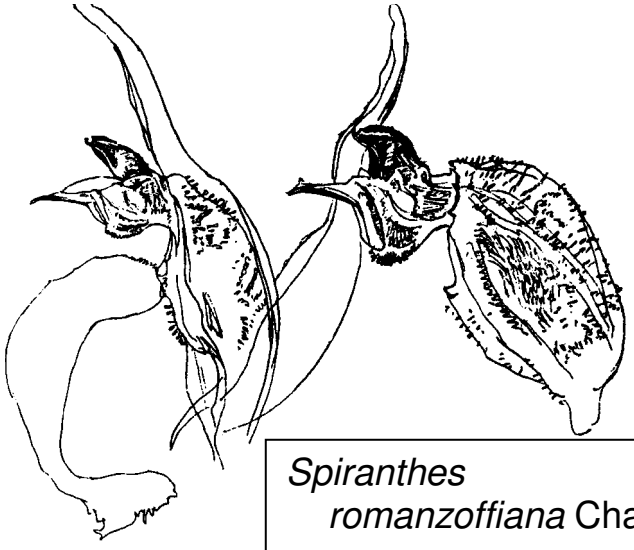
IRISH BOTANICAL NEWS

Number 2 February, 1992



Spiranthes romanzoffiana Cham.

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Published by: The Committee for Ireland
Botanical Society of the British Isles

COMMITTEE FOR IRELAND, 1991-92
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Elected at the Annual General Meeting, held in the Botany Department, University College, Dublin on 5th October, 1991 (office bearers were subsequently elected at the first Committee Meeting):

Mr John C.L. Phillips, Chairman (retiring October, 1993)
Dr Ralph S. Forbes, Secretary (retiring October, 1993)
Dr David Nash, Field Meetings Secretary (retiring October, 1994)
Mr Phillip J. Grant (retiring October, 1992)
Dr Brian S. Rushton (retiring October, 1992)
Miss Maura J.P. Scannell (retiring October, 1994)
Dr Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington (retiring October, 1994)

The following are also members of the Committee:
Mrs Sylvia Reynolds, B.S.B.I. Council Representative
Mr Paul Corbett, Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Representative

Irish Botanical News is published by the Committee for Ireland, Botanical Society of the British Isles and edited by Dr B.S. Rushton.

The cover illustration was kindly provided by Mr Raymond Piper. It shows a study of the differences between the anthers, anther caps and columns of *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* from Lough Beg (left) and a saltmarsh at Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry. The bract is displaced on the Lough Beg plant to show the shape of the ovary and the fewer, but longer glandular hairs compared with the Kerry plant. The bract has been removed from the Glenbeigh plant.

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EDITORIAL

It hardly seems like a year since I put together the first issue of *Irish Botanical News.* That issue was well received (leastways as far as I can judge from the letters that came my way!) and was well distributed to fellow botanists 'across the water'.

This issue has gone relatively smoothly and I'm pleased to say there has been no shortage of material. Indeed, the response has been so good that the directory of members' interests that I had hoped to include in this issue will now be sent out separately in the Spring. What has been gratifying is that so much of the copy has been sent in unsolicited. I'm still lacking good illustrative material for articles and again, I have to make a plea for suitable illustrations. I am extremely grateful to Raymond Piper for the drawing used on the cover – particularly as the B.S.B.I. can't seem to get his address right! If there are artists out there who feel that they could contribute cover illustrations and/or material for the inside please let me know.

Editing the *Irish Botanical News* and also the Field Meeting Reports of the *B.S.B.I. News* brings me close to the fieldwork of the B.S.B.I. and it is interesting to see how individual species increase and then decrease in profile. For example, *Inula salicina* appears to be the species of the year in *Irish Botanical News* – it gets mentioned in four articles! I often wonder what sparks this interest. Is it a report in *Watsonia* or similar journal or is it that the climate one year causes a species to be more conspicuous and therefore recorded more often or is it that it 'turns up' in one area and this starts a search elsewhere? Or is it the influence of one botanist? I wonder what next years 'in' species will be. Whatever it is, keep the articles coming in for the next issue.

Dr. Brian S. Rushton, Editor, *Irish Botanical News.*

RARE AND PROTECTED PLANTS AT THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, GLASNEVIN

Donal Synnott

National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9

The role of gardens in preserving endangered species is an increasingly important one. Botanic gardens can grow and propagate plants which are threatened with extinction, sometimes with a view to returning them to natural habitats but always to ensure that the genetic stock is maintained. The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin has been growing native plants since its foundation almost 200 years ago. In the catalogue of plants in cultivation at Glasnevin, prepared by the head gardener, John Underwood, in 1804, there are over 900 varieties of plants from Irish sources. More than half of these are native species.

Since the early part of the 19th century native plants at Glasnevin have been grown in flat, rectangular beds in the natural garden soil. They were arranged in botanical order, for over 100 years according to the Bentham and Hooker system. This arrangement is a good educational aid for the study of systematic botany. However, it is difficult to grow and maintain a wide selection of the native species because of the lack of diversity in growing conditions. New beds have recently been constructed to provide greater diversity of soil, drainage, shelter and shade and to allow the plants to be grown in broad habitat groups. The beds include raised beds for maritime, heathland and alpine plants, a Burren area, constructed with limestone slabs, a peat bed for bog and fen species, a marsh bed with high water table, and woodland and hedgerow plots for shade loving species. It is not practicable at present to incorporate any open water habitats into the display. The collections are being supplemented by

donations from staff, botanists and gardeners with an interest in the native flora.

Among the native plants grown at Glasnevin are some that are protected under the Wildlife Acts. Some of these, such as the Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*), are grown in protected areas in the nursery or glasshouses. Some, such as *Inula salicina* and *Erica ciliaris,* have been grown out in the Gardens for many years. It is intended that as many of the protected species as can be successfully grown will be planted out as part of the native collection in the most suitable beds. Already some species have settled down. The Donegal Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) has been growing well in the Burren area; *Saxifraga rosacea* subsp. *hartii* grew well for a time after planting out, suffered from summer drought and is recovering with the return of damper weather; *Ajuga pyramidalis* is attacked savagely by snails; *Gymnocarpium robertianum,* alas not from the Irish station, is very vigorous between the limestone slabs; *Hypericum hirsutum* thrives in the shaded woodland area.

Carex buxbaumii was brought into cultivation by David Moore from the now extinct Lough Neagh population. This plant was acquired by R.L. Praeger from Glasnevin. A.W. Stelfox had it in his Dublin garden from Praeger and took it with him to Newcastle, Co. Down, where I saw it in the late 1960s and took a piece back to Glasnevin where David Moore's material no longer survived. I also grew it at Duleek, Co. Meath for many years where it survived in the driest places, coming up along paths of hard packed clay and grit. I gave bits of it away over the years and have reason to be grateful for so doing. My Duleek plant did not survive a recent move but I have retrieved a piece (with compound interest) from Wendy Walsh.

The rare and threatened *Inula salicina* (Irish Fleabane, but would not 'Irish Sunflower' not have been a happier choice of name?) thrives in garden soil at Glasnevin. It flowers well in sunny situations but is

intolerant of shade, wasting away when it is overgrown. Although its pollen looks well formed, plants of Irish provenance do not produce viable seed. Flowering plants at Glasnevin have been examined over a period of 20 years but only shrivelled seeds have been found.

Apart from those plants which have been deliberately cultivated there are a few very rare or protected species which have arisen spontaneously in the Gardens. The first of these to be noticed was the Oak Fern, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris.* About ten years ago it was seen in crevices of a newly built dry wall of Howth stone, on a northeast facing slope, at a time when the species was not in cultivation at Glasnevin. The plant has persisted at this site and spreads to an adjacent peat bed each year where it is weeded out in the course of routine maintenance or as cuttings for avid fern collectors.

