Here we were looking for rhododendrons and conifers. Ernest Wilson claimed that in the hills around Songpan there were calcareous soils in which grew rhododendrons. Unfortunately, things have changed since Wilson's day and now its hard to find any tree within 20 miles of Songpan! We hired a local guide who took us to some high woods where we made many useful finds, an unidentified *Daphne* at 3440m, *Sorbus setchwanensis* forms, some varieties of *Picea likiangensis* and *Abies fabri*, but no rhododendrons growing in alkaline soils. The nearest we got were readings of pH7.

Off by train now to Xichang in the South of Sichuan, primarily to attempt to photograph and record specimens of *Acer pentaphyllum*. Joseph Rock discovered the plant in 1929 at 3050m between Baurong and Kulu, West of the Yalung River. Armed with this imprecise information we hunted in vain for the plant!

We were the first Westerners the people of the area had ever seen and we drew inquisitive crowds in each village we passed through. We had heard reports that the *Acer* had been found quite recently near Muli, near the Yunnan border, but the way was dangerous, so in the end, our guides felt safer taking only one of us, incognito, than all three. We never found *Acer pentaphyllum*, but we now know where it is – maybe next time! By way of compensation we collected *Rhododendron auriculatum* and several interesting *Acer pectinatum* varieties.

We collected many rare and interesting seeds on our trip. I have to admit we only collected about half of those on our list, but maybe that is only to be expected in such a vast and botanically rich country. We were more than compensated by the collections we had not been looking for and by the rich cultural adventure.

Thank you for helping us make the trip!

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WILD CLARY (*SALVIA VERBENACA*) IN CHURCHYARDS

I read Nick Sturt's article on *Salvia verbenaca* in Sussex churchyards (*BSBI News* 68) with great interest. Shortly afterwards, I was pleased to read in Pepys' Diary that on April 26th 1662, having stayed in Portsmouth, Pepys and companions travelled:

'...over to Gosport, and so rode to Southampton. In our way, besides my Lord Southamptons parks and lands, ... we observed a little churchyard, where the graves are accustomed to be all Sowed with Sage'.

Pepys' party was accompanied by a local guide, who was presumably the source of this information.

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GREY WILLOW IN BOTH LEAF AND FLOWER

On November 23, 1994, when walking on Wandsworth Common, London S.W., Ken Page and I were surprised to see a willow in both leaf and flower. On a closer look, this turned out to be a largish bush of *Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*. Its foliage was full, and fresh if not exactly spring-like and the catkins were large and male. It was growing in a wooded part of the common in lightish shade.

The identification of the plant was confirmed by Mr R.D. Meikle who suggested that I should report the find, saying that he had never before seen a specimen quite like this with catkins and leaves developed at the same time in autumn.

It would be interesting to know if other people have noticed a similar phenomenon.

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THE WORCESTERSHIRE 500 CLUB

Membership of the Club is restricted to those who claim to have found 500 species of vascular plants in a Worcestershire tetrad. It currently comprises one Flora Project co-ordinator with a particularly vivid imagination.

In the hope of improving on this unhappy position, it is proposed to mount a short course aimed at helping participants in the Project to overcome the constraints and inhibitions which have held them back from achieving hefty tetrad totals. Particular attention will be given to the needs of those unfortunates bogged down in the upper reaches of the four hundreds, especially the nervous nineties, excitable eighties and seriously unsatisfactory sixties and seventies. The course will consist of a short series of ephemerology (note 1) lectures, individual and group psychotherapy sessions, and field visits to the most lethal bits of terrain in the county. Those completing it can confidently expect to be greatly strengthened in the five *Critical Success Attributes* (C.S.A.'s) needed to turn the key in the door to Club membership.

Motivation

They will emerge from the course with their competitive edge honed to a westwoodian sharpness. They will be in no doubt that achieving the highest average species per tetrad figure for their 10-km square ranks with England winning the World Cup in the overall scheme of things.

Outrageous Optimism

Faced with a choice between two look-alike taxa, one common in every tetrad in the British Isles and the other only recorded from the Scillies and Ultima Thule, they will find themselves able to come confidently to the conclusion that the botanical scrag-end they've found in the pub car-park is beyond doubt the latter.

Punctilious Pedantry (or the Pursuit of Trivia)

Given the premise that you can find more species if there are more species to be found, they will be intellectually convinced of the validity of the 'splitting' approach to plant taxonomy, and will see nothing amiss in having *Festuca ovina* divided into several hundred taxa separated one from another solely on the basis of lemma length measured in microns. Confronted by some gaudy great deformity of an *Oenothera* hybrid, they will curb their natural and well-founded instinct to run away from the thing, and instead engage it at close quarters in an effort to convince themselves that it is *O. fallax* rather than one of the manifestations of *O. glazioviana* × *O. biennis*.

Disregard for Danger

They will have learnt to suppress narrow and mean-spirited concerns with self-preservation, and they will pursue records in the most desperate situations without a thought for the ever-present hazards of the Worcestershire countryside: falling off friable lumps of sandstone and/or into reeking settlement pools, terminal entanglement in brambles, death by *Rosa obtusifolia* crucifixion, going down with Weil's Disease or Lyme Disease or both, etc.

Overcoming of Obstacles

They will share the garneric (note 2) approach to problems of access, which is essentially based on the striking correlation between straight lines and shortest distances, and they will be familiar with the associated cornucopian or 'harvest home' method of specimen collection. Whilst fully appreciative of the rights of owners to enjoy their property in peace, quiet and privacy, they will nevertheless be clear in their minds that there are occasions when these rights will be overridden by prime considerations of the public interest (e.g., the need to take a close look at a flower-bed weed while the occupants watch attentively through the french window) (note 3).

A particular feature of the course will be a special workshop for those recorders who are anxious to have a better understanding of the aerodynamics of the technique of determining critical *Salix* material by throwing it over one's left shoulder (note 4).

In conclusion it must be stressed that this important new initiative will not be allowed to compromise the high standards of scientific rigour which have characterised the Flora Project from the outset. Records of *Pseudofumaria lutea* will still only be accepted if they are supported by a video of the ant carrying the seed up the wall.

Notes

1. The study of day-old cotyledons enjoying a brief lodgement in the cracks in pavements. An experienced ephemerologist has been known, by way of example, to find representatives of 40% of the Madagascan flora in 100 m of a North London street inside half an hour.
2. Roget gives the following range of synonyms for garneric: - rumbustious, turbulent, tumultuous, uproarious, boisterous, marauding, rampaging, rapacious, raptorial, piratical, buccaneering, freebooting and swashbuckling.
3. It is understood that William Waldegrave has now accepted that it may not be possible to implement certain elements of the Citizen's Charter in the Malvern area.
4. A practice which is thought by some commentators to have inspired the insouciant popular song lyric 'Over my shoulder goes one care.' etc

[With apologies for any incomprehensible in-jokes and with thanks to Peter Garner and Brett Westwood, two key members of the Flora Project, for consenting to be adjectivally assaulted before a wider readership. Peter has since become the second member of the 500 Club and, ablaze with ambition, formed a splinter group called the Malvern Thousands.]

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[The above first appeared in the *Worcestershire Flora Project Newsletter* No. 5, March 1993 and I am grateful to Bill for allowing us to reprint it here. Ed.]

URTICA GALEOPSIFOLIA IN NORFOLK

Further to the note by Barbara Last (*BSBI News* 68: 10, Jan 1995), the 'Stingless Nettle' has long been known to Norfolk botanists, and was pointed out to me many years ago by the late Eric Swann who referred to it as *Urtica dioica* var. *inermis* though he failed to mention the plant either in his *Flora* or its supplement. Following Geltman's paper in *Watsonia* I examined several populations of this taxon in Norfolk and came to the conclusion that they were identical in every respect to the Wicken Fen plant there described and its continental counterpart. A pink card was duly sent to Chris Preston who said that he would have to await further instructions before publishing the record until *Urtica galeopsifolia* had been accepted as a British plant. Notwithstanding this, I asked helpers collecting records for the forthcoming *Tetrad Flora of Norfolk* to be on the look out for it and have received several records from Broadland as a result. I have also found several colonies along river and streamlines, especially in old shady lanes and bridleways where these are crossed by spring lines in clay areas. To date, since Geltman's paper, *Urtica galeopsifolia* has been recorded in 18 East

Norfolk tetrads, and I would expect this number to increase appreciably once observers 'get their eye in' for what is quite a distinctive plant.

In addition to the points mentioned by Barbara Last, I would add that the stems look greyish, being densely pubescent.

In addition to Norfolk specimens, I have also reported one site in West Suffolk to Mrs Hyde

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FEN NETTLE (*URTICA GALEOPSIFOLIA*) IN BERKSHIRE

On 21 August 1994 I was exploring a stretch of the River Kennet near Woolhampton, Berks. Crossing a footbridge I looked down on a patch of nettles of slightly unusual appearance, tall and with slender leaves; closer investigation showed these plants to have all the characteristics of *Urtica galeopsifolia*, including not stinging me. The plants were on the river bank in partial shade, growing with a number of common riverside plants and with the Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

A specimen was gathered and sent to the vice-county recorder, Dr Stephen Jury who passed it on to Prof. D. V. Geltman, with whom he was in communication at the time. The identity of the specimen was duly confirmed by Prof. Geltman, who originally described it from England (*Watsonia* 19: 127-9 (1992)), thus adding yet another site for this nettle, which appears to be commoner than originally expected in Britain.

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OBSERVATIONS ON ORCHID POLLINATION

My article on *Orchid Pollination in Pembrokeshire* in *BSBI News* 68, Jan. 1995, persuaded five 'orchid nuts' to reply to my appeal for actual observations instead of generalised and often vague book references. I list the replies below, along with the correspondents initials, as I am not happy about divulging their addresses, but should any reader/researcher wish to enquire further I will pass on their letter.

Orchis militaris. *Empis tessellata* pollinating on 30.5.93. C.R. (Lang lists *Apis*, *Bombus* and Syrphidae).

Ophrys insectifera. Similar member of Empididae pollinating on 29.5.93. C.R. (Lang mentions male *Gorytes mytaceus*).

Epipactis helleborine. *Vespa germanica* (probably) pollinating in 1994 in Wales. C.R.

Dactylorhiza fuchsii (hybrid). *Ochlodes venata* (large skipper) pollinating in 1994. C.R. (Lang lists many species of bee and Syrphidae).

All the above visits were recorded on videotape, notably a good sequence of the wasp, plus attached pollen sack, visiting *Epipactis*. Gutowski, J.N. 1990, mentions *D. fuchsii* pollination by 'longhorn' beetles in Polish primeval forests.

Anacamptis pyramidalis. *Argynnis aglaja* (dark green fritillary) and *Thylemicus sylvestris* (small skipper) feeding on, 24.7.85 at White Down, Surrey. J.C. (Lang lists butterflies, moths and Diptera).

Epipactis purpurata. Wasps (presumably *Vespa* sp.) visiting, on 31.7.82 at Boxhill, Surrey. J.C.

Dactylorhiza purpurella and *D. incarnata*. Occasionally pollinated by *Bombus* sp. in 1994. J.W.

Dactylorhiza maculata. Occasionally visited by Syrphidae and small flies in 1994. J.W.

Platanthera bifolia. No visits of insects observed in 1994 during degree dissertation in

Northumberland by N.K., nor any moths with pollinia from nearby moth trap, but he makes a

significant reference to Prof. L. A. Nilsson, 1983, of Uppsala University, Sweden, who lists the following moth visitors in Europe:

<i>Hyloicus pinastri</i>	pine	
<i>Hyles galli</i>	bedstraw	hawk-moths
<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	elephant	
<i>Deilephila porcellus</i>	small elephant	

Also *Heliophobus reticulata*, *Hada nana*, *Apamea onoglypha*, *A. furva*, *Plusia gamma*, *Gnophos myrtillata* and *Aplocera plagiata* (also mentioned by Darwin).

Nor were any visits seen by C.H. who watched a 55-strong colony in a 10 square yard patch in Ufton Wood, Warwickshire, in the 1970s.

Platanthera chlorantha. No visits seen by C.H. of moths, butterflies or bees in ideal conditions in the 1970s. The colony contained about 300 plants in 10 square yards of Ufton Wood, Warwickshire. He lived in the wood as woodman and actually sat by the orchids all night long on several occasions, with picnic hamper! During the two to three week flowering period he noted that their scent was strongest during day 2-3, but that on day 10-14 their pollinia hung down 'like pendulums', after which capsules developed. He refers to M. Catling's paper, 1980, which demonstrated that *Liparis loeselii* was self-pollinated in every instance by rain.

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POPULUS NIGRA subsp. BETULIFOLIA NAMES AND DATES

I am trying to discover the date when the name 'Manchester Poplar' was first used. Henry, who studied poplars in some detail, makes no mention of the name (Henry 1914). Having said this he also states that, '...this tree does not seem to have been propagated by nurserymen for many years past...' (Elwes & Henry 1906-13). This cannot be correct as Stace (1971) states that the trees in Manchester were then between 30 and 100 years old. This means that they would have been planted from 1870 onwards, long before Henry was writing. This being the case, were nurserymen selling *Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia* under another name? If so, what was it? Stace (1971) quotes Hadfield as using the name Manchester Poplar in 1957. It therefore seems likely that the name came into use sometime between 1914 and 1957. Can anyone shed more light on the matter? Answers to these questions may help to uncover the origin of the clone/clones involved. Whilst on the subject of our native black poplar, can anyone tell me when the name *Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia* first came into common usage and when it was first generally accepted to be native. I have recently been studying F.A. Lees' notebooks in the Leeds Reference Library where I found that he describes the same tree by two different names. In 1907 (Florula Meanwood Valley, Notebook No. 8) he describes it as *P. nigra*, while in 1916 (Notebook No. 9) he calls it *P. nigra* var. *betulifolia*. What had happened in the intervening years? Had he read Henry's accounts in *The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland* (Elwes & Henry 1906-13) or *The Gardeners' Chronicle* (Henry 1914)? I understand that our native tree was first described in America by Frederick Pursh and Michaux (White 1993) although Henry (1914) states that it was '...well known to the pre-Linnaean English botanists, whose numerous specimens

may be seen in the British Museum.' What happened between it being described in America and it being accepted as native in this country? Was Henry the man responsible for this general enlightenment?

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WATSONIAN VICE-COUNTIES IN LONDON – 2

In *BSBI News* **68** Brian Wurzell refers to the need for a London A-Z atlas showing in detail the vice-county boundaries in the Capital (of England!) which clarifies where every street belongs. The good news is that this has recently been done. In the 1994 issue of *The London Naturalist*, published at the end of November, there is an illustrated sixteen-page paper by Rodney Burton that gives this very information. All the boundaries in and near London are described in words, and where there is any difficulty relating them to modern boundaries, especially bearing in mind that most London borough boundaries changed slightly in 1994, marked figures from a street atlas are provided. Offprints of Rodney's paper can be obtained from me on receipt of five unused 2nd class or 19p stamps per copy.

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DIALECT PLANT-NAMES

The batch of names which follow form an interruption in the alphabetical list of names given in previous parts of *BSBI News*, and are all names which have been given to cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*).

Blackman's oatmeal – 'from friends from York' [Edgware, Middlesex, November 1994].

Break-your-mother's-heart – 'You know wild cow parsley ... we were not allowed to pick it. We called it break-your-mother's heart.' [Wimbledon, London, November 1983].

Bunker [Brundall, Norfolk, March 1991].

Cauliflower flower – '[Name] used by my father when referring to the cow parsley and, as he finds this family very confusing, for similar species. The name is cauliflower flower. Though brought up around the Clent Hills [Worcestershire] he does not remember where he picked it up. He has always called it by this name.' [West Stow, Suffolk, January 1991].

Deadman's flesh – 'As a child in the Ipswich district I always called cow parsley deadman's flesh – I assume because so much of it grows in grave-yards. I didn't know of any other name for the plant.' [Stowmarket, Suffolk, September 1985].

Devil's porridge [Dublin, May 1993].

Dog's flourish – 'The central west Scotland name for *Anthriscus sylvestris* – dog's flourish. As a local in her 70s said, "well, it grows on the verges where the dogs have been!"' [Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, February 1991].

Gypsy lace [Taunton, Somerset, April 1994].

Hemlock – ‘Cow parsley – widely in Norfolk called hemlock, and very unlucky to pick and take indoors.’ [East Tuddenham, Norfolk, October 1984].

Keck [Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, September 1993].

Kex – ‘[Name given to] cow parsley, and/or other coarse umbelliferous weeds. I heard this from my father about 1930 walking through a field he had known as a boy (also near Ballymoney).’ [Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, January 1991]. Also recorded, as kecks, from Gloucestershire.

Kexy or **Keksie** – Lincolnshire. [St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Alvingham, Lincolnshire, October 1994].

Kill-your-mother-quick – ‘Cow parsley ... my mother called it kill-your-mother-quick, and would never allow it in the house or she would die. Queen Anne’s Lace [another name for the plant is] generally understood to refer to its lace-like appearance, but also [refers to] her (Queen Anne’s) tragic child losses.’ [Witham, Essex, May 1983].

Mother-die – ‘When I was growing up in Northamptonshire in the thirties, children used to refer to cow parsley as mother-die and predict that, if you picked it and took it home, your mother would shortly die. (I never tried the experiment, and my mother, I’m glad to say, is still alive and well!)’ [Oakham, Leicestershire, July 1983]. Also recorded from Norfolk, Suffolk and Yorkshire.

Pig weed – ‘Cow parsley, all foresters [in the Forest of Dean] kept at least one cottage pig and bunches of cow parsley were often fed to it, together with new bracken tops, blackberry tips, etc., as a change of diet from kitchen scraps. But you mustn’t feed this to a little pig or you would “stitch ‘un”. In other words it would grow too quickly for its skin.’ [Cinderford, Gloucestershire, November 1993].

Queen Anne’s Lace – widespread: the explanation given under kill-your-mother-quick, above, has only been recorded once.

Sheep’s parsley – Suffolk. [East Tuddenham, Norfolk, May 1994].

Shit parsley – ‘An old man who used to live in the village, who died a few years ago aged 80, used to call cow parsley shit parsley.’ [Wickham, Cambridgeshire, April 1993].

Stepmother’s blessing – ‘As a child in Yorkshire, we would never pick the tallish, very small white flowers that grew by the wayside ... many times I was tempted to pick them, but was told not to as it was called stepmother’s blessing or mother-die ... as I was very fond of my mother, I did not wish to acquire a stepmother, which was what would happen, I was informed, if I picked them.’ [Ashley, Shropshire, March 1983].

Thanks to Annetta Andrews, Patricia M. Berry, Alec Bull, Ray Cowell, Brian Dawson, Betty Loring, Helen D. Megaw, Elsie Olivey, W. Osborne, Norman Page, Calvin Podd, John N. Porter, Brian Rich, Alison Rutherford and Stella Wilson for their contributions.

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HERBARIUM OF D. DICKINSON MPS (fl. 1875-1902)

D. Dickinson’s herbarium originally consisted of three leather and cloth bound volumes containing pressed specimens collected in the British Isles between 1875 and 1902. One volume of cryptogams and another of angiosperms are missing, presumed destroyed. This herbarium is not listed in Kent & Allen, *British & Irish Herbaria* (1984). The single extant volume, apparently volume one of the original three, contains 323 leaves, 28 × 35 cm, each with a green cloth tab, and bearing an angiosperm specimen (except for a single *Equisetum* (Horsetail) and a *Juniperus*). The contents of this volume were mostly collected between 1878 and 1881. The first three sheets are damaged by soot and folding but the remainder are in a good condition. Each sheet contains the common and Latin name in copper plate script and usually there are notes on the locality, a date and occasionally additional details. There is also a separately bound index, consisting of pages 159-181 that have been removed from a printed book which was entitled (according to the running heads) *Old English Wild*

Flowers. This index is annotated with the appropriate herbarium sheet numbers for volume one. The cover of the index bears an important clue as to the collector's identity – a pharmacy label – 'D. Dickinson, Chemist, Hoole Pharmacy, Chester'. This perhaps suggests that D. Dickinson developed an interest in botany from his pharmaceutical studies, although the collection consists of general material, both wild and cultivated, with no specialisation apparent. By far the largest number of collections (c. 165) were made around Ripon (v.c. 64) in 1878. Frequently mentioned Ripon sites include: Ashfield woods, Bell banks, Hutton moor, Maggashaw woods, Parker's plump and Whitecliff. The other main locality is Nottingham (v.c. 56) in 1879 with at least 40 collections. There is evidence of possible vacation excursions in the form of a few specimens from other locations. These include; Coventry (1880), Grantham (1879), Leamington (1880, 1881, 1887), Orkney (1880), Oxford (1880), Sussex (1880), Wales (1902), and perhaps embarrassingly RBG Kew (1880).

