

## NOTES ON THE FLORA OF ALDERNEY

By JOHN OUNSTED

I had the good fortune to be able to spend the four days, May 30-June 2, 1953, camping in the island of Alderney. The greater part of my time was passed in botanising, and, as the island proved fruitful ground for a botanical holiday, a short account may prove of interest.

Alderney lies ten miles from the coast of France, nearer to it than any other part of the British Isles. For the most part it is a plateau about 250 feet above the sea, with steep cliffs in the south and west but some lower lying sandy areas in the north-east.

One great advantage of Alderney as compared with Jersey and Guernsey is that very little of the land is enclosed or cultivated, so that one can wander freely over most of the island. The climate also is more bracing, and winds prevail. The coastal scenery is attractive, although marred by the fortifications which have been built on the island by its invaders from the Romans of antiquity down to the Germans of the 1940's. Among the more rare and interesting plants are:—*Hirschfeldia incana*, *Helianthemum guttatum*, *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*, *Hypericum linariifolium*, *Ononis reclinata*, *Lotus angustissimus*, *L. hispidus*, *Ornithopus pinnatus*, *Bupleurum opacum*, *Valerianella eriocarpa*, *Orobanche rapum-genistae*, *O. purpurea*, *Herniaria ciliata*, *Romulea columnae*, *Bromus diandrus* (*B. gussonei*) and *B. catharticus* (*B. unioides*).

Part of the purpose of my visit was to see how the flora compared with that described by Marquand (1901), and in particular to see if the German occupation had produced any changes. The area of Alderney is about four square miles, so that in so short a visit nothing like a complete survey was possible. Nevertheless, of the 503 flowering plants and ferns listed by Marquand (1901), 290 were seen; and another 17 plants not included in his list were also noted.

C. C. Babington visited Alderney for a week in 1838 and listed almost the same number of species—313 (Babington, 1839). His was the first attempt at a full plant list for the island. In 1901 E. D. Marquand published his *Flora of Guernsey and the Lesser Channel Islands*. From 1902 to 1910 he annually listed additions in the *Transactions of La Société Guernesiaise*, these additions, with others, being brought together in 1924 as a Supplement to the Flora (McCrea, 1924). During the 1930's the island was

visited by A. B. & A. K. Jackson, H. K. Airy Shaw and J. D. Grose. These visits resulted in further important additions to the known flora being published (Jackson, 1933; Jackson & Shaw, 1937, and Grose, 1938). J. E. Lousley visited the island in 1950, and D. McClintock spent a few hours there in August 1953, and has kindly placed the interesting records that he made at my disposal.

In the list which follows the simple mention of a plant name indicates that the plant's present status seems the same as described by Marquand (1901). Plants new to the island are marked with an asterisk.

LIST OF FLOWERING PLANTS, FERNS AND FERN ALLIES  
FOUND ON THE ISLAND OF ALDERNEY

- RANUNCULUS REPENS L.  
 R. ACRIS L.  
 R. BULBOSUS L.  
 R. FLAMMULA L.  
 R. PARVIFLORUS L. N.W. coast. Cliffs by Essex Castle.  
 R. TRICHOPHYLLUS Chaix. Mauney.  
 PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM L.  
 P. RHOEAS L.  
 P. DUBIUM L.  
 P. HYBRIDUM L.  
 GLAUCIUM FLAVUM Crantz.  
 \*ESCHSCHOLZIA CALIFORNICA Cham. Fort Houmet, D. McClintock.  
 MATTHIOLA INCANA (L.) R.Br. Well established on the cliffs of the flooded quarry near Corblets Bay.  
 NASTURTIUM OFFICINALE R.Br. sens. lat.  
 ARABIS HIRSUTA (L.) Scop.  
 CARDAMINE HIRSUTA L.  
 LOBULARIA MARITIMA (L.) Desv. Fort Houmet, etc.  
 EROPHILA VERNA (L.) Chevall.  
 ARMORACIA RUSTICANA Gaertn., Mey. & Scherb. Abundant near the Nunnery.  
 COCHLEARIA OFFICINALIS L. Inland, a few plants by Longy Road.  
 C. DANICA L.  
 SISYMBRIUM OFFICINALE (L.) Scop.  
 BRASSICA RAPA L.  
 SINAPIS ARVENSIS L.  
 HIRSCHFELDIA INCANA (L.) Lagrèze-Fossat. Abundant.  
 DIPLTAXIS TENUIFOLIA (L.) DC. Abundant.  
 CAPSELLA BURSA-PASTORIS (L.) Medic.  
 CORONOPUS DIDYMUS (L.) Sm.  
 CARDARIA DRABA (L.) Desv.  
 LEPIDIUM SMITHII Hook. Clanque, a single plant.  
 TEESDALIA NUDICAULIS (L.) R.Br.