Salvia verbenaca was on the 1980 schedule of protected species. It was in cultivation at Glasnevin from seed collected near Youghal, Co. Cork. This species is not on the current schedule and there is certainly no overall threat to its survival in the country although individual stations are threatened by developments in coastal areas. It has been coming up at Glasnevin on grit paths and in open areas which are managed with simazine, to which it seems to have some resistance.

Hypericum hirsutum is another species which has spread as a result of new management techniques. Hoeing of shrubberies for weed control has been replaced by herbicide weeding and sometimes mulching. The bare, undisturbed ground between shrubs managed by herbicides is often carpeted with mosses and liverworts. Some herbaceous plants and shrub seedlings occur and among these are frequent occurrences of *H. hirsutum.* The species is in cultivation at Glasnevin from an English source but the Irish plant was already grown by John Underwood at Glasnevin in 1804.

Management of the ground under the oak collection involved keeping the grass cut once the Spring bulbs had gone over. In recent years the cutting has been deferred until late Summer and, as a result, many additional herbs and bulbs have been flowering. Some indeed may be recently established. Among the additions are *Anacamptis pyramidalis, Ornithogalum umbellatum, Anemone thalictroides* and *Allium roseum,* but there has been a dramatic expansion of the already existing population of Meadow Saxifrage, *Saxifraga granulata.*

Fluellen (*Kickxia elatine*) is one of the more interesting weeds which have come up over the three years since the raised bed for maritime plants was constructed. It has persisted on the bed and this year spread to the adjacent Burren area. *Chaenorhinum minus* also occurs as well as the more troublesome weeds such as Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), Sticky Groundsel (*Senecio viscosus*) and Annual Meadow Grass (*Poa annua*).

It has been interesting to discover which native plants respond to the various growing conditions provided and which ones are difficult to establish and maintain. There is much to learn. The growing of endangered species presents an important and urgent challenge which can best be met in the context of an overall commitment to growing a wide selection of the native flora. We already know that the best means of conserving plants is by protecting their natural habitats. However, there is a supporting role for botanic gardens in plant conservation. John Underwood made a good start in 1804. Perhaps we can take it from there.

IRISH SPECIMENS IN THE LIVERPOOL MUSEUM HERBARIUM

John R. Edmondson

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Recent efforts to document sections of the Liverpool Museum's herbarium, both manually and on computer, have resulted in a greater awareness of the number of Irish specimens it contains. This short note mentions some of the more noteworthy collections, and extends a warm invitation to Irish botanists to consult this material.

Among the historic collections at Liverpool, the J.E. Smith herbarium is of particular significance. It consists largely of duplicates of the material in the Smith herbarium at the Linnean Society of London, and was acquired by the Liverpool Botanic Garden herbarium between 1808 and 1818. Specimens sent by Robert Templeton (1766-1825) from around Belfast include an isotype of *Rosa* x *hibernica* Sm. (*R. pimpinellifolia* x subsection *Caninae*), and there is also Killarney material collected by J.T. Mackay (1775-1862).

The collections of *Rubus* were recently revised by Alan Newton and about half have now been entered on computer by Mike Palmer. The following vice-counties and collectors are represented:

H9 Vera Gordon; H16 E.S. Marshall, W.A. Shoolbred; H23 W.R. Linton, H.C. Levinge; H37 and H38 H.W. Lett; H38 C.H. Waddell, W.M. Rogers; H39 and H40 C. Bailey.

Hieracium was documented on cards in the 1970s. The herbarium is particularly rich in material of this genus because it was a special interest of W.R. and E.F. Linton, whose herbarium forms part of the

Liverpool University herbarium. There is a little Irish material from the following vice-counties and collectors:

H1, H2 and H39 R.W. Scully; H2 E.S. Marshall, W.A Shoolbred; H21 N. Colgan; H35 F.J. Hanbury, P.D. Sell; H38 and H39 S.A Stewart, C.H. Waddell.

The fern herbarium includes a good deal of exchange material. Taking a sample from the *Trichomanes speciosum* folder, the following collectors were found:

J.H. Balfour, A.W. Bennett, Lord Bishop of Ely, Mrs Johnson, G. Maw, J.F. Pickard, E. Potts, W.H. Stansfield, M. Williams.

The phanerogamic herbarium contains about 90,000 specimens, only a small percentage of which is of Irish origin. The 'age distribution' of the material is interesting; much dates from the period 1850-1900, with a dip in the earlier part of this century and a second peak in the early post-1945 period.

The following collectors have contributed material in addition to those mentioned under *Rubus* and *Hieracium* above:

J.H. Balfour, J. Ball, R.M. Barrington, W.C. Barton, A.W. and E.J. Bennett, H. Blackler, R.K. Brummitt, J. Dickinson, G.C. Druce, Mr Fisher, T.J. Foggitt and Mrs Foggitt, C.T. Green, E.F. Greenwood, P. Hitchen, W.J. Hooker, D.H. Hughes, Mrs Johnson, S.L. Jury, J. Kelly, B. King, J. Kirk, W.A. Lee, E.F. Linton, Miss Maude, G. Maw, Dr Melville, D. Oliver, J. Pourie, R.L. Praeger, F. Rumsey, J.H.A. Steuart, E.C. Wallace, H. Warden, D.A. Webb, W. West, J.W. White.

ARE COUNTY FLORAS OBSOLETE?

Declan A. Doogue

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Recent experiences in wildlife conservation at the periphery of the local government planning process, has made me question the appropriateness and relevance of 'field botany'.

I recognise three useful interlinked elements in our activities:

a. Recording – largely for its own sake, i.e. discovering new records, reconfirming old ones.

b. Describing and interpreting distribution patterns.

c. Providing hard information of relevance to conservation.

Field botanists in the Golden Age of Flora-writers were not encumbered with issues such as grids, networks, administration, conservation or computer compatibility. They got on with the job, which was the accumulation and presentation in a systematic fashion of accurate floristic information. The classical county Flora model evolved in a conservation environment very different from that of the present day and may no longer be the most effective vehicle for the presentation of floristic data. The number of users of existing county Floras in Ireland is extremely small, being, in the main, the handful of recorders concerned with their revision. It may now be timely to question whether we do our efforts justice, pounding ever-smaller grid squares, and acquiring greater amounts of redundant data. There is little merit in finding *Rumex obtusifolius* new to a particular 1-km square, if we know in our hearts that that particular

item of information will never see the light of day in the county Flora. This is not to suggest that such data are not worth having, but rather that the time and effort expended in their acquisition might have been better spent doing something more useful.

The absence of site-specific information (other than for the rarest species) renders it extremely difficult to be precise as to the exact nature of the environmental changes that have influenced the flora and its habitat. The knowledge and experience of B.S.B.I. recorders however is of potential value in countryside planning, but we have not yet succeeded in making a significant input in this area via the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Others, less knowledgeable, do. (I read a recent E.I.A. where the entire impact of a proposed development on the flora of an extensive area in the Irish Midlands was dismissed in two lines!)

One possible strategy would involve the preparation of floristic inventories of the principal sites within our counties. This is of course the way in which the flora exists in the real world, and corresponds to the manner in which we encounter and record habitats and their associated species. It is indeed also the natural way in which many base-line conservation reports are presented. I visualise finished products containing lists of a hundred or more of the best sites in each vice-county. Each site account might include a location map, habitat description, a species list with comments on the most interesting species and a conservation evaluation. Authors of such reports would become known as practical people who can organise data in a way that is both useable and useful. Most importantly, sites of scientific interest become known. Developers, planners and others will be less able to invoke the traditional defence of ignorance.

The parallel production of annotated county check-lists is the most straightforward way of remaining integrated with the mainstream of botanical recording orthodoxy. The arrival of desk-top publishing

means that accounts can now be produced privately and circulated to our recording colleagues. These accounts need not be ‘published’ until they have achieved a certain level of accuracy and completeness.