The standard of pressing is high with evident care being taken over delicate dissected foliage, such as *Fumaria* (Fumitory). The state of preservation is also excellent with little insect damage and most specimens have retained their colour well especially the blue flowers of *Echium vulgare* (Viper's-bugloss).

The annotations on some sheets provide glimpses into the personal feelings of D. Dickinson who evidently had an eye for natural beauty. 'I got some of the exquisite flowers, but they spoiled on drying. D.' (*Menyanthes trifoliata*, Bogbean) 'The pond at Copgrove was covered with white and yellow lilies, & Bogbean flowers and very pretty it looked, I had to wade to get them' (*Nymphaea alba*, White Water-lily). Occasionally one reads of disappointments: 'Butterwort – I found a specimen on Hutton Moor, Ripon in 1878, but lost it'.

There are a few alien plants, notably a yellow flowered *Mimulus* (Monkeyflower) 'I found this – in fact a large cluster of them – growing on a large stone, the stone was covered with moss, in the middle of the beck or stream at Oldfield Spa, Ripon 1878'. A sheet of *Ecballium elaterium* (Squirting Cucumber) from Micham, Surrey 1880 may also be of alien origin.

Enquiries regarding this herbarium may be made to the address below.

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WARNING: PLANTS HAVE GOOD AND BAD YEARS TOO!

On the need for a botanical 'Common Birds Census'

In recent years there has been an upsurge of interest in vegetation *change*. In particular, those of us involved in site management (on NNRs, SSSIs, Wildlife Trust reserves, etc.) often need to know how our vegetation is changing, to help establish whether a given management regime is 'delivering the goods'.

For example we might reintroduce grazing to a piece of derelict pasture, or return an abandoned hay-meadow to so-called 'traditional management'. The *costs* (financial or otherwise) of such management may be high, and, sometimes for this reason alone, it is important to demonstrate that the venture has been *worthwhile*. To this end a monitoring programme is established so that, within a few years, we can say which species have decreased or increased in abundance. If all goes to plan, on our newly grazed pasture we will be able to show how grazing-sensitive species (e.g. *Arrhenatherum elatius*) have declined; and how a range of 'desirable' species has increased, regaining a foothold now that the turf has been nibbled down and opened up.

I suspect many BSBI members are involved in some kind of vegetation monitoring, whether working for a conservation body, or as consultants or 'volunteers'; and our attentions may be directed at either particular species (often the rare ones) or whole communities. Of course, few monitoring projects are concerned with cases as straightforward as my *Arrhenatherum*-infested pasture; indeed, many are dealing with fairly subtle management changes and barely discernible shifts in species' abundance. Nevertheless, if on a particular site we *do* discern that species a, b and c are

increasing, while x, y and z are decreasing then – more than likely – we will try to interpret these changes in terms of the site's management regime.

Over the last few years I have been involved in establishing (and revisiting) monitoring plots for English Nature on grassland SSSIs in south-west England. We now have 53 plots (usually whole fields) on 30 grassland SSSIs, each one having been set up to investigate the effects of particular management activities (usually under some form of management agreement). Of course, many of the botanical changes we have recorded have been clearly due to management. For example, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the increase in 1994 of *Glyceria fluitans*, *Cardamine pratensis* and *Senecio aquaticus* on fields at Southlake Moor SSSI, Somerset Levels, was due to the reinstatement of raised water-levels to provide 'splash flooding' in spring, for breeding waders. Nevertheless, other botanical changes there have proved more difficult to interpret: why, for example, should *Ranunculus acris* have increased on these flooded fields? Data from other sites revealed that in 1994 *R. acris* did well in all sorts of grasslands, irrespective of management regime. *R. acris* had increased 'across the board', at sites on Dartmoor and in South Devon, on the Dorset coast and the Blackdowns. Other species, too, appeared to be undergoing parallel fluctuations in abundance on most of the sites being monitored, including *Centaurea nigra*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus bulbosus* and *Trifolium dubium*.

These observations highlight the dangers of looking at individual sites in isolation – dangers that have long been appreciated in our dealings with *animals*. Through the 'Common Birds Census' (CBC) and the ITE-run Butterfly Monitoring Scheme we are now accustomed to the idea that, at a national level, birds and butterflies can have 'good' and 'bad' years. For example we know from the CBC that the 'crash' locally of breeding whitethroats in the late 1960s was part of a *national* decline; and that it had more to do with the Sahel drought than with how farmers in Somerset were managing their hedgerows. Thus changes in local bird populations often reflect *national* changes which, at local level, we are powerless to influence.

But this national perspective is lacking when it comes to plants. True, there was the BSBI monitoring scheme which, useful though it was, focused on national changes in species distribution and frequency. It did **not** deal with year-to-year fluctuations in the abundance of species on individual sites. Perhaps what we need now is something like the CBC – a 'Common Plants Census' – with fieldworkers registering their monitoring plots as part of a national scheme, and an annual report telling us which species have done well or badly, and pinpointing the environmental factors (e.g. cold winter, wet spring, summer drought, declining rabbit populations, atmospheric pollution) likely to be responsible for the observed trends.

Only if we can somehow gain this national perspective will we be able to correctly interpret the botanical changes taking place on individual sites. Without such a perspective we fall into the trap of assuming that changes in species' abundance on a particular site are the result of site-specific changes in management: many probably are, but some certainly are not!

With *Atlas 2000* getting into gear this is probably not the time to be floating ideas such as these... but all the same I thought I would: what do members think?

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english-Names

Attention has been drawn to the fact that the article on Subspecies failed to include the English common name for *Categoria outlandica*. This gross breach of *BSBI News* etiquette is regretted and such a botanical solecism must be corrected. However the author wishes very strongly to avoid any participation in the controversy surrounding the correct nomenclature of British plants in the vernacular, has no views on capitals or Capitals and is neither hyphencole nor hyphenfuge.

It will be recalled that *Categoria outlandica* originated in the southern hemisphere or Southern Hemisphere or southern Hemi-sphere. This species is well known to the New Zealand Maoris who

call it La'au e komo mai 'ili-ahi-a-lo'e-lana-i-ka-wai aloha which roughly translated means welcome water beach sandalwood greeting plant. This name has too many **or** too few hyphens, too many **or** too few Capitals or capitals and may be unsuitable for general use in the British Isles unlike its more mellifluous compatriot Pirri-pirri bur. I am grateful to Mrs Stella Luce for drawing my attention to this latter species.

Categoria outlandica was first formally named as recently as 1927, in Australia where it was given the common name of Adrian's didgeridoo. The origin of this name is interesting. Apparently in that year there was a successful tennis player called Adrian Quist who had the misfortune to slur his words causing listeners to think he was inebriated. Even today Australians with their rhyming slang refer to a mate who has a 4XXXX too many as being 'a bit Adrian'. This origin is suspect especially when it is remembered that between 1797 and 1821 some 600 people were convicted of forgery in the British Isles; of these 300 were executed *and the remainder transported to Botany Bay*.

Thus the way would appear to be clear for *Categoria outlandica*, now that it is established here, to be given an english common name or an English Common-name. It is bound to be contrived and raises the moral issue as to whether Common english Names should be invented for foreign plants, japanese Knot-weed notwithstanding.. Normally, of course, the BSBI Names Committee would resolve such a matter but in this case there is perhaps reason to engage a wider opinion especially since Forget-me-not was renamed Remember-me. It is therefore proposed, albeit by an amateur, ignorant beginner, that all BSBI members be invited through the *BSBI News* to comment and suggest a suitable name. At the same time they should be invited to supply a Common-english name for those other unfortunate species recently quoted in the *News* and without namely: *Coccoloba emetica*, *Nasticeechia crawlupia*, *Vertigo verticalis*, *Euphoria scotia* and *Pylon repens*.

Finally it would be inappropriate to end this piece without reference to Enwau Cymraeg ar Blanhigion gan Dafydd Davies ac Arthur Jones. Mae *Enwau Cymraeg ar Blanhigion* yn darparu'r rhestr fwyaf cynhwysfawr a gyhoeddwyd hyd yn hyn o cnwau Cymraeg ar blanhigion blodeuog a rhedyn Prydeinig ynghyd a'u henwau gwyddonol (Lladin) a'u henwau Saesneg. We need a Welsh name too.

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EPIPHYTIC SEEDING SYCAMORES

The epiphytic trees, mainly Ash, Elder, Sycamore and Yew, usually (but not exclusively) found on Crack Willow pollards in Avebury and the Kennet Valley, have not yet reached fruition (*BSBI News* 65: 18-20). Their roots were mostly in humus, or for the bigger epiphytic saplings had descended vertically *inside* cracked or hollow, but still living, willow trunks.

Epiphytic sycamores also occur along the Bath/Bristol Avon, again mainly on Crack Willow pollards. However, some of these have produced a lattice of roots *external* to the willow trunks, reaching the ground and thereby permitting the originally epiphytic Sycamore to enlarge, flower and fruit. The photo (page 38) shows the Sycamore leaves, root networks, and at least 2 bunches of samaras, as well as some of the willow leaves, in the rising waters of the River Avon at Limpley Stoke (Wilts) on 1/11/94. The central trunk is a 10m Sycamore, but the bunches of samaras to the left and middle of the picture may come from other smaller surrounding epiphytic sycamores.

The Sycamore root lattice surrounding the willow trunk reaches about 1m to the water level and about 2.5m to the ground when the water level drops in summer. The fact that a Wiltshire Sycamore can mature and sexually reproduce from a living perch by use of a network of 'strangler roots' indicates an incipient evolutionary parallel with Australian Strangler Figs (*Ficus destruens*, *F. macrophylla*). These also need moist conditions and, like the Sycamore in the illustration, can either mature as epiphytic 'stranglers' or alternatively grow directly from the ground (Nicholson 1990).

Reference

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Epiphytic fruiting Sycamores with an external 'strangler root' lattice on a healthy Crack Willow. Rising waters of the Bath Avon at Limpley Stoke, Wilts., 1/11/94. Photo © J.E. Oliver

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TAKING BRAMBLES TO THE GRAVE

The botanist J.B.L. Warren (1835-1895) was no stranger to the genus *Rubus*. Some 20 pages of his *Flora of Cheshire* (1899) are devoted to the subject. (Far more than most modern vice-county floras).

Today Warren's '*R. concinnus*' of Trout Hall, Plumley, Cheshire (where it is still locally abundant) is known as *R. warrenii* Sudre. Clearly Warren had played his part in the study of batology for a species to be named in his honour.

J.B.L. Warren was buried in the churchyard at Lower Peover. His grave is easy to find, for at the head of the grave stands a large memorial cross. The irony is that at the foot of the grave is a robust bramble (perhaps surprising in such a tidy graveyard), identified as the alien *R. laciniatus*.

This raises the question, has the plant been introduced by the local avifauna, or by deliberate means?

Rubus laciniatus is the cut-leaved bramble, and is unmistakable, should any members be in the neighbourhood, and the Bells of Peover public house is adjacent to the churchyard.

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THE WOLLEMI PINE

During 1994 an amazing discovery was made in Australia, a small group of previously unknown pine trees in a deep valley in the Wollemi National Park.

Botanists from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service were able to quickly establish numbers at about 40 specimens and effectively seal off the area as a reserve.

Subsequent investigations have found the trees to be 'living fossils', plants which were believed to have become extinct in the Cretaceous period (80 million years ago) and represent a new genus. The trees grow to a height of about 40 metres.

Botanists around the world have been able to see the press releases and first illustrations of the discovery through the Internet. It is a remarkable fact that the global computer networks now available to anyone with the necessary access and equipment can participate in such events almost immediately. The pace of developing such tools is hard to keep up with and yet they have become an everyday resource in institutions such as the Natural History Museum in London, where scientists both contribute and use information on the 'Net'.

Amateur and professional botanists should find something of interest almost every time they link into the Net, so rapidly does it change. There are an estimated 40 million users today, but this is increasing hourly!

So, what happens next to the Wollemi Pine? Unfortunately, it seems they have already attracted the attentions of 'collectors' and urgent attempts are now being made by officials to collect seeds to grow in botanic gardens around the world and to protect the few trees from an unwelcome modern disaster – extinction.

MALCOLM BEASLEY, Botany Library, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, LONDON

MORE WINTER-FLOWERING HOLLY

Without wishing to cling like ivy to the on-going story of winter-flowering Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), none-the-less, members no doubt will wish to know that we have, here in Kent, our own Christmas flowering specimen.

Its a male, no less, hence no berries to embellish the story. But every December, the hardest members of the Sidcup Natural History Society walk Footscray Meadows with birds and flowers in mind. So in 1994 this holly tree was in bloom on December 18 and my records show it to have been in bloom on December 19, 1993 as well.

The question then arises as to whether it is worthy of status as a variety. After all the Glastonbury Thorn is listed in Bean's *Trees and shrubs hardy in the British Isles* as *Crataegus monogyna* var. *praecox*. Perhaps not, but at least it should have a common name. How about 'The Sidcup Thorn'? And, please, no letters about Ted Heath and Mrs Thatcher ...!

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LINNAEANS versus JUSSICUANS

I have just read Robyn Marsack's book *My garden : selected from the letters and recollections of Mary Russell Mitford* (Sidgwick & Jackson, 1990). In a lively and amusing letter dated 4 May 1837 to Elizabeth Barrett Browning, a close friend with whom she corresponded once or twice a week '...until Mr. Browning stole her from me', Miss Mitford (1787-1855) wrote:

'Moreover, they [the scientists] are themselves, for the most part, so scornful and conceited that we are at perfect liberty to "scorn the scorner"'. Only think, for instance, of botanists, who know

no more of the cultivation of a plant than the desk I am writing on, despising florists and horticulturalists, who bring the lovely flowers and the goodly thing, the fruit, to such perfection! And they can't even agree about their own jargon! We had the other day a pitched battle in my garden between a set of Linnaeans and a set of Jussicuans. Oh! if you had heard the clatter! I was fain to bring forth my own list of new annuals (I have sixty, most of which have never blown in England), and had the glory of out-long-wording both parties, to the shame of floriculture, who ought to speak plain. I wish you had been present, it was a curious scene.'

Can someone tell me who the Jussicuans were?

JO DUNN, Flat 2, Sandford Mount, Charlbury, OXFORD OX7 3TL

MISTLETOE SURVEY

MISTLETOE SURVEY 1994-96 – A BRIEF UPDATE

Many thanks to all those members and friends who have sent in record cards and observations. Please accept my apologies for any delay in replying to queries; the response from the general public has been rather overwhelming and both I and the Plantlife office have been deluged with mail.

Several people have asked whether it is worth recording squares likely to be recorded by others. The answer to this is YES PLEASE! as the survey is recording host preference as well as basic distribution. We will be undertaking some preliminary analysis of 1994/95 data before resuming the survey next winter so any data gathered so far would be welcome.

JONATHAN BRIGGS, 2 Ledgemoor, Watledge, NAILSWORTH, Gloucestershire GL6 0AU

MISTLETOE – MORE ABUNDANT ON CALCAREOUS SOILS?

Since last November I have been an active participant in the Mistletoe Survey organised by the BSBI, in collaboration with 'Plantlife'. Before I set out on my first search-trip I read the account of *Viscum album* in Clapham, Tutin & Warburg (1st and 2nd editions) and in the more recent Clapham, Tutin & Moore, and I was astonished to read the words: 'On the branches of a great variety of deciduous trees ...more abundant on calcareous soils'. It was these last five words which caused my astonishment! I had always known that mistletoe had definite preferences as to its host tree but I failed to understand in what way it could matter to the plant whether its host was growing on acid, neutral or basic soils. If its only known hosts had been obligate calcicoles (or nearly so), then all would have been clear, but this is obviously not the case. Of the thirteen 'possible' hosts given on the Survey Form, only two – field maple and perhaps crab apple – show a marked preference for basic soils, whereas most of the others (including common lime – oddly, not on the list, but by far the commonest host in Berkshire) will grow in any reasonable soil wherever they happen to have been planted. Rowan, also on the list, I would have thought to be a calcifuge as it is usually found, when native, in granite areas.

I have spoken to several Reading botanists and also to an ecologist from Bristol about this little puzzle and they were all equally mystified. Is there any objective evidence for the above statement, I wonder, or was it just a casual observation made by somebody living in a limestone area where mistletoe happened to be plentiful, as it is in that section of the Borough of Reading which lies north of the Thames but which is actually part of the chalk of the South Oxfordshire Chilterns?

As well as on limes I have now found this myth-laden hemi-parasite on crack willow, hybrid black poplar, Norway maple (not on the list, though sycamore is listed), hawthorn, cultivated apple,

and three small ornamental *Crataegus* spp. unidentifiable in the absence of leaves, and I have to admit that all have been found growing on calcareous soils.

Professor Clive Stace, in his *New Flora of the British Isles*, is silent on the subject of mistletoe's soil preferences – if any. Is it really more abundant on calcareous soils or was this whole story just one more myth, now exploded by modern research? Perhaps – and yet – I continue to wonder?

CAROL HORA, 51 Eastern Avenue, READING, Berkshire RG1 5SQ

MISTLETOE IN COVENTRY

Although not a member of the BSBI, I heard about your Mistletoe Survey from a friend and thought the following observations may be of interest.

For many years I have noticed bunches of Mistletoe along the A429, Warwick Road in Coventry and when I heard of your survey I did a count of them recently.

This road runs North/South with an area known as Top Green which is an ornamental park on the west side. Nearer the station is the King Henry VIII School.

On the west side of the road is a line of seventeen mature Lime trees (*Tilia x vulgaris*) and of these five have from one to four bunches on them. Two limes in the grounds of the school have four and seven bunches each. Next to the railway bridge are another three trees with growths on them.

On the east side of the road there are two mature Hawthorns (*Crataegus monogyna*), one in the garden of a private house and the other in the grounds of a hotel. They have one and three growths respectively. As I left the station on the train to London, I spotted another tree covered in Mistletoe.

I will return to check if there are any other trees in the area with growths on before sending in the findings for your survey.

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BOTANICAL LATIN

LATINUS BOTANICUS

A report on the meeting on *Botanical Latin* at The University of Reading, 4 February 1995

Spring was in the air as an eager band of members plus University students (numbering 45 and 25 respectively) gathered at the School of Plant Sciences. The University of Reading, for the long-awaited meeting on Botanical Latin.

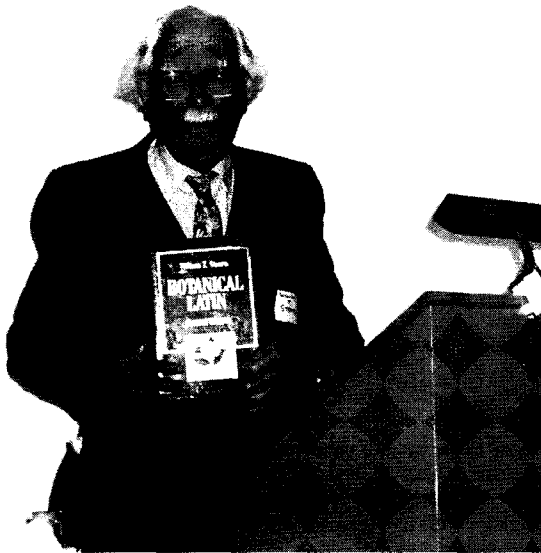
After some welcoming words by Professor Michael Dick of the University Botany department, 'our own' Dr Stephen Jury introduced Professor William Stearn. As Visiting Professor for many years at Reading, a world-wide authority on both Linnaeus and botanical Latin, and whose book *Botanical Latin* is now in its fourth edition, Professor Stearn was the keynote speaker. He began by giving us a definition of the term Botanical Latin: a modern romance language devised and developed over about three hundred years as a technical language separate from Latin used specifically, and internationally, for the naming and description of plants. An ancient Roman would not recognise it today as his everyday language, as many new words have been coined – the majority of them from Greek; and many classical Latin words have been given new and precise botanical meanings.