CRAMBE MARITIMA L. Has apparently increased, both at Fort Houmet and Platt Saline (cf. Grose, 1938).

CAKILE MARITIMA Scop.

RAPHANUS RAPHANISTRUM L.

R. MARITIMUS Sm. A conspicuous feature of the flora.

RESEDA LUTEOLA L.

HELIANTHEMUM GUTTATUM (L.) Mill. Apparently reduced in quantity (cf. Grose, 1938), perhaps due to the encroachment of *Ulex gallii*.

VIOLA RIVINIANA Rchb.

V. ARVENSIS Murr. sens. lat.

POLYGALA VULGARIS L.

SILENE MARITIMA With.

S. VULGARIS (Moench) Garcke (*S. cucubalus* Wibel).

S. CONICA L. A single small plant on Longy Common.

LYCHNIS FLOS-CUCULI L.

MELANDRIUM ALBUM (Mill.) Garcke.

M. DIOICUM (L.) Coss. & Germ. Scarce. Western cliffs.

CERASTIUM ATROVIRENS Bab. (*C. tetrandrum* Curt.).

STELLARIA MEDIA (L.) Vill.

\*S. GRAMINEA L. In small quantity on a bushy hillside above Clanques. Very rare in Guernsey.

ARENARIA SERPYLLIFOLIA L.

HONCKENYA PEPLIOIDES (L.) Ehrh.

SAGINA SUBULATA (Sw.) C. Presl.

S. MARITIMA Don ex Sm.

S. PROCUMBENS L.

SPERGULA ARVENSIS L.

SPERGULARIA RUPICOLA Lebel ex Le Jolis.

POLYCARPON TETRAPHYLLUM (L.) L. Common.

HYPERICUM PULCHRUM L.

H. TETRAPTERUM Fr.

H. HUMIFUSUM L.

LAVATERA ARBOREA L.

MALVA SYLVESTRIS L.

LINUM BIENNE Mill.

L. CATHARTICUM L. Fairly common. Also in one or two places in the west of the island.

GERANIUM DISSECTUM L.

G. MOLLE L.

G. ROTUNDFOLIUM L. Apparently increasing. Longy Road; railway near White Gates.

G. ROBERTIANUM L.

ERODIUM MARITIMUM (L.) L'Hérit. N.E. of island, and on the burnt west cliffs opposite Garden Rocks.

E. CICUTARIUM (L.) L'Hérit.

ACER PSEUDO-PLATANUS L.

ULEX EUROPAEUS L.