It seems obvious that before we begin to advance explanations for the distribution of particular species, we must know what these distributions are. Unfortunately recording units such as tetrads or even l-km squares are far too coarse unless we are the kind of botanists who find satisfaction and reassurance in the knowledge that saltmarsh plants grow commonly in saltmarshes. The local study offers a mechanism by which we can begin to assemble information on a much finer resolution. Several years spent preparing a traditional Flora of a small unit such as a 6" map might go some way towards at least raising the right questions.

The ‘full’ county Flora can come much later.

WHAT A DUMP!

Alan G. Hill

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In 1988, the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland) made major changes to the Tillysburn Roundabout on the eastern outskirts of Belfast which has resulted in an area of about 2 ha, part of which was a refuse dump, being left as a waste land. The D.o.E. then landscaped the area, which had a small lake, and planted numerous young trees to make an amenity area. In the intervening period the land became naturally vegetated and several unusual species have been recorded over the last three years.

Canary Grass (*Phalaris canariensis*) has become established. Three rare grasses, which unfortunately were only recorded in 1989, have not been seen since. These were Yellow Bristle Grass (*Setaria pumila*), Green Bristle Grass (*S. viridis*) and Cockspur (*Echinocloa crus-galli*). Other unusual plants which have persisted are Pink Purslane (*Montia sibirica*), Small Melliot (*Melilotus indica*), Hop Trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*) and this year about 15 spikes of Lesser Broomrape (*Orobanche minor*).

All the grasses are understood to be used as seed by bird fanciers so the plants probably originated from cage cleanings on the former rubbish dump. There have also been single plants of garden varieties of *Antirrhinum, Nasturtium,* Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), etc., all again from dumped garden rubbish.

I would like to thank the B.S.B.I. members Wesley Semple, John Angus and John Phillips who have helped to monitor the area and also Paul Hackney of the Ulster Museum, Belfast for confirming the identifications.

BOTTING IN TYRONE

W. Ian McNeill

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In the first issue of *Irish Botanical News,* Dr Helen Megaw of Ballycastle told how she was ‘bitten by the botanical bug’. In many ways, her experience mirrors my own, for I too had a reasonable knowledge of plants and their names from childhood, but I did not

really push that knowledge forward until some 30 years later.

Some time in 1979, a Cookstown friend and fellow-school teacher, Ronnie Irvine, mis-hit his tee-shot off the first at Killymoon, and his ball curved into the deep wood alongside the fairway. He didn't find the ball, but he found instead a Bird's Nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*) and a few days later brought me to see it. He then started to explore the woods and river-banks of the Killymoon estate, and kept finding rather rare plants. He would bring me out again and again to see his latest find, and I was able to show him a *Pyrola minor* site that I'd discovered years before. But that was it - until the *Atlas*! Ronnie came across a copy of the *Atlas of the British Flora* in the local library and showed it to me. I was immediately fascinated; I have always loved maps, and I had just not realised such a publication existed. Then, like Helen Megaw, I saw how poor the *Atlas* was in its coverage of Ireland – *Anemone nemorosa,* for example, was missing from many local squares, and I was sure this couldn't be right.

So it happened that Ronnie, myself and my son David (then 16 and, like me, a lover of maps) set out in 1980 to 'do' the Cookstown square. As the season progressed, we were amazed at our success, and our lists extended beyond our wildest beliefs. The family coined the abbreviation 'bot' for a botanical outing, and the question "Are you going for a bot today?" became standard.

One July evening, David and I were botting in a disused railway cutting near Stewartstown. We had had a good evening – *Gymnadenia conopsea, Sherardia arvensis, Pulicaria dysenterica,* a very surprising *Antennaria dioica* – and it was nearly dark, when David gave out a yell of glee, and waved me over in great excitement. He had just found the first ever *Epipactis palustris* in Co. Tyrone. (Although Ian Rippey found a drawing among the Langham papers in Enniskillen Museum entitled "*Epipactis palustris* (Aughentaine)" so perhaps we were not the first.)

We ended the season with over 300 species for our square, and many of these were not recorded for the *Atlas* for any square in the vicinity. At this stage, we were not 'doing' grasses, sedges or ferns – only what we thought of as 'flowers'. Over the next few years we developed our work in two ways. Firstly, we did gradually undertake the grasses, etc. and by 1983 were at least making the effort to record everything coming under the normal botanical umbrella. David even made some attempt at identifying mosses, but we did not record these on our formal lists. Secondly, we moved outwards from Cookstown, in 1981 to the neighbouring eight squares, but later much further afield. Gradually, under Doreen Lambert's persuasion, we came to see our mission as Co. Tyrone, and we have botanized from one end of it to the other. Unfortunately, we live at the north-east extremity of the county, and parts of the far west are as much as 100 km away, so our visits there have been few. Of course, we have also done a lot of work in neighbouring South Derry and have ventured into Antrim, Armagh and Monaghan.

During the 1987-88 period, we joined the B.S.B.I. Monitoring Scheme, and concentrated heavily on the Moneymore square (in South Derry) and the Clogher, Rousky and Castlederg squares in Tyrone. David also did some work in squares in Donegal and Monaghan.

Gradually, over the years, we came to know many botanical friends. Early on, we learnt about the B.S.B.I. and made contact with Doreen Lambert. Doreen came to Cookstown in 1981 to look around our 'patch'. On several other occasions, Doreen has come our way to see our latest 'find', and we have found her a wonderfully enthusiastic person, a great encourager. Others, too, have joined us for glorious days in the field – I think of a brilliant May day up in the Castlederg square with John Faulkner and Robert Northridge. John is quite a frequent companion on our outings, and probably did the most to

develop our knowledge of grasses and sedges. And then that other John, John Harron – who could fail but be inspired by his breadth of knowledge of plants and his uncanny sense of where to find things? I will always remember the glorious July day on Mullaghmore in 1989 when John and I, having re-established the old Parsley Fern (*Cryptogramma crispa*) record for that mountain, and found many other rare plants, returned to our car to find it locked in – we had parked inside a gate, never expecting it could be locked. Only for a most fortuitous meeting with a local shepherd who possessed a key, we might have been forced into our first midnight bot!

And I must mention Andrew, my younger son, who has grown up with a botting father and elder brother, and who is now, at 17, as keen on a bot as any of us. He is the statistician, who analyses our records, makes out lists of desiderata and who would have us seek out plants on a more scientific basis.

Figures from the past, too, have lived on in their records, and we almost feel their presence still. People like the Rev. Kerr, rector of Ardboe in the 1930s and 1940s, whose knowledge of the flora of East Tyrone was immense. In fact, he prepared a draft Flora of Tyrone based on his work, helped by a small enthusiastic group in the Cookstown and Dungannon area who ran a field club in those days. There is a lot of publicity about our disappearing flora, and certainly the situation on the prairie lands and downs of England appears disastrous, but here in Ireland, change has not been as destructive. Time and again we have re-found plants known by Kerr 50 years ago: "*Mercurialis perennis*: Ardboe glebe" still there! "*Inula elecampane*: roadside at Tullylig" still there [*Inula helenium*]! I am told that Mr Kerr went by bicycle to carry out pastoral duties around his scattered parish by the shorelands of Lough Neagh. He had an old-fashioned basket attached to his bike, and this would act as his vasculum for the plants he would find along his way.

Thomas Macgregor Greer was another character from the same era. Always known locally as "Tottie", he was primarily a lepidopterist, and there are many of his articles in old copies of the *Irish Naturalists' Journal.* But he knew his flowers too, and many of his recorded plants are 'still there'. Tottie lived in one of the 'Big Houses' of the Cookstown area, yet he built what one could only describe as a cabin in the middle of a bog a few km from his fine residence. He lived in this 'cabin' for weeks at a time so that he could be nearer his beloved butterflies and moths. He was also an enthusiastic motor-cyclist, and tragically he was killed in an accident as he was riding down Cookstown's main street.