The Professor then spoke of the history of the development of this language, mentioning the contributions made by many early scholars and scientists going back as far as Aristotle, Theophrastus, and Pliny; then Carolus Clusius, Joachim Jungius, John Ray, and Carl Linnaeus. The book *Botanical Latin* was written to keep open the channels of communication by providing a key to unlock the wealth of knowledge recorded in this specialist language.

At 12.15 the meeting was adjourned for lunch. It was a beautifully sunny day, and so we all enjoyed the delightful five-minute walk across the grounds of the University to Wessex Hall, where a superb buffet luncheon was provided. All around one the subject of the meeting was under discussion – evidence that everyone found it of great interest.

After we had reconvened, Philip Oswald, a classics scholar, addressed the meeting with a talk entitled 'Happy Endings!', which was described in the programme as a light-hearted look at the grammar of scientific names, but which was also an extremely useful exposition of where, when, and how, the specific epithet should agree with the generic name. Philip, with great originality, illustrated the points he was making (on well-produced overhead transparencies) using the fascinating parallel of titles of various royal personages throughout history. For instance, in the examples 'Alfred the Great' and '*Myosurus minimus*', the specific epithets are comparative adjectives; in 'William Rufus' and '*Lamium album*', the adjectives are descriptive. In both these cases the adjective has to agree with the noun. 'William the Conqueror' and the parallel '*Quercus ilex*', however, consist of two nouns; and in 'William of Orange' and '*Primula veris*', the specific name is in the genitive case. Neither of these have to agree. There were many more examples, and the talk was so good that several of us asked him to publish it in *BSBI News*, and we are looking forward to him doing this.

Professor Stearn then returned to the platform and gave us a very entertaining account of how his book came to be written in odd moments over a long period.



Prof. Stearn and 'The Book' at Reading. Photo © A. Daly, 1995

After this John David delivered an interesting paper explaining the benefits that a knowledge of Botanical Latin is to mycology, which he sees as: an enhanced appreciation of the development of mycology; an understanding of the names and terms (making them easier to remember); an ability to manipulate the endings of names correctly; and an ability to read descriptions that would otherwise be published in a foreign language. He gave many examples to illustrate these points (all of which apply equally to botany), including a humorous element found in some of the newer names, e.g.: *Blarneya hibernica* – a newly discovered fungus from Ireland, *Rubikia*, whose spores (according to the authors) 'bear a superficial resemblance to a Rubik's cube, and have a complex structure we have been unable to fully understand'; and *Zyxiophora*, thus named to ensure the last entry in the *Dictionary of Fungi*!

Finally, Gordon Rowley rounded off the proceedings with 'Botanical Latin: the unfinished chapters?', a very amusing comment on some of the strange 'Latin' words and odd pronunciations one comes across in the botanical world.

Despite its formidable title, this meeting was a very informal affair – combining the more-serious points raised by our speakers with a little levity. It was interesting to see that many members not often seen at field meetings were drawn to this meeting. Everyone I spoke to afterwards had enjoyed it very much, and it was a pity more had not attended.

For this extremely interesting and enjoyable meeting our thanks go to:

Stephen Jury, who (acting on an idea originally put forward by Brian Gale) very kindly and efficiently organised the meeting in the Department of Plant Sciences at Reading University; Professor William Stearn, who despite his 83 years, managed to hold an audience enthralled for about one and a half hours (in two sessions); and Philip Oswald, John David, and Gordon Rowley for their excellent contributions.

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BOTANICAL PRONUNCIATION – ELEVEN ROUGH GUIDES

Botanical pronunciation has long been a thorny issue, possibly even more so than its sister controversy, that of common names. There are plenty of guides and rules (especially from Victorian times), and yet it is clear that few people pronounce the words as recommended, and if they did they would be regarded rather oddly, even in respected academic circles.

The guiding principle in accumulating the recommendations below, has been to reflect how most people, particularly botanists, do actually pronounce botanical names and other words, rather than how they should. Therefore there are many disagreements with works like Coombes (1985), etc., which quite correctly have a different function. I have listened with interest to botanists over the years, particularly to the more respected 'older generation' whose proper way of doing things is in danger of dying out with them as they are replaced by Philistine plant scientists or whatever. Despite the classical education that many of my informants had, they still do not follow the stricter rules that are still laid down. As Professor Stearn said at the 1995 BSBI/University of Reading conference on *Botanical Latin*, '[English] botanical Latin is a modern romance language in its own right', and the present contribution is the result of observing the pronunciation of this living language.

Yet it is still not just a matter of pronouncing the words as you like, or as if they were English: somewhere in the middle lies a practical compromise, and it is for this that a simple guide is needed, for the botanical neophyte (as well as the occasional gerontophyte). Practical pronunciation lies between pretentious classical usage, and gardeners' gaffs; few would disagree about these extremes, but there is of course some variation of view about any middle path. There will always be, and always should be, those who categorically disagree with these or any guides, for that is what they are – not rules. Inevitably I have taken sides in some contentious issues, not least for *Camellia*. It is probably unwise for a southerner to instruct a Mancunian on how to pronounce the word bus, and I suspect that this short piece may be unwise; I shall be disappointed if it does not trigger robust comment.

The pronunciations given do not use dictionary conventions, except for a single inverted comma after a stressed syllable; read them as English words. In the case of foreign names, this is a blunt but functional instrument.

The guides below were first produced some years ago, in response to student requests for a one-sheet simple handout, which is of course impossible. The selection here is necessarily subjective, but many examples are multifunctional, or are words that students ask about. There is always the temptation to cram in another point, example, exception, or reference, or to close up line-spacing or to use smaller point-size, but this would lose the intended purpose.

What follows is the current version of that handout, still just one A4 sheet. For a fuller lookup reference, Johnson & Smith (1931) provides a small book that gives both realistic pronunciations, and also derivations.

NOTE: guides below are Traditional English pronunciation, unless indicated as: “RA” which means Reformed (or Restored) Academic, and is not generally used.

- **“G”s and “c”s** are soft before an “e” (or the diphthongs containing “e”, “ae”, “oe” or “ei”) or an “i” (or “y”), otherwise hard (before “a”, “o”, “u”, “c”, etc.); the mnemonic “A gungy ginger gargoyles” may help. Thus flaccid is pronounced flak’sid, as in accent, and fungus (fun’gus) becomes fungi (funj’eye, or less preferred funj’y, though fung’eye/y are often heard) in the plural, as does coccus (kock’us) become cocci (kock’s-eye, or kocks’y). Hence: *Scutellaria* (Skoot’-), and *Scilla* (Sill’a); but *Scirpus* is Sker’pus. “C” before an “e” or “i” as “tsh” is a Church Latin affectation (*Ceratodon* as Tsherat’-odon). “G” or “c” from a Greek root is traditionally hard as in *Gymnogyne* (Gim’no-guy’ny). (RA: “g”s and “c”s always hard).
- **“Ch” and “th”** are usually “k” or “th”, as in lichen (lie’-ken) and *Schizostylis* (Skit’so-sty’lis, but Shy’zo- is acceptable, and Shy-zee’a for *Schizaea*, Shy’nus for *Schinus* (RA: Skeen’us), Shee’nus for *Schoenus* (RA: Skoy’nus), etc., are in practice usual. But *Thea* (Tay’a), *Thymus* (Tie’mus), etc., have “th” as “t”.
- **“Gn”** at the beginning of a word has a silent “G”, as in *Gnetum* (Neet’um), but in the middle it is pronounced, as in *Sphagnum* (Sfag’num). Similarly “Ps” as in *pseudocapsicum* (syewd’o-cap’sikum), and “Gm” in *Gmelina* (Mel-eye’na) and *Regmatodon* (Reg-mat’odon). Similarly “Tm”, “Pt”: *Tmesipteris* (Mesip’-teris), and also “Pn”, “Mn”, “Ts”, etc.. Many exceptions include: *Rhizomnium*, *Hypopterygium*, where the link vowel is not accented (Rie’zo-nie’um, Hie’po-ten’gium).
- **“J”s** may be pronounced as a consonant “y” before an ultimate vowel, as in *Thuja* (Thoo’ya) and *Buddleja* (Bud’-leya), but usually not otherwise as in *Juniperus*, *Juncus*, *Juglans*, *Leucium*, etc.
- **The vowels** may be pronounced (RA) as in the mnemonic “Pa let me off too”, but this is complicated by long and short vowel sounds, which depend on grammar (see Stearn 1992). Fortunately, nobody in England will understand you, especially if you pronounce “v”s as “w”s, and “j”s as “y”s. It is, however, closer to the botanical Latin used on the Continent. Common sense helps, e.g. “y” in *Hymenophyllum* (Hie’men-off’illum). *Pinus* is invariably politely pronounced Pie’nus.
- **The final “e”** should always be pronounced, a bit like a short “i”, as in *Cardamine* (Cardam’iny); exceptions usually include *Helleborine* and *Aloë*, which can sound odd unless pronounced like their Anglicised forms. *Aloë* even has the final “e” with two little dots over it to indicate that it should be pronounced separately (Alo’-y with a long “o”), but those who do so risk raised eyebrows.
- **Double-“i”** endings tend to get pronounced as in *smithii* (smith’y-eye).
- **Diphthongs/monophthongs:** examples: *Cheiranthus* (Kie’-), *Coelogyne* (Seel’o-), *Euphorbia* (You’-), *Daucus* (Dor’kus), *Aegilops* (Eej’-), *Coix* (Koyks). For RA see Stearn (1992).
- **Not diphthongs:** when the above paired vowels are reversed, or when the letters come together from different word parts, e.g.: *Elodea* (E’llo-dear), *lanceolata* (-ee-oh-), *Isoetes* (should really be written Isoetes: Eye’so-eet’ees), *Aloina* (A’lo-ee’na), *aloides* (strictly al’-o-eye’-deez with a short “o”, but usually al-oy’deez), Ranunculaceae (-ay’si-ee’), or practically and sensibly condensed as in Andreaeaceae (An’dri-ay’si, with short “i”s). Joking aside, *Cotoneaster* is not pronounced “Cotton-Easter”.
- **Stressing syllables:** various (conflicting) rules:
 - a) if the name is derived from two or more parts, then it should be pronounced accordingly, e.g. *Tetraphis* (Tet’ra-fiss), *angustifolium* (angus’ti-fol’ium); do not accent the link vowel. Common exceptions include: *Tenopteris*, *Xiphopteris* (Tenop’-Ziffop’-teris), *Polytrichum*, *Orthotrichum* (accent on link-“o”, and -“y”), see rule (b) below. The worst I have heard in all seriousness is Dizz’y-Goth’ica for *Dizygotheca* (normally Die’-zie’go-thee’ka, with a soft “th”), owing to slavish application of rule (b).
 - b) accent first syllable of two, middle of three, third from end of four or five; but this is a crude rule, and depends on long or short vowels (e.g. accent penultimate if long, if not then

antipenultimate) and grammar which would not be known by most people; euphony in English usually wins.

- **All these guides** are usually over-ridden in the case of scientific names derived from proper names, which should be pronounced as closely as reasonable to their native pronunciation, as in *Gesneria* (Gez'-), *Schefflera* (Sheff'-), *Camellia* (Kamell'ia from the Moravian Kamel, Latinised to Camellus), *Buxbaumia* (-bow'- as in house), *Colchicum* (Kol'chikum, from Colchis), *Matthiola* (Mat'iola from the Italian Mattioli), and *warszewiczii* (a close try is Varsh'evich'y-eye, from Polish). The problem is knowing how they were pronounced, which is often debatable anyway. The Australian genus *Austrobaileya* would be "Ost'-" if the prefix referred to the country, which it doesn't, so it should be pronounced "Orst'-". Exceptions usually include: *Menziesia* (Men-zeez'ia, from Scottish "Min(g)'iz"), *Choisya* and *Magnolia* (Choy'zia and Mag-noh'lia from the (Swiss-)French "Shwus-ee" and "Manyol"), *Fuchsia* (Few'-sha, an English delicacy from German "Fooks"), *Mahonia* (Ma-hoh'nia, from American-Irish "McMar'n"), and even *Rafflesia* (Raff-leez'-ia, from English "Raff'ls").

SOURCES include:

Stearn, W.T. (1992). *Botanical Latin* (4th edn). David & Charles
 Coombes, A.J. (1985). *The Collingridge Dictionary of Plant Names*. Newnes Books.
 Johnson, A.T. & H.A. Smith (1931). *Plant Names Simplified* (2nd edn). Collingridge.
 Paxton, J. (1853). *A Pocket Botanical Dictionary* (2nd edn). Bradbury and Evans.

Plus general observation amongst botanists, to whom many thanks for their (often conflicting) comments.

SEAN EDWARDS, The Manchester Museum, Manchester University, MANCHESTER M13 PL

CONSERVATION NEWS

NEWS FROM CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

We have recently been asked for our views on any changes to be made to the lists of species for special protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). We proposed the following candidate species to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) via Plantlife:

<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Club Sedge
<i>Carex muricata</i> subsp. <i>muricata</i>	Large-fruited Prickly-sedge
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford Pink
<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>	Crested Buckler-fern
<i>Galium parisiense</i>	Wall Bedstraw
<i>Hammarbya paludosa</i>	Bog Orchid
<i>Illecebrum verticillatum</i>	Coral-necklace
<i>Juncus pygmaeus</i>	Pigmy Rush
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Cut-grass
<i>Lychnis viscaria</i>	Sticky Catchfly

Provisional candidates are *Melampyrum cristatum* Crested Cow-wheat and *Asplenium septentrionale* Forked Spleenwort. Members who have views on these proposals, or information about threats to the species, please contact me. David Streeter, chairing his first Conservation Committee meeting, pointed out that it is always bad news for a species to be named after any place in Kent, which seems inevitably to lead to a decline of species such as pinks, warblers and filmy-ferns. Maybe the most constructive recovery programme for *Dianthus armeria* would be a change of name?

Members may also be interested to know of the 'Plant Europa' conference, to be held on 2-8 September 1995 in Hyères, France. Organised jointly by Plantlife and the French Ministry of the

Environment, it will be the first European conference for wild plant conservation and will cover legal instruments, practical measures, sustainable uses of plants, the plant trade, habitat management and the involvement of people. Details are available from Plantlife, c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Rd, London SW7 5BD

VICKY MORGAN, Hon. Secretary, Conservation Committee.

ALIENS

ALIENS WELL RECEIVED

The long-awaited *Alien Plants of the British Isles* by E.J. Clement and M.C. Foster was published by the BSBI on 26th November 1994 and launched at the Annual Exhibition Meeting held at Baden Powell House. It has been very enthusiastically received. A sample of some initial reactions follows (names and addresses supplied):

'The book is marvellous ... I am amazed at how much interesting information has been packed into it, and how rewarding it is just to browse in ... a great achievement.' [Dyfed]

'I am much impressed by its scope and accuracy ... It should sell well and become a classic work of reference.' [Dorset]

'I expected it to be first rate, but I think it is even more than that ... I can think of no improvement that might have been made.' [Suffolk]

'... the sheer wealth of information packed into a small space is extraordinary.' [London]

'The book is *far* more exciting than I was expecting! ... it really is a landmark – and so inexpensive.' [Dorset]

'Magnificent, fantastic, a highly remarkable achievement, on which the authors deserve the highest compliments.' [Kent]

'It will be of enormous use for all people working on aliens in Europe.' [Belgium]

and similar comments by several others!

The authors wish it to be put on record that their names were arranged alphabetically; there was no senior author. They are now busy, under the direction of Bruno Ryves, and with assistance from Duggie Kent and Dr Tom Cope, on producing the concluding part of their work (entitled *Alien grasses of the British Isles*) which should be published in 1995/6. It will include keys to some difficult genera and, hopefully, illustrations by Graham Easy.

Meanwhile Eric Clement is assembling corrections and additions to the first volume in the hope that a new edition or supplement will eventually be produced.

Finally may I congratulate Eric and Sally on receiving The Presidents' Award for 1995, a well deserved honour.

GWYNN ELLIS, Editor

ALIEN RECORDS

My thanks to those members who sent in details of the alien plants they had recorded recently. Because the April issue of *BSBI News* already contains Field Meeting Reports and the Report of the Annual Exhibition Meeting, Alien Records will normally appear in the September and January issues of *News*. The records I have now, together with any more that I receive in the next few months, will appear in the September issue.

GWYNN ELLIS Editor

GLORIES OF THE SNOW

'*Chionodoxa* were discovered only about a century ago high in the mountains of Asia Minor where they flowered in great sheets of blue backed by the melting snow,' (Doerflinger, 1973). Indeed 'chion' means snow and 'doxa' glory, which paints as picturesque an introduction to the subject as we may seek. These beautiful bulbous alpinists have transferred extraordinarily well to British gardens, their gracefully spreading, rotate, squill-like flowers bringing vivid sky, azure and gentian blues to our spring months. There are actually two or three species at high altitudes in Southern Europe, Tutin et al. (1980) giving *Chionodoxa cretica* and *C. nana* from Crete and Walters et al. (1986) giving *C. albenscens* and *C. nana* from Crete and also *C. lochiaie* from Cyprus. The three discussed in this paper, however, are, *C. luciliae*, *C. forbesii* and *C. sardensis* from West Turkey. These account for practically every Glory of the Snow likely to be found in cultivation or as a garden escape in Great Britain. In total, the genus contains approximately six species

Despite its limited size *Chionodoxa* has become a rather confused genus in botanical and horticultural literature, with synonyms unclear, epithets misapplied and statuses debatable. Suffice for the moment to present at least the Turkish representatives as currently understood, with descriptions which work and with names which are now deemed correct. They are as follows:

Chionodoxa luciliae: Flowers large, upward-facing, usually single on their scapes, pale to sky blue with lobes 15-20mm. 'Eyes' (pale basal rings inside perianth segments) conspicuously white. Leaves often rather recurved towards tips. The names *C. gigantea* and *C. luciliae* var. *gigantea* have been misapplied here.

Chionodoxa forbesii: Flowers moderate, outward-facing or ascending, sometimes the lower slightly pendent, usually in racemes of 6-12 on their scapes, rich to azure blue with lobes 10-15mm. 'Eyes' white, proportionately smaller and less conspicuous than above. Leaves normally straight and spreading. The names *C. luciliae*, *C. siehei* and *C. imolusi* have been misapplied here. It is much the commonest *Chionodoxa* in cultivation.

Chionodoxa sardensis: Flowers small, outward-facing to pendent, usually in racemes of 6-16 on their scapes, azure to gentian blue with lobes 8-10mm. 'Eyes' vestigial to almost unnoticeable. Leaves normally straight, spreading, slender and convolutedly channelled.

C. forbesii and *C. sardensis* have both been recorded in the wild in this country, as 'well naturalised from seeds where neglected or thrown out,' (Stace 1991). From my own experience, too, they readily self-sow on dry ground inside and outside gardens. Moreover their bulbs, like those of the common spring-flowering *Crocus* species (*BSBI News* 60) are remarkably adept at surviving hot, drought-stricken months of aestivation amongst predominating roots of *Lolium perenne* (Perennial Rye Grass) beneath trampled urban lawns. *C. forbesii* and *C. sardensis* are photographed with rather washed out colours in Rix and Phillips (1981), the former under the name *C. siehei*. More true to life are the photographs of *C. forbesii* and *C. luciliae* in Brickell (1993). Authentic, too, is the line drawing of *C. forbesii* in Stace (1991).

On a grassy east-facing hillside in Springfield Park (London Borough of Hackney, v.c. 21), there has long existed a population of naturalised *Chionodoxa*. It comprises the best part of a thousand plants and they flower each year from late February to early April. Struck by extreme degrees of variability within this population, I examined individuals more critically, and now distinguish four taxa (see front cover illustration). Three are the clear-cut Turkish species described above. The fourth is larger than any of them, with upward- to outward-facing flowers, usually 2-4 together on their scapes, rich violet-blue with lobes 18-25mm and 'eyes' and leaves as in *C. luciliae*. For the moment, I am postulating *C. luciliae* × *C. forbesii*, based on features of intermediacy, and I consider it likely that similar plants are continually arising *in situ* here. I am not aware if such a hybrid has yet been described, it is, however, possible that such hybrids arising elsewhere have been placed in the vague 'gigantea' bracket, since the *C. luciliae* of Rix and Phillips (1981) does bear some passing resemblance to our largest-of-all Springfield examples. Certainly there is a lot of self-seeding taking place in this flamboyant colony with new progeny maturing all the time. A parasitic smut fungus, *Ustilago vaillantii*, was found to be infecting the stamens of *C. forbesii* alone.