- U. GALLII Planch.  
 SAROTHAMNUS SCOPARIUS (L.) Wimm. ex Koch. The subsp. PROSTRATUS (Bailey) Tutin is common on the south western cliffs, and looks very distinct.
- ONONIS RECLINATA L. Not seen, possibly owing to the fact that it was too early in the season for the plant to be in flower. Grose (1938) records that it was seen in several parts of the coast in June 1937, but that it was not nearly as plentiful as would be expected from Marquand's *Flora*. [Plentiful in 1950, J. E. Lousley].
- O. REPENS L.  
 TRIGONELLA ORNITHOPODIOIDES (L.) DC. Cliff top near Corblets Bay, abundant; Hanging Rock.
- MEDICAGO SATIVA L.  
 M. HISPIDA Gaertn. Longy Road.  
 M. ARABICA (L.) Huds. Very common.  
 M. LUPULINA L.  
 MELLILLOTUS ALTISSIMA Thuill. Near the Harbour.  
 \*M. INDICA (L.) All. Braye Bay, D. McClintock.  
 \*TRIFOLIUM MEDIUM L. S. of Mauney Quarry.  
 T. ARVENSE L.  
 T. SCABRUM L.  
 T. STRIATUM L. The var. ERECTUM Gaspar was also seen.  
 T. SUBTERRANEUM L.  
 T. REPENS L.  
 T. GLOMERATUM L. Not rare on the southern cliffs.  
 T. SUFFOCATUM L. Not rare but easily overlooked. Rather plentiful on southern cliff paths and paths across Longy Common.  
 T. CAMPESTRE Schreb.  
 T. DUBIUM Sibth.  
 T. MICRANTHUM Viv. (*T. filiforme* auct.).  
 ANTHYLLIS VULNERARIA L.  
 LOTUS ULIGINOSUS Schkuhr.  
 L. CORNICULATUS L.  
 L. HISPIDUS Desf. ex DC.  
 L. ANGUSTISSIMUS L. Noticeably rarer than the previous species.  
 ORNITHOPUS PERPUSILLUS L.  
 O. PINNATUS (Mill.) Dr. Mauney Quarry and southern cliffs.  
 VICIA ANGUSTIFOLIA (L.) Reichard.  
 V. HIRSUTA (L.) Gray.  
 V. TETRASPERMA (L.) Schreb.  
 PRUNUS SPINOSA L.  
 POTENTILLA REPTANS L.  
 P. ERECTA (L.) Räusch.  
 \*APHANES MICROCARPA (Boiss. & Reut.) Rothm. Common. *A. arvensis* was not seen, and it may well be that all the old aggregate records belong to *A. microcarpa*.  
 CRATAEGUS MONOGYNA Jacq.

- UMBILICUS RUPESTRIS (Salisb.) Dandy.  
 SEDUM ACRE L.  
 S. ANGLICUM Huds.  
 S. ALBUM L. Near St. Annes, D. McClintock.  
 HIPPURIS VULGARIS L. Apparently increasing for it is now abundant in the pool in Mauney Quarry. Jackson (1933) states that it grew there sparingly.  
 \*CHAMAENERION ANGUSTIFOLIUM (L.) Scop. I think that I saw this in the S.W. corner of the island, but find that I kept no specimen E. of St. Annes, D. McClintock.  
 \*EPILOBIUM HIRSUTUM L. A large patch in Mauney Quarry.  
 E. PARVIFLORUM Schreb.  
 \*OENOTHERA ERYTHROSEPALA Borbás. N. of St. Annes, D. McClintock.  
 \*CARPOBROTUS EDULIS (L.) N.E.Br. Now well established on the rocky shore near Fort Houmet.  
 ERYNGIUM MARITIMUM L.  
 CONIUM MACULATUM L.  
 SMYRNIUM PERFOLIATUM L. Butes Hill, fairly plentiful.  
 BUPLEURUM OPACUM (Ces.) Lange. Longy Sandhills.  
 APIUM NODIFLORUM (L.) Reichb. f.  
 PETROSELINUM CRISPUM (Mill.) Airy Shaw.  
 ANTHRISCUS SYLVESTRIS (L.) Hoffm.  
 A. CAUCALIS Bieb. (*A. scandix* (Scop.) Aschers., *A. neglecta* Bois. & Reut.).  
 FOENICULUM VULGARE Mill.  
 CRITHMUM MARITIMUM L.  
 PASTINACA SATIVA L.  
 HERACLEUM SPHONDYLIIUM L.  
 DAUCUS CAROTA L.  
 D. GINGIDIUM L.  
 HEDERA HELIX L.  
 SAMBUCUS NIGRA L.  
 LONICERA PERI-CLYMENUM L.  
 RUBIA PEREGRINA L. Marquand (1901) forecasts its extinction, but there is still a little, probably in the same spot where Babington saw it in 1838 (cf. Jackson & Shaw, 1934).  
 GALIUM MOLLUGO L. Marquand (1901) calls it extremely rare and gives only one locality. A second station occurs W. of Val du Sud.  
 G. SAXATILE L. (*G. hircynicum* Weigel).  
 G. VERUM L.  
 G. APARINE L.  
 SHERARDIA ARVENSIS L.  
 CENTRANTHUS RUBER (L.) DC. With white flowers by the old railway.  
 VALERIANELLA ERIOCARPA Desv. Apparently decreasing. Seen only in a pasture W. of Essex Castle. Not seen by Grose (1938) or D. McClintock.  
 V. CARINATA Lois.