Yet another great character from the past, one who survived to link up with us in the early 1980s was Dr Gillespie of Ballygawley. What a wealth of knowledge he had! The flora of Tyrone, the history of the Clogher Valley Railway, Irish Presbyterian history – all on top of a lifetime's work as a G.P. in the Carrickmore and Ballygawley areas. He was so delighted to find a new generation carrying on in his botanical footsteps. He told us about the work done in the 1930s and 1940s; he got us a draft of Kerr's *Flora* and he gave us a list produced by Praeger of Tyrone rarities, rather grandly entitled "*Plantae Rariores Tyroniensis*"! And in his garden, he showed us our first *Veronica peregrina,* and was disappointed that his Adder's Tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) hadn't appeared that year. Sadly, Dr Gillespie died a few years ago.

Now into our twelfth year of botanizing, has the fascination faded? Certainly there should be a law of diminishing returns, and rare plants do get harder to find. But Tyrone is a big county, and still turns up the unexpected. Just 400 m from home, a disused garden this year sprouted a small crop of *Crepis setosa.* An alien, yes, but it was seeding freely and might establish itself.

Locally, too, we sometimes set out to seek for a particular plant, a

"desiderata bash" we call it. Cookstown's total has now passed 500 species, but for years certain plants eluded us. *Umbilicus rupestris* should occur, we thought, as it was quite frequent in an arc around the northern side of the square. But it never turned up – until August, 1991. Out on a driving lesson with Andrew and not on a bot at all, we stumbled on it down a country lane. Incredibly *Eleocharis palustris* was missing until just three weeks ago (September, 1991) when it 'fell' to a deliberate search for it around an old quarry-pond.

How often we seem to be blessed by sheer good fortune. Why should we have parked for a mid-afternoon tea-break just beside possibly the only stand of *Picris hieracioides* in the North of Ireland? We would never have given it a second glance had we been driving past. Why should an un-forecast rain-belt drive us off the Sperrins to botanize around the Roe Estuary, thus providing John Harron, Andrew and myself with our best list for years? – *Cuscuta epithymum, Allium carinatum, Carduus tenuiflorus, Ruppia maritima, Arabis hirsuta,* and a totally unexpected set of aliens, *Sisymbrium altissimum, Crepis mollis* and *Hordeum jubatum.* If Ronnie Irvine hadn't brought us back to Carland Quarry for maybe the fifth time to photograph the Bee Orchids (*Orchis apifera*), we would never have added the Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*) to our east Tyrone lists. Who would have thought a purely mountain-climbing expedition up Slieve Bignion would have added *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* to the flora of the Mournes?

It's now early October, as I write this. The season is all but over; it's a sad time of year for the botanist. But come next April, and the heart will lift again to the call of "Let's go for a bot today", and another season will have begun. Will it be the year *Impatiens glandulifera* appears for the first time in the Drum Manor square? – so abundant only 1 km outside it. Will Cloudberry (*Rubus*

chamaemorus) turn up on some other Sperrin peak? Yes, the fascination, the joy of the unexpected, will still be there. Roll on 1992!

FLOWERING BIOLOGY OF *ALLIUM VINEALE* L. AT SITES IN NORTH KERRY, V.C. H2

Michael O'Sullivan

Knockavota, Milltown, Co. Kerry

A six-year study of the flowering biology of *Allium vineale* L. plants was conducted locally between 1984 and 1989.

The study related to two colonies, one a colour variant (lilac-lavender) consisting of, on average, 70 plants and situated near Milltown and the other of the typical pink form, of on average 200 plants and 3 km away at Killorglin. The results showed that the lilac-lavender variant had a higher ratio of flowering individuals, 30%, as against only 2% for the pink form. A high incidence of dense flower heads (20-60 florets) for the former was also recorded for most years.

When taken into cultivation, the results were even more marked. While the pink plants produced no flowers at all, the lilac-lavender variant did, as in the wild, and a few individuals had all flowers and only a single ring of tiny bulbils at the base.

These plants can be more colourful and attractive than any of the usual species of *Allium* found in gardens, if you are lucky enough to

come across a strain as prolific and constant as the one I found.

A TRIBUTE TO MISS M.P.H. KERTLAND (1902-1991)

Maura J.P. Scannell

43 Raglan Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Miss Mary Patricia Happer Kertland, a long-time member of the Botanical Society of the British Isles who served for a period of years on the Committee of the Irish Regional Branch of the B.S.B.I., died on the 24th February 1991 after a short illness in a Belfast hospital. Pat was an Honorary Member of the Society. On the 6th of May, 1989, at the A.G.M. of the Society held in the University of Sheffield, the award was made. The citation mentioned her 25 years service as Editor of the *Irish Naturalists' Journal* and was high in praise of the help given to field botanists throughout Ireland. The election to Honorary Membership was carried with delight and applause.

At a meeting of the Committee for Ireland (B.S.B.I.) held in Calvert House, Belfast on 19th April 1991 Pat Kertland was remembered. Those present recalled her service to botany in Ireland over a period of 50 years – as a research scholar, as teacher, as field botanist, as a curator of a large herbarium and as editor of the principal journal serving natural history studies in Ireland.

Following graduation from Queen's University, Belfast she studied the vegetation of an upland area (478 m) some 6 km to the west of Belfast. In 1928 "The ecology of Divis" was published in the *Journal of Ecology*. Praeger in *A Flora of the North-east of Ireland* (2nd ed., 1938) remarked that "the study of the local vegetation on ecological

lines is only beginning" and drew attention to Pat's work on Divis. During the professorship of James Small she held a lectureship in Botany in Queen's University and the curation of the Herbarium (now **BEL**) was dealt with as well.

During her herbarium years, Pat undertook fieldwork to fill out under-representation in the collections. Frequent excursions were made with the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, with visiting members of the B.S.B.I. and with friends to a variety of habitats in several counties from the Garron Plateau to the Dingle peninsula. Special attention was paid to "recently discovered splits and subspecies" and historic records were checked. As a result the Kertland Herbarium in **BEL**, now in the Ulster Museum, has enriched that collection and will serve to provide a wealth of information for future county Floras and not only in the north-east.

Following the retirement of J.A. Stendall, Professor J. Heslop-Harrison became editor of the *Irish Naturalists' Journal* in 1950. In 1951, on his departure from Queen's University, Belfast to the Directorship of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Miss Kertland, together with A.W. Stelfox as assistant editor, assumed responsibility for the *Journal.* From 1951 to 1976 she was Honorary Editor with the assistance of an Editorial Committee. Pat had a wide knowledge of natural history and with her editorial skills she was in a position to coordinate the several disciplines of the biological sciences. Aware of deteriorating conditions in the environment she stimulated interest in conservation in Ireland and published in the *Journal* early papers on the subject. She reviewed books, contributed papers on *Alchemilla, Euphrasia, Sarracenia* and editorials on aspects of the flora. In 1972 she compiled, with the assistance of Doreen Lambert, a *Supplement to the vascular section of A Flora of the North-east of Ireland* (Praeger, R.L., 2nd ed., 1938). It was published by the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club. The *Supplement* was issued "in preparation" for the third edition of Stewart and Corry. It included many new

records and the updating of others; it reported the re-finding of *Rosa* x *hibernica* (*R. pimpinellifolia* x subsection *Caninae*) and its introduction to cultivation in the grounds of Queen's University, Belfast, and the re-finding of *Saxifraga hirculus* on the Garron Plateau. For the *Atlas of the British Flora,* Pat Kertland co-ordinated the work in her area and for most of Ulster. She trained many local botanists in the work and made endless journeys (mostly at her own expense) to cover every 10-km grid square. Her greatest contribution was the encouragement given to young botanists, to John Harron who wrote the *Flora of Lough Neagh* (1986), the late Michael Morrison who published papers on the bogs of Uganda and, in the field at present, helping with the *Flora of Fermanagh,* Ralph Forbes.