Chionodoxa is closely related to *Scilla* (Walters et al. 1986), differing primarily in having the base of its perianth fused into an obconical tube approximately a fifth the length of its lobes. Tightly within this proximal tube there nestle six free stamens bearing characteristically flattened white filaments and mustard yellow anthers. In *Scilla*, by contrast, the perianth lobes remain virtually or entirely separated to the base and the filaments may be bluish and little flattened. *S. bifolia* (Alpine Squill) is also naturalised in this Springfield Park locality. It is described in Stace (1991) and in gardening books, as a species considered particularly near *Chionodoxa* by virtue of producing at least one intergeneric hybrid with it, namely *S. bifolia* × *C. forbesii* = × *Chionoscilla allenii*. This hybrid is a fairly widespread garden plant although perhaps not often identified accurately. We may note that its perianth segments are cut to the base as in *Scilla* (Chittenden & Synge, 1974), while Schaunberg (1965) further describes it as resembling *C. forbesii* except that 'the deep blue floral segments have no white basal patch and turn a darker violet blue when the flower is about to fade. The ... stem produces 6-9 flowers' and 'the leaves are longer than those of its related species.' There exists the possibility of × *C. allenii* arising spontaneously at Springfield Park and such crosses will eagerly be sought in future.

May all these genera receive the botanical scrutiny they deserve, for they bring pleasure to many as winter relents its grip.

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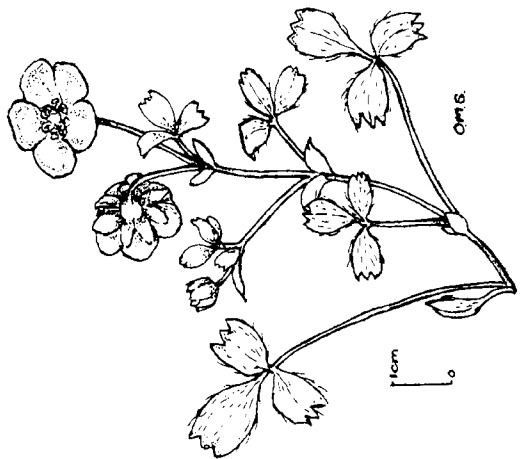
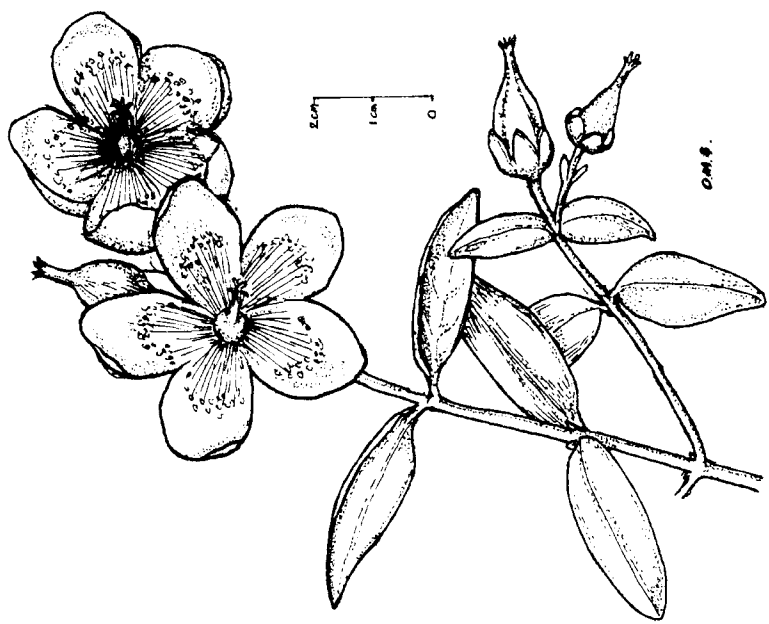
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TWO UNUSUAL GARDEN ESCAPES IN KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

In the last few years two unusual garden escapes have been recorded in Kirkcudbrightshire. In 1993 a St John's-wort with flowers nearly as large as *Hypericum calycinum* was seen growing out of rocks in a roadside cutting, two plants had seeded themselves into crevices 30 feet apart. Like *H. calycinum* and *H. pseudohenryi* (I thought it was the latter) our plant had 5 styles but Norman Robson has identified the plant for us as *Hypericum forrestii*, he said this was the St John's-wort that is grown in Scottish gardens (see illustration p. 49).

The second is a pretty potentilla, brilliant yellow with Sibbaldia-type leaves. This was found by Anna White in a disused quarry in the north part of the county. The owner can't account for it being there, but it probably was introduced when some broken masonry was tipped there without her permission. It hasn't been used as a 'dump' before. It is *Potentilla eriocarpa*, a plant from the Himalayas (see illustration p. 49). When trying to identify it, I looked through Edinburgh Herbarium and found one specimen in the cultivated *Potentilla* folders which had been given by Gen. Murray Lyon. Ardoorly, Pitlochry from his garden in Perthshire. I thought there was no specimen in the Botanic Gardens, as it was not on their list of everything growing in the garden, produced in 1990, but it has been introduced since then. Ron McBeath in the gardens says it has a limited life and has been replaced from time to time. Our plant covers over 2 foot square and looks very healthy, so it will be interesting to see how long it will last with us.

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POTENTILLA ERIOCARPA

Hypericum forrestii and *Potentilla eriocarpa*, del. Olga Stewart © 1995

EXOTIC TREES IN THE BRITISH FLORA

Further to my note in *BSBI News* 68 regarding a request for information on Exotic Tree species and my recent appointment as Referee for Introduced and Cultivated Trees, I feel it would be useful to try to clarify a few points.

1. Trees considered Native by Mitchell (1981), in approximate order of arrival after the last ice-age, are as follows:

<i>Juniperus communis</i>	<i>Quercus robur</i>
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
<i>B. pendula</i>	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
<i>Populus tremula</i>	<i>Populus nigra</i> var. <i>betulifolia</i>
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	<i>Taxus baccata</i>
<i>Salix pentandra</i>	<i>Sorbus aria</i> agg.
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i>
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	<i>Prunus avium</i>
<i>Prunus padus</i>	<i>Salix alba</i>
<i>Salix caprea</i>	<i>Acer campestre</i>
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>

Including their natural hybrids (e.g. *Quercus* × *rosacea*) and subspecies or varieties.

Any not on this list are considered therefore Exotic or Introduced.

2. The records in which I am interested are of those species of introduced trees which are as yet little recorded in the British flora. Exotic species such as Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) are very well represented in the British flora and consequently, very well recorded: these records are of lesser interest to my project. Since being in correspondence with Jack Oliver, I am now aware that the tree species with which I am interested needs further clarification and I will attempt to do so as follows:
 1. Trees listed in Stace (especially 'other species') but which are not in Clapham *et al* (1987).
 2. Trees neither listed in Stace (1991) nor Clapham *et al* (1987).
 3. Any trees which may be fairly commonly planted but as yet not considered fully naturalised. e.g. *Alnus rubra*, *Acer cappadocicum*
 4. Any records of non-native trees established in semi-natural vegetation which the recorder thinks are of particular interest. i.e. the sort of thing that would be sent to a v.c. Recorder.
3. A tree would be defined as a Woody Plant which normally grows on a single stem and is capable of reaching a height of 10m under normal conditions.

Finally, many thanks to all those who have so kindly sent me information as requested.

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## WHAT NAME FOR THE TREE TOMATO?

The Tree Tomato, occasionally found as an alien in the British Isles, and well known as a tropical crop, has for many years been referred to as *Cyphomandra betacea*. Recently the name *C. crassicaulis* has appeared in several British publications including: Mabberley, *The Plant Book* and Clement and Foster, *Alien Plants of the British Isles*. However in many American publications the name *C. crassifolia* has proliferated, especially since it was taken up by Macbride in the *Flora of Peru*. This name is based on *Solanum crassifolium* Ortega which was described in 1800. According to Bohs (*Flora Neotropica* 63: 57) Cavanilles first published *Solanum betaceum* in 1799 and again in his *Icones* in 1801. It thus has priority over *S. crassifolium* Ortega and consequently the combination *C. betacea* (Cav.) Sendtner has priority over *C. crassifolia* (Ortega) Kuntze. But what of *C. crassicaulis*? This appears to be an orthographic error originating in Britain. The Venezuelan plant sometimes seen in cultivation under glass and labelled *C. meridensis* is shown by Bohs to be *Cyphomandra diversifolia* (Dunal) Bitter. Bohs (*loc.cit.* p. 83) lists this as a synonym of subsp. *chlorantha* (Rusby) Bohs, but as I have not seen fruiting material I am unable to suggest which subspecies of *C. diversifolia* is cultivated in Britain. Rarely, cultivated plants with large entire densely villous leaves are encountered under the apparently unpublished name *C. endtiana* (which name is attributed to A. Child). This name is not treated by Bohs, although *C. casana* Child (based on *Endt* s.n. K) is treated as a synonym of *C. cajanunensis* (HBK) Walpers and the plants cultivated as *C. endtiana* appear to be referable to this taxon.

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## NATURALISED *MESPILUS GERMANICA*: FACT OR FACTOID?

For several years now I have been intrigued by the way in which *Mespilus germanica* (Medlar) either appears or does not appear, apparently at random, in books concerned with the British Flora. No mention is made of this tree in Oliver Rackham's *The History of the Countryside* (Rackham 1986) – a strange omission, for a tree with such obvious interest to the historical ecologist, if it is indeed naturalized. This together with the fact that some of the references to the tree are suspiciously similar, suggesting they have simply been copied from other works, started me wondering whether the Medlar's naturalisation was fact or factoid (Rackham 1990)!

In *The Englishman's Flora* Geoffrey Grigson states that, 'Gerard already knew the Medlar as a wild tree, more or less, found "often-times in hedges among briars and brambles".' (Grigson 1955). Gerard wrote this in 1597. About 300 years later Sir J.D. Hooker states that *M. germanica* occurs in 'Hedges and thickets Mid. and S. England. Channel Islands, naturalised.' (Hooker 1930). In 1957 Miles Hadfield says that it is 'Seldom found out of gardens or far from the habitations of man.' Later in the chapter, however, he says that 'In some districts, particularly the woods of Kent and Sussex, it is reported as naturalized. The wild trees are thorny, with small fruit.' (Hadfield 1957). Most recently, as far as I am aware, Clive Stace speaks of it as 'Introduced, naturalized in hedges for at least 4 centuries; local in Channel Islands and Southern Britain, sporadic in Central and Northern England.' (Stace 1991). The above evidence seems to suggest that this tree has maintained itself in the wild state for 400 years. What other evidence is there, however, to support this conclusion? Perhaps answers to the following questions would help:

- 1) How is *M. germanica* faring in a modern Britain which has lost its taste both for the Medlar as a fruit and the hedgerow as a landscape feature, i.e. are there really still any Medlars growing wild in this country? If the answer is yes then do we know where they are and how long they have been there? I notice that *M. germanica* is not included in the *Atlas of the British Flora*. Are there

- sites where it has been lost in the last 50-100 years after having persisted in a naturalized state, e.g. due to hedgerow removal, etc.?
- 2) Does it readily set viable seed which germinates and grows to maturity, i.e. has it really maintained itself in the wild for 400 years without relying on the arrival of fresh escapes from cultivation? Has there been a decline in the occurrence of wild Medlars which corresponds with the decline in the trees popularity as a cultivated plant?
  - 3) Has it any means of vegetative reproduction, e.g. suckers? Can *M. germanica* regenerate from cut stumps or fallen trunks/limbs?
  - 4) Are individuals potentially long lived, i.e. how many generations would there need to be to span a period of 400 years?

While on the subject of Medlars, Stace (1991) mentions the Haw-Medlar hybrid ( $\times$ *Crataemespilus grandiflora* (*M. germanica*  $\times$  *Crataegus laevigata*) as occurring 'sporadically as isolated trees of uncertain origin very scattered through Britain...'. Hadfield (1957) states that 'The tree is presumed to be a natural hybrid between *Mespilus germanica* and *Crataegus oxyacanthoides*, and is said to occur spontaneously in parts of France. (See also Elwes, H.J. & Henry, A. 1906-13 p. 1732.)

It was in cultivation in Britain in the late eighteenth century, and was then known as Smith's medlar. In 1838 a tree 40 feet high and girthing over 3 feet was recorded growing in Wiltshire.' Augustine Henry says 'This remarkable tree, of which there is a good specimen at Kew, near the Directors office [is it still there?], was in cultivation at Paris about 1800, and possibly earlier in England, as Loudon mentions old trees at Syon and other places near London' (Elwes, H.J. & Henry, A. 1906-13). Hadfield (1957) says that 'It is seldom planted now, but is often seen in old gardens and in public parks laid out during the last century.'

Are any of the trees occurring in Britain thought to be of a spontaneous origin? Wilkinson (1973) states that 'An old tree which puzzled me for a long time, right on top of Parliament Hill, turned out to be *Crataegomespilus*, a hybrid of hawthorn and medlar.' He does not indicate whether this tree appeared to be planted or spontaneous in origin.

I hope members will forgive me if I am travelling a well trodden path, or have missed obvious references; I'm rather new to this game (J.C. Loudon (1844) mentions a report of naturalized trees in Sussex (*Mag. Nat. Hist.* ix: 86) but I've yet to see the journal)! I would also ask that authors cited will excuse any apparent presumptuousness on my part. I would, however, like to hear more of this tree. Quoting Du Hamel, Loudon says that the medlar is 'more un fruit de fantaisie, than one of utility' (Loudon 1844). Is the naturalized *M. germanica* a tree 'de fantaisie' as well?

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## NEW *COTONEASTER* TAXA IN THE FLORA OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Since the publication of Prof. Stace's *New flora of the British Isles* in 1991 several new naturalised *Cotoneaster* taxa have been identified either from old herbarium material or from new sightings. They are listed below together with a brief description.

- C. apiculatus* Rehd. & Wils. 0.5-1m; deciduous; petals erect; fruit globose, bright red, pyrene 3.
- C. astrophoros* Fryer & Nelson ined. 0.5m; evergreen; petals spreading; fruit depressed globose, blood-red, pyrene 2(3).
- C. boisianus* Klotz 2.5-3m; deciduous; petals erect; fruit subglobose, bright orange-red, pyrene 3-4(5).
- C. cooperi* Marq. 4-5m; semi-evergreen; petals spreading; fruit turbinate, plum-purple to black, pyrene 2.
- C. fangianus* Yu 2m; deciduous; petals wide-erect, pink; fruit obovoid, ruby-red, pyrene 2.
- C. henryanus* (Schneid.) Rehd. & Wils. 4-5m; semi-evergreen; petals spreading; fruit subglobose, dark-red, pyrene 2-3.
- C. hummelii* Flinck & Hylmo ined. 3-4m; deciduous; petals spreading; fruit obovoid-pyriform, black, pyrene 2-3.
- C. 'Hybridus Pendulus'* (plants from). Extremely variable ranging between the two parents *C. salicifolius* and *C. dammeri*, but mostly prostrate in habit.
- C. hylmoei* Flinck & Fryer 2-3m; evergreen; petals spreading, pale-pink; fruit globose, orient-red, pyrene 2-3(4).
- C. ichangensis* Fryer & Hylmo ined. 2-3m; deciduous; petals erect; fruit globose, black, pyrene 2-3.
- C. induratus* Fryer & Hylmo ined. 3m; semi-evergreen; petals erect; fruit subglobose, red, pyrene 2(3)3-4.
- C. mairei* Leveille 2-3m; semi-evergreen; petals erect; fruit obovoid, orange-red, pyrene 2-3.
- C. marginatus* Lindl. ex Schlecht. 0.5-2m; evergreen; petals spreading; fruit depressed globose, carmine, pyrene 2(3).
- C. microphyllus* Wall. ex Lindl. 0.5-2m; evergreen; petals spreading; fruit depressed globose, finally cherry-red, pyrene 2.
- C. monopyrenus* (W.W.Sm.) Flinck & Hylmo 3-4m; deciduous; petals spreading; fruit cylindrical, dark-maroon, pyrene 1.
- C. obscurus* Rehd. & Wils. aff. (sp. nov.). 1.5-2m; deciduous; petals erect fruit subglobose, dark-red, pyrene 3-4.
- C. pseudoambiguus* Fryer & Hylmo ined. 3m; deciduous; petals erect; fruit subglobose to cylindrical, black, pyrene (2) 3.
- C. rotundifolius* Wall. ex Lindl. 0.5-2m; evergreen; petals spreading; fruit subglobose, carmine, pyrene 2.
- C. sherriffii* Klotz 1.5-2m; semi-evergreen; petals spreading; fruit subglobose, coral-red, pyrene 1(2).
- C. tenguehensis* Fryer & Hylmo ined. 2-2.5m; semi-evergreen; petals erect; fruit globose, finally blood-red, pyrene 3-4-5.
- C. vilmorinianus* Klotz 1.5-2m; evergreen; petals wide-erect; fruit subglobose, dutch-vermilion, pyrene 2-3.

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## SPICE PLANTS NEAR GRAVESEND, W. KENT

I read with interest the article by Julian M. Shaw in *BSBI News* 67: 52-3 regarding the possibility of the introduction of Asian plants as a by-product of culinary activities. This prompts me to record the appearance of such plants in the wild in 1979-80 at Gravesend which has a large population of people from the Indian sub-continent.

The plants appeared at various localities in the vicinity of Denton Wharf, on the marshes east of Gravesend, which then was, and largely still is, a semi-derelict area near the Thames estuary, with hardly any resident population.

The outbreak of such species there remains a mystery since the plants were scattered in a number of localities on ground already vegetated, though sometimes lightly so. There was no dumping of soil or garden waste. In one place plants appeared on the side of a small, muddy lay-by on a marshland road, and the growth of plants such as *Lathyrus clymenum* on a small beach difficult of access, indicated that spice adventures were on the shoreline also.

The largest colonies were on pre-existing waste ground behind the river wall, among existing vegetation, the dominant plant by far being *Trigonella foenum-graecum* (Fenugreek), in hundreds, its smell filling the air. (Indeed pressed specimens in Maidstone Museum still smell strongly after 80 years). I visited the area 10 times in 1979-80 but there was no sign of the 'crop' ever being 'harvested'.

The dominance of Fenugreek seems to indicate that the other utilitarian species there with it were merely impurities e.g. Coriander, Lentil, Garden Cress (some with pink flowers), Cultivated Flax, Field Pea, Canary Grass, Tomato. (It's worth noting here that Caraway was established and abundant in car-parks in central Gravesend for some years from 1979 onwards until they were built over: very likely spillage from groceries bought in Asian shops).

Mr Shaw has indicated the potential for Asian alien plant introductions. The following list of associated species at Gravesend amplifies this in two ways; that not only does it contain some aliens not often recorded here, but others represent plants now rare in the wild in Britain.

- a) Associated species – *Galium tricornutum*, *G. saccharatum*, *G. spurium*, *Asperula arvensis* (some with white flowers), *A. taurina*, *Lathyrus articulatus*, *L. clymenum*, *L. aphaca*, *Melilotus indica*, *Scandix pecten-veneris*, *Bupleurum lancifolium*, *Lolium temulentum*, *Xanthium echinatum*, *Datura stramonium* (plus those already mentioned).
- b) Species which appeared to be probably associated: *Atropa belladonna*, *Iberis umbellata*, *Lamium amplexicaule*, *Consolida ambigua*, *Sisymbrium orientale*, *Vicia sativa* subsp. *nigra*, (*Avena sterilis* and *Phalaris paradoxa* var. *appendiculata* appeared slightly to the E on the sea wall and may well be connected. The latter (seen in two places) has the glumes of the sterile spikelets all deformed and club-shaped). A little further east still, a colony of *Ambrosia trifida* on the beach can be discounted, as being an oil milling alien. Similarly *Apera spica-venti*, in native vegetation behind the sea-wall, would be a continuation of colonies stretching from Erith Marshes to Greenhithe (and on Dartford Heath).