- ERIGERON ACRIS L. Quarry S. of Fort Albert, D. McClintock.  
 \*E. CANADENSIS L. N. of St. Annes, D. McClintock.  
 PULICARIA DYSENTERICA (L.) Bernh.  
 ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM L.  
 ANTHEMIS NOBILIS L. Only seen in one place.  
 CHRYSANTHEMUM LEUCANTHEMUM L. So dense and fine on the cliffs as to be conspicuous from an aeroplane.  
 ARTEMISIA ABSINTHIUM L.  
 A. VULGARIS L. Stated to be "very rare" by Marquand (1901), but still at the sole locality on Braye Sands.  
 SENECIO JACOBAEA L.  
 S. SYLVATICUS L.  
 S. VULGARIS L.  
 CARLINA VULGARIS L. Only seen once.  
 ARCTIUM MINUS (Hill) Bernh.  
 CARDUUS NUTANS L. Mauney Quarry.  
 C. TENUIFLORUS Curt.  
 CIRSIIUM VULGARE (Savi) Ten.  
 C. ACAULON (L.) Scop. Hill above Longy Common.  
 C. ARVENSE (L.) Scop.  
 C. PALUSTRE (L.) Scop.  
 CENTAUREA NIGRA L. agg.  
 C. SCABIOSA L.  
 CICHORIUM INTYBUS L. Not seen by me, but reported by Major Palmer of the Nunnery to have appeared at Longy Common since the war though never seen before. E. of St. Annes, D. McClintock.  
 CREPIS VESICARIA subsp. TARAXACIFOLIA (Thuill.) Thell. Very common.  
 HIERACIUM PILOSELLA L.  
 HYPOCHOERIS RADICATA L.  
 H. GLABRA L.  
 TARAXACUM OFFICINALE Weber agg.  
 T. LAEVIGATUM (Willd.) DC.  
 SONCHUS ARVENSIS L.  
 S. ASPER (L.) Hill.  
 S. OLERACEUS L.  
 TRAGOPOGON MINOR Mill. Longy Road.  
 JASIONE MONTANA L.  
 CALLUNA VULGARIS (L.) Hull.  
 ERICA CINEREA L.  
 LIMONIUM LYCHNIDIFOLIUM (Gir.) Kuntze. Still about a dozen plants at Fort Houmet. Marquand (1901) recorded a dozen plants, Jackson (1932) an increase to 60, and Grose (1937) a reduction to 25. [At least 20 plants were present in 1950, J. E. Lousley].  
 L. BINERVOSUM (G. E. Sm.) C. E. Salmon. Fort Houmet.  
 ARMERIA MARITIMA (Mill.) Willd. Common. Also with white flowers.  
 PRIMULA VULGARIS Huds. Surprisingly still plentiful in flower at the beginning of June.

GLAUX MARITIMA L. Still at the single station given by Marquand (1901).  
ANAGALLIS ARVENSIS L. Common. The var. AZUREA Wilmott occurred

W. of St. Annes, D. McClintock.

FRAXINUS EXCELSIOR L.

VINCA MAJOR L.

CENTAURIUM ERYTHRAEA Rafn (*C. minus* Moench).

SYMPHYTUM OFFICINALE L.

S. PEREGRINUM Ledeb. Essex Valley and S. of St. Annes.

BORAGO OFFICINALIS L. Scattered in the western parts of the island.

LYCOPSIS ARVENSIS L.

MYOSOTIS SECUNDA A. Murray.

M. ARVENSIS (L.) Hill.

M. HISPIDA Schlecht.

ECHIUM VULGARE L. Conspicuous.