Pat Kertland had many talents; she was a skilled water-colourist, a good cook and gardener and was endowed with an ability to engage in friendship across a broad spectrum. She was widely travelled; in her youth she had visited China, and in later years visited many European countries to observe plants from the Tatras to the seas. Pat will be remembered for the stimulus she gave to field studies in the north-east of Ireland, for the encouragement she gave to both amateur and professional. Botanists valued her forthright opinions. Indeed she was centripetal to all plant activities with radii from Belfast. She was a very generous person in many ways and several private libraries benefited from donations of out of print works.

The Rev. David Lapsley, in an address at Pat Kertland's funeral described her thus: "... this honest woman, with a manner that could be formidable and brusque ... her words and deeds were constantly flavoured by kindness and generosity".

A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF CORK (V.CC. H3-H5), 1991

Maura J.P. Scannell

43 Raglan Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

The vice-counties H3, H4 and H5 were visited during fieldwork in Cork in 1991. Many visits were of brief duration. In July and August, in the *Rubus* season, attention was given to non-*R. ulmifolius* species. Cork is poorly represented in census lists referring to *Rubus* and those noted are not well documented. The following collections were made:

R. dentatifolius (East Ferry, H5), *R. lanaticaulis* (south-east of Rathcormack, H5), *R. hesperius* (Aghern, H5), *R. scabripes* (Valley of the Toon River, H3) and others currently under study by D.E. Allen. *R. scabripes* has not been previously reported from Ireland; *R. dentatifolius* is a new record for H5.

Woodland along the Toon River was observed. In one area *Melampyrum pratense* was noted forming a carpet in Ash-Hazel-Holly woodland. *Saxifraga spathularis* and *Euphorbia hyberna* occur abundantly in the area. *Euonymus europaeus* is of frequent occurrence, the bole of one specimen was found to measure 51 cm in diameter. *Ilex aquifolium* is very common here.

Phalaris canariensis was found in small quantity at the base of a limestone wall on the Kinsale Road, south suburbs of Cork City. It is not listed from H4 in the *Census Catalogue.* It was reported by Power (*Contributions towards a fauna and flora of the county Cork,* 1845) from “about Evergreen” – a short distance away, but as a casual it was omitted from later lists. *Polygonum arenastrum* occurs frequently on waste ground on the Kinsale Road, H4. It has not been reported hitherto from H4.

Adiantum capillus-veneris: some 5-6 plants were observed on the inside of the brick-work wall of Cobh Railway Station (H5), and not on the outer wall as heretofore. *Erigeron karvinskianus* is frequent near the station and *Hypericum hircinum* is common in the area.

Asplenium onopteris and *A.* x *ticinense* (*A. adiantum-nigrum* x *A. onopteris*) were at the station north of Blarney.

Zostera marina washed ashore in small quantity was collected at Clonard strand, south of Youghal.

Allium vineale occurs abundantly in the weed-full graveyard attached to Cloyne Cathedral but is not known in the immediate area. Folklife literature suggests that herbs growing in a burial ground are supposed to be "unusually efficacious".

In October, when seeking sites worthy of further work, *Carlina vulgaris, Origanum vulgare, Blackstonia perfoliata, Mentha suaveolens* were collected in the Ballyhonick area. *Juncus foliosus,* new to H5, was collected in the Owenageeragh River valley marshes.

In 1990 and 1991, plants resembling *Ulex europaeus* x *U. gallii* were seen east of Inchageela (H4), near Kinsale and near Inch (H5), northwest of Youghal.

This is a brief summary of 1991 fieldwork in Cork. Specimens have been deposited in **DBN**, **TCD** and **BEL**.

CORRECTION – Maura J.P. Scannell

In *Irish Botanical News,* Number 1, issued in February 1991 I stated (p. 17) that *Carex curta* collected from Blueford Bog, near Newmarket

(H4), was new to the county. Tony O'Mahony has reminded me that I overlooked his H4 station, Waterloo marsh, north of Blarney, reported in 1980.

A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF CORK (V.CC. H3-H5), 1991

Tony O'Mahony

6 Glenthorn Way, Dublin Hill, Cork City

1991 was an interesting and varied year. In May, an English naturalist, Mr Hawes, found Green-veined Orchid (*Orchis morio*) growing on coastal turf at Barley Cove, West Cork (H3). It was originally found in this area by a R.W. Townsend in c.1840 and refound here by a ?German tourist on 27th April, 1965.

Also in May, I found *Carex strigosa* on a tributary of the River Blackwater, near Killavullen, East Cork (H5). Previously this sedge has only been recorded from the River Awbeg valley, near Doneraile. Yet *C. strigosa* is still only known from a single 10-km square (GR R6.0) in Co. Cork, where, however, it occurs in a number of stations.

My 1990 station for *Veronica crista-galli* from Ballyviniter, near Mallow (H5, GR W5.9) was also rechecked in May. This very distinctive little annual Speedwell was found to be well established over 130 m of roadside verge. Doubtless it will continue to spread here, though its provenance is unknown. This is the most northerly station within the county.

July proved a rewarding month. *Hypericum* x *desetangsii* (*H. perforatum* x *maculatum* subsp. *obtusiusculum*) was found within the

grounds of Cork Corporation's Clover Hill Nursery, Blackrock (H4, GR W7.7). This is the first confirmed Co. Cork record for a hybrid that remains surprisingly unrecorded over most of Ireland. It is virtually certain, however, that the nursery populations arrived with sand deposits from a Mid Cork quarry in the early 1970s. The original site needs rechecking in 1992.

Rose-bay Willow Herb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) is now found in all three vice-counties, where it continues to spread dramatically. It was added to the flora of West Cork in July, when Michael Daly (a Cork entomologist) found it to be well established in a forestry plantation at Castlefreke, near Ross Carberry (H3, W3.3). The plant's spread is undoubtedly attributable to forestry operations. It seems only a matter of time before it spreads throughout the whole of Munster. (In fact, in August, I saw it growing in abundance in a forestry site just west of Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.)

Black Mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*) now has stations in both West Cork and Mid Cork. Two very small populations occur on a roadside near Macroom (a site that straddles the H3/H4 border) where I first recorded them way back in 1967! In July, 1991 Michael Daly found a massive population in an old, disturbed meadow a few kms west of Cork City (H4, GR W6.7). On revisiting the site with him in September, we attempted a population count, and estimated that at least 3000 plants occur here. The majority grow in one massive, dense stand. *V. nigrum* is a handsome, morphologically variable species with a very long flowering period.

Also in July, I was informed by two naturalists (Michael Troy and James Jordan) of *Orobanche* populations on the dunes at Barley Cove, West Cork, which appeared to be parasitizing Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*). I also established that both purple-flowered and yellow-flowered Broomrapes were present here, occurring on both sides of the sea-inlet near the Pitch & Putt course. A day trip to the area on

4th July, 1991 showed mixed populations to be common over a small area of duneland. Later microscopic examination of fresh specimens of both colour variants, showed them to be referable to *O. minor* a species which occurs on a wide range of hosts. Despite careful removal of sand from about the Broomrapes, I was unable to establish the host species. While on balance the host seemed to be *Eryngium maritimum,* other candidates included *Ammophila arenaria, Calystegia soldanella* and *Lotus corniculatus.* Most interestingly, some of the proximal flowers on the Broomrape spikes (always buried in the sand) bore pedicels up to 30 mm long!