Asian plants have certainly also occurred in the last 25 years on the more than half a dozen large rubbish tips between Dartford and Gravesend. The total number of records for consideration is enormous, especially when records from large deposits in the wild of sewage sludge are added. Indeed, also adding in a good native flora, oil-milling aliens and garden escapes, the number of species which occur or have occurred in the last 25 years in this area (only about 9 miles long by 2-3 miles wide) is very much greater than in any other similar sized area of the British Isles ever. I hope to analyse this mass of records in due course, including the plants of Asian origin.

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NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS FOR PUBLICATION IN WATSONIA

## NOTICES (BSBI)

### WATSONIA – INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

The Editors of *Watsonia* have just revised the Instructions for Authors and copies of these may be obtained from the Honorary Receiving Editor at the address below.

BRIAN S. RUSHTON, School of Applied Biological and Chemical Sciences, University of Ulster, COLERAINE, Northern Ireland, BT52 1SA

## **WATSONIA – VOLUME 21, PART 1, FEBRUARY 1996**

The late Professor David Webb contributed a great deal to British and Irish botany and in particular to the work of the Botanical Society of the British Isles. The Council of the Society would like to mark his passing in some tangible way and it has been suggested that some form of publication would be the most fitting way of doing this. The intention is therefore to publish Professor Webb's obituary together with his extensive bibliography in *Watsonia*, Volume 21, Part 1, February 1996. Additionally, we will be including some papers and notes either on Irish plants or written by Irish botanists. If you have material that might be suitable and would like to submit it for publication please note that it would need to be with the Honorary Receiving Editor by early May at the very latest. Please note that any submitted manuscripts will be subject to the normal refereeing procedures operated by the Journal.

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## **CARMARTHENSHIRE FLORA RECORDING WEEKEND**

Will the lady who booked a place for the above field meeting at Llandovery, and who has not received an acknowledgement from the Leader, please contact Richard Pryce on 01554 775847.

RICHARD PRYCE, Trevethin, School Road, Pwll, LLANELLI, Dyfed SA15 4AL

## **FLOWERS AND FLOWERLORE – A THANKYOU**

Following my request for information on where to obtain a copy of the above book in a recent issue of *BSBI News*, I received a postcard, signed Wilberforce, giving details of where I could purchase the book. As no initials or address were given, I have been unable to contact 'Wilberforce' to thank him or her and to confirm that I did buy the book. So if you are reading this – Thank You!

JILL LUCAS, 8 Camborne Drive, Fixby, HUDDERSFIELD, West Yorkshire HD2 3NF

## **NOTICES (NON BSBI)**

### **NATIONAL COLLECTION OF *CAMPANULA* – OPEN DAYS**

It may possibly be of interest to some members to know that the National Collection of *Campanula* has Open Days this year on Saturdays May 27th and June 17th, from 10 am to 6 p.m.. Some 270 taxa are located here, including all British natives and aliens. A number of other Campanulaceae are also grown. We would be glad to welcome members at any other time – except Sundays – and hope that they will make themselves known when visiting.

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## **CAREERS IN THE ENVIRONMENT ACROSS EUROPE**

### ***Sustainable growth and environmental employment in the EC***

Two day Conference, 22nd & 23rd May 1995  
at BP Britannic Tower, Moorgate, London

Following two successful events organised by London Guildhall University as part of their Careers in the Environment Initiative, this is now being extended to consider the professional status, career opportunities, and skills required in environmental areas of work in different employment sectors across Europe.

Speakers from across EU member states will review the qualifications required, career routes and job opportunities for those in environmental work as well as professional training issues. The conference will also examine the contribution of environmental employment to the economy of Europe, the potential for growth and the mechanisms required to promote sustainable development programmes.

For further information, programmes and registration forms, please contact **Monica Hale** or **Guy Robertson** at:

The London Environment Centre, London Guildhall University, Calcutta House, Old Castle Street,  
LONDON E1 7NT Tel. 0171-320-1126. Fax 0171-320-1121

## **EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION NETWORK IN SYSTEMATIC BIOLOGY**

The principal aim of the European Science Foundation Network, established last year, is to improve communication links between European systematists. This will enable the European systematic community to organise activities that are co-ordinated across the continent, making the best use of Europe's unique resources of systematic collections and expertise.

The main activity of the Network will be a series of workshops, addressing issues such as the relationship between morphological and molecular systematics and Europe's response to the global biodiversity crisis (this workshop will be held in Leiden, The Netherlands, in May 1995). These high profile workshops will play an important role in bringing together European systematists to discuss issues of concern that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries. More details of the Network's aims and activities are provided in the *Systematic Biology Network Newsletter*, the first issue of which was published in February 1995. For any further information please contact me at the address below.

NICOLA DONLON, Secretary to the Co-ordination Committee, ESF Network in Systematic  
Biology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, LONDON SW7 5BD.  
Tel. 0171-938 9399, Fax 0171-938 9506

## **RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS**

### **DUNGENESS GRANTS**

The Dungeness Bird Observatory is concerned not only with birds but with all fauna and flora of the peninsula, and accordingly the Committee recently decided to invite applications for grants for research projects, centred on the Dungeness area, involving any branch of natural history.

Applications should be made in the first place to:

H.A.R. CAWKELL, Hon. Secretary, 3 Midrips, Jury's Gap, RYE, East Sussex TN31 7SH



## PAT BRENNAN MEMORIAL FUND

The Pat Brennan Memorial Fund was established in 1985 to award travel scholarships to British Botanists wishing to undertake field studies, particularly in Africa and Madagascar.

Applications are now sought for the award for 1995. A sum of £1,000 has been allocated for field work in tropical Africa or Madagascar.

Applicants should be British nationals, students or professionals without full institutional support, or amateurs with proven interest in systematic botany. Preference will be given to projects involving plant exploration, projects showing originality in the investigation of biological problems that would deepen our understanding of plant evolution or projects on plant utilisation. The successful candidate will be expected to submit a report on the approved project by June 1996. The candidate will need to obtain permission to undertake the research from the proper authorities in the country chosen and, with that proviso, will have access to appropriate facilities and advice from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Applications should consist of a curriculum vitae, a summary of the research proposal not exceeding 3 sides of A4 in length, an indication of other sources of funding and the names of two academic referees.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 30 April 1995, and these or enquiries should be addressed to:

Secretary, Bentham-Moxon Trust (Pat Brennan Memorial Fund), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,  
Surrey TW9 3AE

## OFFERS

### *A SAMPLE SURVEY OF THE FLORA OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND*

#### **Botanical Society of the British Isles Monitoring Scheme 1987-1988**

Based on a report for the Nature Conservancy Council by T.C.G. Rich & E.R. Woodruff

Edited for publication by M.A. Palmer & J.H. Bratton

U.K. Nature Conservation No. 8, JNCC, 1995

#### **HALF-PRICE OFFER**

The long awaited publication of what was once known as 'The BSBI Monitoring Scheme Report' will finally take place in April 1995.

From July 1st, the price will be £40 plus £3 p & p. **but to members of the BSBI, who place an order before that date, the book will be on special offer at only £20 plus £3 p.& p.**

To take advantage of this offer orders must be sent to the address below together with your BSBI membership number.

Natural History Books Service, 2-3 Wills Road, TOTNES, Devon TQ9 5XN

Tel. 01803-865913; Fax 01803-865280

GWYNN ELLIS, Editor

## REQUESTS

### **EARLY COLOURED PHOTOGRAPHS**

From the April 1891 'Preface to the first German Edition' of my copy of *Plant-Atlas, Illustrating Seb. Kneipp's Water-Cure*. The Publishers write of the coloured plates:

'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.'

Do members know earlier botanical publications illustrated by photography?

These plates are of specimens in colour, photographed flat on tinted backgrounds. The frontispiece is titled *My Water-Cure* and described as 'containing Pictorial Representations of all the Medicinal-Plants mentioned as well as some others in general use among the people. By Sebastian Kneip Paris(h) Priest of Woerishofen [Bavaria]'

The publishers are H. Grevel & Co., 33 King Street, Covent Garden W.C. and the book was printed by Jos. Kosel at Kempton (Bavaria)

MARY BRIGGS, 9 Arun Prospect, PULBOROUGH, West Sussex RH20 1AL

### INFORMATION REQUIRED ON *EPILOBIUM BRUNNESCENS*

I am a student at the University of Wales at Bangor studying MSc Ecology. I am planning to research a project on *Epilobium brunnescens* (New Zealand Willowherb), an alien species in Great Britain. I am planning to study its impact on the indigenous flora in upland Snowdonia. I will be grateful to hear from anyone else researching this species and also if anyone has any seeds that I could obtain for controlled experiments.

Miss C.M. HAYWARD, MSc Ecology, School of Biological Sciences, Brambell Building, UCNW Bangor, Deiniol Road, BANGOR, Gwynedd LL57 2UW

### *RUBUS* SPECIMENS FROM v.c. 59

In order to further assist my studies of *Rubi* in v.c. 59, details of herbarium specimens from that vice-county would be gratefully received. Please include as many details as possible including any previous names given to the specimens. Any field records (preferably with a 1km square map reference) would also be much appreciated.

DAVE EARL, 4 Meadow Way, Brooklyn Park, Gravel Lane, Banks, Nr SOUTHPORT PR9 8BU

### TUTSAN (*HYPERICUM ANDROSAEMUM*) IN ESSEX

On 4 July 1980 I found one plant of *Hypericum androsaemum* in a newly-coppiced area of limewood in Chalkney Wood, Earl's Colne, N. Essex. It did not persist. This is an almost exact parallel to Jeremy Dagley's discovery of the plant in Hatfield Forest (*BSBI News* 66: 9).

There are many early records of this plant in Essex woods and Epping Forest. I have little doubt that, like *Hypericum hirsutum*, *H. tetrapterum*, and *H. humifusum* [Hairy, Square-stalked and Trailing St John's-worts respectively] this is a woodland plant, not very tolerant of shade, which spends most of its time as long-lived seed and appears only after felling. Did anyone record it after the 1987 and 1990 storms, which awakened many coppicing plants?

OLIVER RACKHAM, Corpus Christi College, CAMBRIDGE CB2 1RH

## FOREIGN FLORAS AND FIELD GUIDES

Bob Press, who compiled for us in 1986: *Identification manuals: a guide -- Western Europe and the Mediterranean*, has now offered to update this guide. It was first published as a Supplement to *BSBI News* 44 December 1986.

Bob would be pleased to hear from any member who has **used** Field Guides and Floras recently in western Europe or the Mediterranean with comments on their practical use for identification, and in which countries or areas they were useful – taking language, format, illustrations, etc., into consideration

Please send comments to: Mr J.R. Press, Dept. of Botany, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

MARY BRIGGS, Hon General Secretary.

## FIGS IN NORTH MIDLANDS AND NORTHERN ENGLAND

We are gathering information of the occurrence of *Ficus carica* (Fig) in the above regions in order to evaluate the distribution of the species in Great Britain.

The occurrence of the fig along the banks of the River Don in Sheffield has been highlighted by Dr Oliver Gilbert who demonstrated an association with warm water discharge from the steel industry. Information to date indicates that the plant is probably widespread but local; occurring on disturbed, urban rivers with past or present thermal pollution. However, few detailed accounts are available.

We would be grateful for any information that is available; all contributions will be acknowledged in resulting publications.

CHARLOTTE ALLEN & CAROLINE HOBSON, Sheffield Centre for Ecology & Environmental Management, Town Hall Chambers, 1 Bakers Pool, SHEFFIELD S1 1EN

## COURSES

### TAXONOMY: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

A 12-day short course, *Taxonomy: Principles and Practices* will be held at Glasgow University between July 3-14, 1995. The course is open to all who are interested in taxonomy. For further details contact:

ZOE BADCOCK, Taxonomy Course, Botany, The University, GLASGOW G12 8QQ.  
Tel.: (0141) 339 8855 Ext. 6207. E-mail: [taxon@geology.glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:taxon@geology.glasgow.ac.uk).

### ENVIRONMENT COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The University of Bristol is offering two courses which may be of interest to members of the BSBI: *MSc in Ecology and Management of the Natural Environment*, commencing in October 1995, is for graduates in ecological disciplines who wish to become professional consultants. The final date for applications is 30 April, 1995.

*Certificate in Natural History (Open Studies)*, in association with the BBC Natural History Unit, is a new qualification for anyone interested in Natural History. The course is part-time, flexible, modular and designed to meet all interests.

For details of these, or any other courses please contact me at the address below.

DAVID J. HILL Department for Continuing Education, University of Bristol, 8-10 Berkeley Square, Clifton, BRISTOL BS8 1HH. Tel. 0117 928 7172, Fax: 0117 925 4975

## UNIT OF VEGETATION SCIENCE – 1995 PROGRAMME

Lancaster University is where the National Vegetation Classification was developed, work now being published by Cambridge University Press as *British Plant Communities*. The Unit of Vegetation Science is a training, research and survey group with an established reputation in applying the NVC approach for understanding vegetation resources.

This year's programme provides Continuing Professional Development for those working in conservation, landscape management and vegetation survey, as well as more specialised applications of the NVC in vegetation science.

For further information about our training programme please contact:

KATE STEELE, Short-Courses Co-ordinator, Unit of Vegetation Science, Lancaster University, LANCASTER LA1 4YQ. Tel. 01524 65201 ext. 3486; fax: 01524 843854

## COURSES AT SLAPTON LEY

Ailsa Burns is leading two courses at Slapton Ley Field Centre. From May 19-21, a weekend of *Easy Access Botany*, planned for people with limited motility, and from July 28 - August 9, a week's *Introduction to Monocotyledons*.

For details contact:

The Warden, Slapton Lea Field Centre, Slapton, KINGSBRIDGE, Devon

## BOOK NOTES

This is my last Book Notes as the Society's book reviews editor. I would like to thank all the reviewers, authors, publishers and others who have, directly or indirectly, contributed to the book reviews section of *Watsonia*. I hope that Chris Preston, who is taking over the job from the start of the next volume, will enjoy it as much as I have. To make his work easier, if you are planning or directing a publication please advise the publishers as early as possible of the arrangements for obtaining a review in *Watsonia*. A copy must be sent directly to the book reviews editor, on or slightly before publication, if delay in publishing a review is to be avoided. It is particularly important to include details of the price, and (if privately published) the address from which copies can be obtained.

*The Flora of Ditchley*. In the review of A.J. Dunn's book in *Watsonia* 20(2), the area covered by the *Flora* was incorrectly given as 46 hectares, whereas the correct figure, as readers of the book will be aware, is 4,646 hectares.

*Algae Plants and Landscape*, by D.J. Mabberley and P.J. Placito, was listed at £45 in Book Notes (*BSBI News* 66, April 1994) and in *Watsonia* 20 (2): 163, September 1994). The correct price for this book, which was published by Oxford University Press, is £30. I apologise for these errors.

Reviews of the following books will be included in the August 1995 issue of *Watsonia* 20(4):

- Greek wild flowers and plant lore in ancient Greece*. H. Baumann; translated & augmented by W.T. & E.R. Stearn. Pp. 252, 482 illustrations, most in colour. The Herbert Press, London. 1993. Price £16.95 (ISBN 1-871569-57-5).
- Vascular plant families and genera*. R.K. Brummitt. Pp. viii + 804. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 1993. Price £24.00 (ISBN 0-947643-43-5).
- Atlas Florae Europaeae* vol. 10, Cruciferae (*Sisymbrium* to *Aubrieta*). Edited by J. Jalas & J. Suominen. Pp. 224, 324 maps. Committee for Mapping the Flora of Europe & Societas Biologica Fennica Vanamo. 1994. ISBN 951-9108-09-2. Price FIM 455; available from PO Box 128, Helsinki 00101, Finland.
- West Yorkshire Plant Atlas*. Edited by J. C. Lavin & G.T.D. Wilmore. Pp. 287, 6 colour plates, 700 maps. City of Bradford Metropolitan Council, Keighley. 1994. Price £25 (ISBN 0-907734-39-1).
- Catalogue of the Brambles of Britain and Ireland in the herbarium of Liverpool Museum (LIV)*, compiled by M. Palmer, edited by J. Edmondson. Pp. viii + 48; 1 map. National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside, Liverpool. 1994. Price £12 (ISBN 0-906367-70-0).
- Wild Plants of the Phoenix Park*. P. A. Reilly, with contributions by D.L. Kelly, D.M. Synnott & J. McCullen. National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin & The Phoenix Park, Office of Public Works, Dublin. 1993. Price IR£7.50 (ISBN 0-7076-0331-5). Reprinted from the journal 'Glasra'.
- An annotated checklist of the flowering plants and ferns of Main Argyll*. G. Rothero & B. Thompson. Pp. iv + 132; map. Argyll Flora Project, Glenlussa. 1994. (ISBN 0-9522852-0-7).
- A catalogue of the Herbarium of the British Flora collected by Margaret Stovin (1756-1846)*. M. Simmons. Pp. 422 (text) + 102 (indexes). Middlesborough Borough Council Leisure Services Department, Middlesborough. 1993. Price and ISBN not stated.
- Scarce Plants in Britain*. Compiled and edited by A. Stewart, D.A. Pearman & C.D. Preston. Pp. 515; 16 tables, 49 figures, distribution maps of 325 species. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. 1994. Price £34 (ISBN 1-873701-66-7).
- Flora of Glamorgan*. A.E. Wade, Q.O.N. Kay, R.G. Ellis et al. Pp. viii + 383 + 85 unnumbered pp. of maps (1019 maps). H.M.S.O., London. 1993. Price £29.95 (ISBN 0-11-310046-9).

The following publications have been received recently. Those that will not be reviewed in *Watsonia* are marked with an asterisk; unsigned notes are by J.E.

- \**The ecological effects of increased aerial deposition of nitrogen*. Ed. N. Bell, British Ecological Society Ecological Issues no. 5. Pp. v + 36; 2 col. plates. Field Studies Council, Preston Montfort. 1994. Price £3.50 (ISBN 1-85153-854-2).  
'This booklet reviews the current knowledge of the impacts on natural and semi-natural ecosystems of inputs of a range of nitrogenous pollutants from the atmosphere ... the protection of ecosystems by emission controls has complex policy implications' – publisher's blurb.
- Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen* (Chemotaxonomy of plants), vol. 11a: Leguminosae part 1. R. Hegnauer & M. Hegnauer. Pp. xix + 529. Birkhäuser, Basel. 1994. Price £218 (ISBN 3-7643-2979-3).
- Sandwell Valley Flora*. M. Poulton. Pp. (2) + 42; ill. Sandwell Valley Naturalists Club, Sandwell. 1994. Price £3 incl. p. & p. from S.V.N.C., 10 Vicarage Street, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 8HQ (ISBN 0-9511532-1-8).
- \**W.H. Coleman's Flora of East Grinstead (1836)*. Edited by T.C.G. Rich. Pp. [iii] + 28; map. Sussex Botanical Recording Society, East Grinstead. 1994. Price ? (ISBN 0-9522987-0-8).  
[W.H. Coleman (c.1816-1863) wrote a manuscript catalogue of the plants he observed within four miles of East Grinstead, Sussex in the year 1836. Tim Rich has prepared a transcript, including modern names where different from the names used by Coleman, containing records of 377 dicots, 126 monocots, 22 ferns & fern-allies and 2 conifers. A biographical introduction, bibliography and gazetteer are also provided. The library of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew holds the original manuscript by 'one of the most under-celebrated field workers of the last century'.

*An illustrated Flora of North Cyprus*. D.E. Viney. Pp. xxix + 697; 1088 line drawings, 4 colour plates, 2 maps. Koelz Scientific Books, Koenigstein, 1994. Price [not stated] (ISBN 3-87429-364-5).

\**Swithland Wood: a study of its history and vegetation*. S. Woodward. Pp. vii + 229 pp., 34 tables, 79 maps & figures. Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service, Leicester. 1994. Price £9 (ISBN 0-85022-303-2); available from LMARS, The Rowans, College Street, Leicester LE2 0JJ price £10 incl. p. & p

This is the report of a very thorough ecological and floristic survey of one of Leicestershire's finest woodlands, situated at the edge of Charnwood Forest roughly midway between Leicester and Loughborough. The small size of the woodland (59 ha) belies its floristic richness, and the author's research has revealed many details of the history of the woodland and placed them in a wider context. The chapter on the flora, which occupies about a third of the book, includes sections on bryophytes and lichens as well as vascular plants.