CALYSTEGIA SEPIUM (L.) R.Br.

C. SOLDANELLA (L.) R.Br.

\*C. SYLVESTRIS (Willd.) Roem. & Schult. N. and E. of St. Annes, D.  
McClintock.

CONVOLVULUS ARVENSIS L.

CUSCUTA EPITHYMUM (L.) Murr. Conspicuous.

SOLANUM DULCAMARA L.

LYCIUM CHINENSE Mill.

VERBASCUM THAPSUS L. Two large plants in front of Essex Castle (cf.  
Grose, 1938). St. Annes and Braye Bay, D. McClintock.

CYMBALARIA MURALIS Gaertn., Mey. & Scherb. W. of St. Annes, near  
the watch-tower.

DIGITALIS PURPUREA L.

VERONICA OFFICINALIS L. Marquand (1901) describes it as "very rare"  
and gives a single locality. Another station is Clanque, where  
a large patch has unusually dark flowers.

V. CHAMAEDRYS L.

V. PERSICA Poir. Now very common.

V. HEDERIFOLIA L.

EUPHRASIA OFFICINALIS L. agg.

PARENTUCHELLIA VISCOSA (L.) Caruel.

PEDICULARIS SYLVATICA L.

OROBANCHE RAPUM-GENISTAE Thuill. Still fairly plentiful in one spot,  
on the prostrate broom.

O. MARITIMA Pugsl.

O. MINOR Sm. Very common.

O. PURPUREA Jacq. Common in many parts of the island.

MENTHA AQUATICA L.

THYMUS SERPYLLUM L. agg.

\*SALVIA PRATENSIS L. Near the Nunnery.

S. HORMINOIDES Pourr. Very abundant.

GLECHOMA HEDERACEA L. Still at Essex Castle quarry.

MARRUBIUM VULGARE L. Near the Nunnery.

- \*GALLOPSIS TETRAHIT L. Weed by the airfield.  
 LAMIUM PURPUREUM L.  
 L. HYBRIDUM Vill.  
 BALLOTA NIGRA L.  
 TEUCRIUM SCORODONIA L.  
 PLANTAGO CORONOPUS L.  
 P. LANCEOLATA L.  
 HERNIARIA CILIATA Bab.  
 SCLERANTHUS ANNUUS L. Marquand (1901) says "very rare . . . dying out", but I found a dwarf form quite common on the south cliffs, bearing much fruit and looking rather like the associated *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*.  
 CHENOPODIUM ALBUM L.  
 BETA MARITIMA L.  
 ATRIPLEX PATULA L.  
 A. LACINIATA L. (*A. sabulosa* Rouy).  
 POLYGONUM CONVULVULUS L.  
 P. AMPHIBIUM L. Still in the solitary station given by Marquand (1901)  
 P. AVICULARE L.  
 RUMEX CRISPUS L.  
 R. OBTUSIFOLIUS L.  
 R. PULCHER L. Very abundant.  
 R. ACETOSA L.  
 R. ACETOSELLA L.  
 EUPHORBIA HELIOSCOPIA L.  
 E. PARALIAS L.  
 E. PORTLANDICA L.  
 E. PEPLUS L.  
 MERCURIALIS ANNUA L.  
 URTICA DIOICA L.  
 U. URENS L.  
 PARIETARIA DIFFUSA Mert. & Koch.  
 POPULUS ALBA L. Val du Sud.  
 \*ORCHIS PRAETERMISSA Druce. Plentiful in Rose Farm Valley. Perhaps this is the "*O. latifolia*" of Marquand (1901).  
 ANACAMPTIS PYRAMIDALIS (L.) Rich. Slope above Longy Road.  
 IRIS PSEUDACORUS L. Longy Pond.  
 I. FOETIDISSIMA L. Near Corblets Bay.  
 RUSCUS ACULEATUS L. Cliffs.  
 ALLIUM TRIQUETRUM L. Much increased. Common on both sides of Longy Road, etc.  
 SCILLA AUTUMNALIS L.  
 JUNCUS MARITIMUS Lam. Among rocks on east coast.  
 J. ACUTUS L. Still below Essex Castle at the foot of the cliffs, an untypical sort of habitat.  
 J. INFLEXUS L.  
 J. BUFONIUS L.