On the same trip to Barley Cove, I was delighted to find *Eleocharis uniglumis* (a rare and very local Cork plant) growing with *E. palustris* on estuarine sand by the Causeway.

In August, a visit was paid to a bogland site roughly 13 km west of Macroom. The most interesting finds were *Cicendia filiformis, Radiola linoides, Utricularia intermedia* and *Rhynchospora alba.* I am only aware of one other inland Cork station for *C. filiformis,* viz a c.1875 record by Charles Longfield from near Enniskean, on the River Bandon. This would be to the south-east of the Macroom site.

Lastly, Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*) was found to be well established in a number of stations in Mid and East Cork, while a re-evaluation of the diagnostic characters of the genus *Calystegia* has been initiated, following the discovery of some puzzling, pink-flowered taxa in counties Cork, Kerry and Waterford by Patrick Smiddy (Wildlife Ranger), Michael Daly and myself. There are indications that *C. sepium* subsp. *roseata* may occur in Waterford, Mid Cork and East Cork; in West Cork it is widespread from Ross Carberry to Sherkin Island (H3).

A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF CO. LIMERICK (V.C. H8), 1991

Sylvia Reynolds

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Botanical work in Co. Limerick this year was restricted to a quick visit in the spring and two weeks in August. Two A.S.I.s were visited. At Gorteenamrock, south-east of Askeaton, *Cladium mariscus* was dominant over one half of the fen and *Phragmites australis* over the other half. This area does not appear to be threatened at present by either drainage or grazing. The complete flora of the second A.S.I. visited, Sturamus Island in the River Shannon, was recorded (14 species). Of interest were large tussocks of erect *Puccinellia* '*maritima*' which has been known in this part of the Shannon for nearly 90 years, and has been given various names including *Glyceria festuciformis* and *Puccinellia foucaudii.*

Most of the time available was spent botanizing on Foynes Island. Much of the island is rough pasture and in the spring of 1991 about 60 ha were ploughed in preparation for tree planting. In August, the abundance and variety of weed species among the newly planted trees was very conspicuous. Many of the species had not been recorded on the island over the previous eight years – for example, *Polygonum lapathifolium, Fallopia convolvulus, Chenopodium album, Galeopsis tetrahit* and *Spergula arvensis.* These species were mostly found in well defined areas – two fields which had not been cultivated for at least 35 years, and one which was last planted with oats about 65 years ago.

Alien plants were not entirely neglected. Foynes and Limerick ports and the roadsides in the area were checked. *Amaranthus retroflexus* thrives in its thousands at Foynes Port and is obviously self-sown

there. A new find was one plant of *Silene noctiflora* on a roadside west of Foynes.

A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF NORTH TIPPERARY (V.C. H10), 1991

David W. Nash

35 Nutley Park, Donnybrook, Dublin 4

During 1991 fieldwork for the vice-county check-list, which is being compiled, was continued. A number of 10-km squares, for which there were few records, were visited. *Primula* x *tommasinii* (*P. veris* x *P. vulgaris*) was noted in two locations, and another site for *Geum rivale* was found in the north of the county. While investigating a report of *Gentiana verna* near Borrisokane, a *Schoenus nigricans* fen containing *Antennaria dioica, Pinguicula vulgaris* and *Ophrys insectifera,* with juniper scrub on higher ground, was discovered. An adjacent field contained *Orchis morio.*

At the end of June, a joint B.S.B.I. field meeting, co-led by Rosaleen Fitzgerald, was held near Dundrum (see *B.S.B.I. News* **60**).

During the summer the recorder joined Ro FitzGerald and the Wildlife Service in a search for *Inula salicina* on the shores of Lough Derg. The search was assisted by Maura Scannell and Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington. The lake displayed signs of serious eutrophication in many places, and at one village sewage pollution was very apparent. *Alisma lanceolatum, Lemna polyrhiza* and *Potamogeton* x *nitens* (*P. gramineus* x *P. perfoliatus*) were found to be plentiful on the lake shores. *Rosa agrestis, Eleocharis uniglumis, Salix*

x *multinervis* (*S. aurita* x S. *cinerea*) and *Lathyrus palustris* were also recorded. But sadly, *Inula salicina* may now only exist at one station. The reasons for its decline are not very clear, but it may be related to the enrichment of the lake and its environs.

Other reports received during the year were of *Hottonia palustris, Eleocharis multicaulis* and *Carex curta* (from Aileen O'Sullivan and Niall Lockhart) and *Erigeron acer* at 90 kmph (Declan Doogue and Rosaleen Fitzgerald)!

In October *Frangula alnus* was found in Redwood bog, south of the Shannon between Banagher and Portumna. Approximately one hundred bushes were found along a stream/drain flowing through the middle of the bog, together with *Betula pubescens, Rhamnus catharticus* and *Salix cinerea*, and other species such as *Euonymus europaeus, Viburnum opulus* and *Corylus avellana.* Unfortunately the bog is being drained to facilitate extensive peat extraction. *F. alnus* was also rediscovered at Friars Lough near Lorrha, where Praeger reported it (A botanist in the Central Plain, *Irish Naturalist* **8**, 1899) as occurring "in profusion".

A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF CO. WEXFORD (V.C. H12), 1991

Rosemary FitzGerald

Borris House, Borris, Co. Kilkenny

During this field season one half of the recordership (RF) has been working in remote counties like Offaly, and the other half (John R. Akeroyd) has been getting married; recording has therefore been much slower than in 1990 when the Protected Species Survey was

concentrated on the county, and a B.S.B.I. meeting round Gorey made excellent contributions. Records are currently being made on a 5 x 5-km basis, but if a check-list is to be produced as intended in 1993, it will probably have to be restricted to 10-km squares as this will allow collation of previous records and allow more time for detailed survey.

Good results are still coming in from the county, in spite of curtailed fieldwork. Species which appear to be new to the county include *Vicia lathyroides* (*Red Data Book* species), *Eleocharis quinqueflora*, and the dune form of *Equisetum variegatum.* New populations of previously recorded *Red Data Book* and/or Protected Species *Carduus nutans, Centaurium pulchellum, Lotus subbiflorus, Ornithopus perpusillus* have been identified, and *Ranunculus parviflorus* has been seen in the north of the county and at a new site within its long-recorded south coast range. Confirmation of several former records has been particularly pleasing (date of last record in brackets): *Elatine hexandra,* Screen Hills (1936); *Potamogeton* x *cooperi* (*P. crispus* x *P. perfoliatus*), Bunclody (1966); *Rumex maritimus,* Lady's Island Lake (1973).

Approximately 940 species, including hybrids and commonly recognised subspecies, but excluding microspecies of *Hieracium, Rosa, Rubus* and *Taraxacum,* have been recorded for the county. Of these, about 150 are 'missing' from the current survey results. Some are, anyway, very rare, or may only have had casual appearances, but some plants which are widespread in Ireland are more surprisingly unconfirmed. They include *Chamaemelum nobile, Cirsium dissectum, Crepis paludosa, Geum rivale, Luzula pilosa, Melampyrum pratense, Pinguicula vulgaris, Schoenus nigricans, Scutellaria galericulata* and *Selaginella selaginoides.*

Lower plants in Ireland, particularly Charophytes, are getting great benefit from Nick Stewart's work for the Wildlife Service. In Wexford the very rare Stoneworts *Lamprothamnium papulosum* and *Chara*

canescens have been refound at Lady's Island Lake, and a new site for each found on the south coast of the county.

During the present survey some records have been made in 40 of the 42 whole or part l0-km squares, but some have poor coverage, so the average for a 10-km square is only just over 230 species, leaving an intimidating amount of work to be done!