JOHN EDMONDSON, Botany Dept., National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, LIVERPOOL L3 8EN

## NEWS FROM OUNDLE BOOKS

There are over 20 new titles in the Supplement to my stock list for Autumn 1994. These include the incredible *Alien Plants of the British Isles*, *Scarce Plants in Britain*, and *British Plant Communities* Vol. 4, *Aquatic Communities*. There are a number of foreign books in the list including *Excursion Flora von Osterreich* reviewed in the latest part of *Watsonia*. Also, volume 82 in the New Naturalist Series. *The New Naturalists* by one of our members, Peter Marren, describes the development of the series over the last 50 years and its contribution to information on the natural history of Britain. It is available in hard and soft back.

If you would like a copy of my new stock list supplement, please phone, Fax or write to:

MARGARET PERRING, Green Acre, Wood Lane, OUNDLE PE8 5TP, Tel. 01832 273388, Fax 01832 274568

## BOOKS FOR DISPOSAL

We have a large number of ex-British Museum Natural History botanical books which we now find that we have to pulp. Before we do so, though, I thought that it might be useful to include a note in *BSBI News* that the items listed below are available to anybody for the cost of posting it to them, if they were to include a stamp to the value of 36p:

- Exell, A.W., Angiosperms of the Islands of the Gulf of Guinea (Fernando Po, Principe, S. Tome, and Annobon), *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* **4**(8) (London 1973).
- Ludlow, F. and W.T. Stearn, New Himalayan and Tibetan Species of *Corydalis* (Papaveraceae), *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* **5**(2) (1975).
- Press, J.R. Taxonomic studies in the Labiatae tribe Pogostemoneae, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* **10**(1) (1982).
- Richardson, W.D., The Marine Algae of Trinidad, West Indies, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* **5**(3) (London 1975).
- Sledge, W.A., The Dryopteroid Ferns of Ceylon, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* **5**(1) (1973).
- Smith, H., New or little known Himalayan species of *Swertia* and *Veratrilla* (Gentianaceae), *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* **4**(6) (1970).

- Smith, Harry, *Saxifraga* of the Himalaya I. Section *Kabschia*, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* 2(2) (1958)
- Stearn, W. T., A synopsis of Jamaican myrsinaceae, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* 4(4) (1969).
- Stearn, W. T., A survey of the tropical genera *Oplonia* and *Psilanthele* (Acanthaceae), *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* 4(7) (1971).
- Stearn, W. T., Frank Ludlow (1885-1972) and the Ludlow-Sherriff expeditions to Bhutan and South-Eastern Tibet of 1933-1950, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Botany* 5(5) (1976)
- and
- Ludlow, Frank, *Reliquiae Botanicae Himalaicae*

GERALD LEGG, Keeper of Biology, The Booth Museum of Natural History, 194 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AA. Fax: 0273 563455. Telephone 0273 552586 or 02731 713299/603005 Ext 3299

## REPORTS OF FIELD MEETINGS – 1994

Reports of Field Meetings are edited by, and should be sent to, Dr B. S. Rushton, Dept. of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, University of Ulster, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, N. Ireland BT52 1SA.

### Correction: Field Meeting Lytham St Annes 25 June 1994

Reference was made in the report for the above meeting to the discovery of *Festuca arenaria* but on further examination of the material it is believed that this is a misidentification.

E. F. GREENWOOD, Keeper of Liverpool Museum, William Brown St, LIVERPOOL L3 8EN

## IRELAND – 1993

GOREY, Co. WEXFORD (v.c. H12). 29th-30th MAY

This meeting was blighted by really atrocious weather, with torrential rain on both days. Six members braved the first day, spending the morning on Tara Hill, a rocky outcrop rising to over 240m above the coast. A *Hymenophyllum* (reported as *H. tunbrigense* (Tunbridge Filmy-fern)) had been recorded here in 1891, and would be a great rarity in this east coast, mainly lowland county, and in 1991 a few plants of the Republic of Ireland Protected species *Viola lactea* (Pale Dog-violet) had been found here by RF. Attempts to confirm these records led to a thoroughly unpleasant morning floundering in the conifers which now degrade the hill, finding the violet site destroyed and no sign of filmy-ferns. The afternoon was still soaking but more successful, as a brief visit to the glen of the Owenavonragh River at Courtown confirmed E. S. Marshall's 1897 record for *Carex strigosa* (Thin-spiked Wood-sedge), still plentiful, and David Nash noticed fruiting *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort) which proved to be very abundant on the roots of a poplar plantation on the floodplain. This was the first confirmed toothwort record for H12, the only other reports being in Wild Flower Society diaries of the 1940s.

Day 2 was almost more forbidding, but two British members, Liz Dean and David Humphreys, loyally turned up, so we hurried into Killoughrim Forest near Enniscorthy for shelter. This once extensive ancient 'forest' of oak woodland and heath still has some fine fragments, and it was hoped that *Orobancha rapum-genistae* (Greater Broomrape) (reported by C. B. Moffatt 'in thousands' here before a hard winter in 1917 reduced it) might be refound, and a report of *Carex strigosa* confirmed. The first area examined was beside a stream, and although the only sedge likely to have caused the *C. strigosa* rumour proved to be *C. laevigata* (Smooth-stalked Sedge), within minutes the sensational discovery of a fine flowering spike of *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Narrow-leaved Helleborine) made rain and failures irrelevant. There proved to be more than 20 plants in swampy conditions under holly and alder, and this *Red Data Book* species is a spectacular addition to the county list. The very wet,

acid habitat (the immediate associates included *Oenanthe crocata* and a *Sphagnum*) astonished us all, but it appears from literature references that this is more typical of Irish sites than the dry calcareous woodland usual in Britain. It is hoped that future legislation in Ireland will give sites of biological importance such as Killoughrim Forest some real protection, and ensure the beautiful orchid which saved this dreadful meeting, a future in Co. Wexford.

ROSEMARY FITZGERALD

## IRELAND – 1994

Cos WATERFORD & WEXFORD (v cc. H6 & H12) 3rd - 4th SEPTEMBER

Day 1, Co. Waterford

In the morning eleven participants visited the saltmarsh at the Backstrand behind Tramore beach, where the focus was primarily on *Salicornia*. The single floret *S. pusilla* (One-flowered Glasswort) was found in abundance along the high tide mark, while below but in the upper regions of the marsh, two taxa, *S. ramosissima* (Purple Glasswort) and *S. europaea* (Common Glasswort) were recognisable in the *S. europaea* agg. At the middle and lower levels of the marsh, *S. fragilis* (Yellow Glasswort) and *S. dolichostachya* (Long-spiked Glasswort) in the *S. stricta* agg. were found. Other interesting species found included *Trifolium fragiferum* (Strawberry Clover), *Parapholis strigosa* (Hard-grass), *Puccinellia distans* (Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass), *Inula crithmoides* (Golden-samphire) and *Calystegia soldanella* (Sea Bindweed).

In the afternoon the group visited Ballyscanlon and Carrickaventry Lakes, localities for *Lobelia dortmanna* (Water Lobelia). This was not found, probably due to the lakes being unseasonably high after the wet summer. Interesting species noted included *Littorella uniflora* (Shoreweed), *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern), *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel), *Hypericum elodes* (Marsh St John's-wort) and fine stands of *Rumex hydrolapathum* (Water Dock). The party went on to the neighbouring Pembrokestown Rocks and found the recently discovered *Viola lactea* (Pale Dog-violet) thriving. A pleasant evening followed at the Five Counties Hotel, New Ross, with a *Salicornia* workshop and a demonstration of some interesting aliens collected in Co. Kilkenny and Co. Dublin.

I.K. FERGUSON

Day 2, Co. Wexford

The second day had some unwelcome dramas, one member having her parked car hit by a runaway van, another having a grisly fall into barbed wire and the blackest and smelliest of brackish mud, all in unkind weather – but morale remained good! In the morning saltmarsh sites on Bannow Bay were visited, including the beautiful little marsh behind Grange Burrow where *Sarcocornia perennis* (Perennial Glasswort) was abundant (with impressively displayed anthers) round small tidal pools. *Salicornia* species seen during the morning were the same as those identified in Co. Waterford: *S. pusilla*, *S. ramosissima* and *S. europaea*, *S. fragilis* and *S. dolichostachya*.

The afternoon was spent exploring the National Nature Reserve at Ballyteige Burrow, with welcome guidance from the Wildlife Ranger, Eugene Wallace, who is making a special study of the *Sarcocornia perennis* undeterred by its hideous name changes. This species is locally abundant, with a range of the annual species of *Salicornia*, on the Cull inlet where the rare though muddy and inconspicuous grass *Puccinellia fasciculata* (Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass) was also examined. Damp brackish grassland with poached and trampled areas had the interesting little annual *Centaureum pulchellum* (Lesser Centaury) still in flower, with *Trifolium fragiferum* (Strawberry Clover) and *Parapholis strigosa* (Hard-grass). But perhaps the most exciting part of the afternoon was spent on part of the Burrow itself, where the fine sandhills support huge populations of *Asparagus officinalis* subsp. *prostratus* (Wild Asparagus), coming into berry among dune vegetation still fresh after the wet summer. The weather finally cleared up, and members were able to collect delicious suppers of Horse Mushrooms (*Agaricus arvensis*) in ad hoc carriers of scarves and hats.



During the two days it was a great pleasure for the Irish members to meet, or get reacquainted with, Keith and Lorna Ferguson. Co. Waterford will benefit from their planned more frequent returns, and Co. Wexford has had a most valuable addition to its records by having the difficult *Salicornia* species confirmed and elucidated by Keith.

ROSEMARY FITZGERALD

## SCOTLAND

SEATON CLIFFS, ANGUS (v.c. 90). 23rd JULY

This meeting to the Angus Coast to visit Scottish Wildlife Trust's Seaton Cliffs Reserve (part of a coastal SSSI running north from Arbroath) was also open to members of the Perthshire Society of Natural Sciences. The sun shone as eight of us assembled at the end of the Arbroath Promenade, the main access point, from which a path traverses a remnant of coastal grassland sandwiched between arable land and steep, high cliffs of Old Red Sandstone.

The grassland supports a rich insect fauna and some of the group were recording bees, butterflies and moths in addition to plants. Of interest was an unusual abundance of grayling butterflies, plus the occasional little blue. The presence of *Anthyllis vulneraria* (Kidney Vetch) enables small populations of the latter butterfly to breed here. Also worthy of attention were the six-spot burnet moths which looked spectacular in their black and red livery when alighting on flowers of *Centaurea nigra* (Common Knapweed). Some exposed areas were parched after prolonged dry weather and plants like *Astragalus danicus* (Purple Milk-vetch) were not their usual showy selves.

We paused to admire a sandstone stack known as the Deil's Head (one of several sculpted rock forms in the vicinity) – having just found a small group of *Carlina vulgaris* (Carlina Thistle) on thinly vegetated slopes nearby. Detouring on to the site of an ancient fortification we passed an extensive area of burnt gorse but fortunately fire had not damaged a fine specimen of *Vicia sylvatica* (Wood Vetch). In due course we descended into Carlingheugh Bay where *Centaurea scabiosa* (Greater Knapweed) was flowering in abundance. Recording a good number of species we progressed along the sand and shingle shore, and on reaching the tall sandstone cliffs at the farthest point *Campamula glomerata* (Clustered Bellflower), *Astragalus glycyphyllos* (Wild Liquorice), *Parietaria judaica* (Pellitory-of-the-wall) and *Malva sylvestris* (Common Mallow) had all been seen. Whilst retracing our steps two fairly prolonged stops were needed to identify *Allium* spp. overlooked earlier. Recording 142 species had confirmed the species-richness of the reserve. With proper management it should remain so and continue to be a wonderful place to visit.

BARBARA G. HOGARTH

## WALES

GARDEN FESTIVAL SITE, EBBW VALE, GWENT (v.c. 35). 26th JUNE

It was a small, select group of four that set off to see what changes had taken place at this site two years after the Festival ended. The meeting began by looking at the areas that had been subject to the bulldozer and then become 'derelict'. Despite a good species list of weeds and early colonisers there were really no exciting finds, although identifying small scrappy specimens growing on poor soil certainly presented a challenge.

The group then moved on to look at the wild flower banks that had been sown with packets of seed to create an instant colourful effect. Unfortunately there was a definite foreign flavour to the seed source, as robust non-British *Lotus corniculatus* (Bird's-foot-trefoil) continued to grow vigorously on this site. Other species continuing to thrive here were *Centaurea scabiosa* (Greater Knapweed), *Anthyllis vulneraria* (Kidney Vetch), *Echium vulgare* (Viper's-bugloss), *Leucanthemum vulgare* (Oxeye Daisy) and others, none of which I suspect was of British origin.

Similar problems with introduced species were evident at the pond, where *Potentilla palustris* (Marsh Cinquefoil), *Ranunculus lingua* (Greater Spearwort) and *Catabrosa aquatica* (Whorl-grass) continue to grow well after they were planted for the Festival. All these species are uncommon or rare in Gwent, so the progress of these planted specimens needs to be monitored. It will be interesting to see how some of these species persist in and around the areas where they grow now, and what problems are presented to BSBI recorders in the future.

## ELSA WOOD

### RUBUS RECORDING WEEKEND, CARMARTHEN (v.c. 44). 21st - 24th JULY

After meeting for evening dinner at Trinity College, the base for the weekend, the small party enthusiastically ventured forth to the first recording site, Springfield Road on the outskirts of Carmarthen. No fewer than eleven *Rubus* species together with a further six putative hybrids and un-named plants were found growing in the hedgerows surrounding two small pastures! This was to prove to be one of the most productive sites of the weekend and included *R. adscitus* a new vice-county record and *R. biloensis* new for the 10-km square (SN/4.2). As there was still sufficient time before dusk, it was decided to head for a second site, across into a neighbouring 10-km square (SN/4.1), in a railway yard on the other side of town. This was not so productive but still held five species, including *R. cardiophyllus*, new for the 10-km square, and escaped 'Bedford Giant', of garden origin, a new v.c. record.

Early Friday morning saw the party speeding towards Gelli Aur Country Park, near Llandeilo, where it was met by Mike Smith, Assistant Ranger. Nine frequent *Rubus* species and two putative *R. ulmifolius* hybrids were noted, none of which were new to this previously well-recorded 10-km square (SN/5.1). The next site at Garnswllt, south of Ammanford, was in a previously un-visited 10-km square (SN/6.0) and yielded five species including a new v.c. record of *R. melanodermiss*. Also here, the party had its first encounter with the 'Garnswllt Puzzler', a local Series *Radulae* plant which was to be found at six additional sites in the Llŵchwr valley area down to the coast at Llanelli. A further three new records were made for SN/6.0 in hedgerows near to the entrance to Erw-wastad farm which included second v.c. records for *R. flexuosus* and *R. melanodermiss*.

Much of the remainder of the afternoon was spent in SN/5.0, where after a disappointing visit to the site of the defunct Morlais Colliery, Llangennech, where the only new record for the square was *R. tuberculatus*, the party made an unscheduled stop on the edge of a small forestry plantation, part of Troserch Wood. Here the ten species recorded included new v.c. records of *R. breconensis* and *R. hastiformis* (both later confirmed from material collected by the leader), the second v.c. record of *R. nessensis* and four new 10-km square records. The 'Garnswllt Puzzler' was also present together with the second v.c. record of 'Bedford Giant'. The leader was heard to say, 'an excellent site'!

After the evening meal, Coed Cochion Quarry, near Llangynog was visited (SN/3.1). This site caused consternation in the geological community in the 1970s when fossil jellyfish were found, proving the rocks to be of Precambrian age and comparable with a similar fauna in Australia. The *Rubus* flora proved to be only slightly less interesting producing twelve species, five of which were new 10-km square records despite the square having been previously well-recorded. These included the second v.c. record for *R. amplifolius*.

The Teifi valley was the main target for Saturday with the party starting at Llanybydder (SN/5.4) where ten species were recorded including four new to the 10-km square (*R. bartonii*, *R. longus*, *R. polyanthemus* and *R. prolongatus*). *Rubus perdigitatus* and *R. armeniacus* 'Himalayan Giant' were also new to SN/5.4 and were recorded south of the town at Cwm Hust. Travelling westwards into SN/4.4 several sites were visited which collectively raised the total *Rubus* species recorded for the square from one to 14. Most notable were *R. biloensis*, *R. hylocharis* and *R. nessensis*. Before stopping for lunch, the opportunity was taken to visit a known site of *Rorippa islandica* s.s. at Gilwern Farm (SN/3.4), details of which had been kindly communicated by Arthur Chater. The species was found to be growing in great abundance in a damp oxbow depression adjacent to

reseeded pasture. Five *Rubus* species including *R. dummoniensis* (new to the 10-km square) were recorded in the boundary hedge. Lunch was taken at Newcastle Emlyn Castle (also SN/3.4) where five *Rubus* species, including *R. cardiophyllus*, brought the collective total for SN/3.4 from nil to eleven, excluding three ‘puzzlers’.

Continuing ever westwards, a forestry picnic site south of Cenarth (SN/2.4) was to prove very rewarding. Twelve *Rubus* species were noted in this previously unrecorded 10-km square including no fewer than three new v.c. records: *R. aricomensis*, *R. largifiscus* and *R. sprengeli*. Also noteworthy were *R. bartonii* and *R. wirralensis*. Return to Carmarthen was via the Cych valley, traversing both SN/2.3 and SN/2.2 where *Rubus* tallies were raised from five to 14 species in the former square (including *R. dummoniensis*, *R. lanaticaulis*, *R. longithyriger*, *R. perdigitatus* and *R. pyramidalis*) and from three to eleven in the latter (including *R. nemoralis* and *R. perdigitatus*).

After dinner several sites around Carmarthen in both SN/4.1 and SN/3.1 were visited. Material collected from a roadside hedgerow west of Tyllwyd-mawr, Login (SN/4.1) was later confirmed by the leader as *R. lamburnensis*, a new v.c. record, whilst *R. bartonii* proved to be a new 10-km square record.

The eastern coastal lowlands and coalfield were to be visited on Sunday. SN/3.0, south of Ferryside, was the first target. Only six *Rubus* species were found growing in the vicinity of St Ishmael's Church and adjacent Tregonning Hill. It was a pity that the list did not match up to the glorious views across Carmarthen Bay from Gower in the east, through Llansteffan across the Tywi estuary, Laugharne and Pendine Burrows, to Tenby and Caldy Island in the west. However, the list did include *R. aequalidens*, *R. prolongatus* and *R. rossensis*, all new 10-km square records.

Much of the remainder of the morning was spent in SN/4.0. *Rubus cardiophyllus* was recorded at Cydweli Station but the best site was along a pathway through the bracken dominated heathland overlying Millstone Grit on Mynydd-y-Garreg. Here material collected later proved to be *R. lamburnensis*, the second v.c. record, whilst new 10-km square records of *R. aequalidens*, *R. altiarcuatus*, *R. longus* and *R. rossensis* were also made. The sites visited on the coalfield were disappointing in as much as they contained a disproportionate number of undescribed plants. However, the rhos pasture at Pant-y-Gino, a new Dyfed Wildlife Trust nature reserve, had several small tangles of *R. bertramii*, the only site with this species seen during the weekend and a new 10-km square record. In the hedgerows of the track leading to the reserve, species included *R. dummoniensis*, *R. rossensis* and *R. silurum*. However, the highlight was an addition to the party's strength. The new member was very inquisitive, even overpowering, and was definitely too much to bear when he attempted to rub his muddy torso on ‘serious’ members' clothes! He was, however, very affectionate and invited a loving pat on the back. He surely is the first ungulate batologist!

After lunch, a foray was made to the Llanelli area (SN/4.0 and SS/5.9), where a large proportion of all brambles seemed to be *Rubus ulmifolius*, the taxon commonest in the vicinity of the coast. Finally, party members were shown one of the newly discovered Black Poplars (*Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia*) of the ‘Llanelli Levels’ in a hedgerow near the entrance to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's Penclacwydd Centre. A substantial specimen, it was growing adjacent to a large Black Italian Poplar (*P. × canadensis* ‘Serotina’) which was very convenient for easy comparison.

Before the meeting dispersed, the leader was heartily thanked by all participants for his customary instantaneous field determinations and patience with the novices and he must also be thanked for his subsequent confirmations of three species in addition to refereeing this report.