- JUZULA CAMPESTRIS (L.) DC.  
 ELEOCHARIS PALUSTRIS (L.) Roem. & Schult.  
 SCHOENUS NIGRICANS L. Still abundant at Trois Vaux.  
 CAREX HIRTA L.  
 \*C. DEMISSA Hornem. The "*C. flava*" of Marquand (1901).  
 C. EXTENSA Good. Still in the single station given by Marquand (1901).  
 C. CARYOPHYLLEA Latour.  
 C. FLACCA Schreb.  
 C. SPICATA Huds. (*C. contigua* Hoppe).  
 C. PANICULATA L. Only at Marquand's one locality, but the "large clumps" referred to are now enormous.  
 C. ARENARIA L.  
 PHALARIS CANARIENSIS L. Sporadic on rubbish-tips.  
 ANTHOXANTHUM ODORATUM L.  
 ALOPECURUS PRATENSIS L. Only in a meadow near Rose Farm.  
 PHLEUM ARENARIUM L.  
 AMMOPHILA ARENARIA (L.) Link.  
 ATRA CARYOPHYLLEA L.  
 A. PRAECOX L.  
 HOLCUS LANATUS L. Dominant on some cliffs.  
 TRisetum FLAVESCENS (L.) Beauv.  
 ARBHENATHERUM ELATIUS (L.) Beauv. ex J. & C. Presl.  
 PHRAGMITES COMMUNIS Trin.  
 CYNOSURUS CRISTATUS L.  
 \*KOELERIA ALBESCENS DC. Common on Longy Common, confirmed by Dr. A. Melderis. Marquand (1901) gives only *K. cristata*.  
 DACTYLIS GLOMERATA L.  
 POA PRATENSIS L.  
 P. TRIVIALIS L.  
 P. ANNUA L.  
 \*GLYCERIA × PEDICELLATA Townsend (G. FLUITANS × Plicata). Stream below Rose Farm. Neither of the parents was seen.  
 FESTUCA RUBRA L.  
 F. OVINA L.  
 VULPIA MEMBRANACEA (L.) Dum.  
 V. BROMOIDES (L.) Gray.  
 CATAPODIUM RIGIDUM (L.) C. E. Hubbard (*Desmazeria rigida* (L.) Tutin).  
 Very common.  
 BROMUS DIANDRUS Roth. (*B. gussonei* Parl.). Abundant.  
 B. STERILIS L.  
 \*B. CATHARTICUS Vahl (*B. unioloides* H.B.K.). Abundantly established and very fine in hedgebanks and streamsides by Essex House.  
 B. MOLLIS L. Common, including diminutive forms.  
 B. THOMINII Hard.  
 BRACHYPODIUM SYLVATICUM (Huds.) Beauv.  
 LOLIUM PERENNE L.  
 AGROPYRON JUNCEIFORME (A. & D. Löve) A. & D. Löve.  
 HORDEUM MURINUM L.

EQUISETUM ARVENSE L.

E. PALUSTRE L.

PTERIDIUM AQUILINUM (L.) Kuhn. Very common.

PHYLLITIS SCOLOPENDRIUM (L.) Newm. Clanque Valley.

ASPLENIUM MARINUM L. Nunnery Gate.

A. ADIANTUM-NIGRUM L.

A. RUTA-MURARIA L. Wall N. of Longy Road, by the cemetery (cf. Grose, 1938).

DRYOPTERIS FILIX-MAS (L.) Schott. Mauney Quarry.

POLYPODIUM VULGARE L.

If one may draw a conclusion from so brief a visit it is that the strains of the twentieth century have made remarkably little difference to the flora of Alderney, and that the island remains a most attractive spot for the botanist, who will find plenty of scope for future work.

My thanks are due to my daughter, Miss Tanya Ounsted, for assistance with nomenclature, to Mr. D. McClintock for his kindness in allowing me to use some of his records, and to Mr. D. H. Kent for valuable help and advice.

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