SOME BOTANICAL RAMBLES IN SOUTH-EAST GALWAY (V.C. H15), 1991

Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington

Department of Botany, University College, Galway

Far from heading toward 'the Flora' as yet, I find it quite difficult to spend a lot of time doing 'serious botany' in my vice-county. This may be in spite of, or because of the fact that I have now moved into my vice-county and even bought property therein. It may also be because most of my friends here are non-botanists and treat my desire to stop and examine a weed or bit of grass as a quaint Victorian hobby. Apart from the fact that Queen Victoria shared a birthday not only with my Irish grandmother (much to her disgust) but my mother (much to her surprise), I find the connection rather tenuous.

I have, however, some very enthusiastic and learned non-Galwegian friends and this year in July, the endangered plant research conducted by Ro FitzGerald touched on the borders of H15. I delightedly sped down to Portumna to join herself and the other relevant v.c. recorder of the time, David Nash of North Tipperary (H10) in July. That day we failed to find the elusive *Inula salicina,* but, on a bid to relocate

Stachys officinalis seen near the shores of Lough Derg on a previous B.S.B.I. trip, we spent a very agreeable time around the lake edge further south. One site, at Old Village, had a nice sheltered bay with a wealth of emergent aquatics such as *Butomus umbellatus, Hydrocharis morsus-ranae, Sagittaria sagittifolia, Sium latifolium, Lemna polyrhiza* and *Alisma lanceolatum.* There was also an enigmatic *Eleocharis* which fails to conform fully to *E. acicularis* and awaits the spring in the laboratory to produce some more identifiable material. Four *Chara* species were subsequently identified by David Nash – *C. vulgaris, C. hispida* var. *rudis, C. aspera* and *C. aculeolata.*

The other site at Cregg Point, included some grassland and limestone pavement, so the species list ran to 196. The *Butomus umbellatus, Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* and *Alisma lanceolata* were present again as well as *Stellaria palustris,* thus the more unusual species were again aquatic, or nearly so. On our return through an adjacent square, Ro spotted a large expanse of *Ballota nigra* in a hedge opposite a house. The owner, on seeing our interest, came over and told us his grandmother had planted it in the garden and had used it as a herbal remedy. My thanks go to Ro and David for their companionship and help with the more difficult species.

One short solitary recording spell took place along the roadside outside Kilmacduagh Monastery, a week or so later. Perhaps inadvertently, the Office of Public Works/County Council failed to thoroughly weed kill this roadside strip. Inspired by the apparent diversity, I decided to confine my records solely to the two 50 m stretches along the roadside. I found 51 species, of which about 31 could be classed as weeds or ruderals! The prize specimen was *Erysimum cheiranthoides* which seems to be a not infrequent, if sparse inhabitant of this area.

The other event which gets me out recording is a B.S.B.I. field meeting. It was thus that I agreed to co-lead a week-end trip on 31st

August/1st September with Roscommon recorder, John Early. I managed to entice one of my students, John Conaghan along and he turned his keen eye, usually trained on *Eriophorum gracile* to finding *Andromeda polifolia* and *Vaccinium oxycoccos* on a bog surrounding no less than Cranberry Lake in Roscommon. But I am straying on to John Early's territory … The next day was spent in Co. Galway along the River Shannon, which proved to be the best Botanical site I could find relatively near to Ballinasloe. It did us proud, which was nice, as, for the week-end, John Phillips had travelled all the way from Belfast, Maura Scannell from Dublin and Faith White from Mullingar. We were also joined by Stephen Heery, a keen local ecologist who knew the site well and my friend, Mags Brehony, an acupuncturist interested in medicinal herbs, which added a new dimension to the botanical interest.

The site, at Meelick, south of Eyrecourt involves a series of canals and ponds interconnecting with each other and the Shannon. Many nice species were turned up again, the ever-pleasing *Butomus umbellatus,* more *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae, Sagittaria sagittifolia, Sium latifolium, Stellaria palustris,* as well as two species of *Oenanthe, O. aquatica* and *O. fistulosa.* But the high point of the day was when Maura spotted an odd pondweed, which she declared to be *Groenlandia densa.* Closer examination proved this to be correct and further search of the canal found it to be quite extensive in the area. Undoubtedly a new county record, it was interesting to speculate whether this population had anything to do with that of the Grand Canal, which used to start from the River Suck at Ballinasloe and run south to cross the Shannon about 10 km north of Meelick. Sadly, this stretch is now dry and part of it is a railway for turf extraction.

There proved to be one problem, which Maura pointed out to me later. According to the O.S. Sheet 15, we were not in Co. Galway, but Co. Offaly! Lest Keith Lamb (Offaly v.c. Recorder) claim my record, I plan to establish in print that the line of deepest water

should demarcate at least the vice-county boundary. Maura also tells me that the strange *Trifolium* found in the callows appears to be *T. fragiferum,* resembling a specimen recently found by Sylvia Reynolds in Co. Limerick. Its usual habitat is saline marshes and is known for H15 from a Kilcolgan saltmarsh. What is it doing several tens of km up the R. Shannon? The day ended for me with a swim in a very warm and shallow Shannon, with only mild and mutual concern involving the numerous swans sharing the inlet.

A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF FERMANAGH (V.C. H33), 1991

Robert H. Northridge

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Work continued on recording 5 x 5-km squares with a view to publishing a *Flora of Fermanagh.* The 80 or so squares which are completely, or almost completely, within the county have been surveyed fairly thoroughly leaving about ten squares on the periphery of the county needing further investigation.

A few interesting points from the season's recording include:
Diphasiastrum alpinum (found by Matthew Tickner) on Cuilcagh – a new county record.
Neotinea maculata – 17 spikes in flower on Knockninny.
Spiranthes romanzoffiana – at least ten spikes at the usual site.
Phegopteris connectilis – new site on Banagh River with fronds over 30 cm long.
Botrychium lunaria – a very small population atop a single limestone boulder above Florencecourt, found by Matthew Tickner.
Equisetum hyemale – new site on Banagh River.

Limosella aquatica – new site at Ross Lough, found by Fred Carroll.
Equisetum x *trachyodon* (*E. hyemale* x *E. variegatum*) – new site near Pettigo.
Epipactis palustris – over 100 plants in flower near Ely Lodge.
Primula veris – meadow with over 100 plants near Clonatty Bridge.

Roll on next season!

A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF CO. ANTRIM (V.C. H39), 1991

Stanley Beesley

12 Downview Park, Greenisland, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, BT38 8RY

Recording work has continued with the object of producing a modern check-list for Co. Antrim. Progress has been very satisfactory and approximately 100 record cards have been completed during the year. These cards are on a site basis and so can be used for collection of records on a 1-km, tetrad or 10-km square basis.

The average number of species recorded from each 10-km square is now almost 300 which represents an increase of approximately 17% during the year.

This year work has been concentrated on relatively under-recorded inland squares in the north and west and once again the help of John Wilde is gratefully acknowledged.

New areas have been found for the following notable species:

Sagittaria sagittifolia

Draba muralis – 2 sites
Filago minima
Saxifraga tridactylites
Hypericum perforatum – 2 sites
Lathraea squamaria – 3 sites
Cystopteris fragilis – 2 sites
Lysichiton americanus
Heracleum mantegazzianum – 2 sites
Pyrola minor
Oxalis europaea – 2 sites
Cichorium intybus
Mimulus moschatus
Hippuris vulgaris
Juncus tenuis
Conyza canadensis – This plant was found for the first time in the north last year. In addition to further plants (now 23) on the original site, two new sites in or near Belfast have been found this year.

In addition a new and very large site for *Geranium sylvaticum* has been found.