The weekend had been very successful with the recording of eight new v.c. records, five second v.c. records and 101 new 10-km square records. These figures compare with the 1987 *Rubus* Meeting statistics of fourteen new v.c. records, seven second v.c. records and 127 new 10-km square records. Despite these figures much work remains and future *Rubus* recording will be required in order to concentrate on those areas which at present remain under-recorded.

R. PRYCE (with revisions by A. Newton and M. Porter)

## Carmarthenshire *Rubus* meeting – summary of recording

[illegible]

## LAMPETER AREA (v.cc. 44 &amp; 46). 30th JULY

Twenty-four members and friends met the leaders in Lampeter on a sunny, if rather humid, morning where a few plants of *Rorippa islandica* s.s. (Northern Yellow-cress) were found growing on waste ground near the Cwmann Inn (v.c. 44, SN/634.476).

The convoy of cars moved off to a forest picnic site near Llanfair Clydogau, where some cars were left, before making the final leg to Pant-y-pistyll (SN/634.476) where the party was met by the owners Andy and Lindsey Applegate.

Pant-y-pistyll is a smallholding comprising grazing paddocks and hay meadows which have been traditionally managed in the past, and exhibit a variety of grassland types in a very compact area. Dry mesotrophic communities were dominated by *Cynosurus cristatus* (Crested Dog's-tail), *Agrostis capillaris* (Common Bent) and *Danthonia decumbens* (Heath-grass) with abundant *Centaurea nigra* (Common Knapweed) and frequent *Euphrasia rostkoviana* (an Eyebright). Damper areas had, for instance, *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire-fog), *Carum verticillatum* (Whorled Caraway) and *Succisa pratensis* (Devil's-bit Scabious). Most orchids were in seed, but 15 plants of *Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly-orchid) were counted concentrated in a small stand, and several *Dactylorhiza maculata* subsp. *ericetorum* (Heath Spotted-orchid) were scattered over the site. Seven sedge species, including a clump of *Carex pallescens* (Pale Sedge) were recorded. A certain amount of marginal bracken and scrub was present, and included a substantial stand of the 'suberect' Bramble *Rubus scissus* (conf. A. Newton, 1993).

A small area of heathy rhos-grassland with a dwarf shrub element represented by *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather) occurred on a dry leached bank, and wet acid grassland dominated by tussocky *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor-grass) was present in the poorly drained north-east corner, which also had species such as *Erica tetralix* (Cross-leaved Heath), *Narthecium ossifragum* (Bog Asphodel) and *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel) at low density.

An old ditch supported *Ranunculus ompiophyllus* (Round-leaved Crowfoot), and *R. penicillatus* subsp. *penicillatus* (Stream Water-crowfoot) was growing in the stream, an unusually small watercourse for this species. Several plants of *Oreopteris limbosperma* (Lemon-scented Fern) were established on the banks. A small artificial pool with introduced species such as *Acorus calamus* (Sweet-flag), *Iris pseudacorus* (Yellow Iris) and *Nymphoides peltata* (Fringed Water-lily) had been colonised by both *Eleocharis fluitans* (Floating Club-rush) and *Utricularia minor* (Lesser Bladderwort), the latter in resplendent flower. Rather alarmingly *Crassula helmsii* (New Zealand Pigmyweed) had been accidentally introduced into the pool, but did not appear to be thriving.

The party was next led to a rush-dominated valley mire about 0.5 km north-west of Pant-y-pistyll (SN/632.480), where the flushed margins supported an abundance of *Hypericum elodes* (Marsh St John's-wort) and *Carum verticillatum* (Caraway), together with occasional *Potamogeton polygonifolius* (Bog Pondweed). Extensive quaking *Sphagnum* mats which supported *Drosera rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew) were also present.

Before returning to the forestry picnic site for lunch, both Lindsey and Andy were heartily thanked for allowing access to their land, and congratulated, not only for their enthusiasm for appropriately managing their fields, but also on their cottage garden, full of herbs and old varieties of cultivated plants including for instance *Calystegia pulchra* (Hairy Bindweed) and *Myrrhis odorata* (Sweet Cicely).

## R.D. PRYCE

Another smallholding, in v.c. 46, was then visited, with 22 enclosures none of which had been ploughed since at least 1947 when the present owner moved there. Some basic slag and lime was used in 1985, and grazing for the last 47 years has been variously by cattle and horses and by a small permanent herd of goats. Five of the enclosures contained dry mesotrophic grassland with pH 5.7-6.2, and an abundance of locally scarce species. 200 or more plants of *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) were seen, although the other orchids *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Common Spotted-orchid), *D. maculata* (Heath Spotted-orchid), *D. praetermissa* (Southern Marsh-orchid), *D. purpurella*

(Northern Marsh-orchid), *Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade), *Platanthera bifolia* (Lesser Butterfly-orchid) and *P. chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly-orchid) were mostly well over. *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) and *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's-tongue), seen here in quantity a month earlier, were searched for in vain. One enclosure contained a large colony of *Briza media* (Quaking-grass) and *Leontodon hispidus* (Rough Hawkbit). Other enclosures varied from acidic upland with *Festuca ovina* (Sheep's Fescue) and *Galium saxatile* (Heath Bedstraw) and pH 4.8, to poor fen, flushed areas, blanket mire and wet upland heath. Three small ponds added to the species total, which was 194 for the whole site, including 13 kinds of *Carex* (among them *C. pulicaris* (Flea Sedge), *C. pallascens* (Pale Sedge) and the hybrid *C. hostiana* × *C. viridula* subsp. *oedocarpa*) and *Pedicularis sylvatica* subsp. *hibernica*, the hairy Lousewort that is now turning up in several parts of Wales.

The richness of such a site, where goats are a significant element in the management is of interest, and these animals may well be more useful as grazers than they are usually given credit for, if they are allowed to roam a sufficiently large area. The owners of smallholdings such as these are among the unsung heroes of conservation.

The meeting ended with a short visit to the old woodyard site at Lampeter (SN/579.488) by kind permission of Nigel Davies, the owner. *Rorippa islandica* s.s. (Northern Yellow-cress) occurs in great abundance on rubble and soil tipped here in 1992 (illegally, so the origin of the material is unfortunately unknown to the owner), and has spread to the adjacent marsh. The spreading habit and second fruiting racemes were compared with the upright habit and fruits spreading all round the raceme in garden-grown *Rorippa palustris* (Marsh Yellow-cress) brought along for comparison.

#### A.O. CHATER

RAMSEY ISLAND, PEMBROKESHIRE (v.c. 45) 31st JULY

Twenty members gathered at St Justinian's for the short journey across the Sound to the c.277 hectare island of Ramsey that the RSPB purchased in 1992. After landing at the small quay the party were greeted by RSPB staff, Sue Ward and Ian Bullock, and were soon examining the many fine flowering specimens of *Rumex pulcher* (Fiddle Dock) in the short turf adjacent to the farmhouse. *Scrophularia scorodonia* (Balm-leaved Figwort) was also admired in the nearby limekiln ruins. Ramsey is its only Pembrokeshire location, and its absence from the mainland, and its prevalence near harbours in Cornwall, suggest that on Ramsey it might be a long-standing accidental introduction. Where the rabbit- and sheep-grazed unsurfaced track, that ascends gently from the farmhouse, reaches the damp grassy heath of the plateau surface, several scarce plants flourish. The flushed open stony clay margins supported flowering *Cicendia filiformis* (Yellow Centaury) of 1-2 cm height, and members had the pleasure of standing on a carpet of *Chamaemelum nobile* (Chamomile) complete with an occasional inflorescence. Other species present included *Anagallis minima* (Chaffweed) and much *Radiola linoides* (Allseed).

The dry red-deer poached bed of the shallow east pond was carpeted with *Littorella uniflora* (Shoreweed) and *Apium inundatum* (Lesser Marshwort) with some *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain). Between this and the west pond fine lawns of *Pilularia globulifera* (Pillwort), complete with brown pills, were located, in company with *Callitriche brutia* (Pedunculate Water-starwort). The find of the day then occurred when Peter Jones discovered the remains of a few hundred plants of *Moenchia erecta* (Upright Chickweed), in a one metre square area on a grassy mound. None of the members resident in Pembrokeshire were familiar with the species, so mainland records can now be expected. Lunch was taken overlooking the equally shallow but water-filled west pond, with its *Luronium natans* (Floating Water-plantain), *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* (Alternate Water-milfoil) and *Apium inundatum*. Arthur Chater then found a second patch of *Moenchia erecta* to the south of this pond.

After lunch the party walked through the extensive heathland, with its abundant flowering *Erica cinerea* (Bell Heather) to the southern edge of the island. Parties of cough, including young of the

year, were admired, feeding in the open areas of the heathland. Huge stands of *Radiola linoides* (Allseed) were observed in the uncolonised bare ground of the maritime heathland burnt in the 1980s.

The return journey took in the steep sheltered slopes of Aber Myharen, where ungrazed coastal scrub of *Prunus spinosa*/*Sambucus nigra*/*Ligustrum vulgare* (Sloe/Elder/Wild Privet) masqueraded as the Ramsey Forest. Two bushes of *Juniperus communis* (Common Juniper) were observed clinging to the cliff edge. Members were informed of Dr David Combes' opinion that the Ramsey junipers were intermediate between subspecies *nana* and *communis*, and similar to the Cornish Lizard juniper bushes. Are the four bushes remaining on Ramsey the last remnants of the post-glacial juniper forests of Pembrokeshire? Only three bushes are known, from widely scattered localities on the mainland cliffs of Pembrokeshire.

*Asplenium obovatum* (Lanceolate Spleenwort) patches in the island's stone-faced earth banks were then viewed on the way back to the farmhouse. This fern had first been found in the county on Ramsey in 1847, and is still frequent in walls and in crevices on sheltered cliff overhangs. A single plant of *Hypericum undulatum* (Wavy St John's-wort) was noted in a *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor-grass) and *Juncus acutiflorus* (Sharp-flowered Rush) peaty flush alongside a stream north of the farmhouse, and a nearby stand of *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern) was examined. This fern is frequent on the more sheltered, but often very steep, slopes of the eastern cliffs. Prior to re-embarkation for the return journey to St Justinian's flowering *Trifolium ornithopodioides* (Bird's-foot Clover) was located on the tractor tracks by the farmhouse, but *Lotus subbiflorus* (Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil) could not be refound in its 1993 location on the edge of a small headland by the harbour.

S.B. EVANS

## ANNUAL EXHIBITION MEETING – 1994

The reports that follow have been edited for publication by Dr Sarah Webster.

### SOME BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL *RUBI* COMPARED

Such myriads of distinct entities occur in this group and the variability of many of them is so great that establishing that any two are one and the same is by no means without hazard. Nevertheless more and more British *Rubi* are being accepted as identical with forms that occur across the English Channel.

Sheets were exhibited of the four latest candidates. The consensus on these was that:

1. *R. milesii* Newton is not a British endemic but identical with *R. asperidens* Sudre of the latter's *Batotheca Europaea* (but whether also of his original 1907 description remains to be established).
2. An unnamed bramble locally common in v.c. 11 between Southampton and Portsmouth matches one received from Belgium, but does not appear to be *R. spinuliferus* P.J. Mueller & Lef., the name under which it is known there.
3. An unidentified member of series *Hystrices* Focke, common in woods in south and central Brittany, is seemingly represented in Britain in one Isle of Wight (v.c. 10) wood – but more specimens from the latter are needed for certainty.
4. Similarly, only a greater range of material can decide whether a variable bramble of Jersey and the Normandy coast opposite is the same as *R. splendidus* P.J. Mueller & Lef. of forests round Paris.

D.E. ALLEN

## BSBI/PLANTLIFE MISTLETOE SURVEY 1994-1996

The BSBI Mistletoe survey of 1969/70 is being repeated following suggestions that the decline in traditional apple orchards and increasing imports to meet the Christmas market may indicate a reduced or changed distribution. The original survey highlighted the species' restricted distribution and reliance on apple trees as a main host. Results from the new survey will be used to assess any changes in host reliance as well as distribution.

The Christmas trade in mistletoe will also be studied. Gathering mistletoe from orchards was once widespread and though a parasite the plant may even have been encouraged as an extra winter crop. Today imports from Europe seem to be the main source of retailers' mistletoe. Research into traditional and present-day trade and imports will help assess whether this is any cause for concern. For example, are current cropping levels sustainable? Are berries from imported plants being planted to the detriment of the local genotypes?

J. BRIGGS

## TREE DETAILS

Within their two main categories of coniferous and broad-leaved, trees are superficially similar but diverse in detail. This exhibit of 30 drawings showed some of the diversity, with comparisons of catkins, developing buds, leaf-shape, cones, etc. The emphasis was on native species.

J. COMBES

## A LLEYN (NORTH WALES) MISCELLANY 1994

Three additions to the West Lleyn (v.c. 49, Caerns) flora were made in 1994: *Epilobium tetragonum*; a *Rosa pimpinellifolia* hybrid; and the introduced var. *sativus* of *Lotus corniculatus*.

The first notice, in West Lleyn, of *Lotus corniculatus* var. *sativus* Chrtková came from the verge of a recently re-seeded road widening. The need is stressed to record new locations of this variant's present occurrence, so that any future spread into secondary, maybe more natural habitats, can be monitored.

The hybrid Burnet Rose (*Rosa canina* × *R. pimpinellifolia*) looked like *R. pimpinellifolia* with red hips, suckers, and sparse acicles; it is deemed 'non-directional' (as female parent uncertain). Only other record from Wales: v.c. 52, Anglesey (R.H. Roberts, 1978).

*Epilobium tetragonum* (Square-stalked Willowherb) is new to Bardsey Island: a single pasture-field clump. The sole previous W Lleyn record is from 1958 and 'unconfirmed'; other v.c. 49, Caerns records may be errors, or 'old' (Griffith 1895, in north Caerns).

A.P. CONOLLY

## SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING BORROWED, SOMETHING BLUE – EXHIBITS FROM THE BRITISH COLLECTIONS AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Items exhibited:

**Something old** – collections by Samuel Dale, Joseph Andrews and Robert Brown dating from c.1700 to the 1850s.

**Something new** – leaflets about the IDQ scheme which provides a qualification proving competence in identification, two grasses from Rose Murphy's gift of c.900 specimens and a lichen new to Britain found in v.c. 62, N.E. Yorks.



**Something borrowed** – borrowed books featuring E.J. Bedford's photographs, a negative and a few of his c.2000 high quality lantern slides, mainly of Orchidaceae, held by the NHM Department of Library and Information Services. Further information on Bedford was requested, please contact Megan Dowlen.

**Something blue** featured the folklore associations of periwinkle with the title rhyme.

Members were reminded that the British transparency collections are available for borrowing on a self selection basis

C.M. DOWLEN & G. LYALL

## THE CIPières PROJECT, ALPES-MARITIMES

The commune of Cipières lies in the submontane limestone region 25 km NW of Nice. The core of the community is the village of Cipières situated on a high bench (750 m alt.) close to where the River Loup, which rises 10-km to the W, turns abruptly SE towards the Mediterranean. The commune covers c.40 km<sup>2</sup> and is bounded to the N and E by the deep gorge of the Loup (450 m alt.), while its S and W edge follow high-cliffed escarpments with an extensive karst plateau at 1200-1400 m alt.

The interdisciplinary team of researchers, headed by David Austin of the Dept. of Archaeology, Lampeter, is investigating the socio-political history of this commune, including documentation since mediaeval times, vernacular architecture, landscape and terrace construction, soils, geology and plant ecology.

After five seasons of fieldwork I have made some 800 herbarium collections for naming and distribution to herbaria at Kew, Paris and Nice. Numerous habitats and sites at all altitudes have been monitored seasonally and a database of c. 1100 species is being compiled. The exhibit demonstrated some botanical aspects of this Project area.

F.N. HEPPER

## HELP!

This is a regular exhibit designed to give informal help with identification of plants. Awkward specimens are displayed anonymously and the assembled botanists are invited to make suggestions for naming them. This year's offerings included:

*Datura metel* / *innoxia*, *Adenostylis* sp., and *Sidacea* sp., all from photos. *Silene italica*, *Skimmia japonica*, *Asperula arvensis*, *Sida spinosa*, *Solanum nigrum* subsp. *schultesii*, *Luzula forsteri*, *Geranium* × *oxonianum* 'G.C. Druce'?, *Medicago polymorpha*, *Medicago laciniata* and a teratological form of *Lolium perenne*.

About forty specimens were displayed.

S.L.M. & A.M. KARLEY

## ROADSIDE COCHLEARIA DANICA – THE STORY CONTINUES...

A map was presented showing the invasion by *Cochlearia danica* of roadsides in Britain. With just two roadside sightings before 1980, its subsequent spread has been astonishing: 29 new 10-km squares during 1980-84, 70 squares 1985-89, and 338 squares 1990-94. By October 1994 it had been reported from roadsides in 439 10-km squares across 67 vice-counties.

Of course, the spread of this (and other) coastal species has been greatly assisted by our addiction to cars which, since the 1970s has led to an unprecedented upsurge in the construction of dual-carriageways and motorways.

However, environmental concerns are signalling the need for an 'about-turn' on transport policy, and increasingly calls are being made for the road-building programme to be curtailed. It remains to be seen whether such changes have much impact on *C. danica*, certainly at the moment it appears unstoppable, rampaging across Britain using the road network in much the same way that *Elodea* used the canals and *Senecio squalidus* the railways!

S.J. LEACH

### **A SYMPHYTUM (COMFREY) HYBRID NEW TO BRITAIN**

A comfrey found growing in rough grassland at Liberton Dams, Midlothian, v.c. 83 by Richard Learmonth has been identified by the Dutch botanist Prof. T.W.J. Gadella and Franklyn Perring as a hybrid – *Symphytum asperum* × *S. caucasicum*. It shares with *S. asperum* a very short calyx (rare in *Symphytum*) and short non-decurrent stem leaves, and with *S. caucasicum* a calyx divided less than ½ the length of the tube, leaves not prickly/asperous and stem leaves not decurrent. One anomaly is the flower colour which is purplish pink whereas both the parents are sky blue.

R.W.C. LEARMONTH & F.H. PERRING

### **PHOTOGRAPHY IN LIEU OF SPECIMENS AS 'HERBARIUM MATERIAL'**

Where it is illegal or inappropriate to collect a plant specimen, consideration should be given to using photography as voucher material.

While one can mount a coloured print, it is now possible to transfer an image directly from a coloured photograph or slide to a herbarium sheet. In this way it is also possible to include a close up view.

An example of direct transfer of a colour image from a slide is demonstrated along with an attached localised magnified view showing diagnostic details. It is also possible to superimpose the localised view as a 'blown-up inset' and examples of such experimentation were demonstrated.

P. MACPHERSON

### **ALLIUM TRIQUETRUM (THREE-CORNERED GARLIC): A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Often referred to in Cornwall as the 'White Bluebell' this is a plant of the West Mediterranean now naturalised in great abundance in some areas of the county. First recorded here in 1872, its favoured habitat is at the base of Cornish stonehedges by country lanes not far from houses. Information so far available allowed the display of a map showing the distribution of the species on a tetrad basis through Cornwall Devon and Somerset illustrating its decrease in frequency towards the east. Its interest lies in its possible competition with *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. The latter seems to disappear when *Allium triquetrum* invades the hedge. Information is sought concerning its spread into further vice-counties, its possible presence in woodland and any instances where it is seen growing with *H. non-scripta*. It will grow, to a limited extent, with the hybrid *H. non-scripta* × *H. hispanica*.

R.J. MURPHY

### **HAMMARBYA PALUDOSA (BOG ORCHID): REFOUND IN CORNWALL**

Cornish records for *Hammarbya paludosa* are very few. The first authenticated find was made in 1910, (Thurston & Vigurs, 1922), and it was not seen again until 1967, (Margetts & David, 1981).

Repeated searches for the plant at these past sites, [near the Cheesewring (SX/2.7), Bowthick and Crowdy Marshes (SX/1.8)], have not been successful. Ian Bennallick's record of 21 plants made at Retire Common (SX/0.6) in 1993 is therefore of considerable interest. The orchids were growing on and around *Sphagnum* tussocks among such species as *Drosera intermedia*, *D. rotundifolia*, *Narthecium ossifragum* and *Rhynchospora alba*.