THE KNOPPER GALL (*ANDRICUS QUERCUSCALICIS*)

I have been sent a short account of a new plant gall caused by the Knopper Gall Wasp (*Andricus quercuscalicis*). This wasp has been known in Britain for at least 35 years (it probably arrived from the Continent) and the gall attacks the acorns of the English Oak (*Quercus robur*) and sometimes completely smothers them. It is an interesting insect, since it requires two species of oak to complete its life cycle – a first generation develops on *Q. robur* in summer and autumn and a second generation forms galls on the catkins of the introduced Turkey Oak (*Q. cerris*). The gall has now spread as far

north as Northumberland but has not yet reached Scotland and Central Wales. In Ireland, the gall has now been recorded recently for Glasnevin Botanic Gardens and around the Dublin area. Dr Graham Stone and Karsten Schonrogge at Imperial College are investigating the ecology and population genetics of the insect and are particularly interested in working out its detailed distribution.

If you find the galls in the next few field seasons please contact Dr G. Stone, Freepost, Centre for Population Biology, Imperial College at Silwood Park, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7BS (Telephone 0344 294365) and supply him with the details. An illustration of the gall on the acorn of *Q. robur* is shown below and a fuller account of the gall may be found in *B.S.B.I. News.* The fact that the species has only so recently arrived into Ireland means that it should be possible to monitor its spread out from Dublin very precisely.

Brian S. Rushton

A knopper gall formed by *Andricus quercuscalicis* on an acorn of *Quercus robur.*

IRISH FIELD MEETINGS, 1992

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May
Westmeath (v.c. H23)
Leader: Mr C. Breen

A meeting to record the early spring flora of esker woodland and grassland for the *Flora of Westmeath.*
Meet at the Church of Ireland on the village green in Tyrrellspass (GR N41.37) at 11.00 a.m. on both days.

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Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May
West Cork (v.c. H3)
Leader: Dr C. O'Criodain

One day will be spent on Sherkin Island, and one on the mainland at Crookhaven. Both locations have a varied coastal and heath flora with rarities and with affinities to the Cornish flora.
On Saturday, meet at the pier in Baltimore (GR W05.26) at 10.00 a.m. On Sunday, meet at the pier in Crookhaven (GR V80.25) at 10.30 a.m.

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Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June
Co. Armagh (v.c. H37)
Leader: Dr J.S. Faulkner
A meeting to botanize in archaeological sites.
Meet outside the County Museum (good parking available) half way along Mall East, Armagh at 10.30 a.m. on both days.

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Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June
Co. Wexford (v.c. H12)
Leader: Lady R. FitzGerald

The aim of the meeting is to record in Co. Wexford Areas of Scientific Interest.
Meet in the car park of the Heritage Park at Ferrycarrig (GR T02.23) at 11.00 a.m. on both days.

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Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July
Westmeath (v.c. H23)
Leader: Mrs F. White

A variety of interesting habitats will be visited. Supper provided on Saturday evening; bring sleeping bags for overnight stay. Please book directly with the leader at: The Lake House, Crookedwood, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath (telephone: 044 72118).
On Saturday, meet at Mullingar Railway Station (GR N43.53) at 10.30 a.m. On Sunday, meet at Crookedwood crossroads (GR N46.62) at 10.30 a.m.

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Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August
Caha Mountains, South Kerry and West Cork (v.cc. H1 and H3)
Leader: Dr T.G.F. Curtis
A meeting to explore some of the lesser known mountains in the area. Meet at the bridge in Adrigole, Co. Cork (GR V81.50) at 10.00 a.m. on both days.

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Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th August
Co. Clare (v.c. H9)
Leader: Miss C. Brady

A meeting to record the vegetation of the lakeside and limestone outcrop at Killone L., of the estuary of the R. Fergus, and to explore the western shores of L. Derg.
On Saturday, meet at the bridge over the R. Fergus in Clarecastle (GR R35.74) at 10.00 a.m. On Sunday, meet at the quay in Scarriff (GR R65.84) at 10.30 a.m.

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Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August
East Donegal (v.c. H34)
Leader: Ms P. Hodson

A recording meeting on the Inishowen Peninsula to revisit some of the localities documented by H.C. Hart in his 1883 pamphlet *On the flora of Inishowen.*
Meet in the car park of the White Strand Motor Inn, Buncrana (just south of the town on the coast road) at 10.30 a.m. on both days.

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Saturday 12th September
Meath (v.c. H22)
Leader: Miss M.P. Norton

Several lakes in the shale and limestone areas north of Nobber will be visited.
Meet at the church in Nobber (GR N82.86) at 11.00 a.m.

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Saturday 3rd October
Irish Annual General Meeting, Dublin

The A.G.M. will be held at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. Details of this meeting will be sent to Irish members.

Sylvia Reynolds

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR IRELAND

Over the past year, the Committee for Ireland has been debating the formulation of a set of Rules for the election of Committee Members. These Rules were finalised and presented to the Annual General Meeting, in University College, Dublin on 5th October, 1991 and further amendments made before being finally passed by the A.G.M. They are copied below.

Committee for Ireland

1. The Committee for Ireland shall consist of seven members who shall be elected at Annual General Meetings and who shall serve for a period of three years.

2. Those Committee Members who have served on the Committee for three years shall retire from the Committee and shall be replaced by new Committee Members elected at an Annual General Meeting.

3. There shall be three Officers of the Committee: a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Field Meetings Secretary. The Chairperson, Secretary and Field Meetings Secretary shall be elected at the first Committee

Meeting following the Annual General Meeting from the seven elected Committee Members by the Committee Members to serve for a period of one year and may be eligible for re-election the following year.

4. Elected Members of the Committee who fail to attend two successive Committee Meetings without adequate explanation shall forfeit their position on the Committee.

5. Retiring Committee Members, including retiring Office holders, shall not be eligible for immediate re-election but may be re-elected to the Committee after an absence of one year. Retiring Committee Members may be co-opted under Rule 6b (below).

6. In addition to the above, the Committee shall have non-voting members as follows:

a. the Committee for Ireland representative on the Botanical Society of the British Isles Council. This post shall be filled by election at an Annual General Meeting and shall be for a period of four years;

b. a maximum of four members who may be co-opted by the Committee to serve for one year;

c. representatives from other bodies, with observer status, as may be invited from time-to-time by the Committee.

On retiring from the Committee non-voting Committee Members shall be available for immediate election or co-option to the Committee.

In order to bring these Rules into operation, it was necessary to hold a special election to the Committee at the A.G.M. in October, 1991.

The results were as follows:

To retire from the Committee in October, 1994
Dr David W. Nash
Maura J.P. Scannell
Dr Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington

To retire from the Committee in October, 1993
Dr Ralph S. Forbes
John C.L. Phillips

To retire from the Committee in October, 1992
Phillip J. Grant
Dr Brian S. Rushton

Brian S. Rushton

From *The Church Times,* 1894.

Easter decorations. – Large parcel (4 lbs.) beautiful fresh Irish fernmoss, in sheets, fee 1s. 6d. Also long stemmed Moss for wreaths. Same price. Order immediately. – Maxwell, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan, Ireland.

(contributed by Maura J.P. Scannell)

The following is from a herbarium sheet in **DBN** and is a letter from Andrew Campbell to Miss M.C. Knowles, then Head of the Herbarium at the Science and Art Museum, Dublin.

St. Anne's Garden
Clontarf, Co. Dublin.
23 Oct 1909

Madam,

On my return from holiday yesterday I found your letter waiting with reference to the *Elymus arenarius* [*Leymus arenarius*]. I have not got it here, but I think I can tell you how it has appeared on the North Bull. The late Mr. Burbadge (sic) for years before his death used to fill his pockets with all sorts of seed which he thought likely to grow there, and on the cliffs of Howth. He told me so himself, and I have no doubt. I am always pleased to help you in any way I can.

Yours respectfully,

(signed) Andrew Campbell.

(contributed by Maura J.P. Scannell)

In *Plantlife,* Issue 4, Summer 1991, pages 4-5 there is an article on Mullach Mor (Burren) by Father John O'Donoghue who was until recently the priest at Carron in the Burren.