R.J. MURPHY

## PROGRESS TOWARDS A TETRAD ATLAS OF THE CORNISH FLORA

Detailed recording towards a Tetrad Atlas of the Cornish Flora has been continuing for the past 5 years. The maps on display illustrated interesting patterns of distribution – *Armeria maritima* growing inland on mine waste as well as on the coast, the greater abundance of *Anthriscus sylvestris* in West Cornwall and the localisation of *Erica ciliaris*. New finds were on display: *Dactylorhiza incarnata* subsp. *pulchella* now known from 2 sites in v.c. 2, (East Cornwall) and *Polystichum aculeatum* on mine ruins, also in v.c. 2. Though the county can boast of several rare and interesting species, (photographs of some of The Lizard specialities were shown – *Juncus pygmaeus*, *Trifolium hockneyi*, *Trifolium strictum*), the number of species per tetrad tends to be low and a count of just over 300 is deemed as good. Some of the conditions that operate to produce these low counts were illustrated, one being the high proportion of moorland.

R.J. MURPHY

## GUERNSEY BAILIWICK 1994

Specimens were shown vouching important discoveries in the Bailiwick during the year. **Guernsey:** *Aristolochia clematitis*, new to CI; *Molinia caerulea* subsp. *arundinacea*, new to CI; *Ranunculus lingua*, last noted in 1879; *Solanum capsicastrum*, new to CI. **Alderney:** *Campanula poscharskyana*, in several places, new to CI; *Crinum* × *powellii*, apparently established in dunes over 10 years, new to Bailiwick; *Geranium* × *oxonianum*, new island record; *Helichrysum petiolatum*, with seedlings, new to CI; *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, new island record; *Selaginella kraussiana*, new island record. **Sark:** *Crassula helmsii*, new island record; *Fuchsia* × *fulgens*, new to CI. **Brecqhou:** *Lolium* × *boucheanum*, new island record; *Polystichum setiferum*, new island record.

B. OZANNE

## CENTAUREA JACEA NOT YET EXTINCT IN BRITAIN?

*Centaurea jacea* is a European knapweed differing from *C. nigra* most obviously in its pale, scarious, mostly non-pectinate bract appendages. In Britain it is a scarce colonist of grassland, chiefly in southern England, and tends to hybridise with *C. nigra* whenever they meet. This leads to the formation of hybrid swarms and the elimination of pure *C. jacea*, which in consequence has become rare; it is treated as extinct in Stace's *New flora of the British Isles*, though its hybrid with *C. nigra*, *C.* × *moncktonii*, is included.

What appears to be good *C. jacea* has been known since 1978 on the old railway at Upton, v.c. 22, Berks (now in Oxon), growing sparingly with frequent *C.* × *moncktonii*. Specimens were shown of the presumed *C. jacea* and its hybrid. During the exhibition, however, a suggestion was made that even this apparent *C. jacea* might not be the pure species (though close to it), the matter is being investigated.

R.C. PALMER

## BLUEBELL SIGNS ON BRITISH INNS

Whereas The Bell is one of the commoner inn names Blue Bell or Bluebell are much less frequent: a preliminary survey has located 40.

There is a strong link between the two names and the survey has established that Blue Bell inns can have bluebell inn signs and vice-versa, and to have both is common.

The distribution of Blue Bell or Bluebell inns is not random. Although the survey is incomplete it seems there is a very large concentration in the East Midlands counties of Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire with extensions to the Pontefract area in West Yorkshire whilst there are none in Somerset, Dorset, Oxfordshire and the Bristol area.

There are often local clusters with inns in adjacent 10km squares or more than one in a square. The largest concentration is in 53/1.0 in the Soke of Peterborough which contains 5 Blue Bell inns or taverns including one at Helpstone next door to John Clare's birthplace which demonstrates the classic confusion – the sign outside The Blue Bell has a blue bell on one side and a bluebell on the other.

True BSBI inns are those named Bluebell and with only bluebells on their signs; four have been identified so far.

A list of all inns located and a questionnaire was available for members to take away.

F.H. PERRING

## PLANTLIFE 'BACK FROM THE BRINK' PROJECT – SOME MAJOR SUCCESES IN 1994

Plantlife's 'Back from the brink' project aims to conserve some of Britain's rarest plants by carrying out ecological research and practical habitat management. Some major successes in 1994 were carried out by Plantlife volunteers:

Narrow-leaved Cudweed (*Filago gallica*), an extinct native plant, was re-established in its last known site in Essex using the original genetic material.

Habitat management for Starved Wood-sedge (*Carex depauperata*) has resulted in four (possibly six) new seedlings in Surrey.

Two hundred plants of Brown Galingale (*Cyperus fuscus*) appeared in Surrey following pond clearance (last seen in 1989).

Both Perfoliate Penny-cress (*Thlaspi perfoliatum*) and Rough Marsh-mallow (*Althaea hirsuta*) suffered in poor weather in 1994, but management work has helped to maintain their populations.

Grey Mouse-ear (*Cerastium brachypetalum*), under threat from the Channel Tunnel Waterloo rail link, was surveyed and conservation advice given to Union Railways.

Work on these and another 15 species will be continued in 1995.

T.C.G. RICH, J. ALDER, J. KNIGHT AND A. McVEIGH

## EUROPEAN ANNUAL BUPLEURUM SPECIES (UMBELLIFERAE)

*Flora Europaea* Vol. 2 gives 21 annual *Bupleurum* species, of which 19 are narrow-leaved. There is considerable scope for confusion among the 19, and incorrect determinations can become widely adopted. The exhibitor showed specimens of 15 species which had been keyed out, and checked against texts, several times over a period of years.

Although two species are British natives and others occur here as casuals, SE Europe is the most productive region, notably the former Yugoslavia, now practically a no-go area. Bupleurophiles may take comfort from the plentiful existence of further species in Turkey.

The exhibit concluded a series which have been devoted to the larger genera of European umbelliferae (with the exception of *Eryngium*). It would be useful to know whether interested members might prefer to see them again or go on to the smaller genera. Europe has 55 monotypic genera!

M.J. SOUTHAM

### THE PROBLEM OF ROADSIDE VERGES BEING SEEDED AFTER ROADS ARE REMADE

The exhibit included correspondence from the road engineers, seed merchant and Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council including the latter's seed specification for seeding new roadside verges. The new verges were surveyed and the list of plants showed that many of the flowers were alien to the county and included non-native varieties such as *Lotus corniculatus* var. *sativus*.

O.M. STEWART

### RECORDS OF SCARCE PLANTS SEEN IN V.C. 73 IN 1994

Last year *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* was down to a few plants at one site, now there is a healthy population of over 100 plants near L. Dee. *Equisetum* × *litorale* is common but this is the first time that fertile heads have been seen. *Hieracium vagense* was refound at Tongland last recorded there in 1959. An extension of range for *Hieracium drummondii* when it was found near Carsphairn. A specimen of a viviparous form of *Trichophorum cespitosum* was shown.

O.M. STEWART

### PLANT-LORE ON POSTCARDS

The exhibit showed a series of postcards which depicted plant-lore themes including Christmas holly well-dressing and a Bird's custard advertisement inspired by the children's pastime of holding a buttercup under the chin to see if a playmate likes butter.

Comments were invited and several people contributed interesting notes adding to our, as yet somewhat poor, knowledge of the plant-lore of the British Isles.

R. VICKERY

### GRASSES, SEDGES AND FERNS OF NORTH CYPRUS

A set of 12 line-drawings showing 20 of these subjects was presented as 'work in progress' by the author, who is preparing a companion volume for his *Flora of North Cyprus* which appeared in spring, 1994. Sedges and ferns are relatively few in the region covered, but grass species number over 120. Two of those shown – *Saccharum spontaneum* L. and *Stenotaphrum secundatum* (Walt.) Kuntze – have not been previously recorded in the literature for the island.

D.E. VINEY

### CHRÁNENÁ KRAJINNÁ OBLAST BILÉ KARPATY – THE WHITE CARPATHIAN LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AREA.

The White Carpathians cover 115,000ha along the Czech/Slovak border. The whole area is of exceptional botanical richness, and is particularly famous for its orchid flora. One of the most

outstanding features is the survival of over 4,000ha of species-rich hay-meadows. A large block of meadows is present in the south-west of the area, while to the north-east, they form part of a farmland mosaic. The White Carpathians are also one of the last refugia for some of Europe's arable flora.

The White Carpathians were declared a 'Protected Landscape Area' in 1980, some of the most valuable sites are reserves, and the government has recently introduced payments to support management of the hay-meadows. Recent political and economic changes threaten the low-intensity agriculture of the area however, and the future depends on the maintenance of a healthy farming economy. It is therefore essential that traditional methods of land-management remain viable.

P.J. WILSON, J-W. JONGEPIER, M. REED, I. JONGEPIEROVA

#### The following exhibits were also shown:

Dr J. Bailey & Ms L. Child – Unravelling the British distribution of *Fallopia* < *bohemica* (the hybrid between Japanese and Giant Knotweeds).

Dr N.R. Cowie – Action plans for rarer vascular plants

Mr R.G. Ellis – The BSBI Alien Plants Study Group.

Dr G. Halliday – Variation in *Solidago virgaurea* (Goldenrod)

Mr S.L.M. Karley – The British Plant Gall Society.

Dr A. Morton – DMAP for Windows – with examples from 'Flora of Montgomeryshire'.

Mr D.A. Pearman, Mr C.D. Preston, & Miss A. Stewart – The 'Scarce Plants Atlas': JNCC-BSBI-IT

Mrs O. Stewart – Pages from the proposed *Taraxacum* Handbook and some of the original drawings.

Mrs O. Stewart – Scarce species in Kirkcudbrightshire.

Mrs O. Stewart – Paintings of flowers seen in 1994.

BSBI meetings 1994:

Mrs I. Weston – The Annual General Meeting, Oxford.

Ms L.L. Laxton – The Uists, Western Isles, Scotland.

Various members – Recent publications by BSBI members.

Mrs M. Perring – Botanical books from Oundle.

Mrs M. Briggs – The Hon. General Secretary's miscellany.

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Articles can now be Faxed to the Editor on 01222-239829 or 01222-373219.

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*BSBI News* (ISSN 0309-930X) is published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles.

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**Camera ready copy produced by Gwynn Ellis at the National Museum of Wales and printed by J. & P. Davison, 3 James Place, Treforest, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 2BT (Tel. 01443-400585)**

#### Contents (continued from inside back cover)

##### ANNUAL EXHIBITION MEETING – 1994 (continued)

|                                                                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| European annual <i>Bupleurum</i> species (Umbelliferae)                | 76 |
| The problem of roadside verges being seeded after roads are resurfaced | 77 |
| Records of scarce plants seen in v.c. 73 in 1994                       | 77 |
| Plant-lore on postcards                                                | 77 |
| Grasses, sedges and ferns of North Cyprus                              | 77 |
| The White Carpathian Landscape Protection Area                         | 77 |
| Other Exhibits                                                         | 78 |

|                                                                               |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Continued</b> from back cover                                              |    |
| <b>CONSERVATION NEWS</b>                                                      | 45 |
| News from the Conservation Committee                                          | 45 |
| <b>ALIENS</b>                                                                 | 46 |
| <i>Aliens</i> well received                                                   | 46 |
| Alien Records                                                                 | 46 |
| Glories of the snow                                                           | 47 |
| Two unusual garden escapes in Kirkeudbrightshire                              | 48 |
| Exotic trees in the British flora                                             | 50 |
| What name for the Tree Tomato                                                 | 50 |
| Naturalised <i>Mespilus germanica</i> Fact or factoid?                        | 51 |
| New <i>Cotoneaster</i> taxa in the Flora of Britain and Ireland               | 51 |
| Spice plants near Gravesend, W. Kent                                          | 52 |
| <b>NOTICES (BSBI)</b>                                                         | 54 |
| <i>Watsonia</i> – Instructions for Authors                                    | 54 |
| <i>Watsonia</i> – Volume 21, Part 1, February 1996                            | 55 |
| Carmarthenshire Flora recording weekend                                       | 55 |
| <i>Flowers and flowerlore</i> – a thankyou                                    | 55 |
| <b>NOTICES (NON BSBI)</b>                                                     | 55 |
| National collection of Campanula – Open Days                                  | 56 |
| Careers in the Environment across Europe                                      | 56 |
| European Science Foundation network in systematic biology                     | 56 |
| <b>RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS</b>                                             | 56 |
| Dungeness grants                                                              | 56 |
| Pat Brennan memorial fund                                                     | 57 |
| <b>OFFERS</b>                                                                 | 57 |
| <i>A sample survey of the flora of Britain and Ireland</i> : Half-price offer | 57 |
| <b>REQUESTS</b>                                                               | 57 |
| Early coloured photographs                                                    | 57 |
| Information required on <i>Epilobium brunescens</i>                           | 58 |
| <i>Rubus</i> specimens from v.c. 59                                           | 58 |
| Tutsan ( <i>Hypericum androsaemum</i> ) in Essex                              | 58 |
| Foreign Floras and Field Guides                                               | 59 |
| Figs in North Midlands and Northern England                                   | 59 |
| <b>COURSES</b>                                                                | 59 |
| Taxonomy: Principles and Practices                                            | 59 |
| Environment Courses at the University of Bristol                              | 59 |
| Unit of Vegetation Science, Lancaster                                         | 60 |
| Courses at Slapton Lea                                                        | 60 |
| <b>BOOK NOTES</b>                                                             | 60 |
| <i>Watsonia</i> reviews                                                       | 60 |
| News from Oundle Books                                                        | 62 |
| Books for Disposal                                                            | 62 |
| <b>REPORTS OF FIELD MEETINGS – 1994</b>                                       | 63 |
| Correction: Field Meeting 1, ytham St Annes 25 June 1994                      | 63 |
| IRELAND – 1993                                                                | 63 |
| Gorey, Co. Wexford (v.c. II12)                                                | 63 |
| IRELAND – 1994                                                                | 64 |
| Cos Waterford & Wexford (v.c. II6 & II12)                                     | 64 |
| SCOTLAND                                                                      | 65 |
| Seaton Cliffs, Angus (v.c. 90)                                                | 65 |
| WALES                                                                         | 65 |
| Garden Festival Site, Ebbw Vale, Gwent (v.c. 35)                              | 65 |
| <i>Rubus</i> recording weekend, Carmarthen (v.c. 44)                          | 66 |
| Lampeter area (v.c. 44 & 46)                                                  | 69 |
| Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire (v.c. 45)                                        | 70 |
| <b>ANNUAL EXHIBITION MEETING – 1994</b>                                       | 71 |
| Some British and continental <i>Rubi</i> compared                             | 71 |
| BSBI/Plantlife Mistletoe Survey 1994-1996                                     | 72 |
| Tree details                                                                  | 72 |
| A Lleyrn (North Wales) Miscellany 1994                                        | 72 |
| Something old, something new, something borrowed, something new               | 72 |
| The Cipieres Project, Alpes-Maritimes                                         | 73 |
| Help!                                                                         | 73 |
| Roadside <i>Cochlearia danica</i> – the story continues                       | 74 |
| <i>A. Symphytum</i> (Comfrey) hybrid new to Britain                           | 74 |
| Photography in lieu of specimens as 'Herbarium material'                      | 74 |
| <i>Allium triquetrum</i> (Three-cornered Garlic): a request for information   | 74 |
| <i>Hammarbya paludosa</i> (Bog Orchid): Refound in Cornwall                   | 74 |
| Progress towards a Tetrad Atlas of the Cornish Flora                          | 75 |
| Guernsey Bailiwick 1994                                                       | 75 |
| <i>Centaurea jacea</i> not yet extinct in Britain?                            | 75 |
| Bluebell signs on British Inns                                                | 76 |
| Plantlife 'Back from the brink' project – some major successes in 1994        | 76 |

## CONTENTS

|                                                                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| ADMINISTRATION                                                                       | 2  |
| Officers and Members of Council – 1995 Nominations                                   | 2  |
| Deadline for contributions for <i>BSBI News</i> 70                                   | 2  |
| COMMENT                                                                              | 3  |
| Presentation to our Patron                                                           | 3  |
| European Conference                                                                  | 4  |
| The Presidents' Award                                                                | 6  |
| DIARY                                                                                | 6  |
| EDITORIAL. Guidance to contributors to <i>BSBI News</i>                              | 7  |
| HON. GENERAL SECRETARY'S NOTES                                                       | 8  |
| Congratulatory                                                                       | 8  |
| Exhibition Meeting 1995                                                              | 8  |
| Conference Meeting                                                                   | 8  |
| Membership Survey II – offers of help                                                | 8  |
| Tailpiece                                                                            | 9  |
| PROFILES                                                                             | 9  |
| DAP – The PPP                                                                        | 9  |
| Edgar Milne-Redhead                                                                  | 11 |
| David Elliston Allen                                                                 | 13 |
| RECORDERS AND RECORDING                                                              | 13 |
| Amendment no. 1 to List of BSBI Vice-county Recorders in <i>BSBI Year Book 1995</i>  | 13 |
| New appointments                                                                     | 13 |
| Amendments to addresses published in List of Recorders in <i>BSBI Year Book 1995</i> | 14 |
| Amendment no. 1 to Panel of Referees and Specialists in <i>BSBI Year Book 1995</i>   | 14 |
| Rosaceae                                                                             | 14 |
| Tiliaceae                                                                            | 14 |
| Valerianaceae                                                                        | 14 |
| Aliens                                                                               | 11 |
| Amendments to addresses published in List of Referees in <i>BSBI Year Book 1995</i>  | 14 |
| Gramineae                                                                            | 14 |
| Updates, Amendments & Corrections to <i>BSBI Year Book 1995</i>                      | 15 |
| Editors, Compilers, Indexers                                                         | 15 |
| Address amendments                                                                   | 15 |
| New Atlas                                                                            | 15 |
| Recorders Conference, Lancaster. 8th - 10th September 1995                           | 15 |
| SCARCE PLANTS IN BRITAIN                                                             | 16 |
| Scarce Plants Atlas                                                                  | 16 |
| <i>Scarce Plants in Britain</i>                                                      | 17 |
| NOTES AND ARTICLES                                                                   | 17 |
| Coastal gravel as a source of <i>Cochlearia danica</i> on inland roadsides           | 17 |
| The origin of <i>Oenothera biennis</i> L. sensu stricto: A new hypothesis            | 18 |
| Duel on the A38                                                                      | 20 |
| Rare Plants Group of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire            | 20 |
| The new list of 'Nationally Scarce' plants                                           | 22 |
| Fifty pence well spent                                                               | 23 |
| Cases of mistaken identity, or <i>Hedera</i> headaches                               | 24 |
| Seed collecting in Sichuan                                                           | 26 |
| Wild Clary ( <i>Salvia verbenaca</i> ) in churchyards                                | 28 |
| Grey Willow in both leaf and flower                                                  | 29 |
| The Worcestershire 500 Club                                                          | 29 |
| <i>Urtica galeopsifolia</i> in Norfolk                                               | 30 |
| Fen Nettle ( <i>Urtica galeopsifolia</i> ) in Berkshire                              | 31 |
| Observations on orchid pollination                                                   | 31 |
| <i>Populus nigra</i> subsp. <i>betulifolia</i> , names and dates                     | 32 |
| Watsonian vice-counties in London 2                                                  | 33 |
| Dialect plant-names                                                                  | 33 |
| Herbarium of D. Dickinson MPS (fl. 1875-1902)                                        | 34 |
| Warning: Plants have good and bad years too!                                         | 35 |
| English-Names                                                                        | 36 |
| Epiphytic seeding Sycamores                                                          | 37 |
| Taking brambles to the grave                                                         | 38 |
| The Wollemi Pine                                                                     | 39 |
| More winter-flowering holly                                                          | 39 |
| Limnaceans versus Jussiceans                                                         | 39 |
| MISTLETOE SURVEY                                                                     | 40 |
| Mistletoe survey 1994-96 – A brief update                                            | 40 |
| Mistletoe – more abundant on calcareous soils?                                       | 40 |
| Mistletoe in Coventry                                                                | 41 |
| BOTANICAL LATIN                                                                      | 41 |
| Latinus Botanicus: A report on the meeting on <i>Botanical Latin</i>                 | 41 |
| Botanical pronunciation – Eleven rough guides                                        | 43 |

Continued on inside back cover