

PERSONALIA AND NOTICES TO MEMBERS

CARDAMINE PRATENSIS L. agg.

Mr D. E. Allen is carrying out a revision of the *Cardamine pratensis* complex in the British Isles and would be glad to examine material from all parts, especially from Scotland and Ireland. Care should be taken to gather the radical leaves.

JUNCUS BULBOSUS L. agg.

Messrs. D. E. Allen and P. M. Benoit are co-operating in a study of the variation and distribution of *Juncus bulbosus* L. and *J. kochii* F. W. Schultz in the British Isles. They would be grateful for material (preferably fresh) of both species, which may be sent to either of them. It would be helpful if the number of stamens could be noted in each gathering.

CYPERACEAE

Dr. T. Koyama, 1341 Ryoke, Urawa-City, Japan, wishes to obtain material of any British species of *Cyperaceae*; in exchange he offers material from Japan.

CAREX

Mr. J. A. Calder, Department of Agriculture, Science Service Building, Ottawa, Canada, is anxious to obtain material of British *Carexes* for the Divisional Collections, in exchange for Canadian material. Interested members should write direct to Mr. Calder giving details of the specimens they have for exchange.

STEEP HOLM TRUST

The island of Steep Holm in the Bristol Channel has been acquired on a twenty-one years lease by a Trust, representing four local societies: —Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, Bristol Naturalists' Society, Mid-Somerset Naturalists and Bristol Folk House Archaeological Club.

One of the aims of the Trust is to preserve the flora of the island. Steep Holm is the only habitat in Britain of *Paonia mascula*; *Allium ampeloprasum* and *Inula crithmoides* are also well established.

The annual rent of the island is guaranteed by the four societies, but the development of the Trust's aims is entirely dependent on a small income from landing dues and voluntary effort. Much work has already been carried out by the Trust, including clearing the path round the whole perimeter of the island, overgrown to such an extent as to be, in places, impassable; cleaning the well which supplies the only drinking water; clearing the guttering of the Barracks roof; fixing wire netting over all its broken windows, etc.

During the coming year the Trust feels that it should endeavour to provide the following:—

1. Improved landing facilities.
2. Repair and maintenance of the fresh water supply.
3. Conversion of one of the smaller buildings into a Bird-Ringing Station.
4. Provision of camp-beds, blankets, stores and cooking facilities for working parties.
5. Purchase of an adequate supply and selection of tools for clearance work and repair of buildings.

Ample voluntary labour by members is assured, but it is estimated that between £200 and £300 will be required for purchase of materials and equipment.

Donations to assist the work of the Trust will be gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Savory, 61 Lower Redland Road, Bristol 6.

FLORA OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Mr. J. L. Gilbert, "Riverside", Wansford, Peterborough, is compiling a Flora of Huntingdonshire and would be glad to receive notes and records of plants in that county.

PERMITS FOR VISITING NATURE RESERVES

The Nature Conservancy have now acquired and declared the following Nature Reserves:—Cavenham Heath, Suffolk; Yarnor Wood, Devon; Moor House, Westmorland; Holme Fen, Huntingdonshire; Kingley Vale, Sussex; Ham Street, Kent; Beinn Eighe, Ross-shire; Morton Lochs, Fifeshire; Monk's Wood, Huntingdonshire; Bleau Woods, Kent; Orfordness-Havergate, Suffolk; Woodwalton Fen, Huntingdonshire; Old Winchester Hill, Hampshire; Bridgwater Bay, Somerset; Castor Hanglands, Soke of Peterborough; Scolt Head, Norfolk; and Tentsmuir Point, Fifeshire. Permits to collect are required for all reserves; permits to visit are required for all reserves except Cavenham Heath, Kingley Vale, Old Winchester Hill, Scolt Head, and Castor Hanglands (except for "Blacklands").

A small pamphlet, "Visiting Nature Reserves", setting out the considerations which govern the Nature Conservancy's policy in permitting visits, may be obtained from the Conservancy's headquarters at 19 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1. Applications for permits may be sent to this address for the English Reserves, or to The Nature Conservancy, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh, 9, for those in Scotland, or to the Regional Officers of the Conservancy concerned. Visitors who wish their permits to include the right to collect and take away specimens should say so in making application and should specify what it is they wish to collect.

NEWBOROUGH WARREN, ANGLESEY

The Air Ministry propose to establish a range at Newborough Warren but following representations made at a Public Local Inquiry by this Society and others, have agreed to make advance notices of firing practices available to research workers and students. These notices will be sent to our Local Secretary, Prof. P. W. Richards, Coed Menai, Upper Bangor, Caernarvonshire, and members wishing to visit the Warren are advised to make arrangements with him well in advance of the time of their visits.

THREATS TO BRITISH FLORA

Members are urged to report to the Hon. General Secretary any threats to the British flora. The Council has appointed a Conservation Committee to deal with such matters and every effort will be made "to promote in every way possible the conservation of the British flora".

TOXIC SPRAYS

The Society is collecting information about the effect on native vegetation of toxic chemicals used for spraying crops. The increasing use of weed-killing chemicals on arable land implies a threat to neighbouring uncultivated land or woods since the spray can be carried a considerable distance under suitable conditions. Members who observe damage from this cause are asked to send full details to the Hon. General Secretary, 7 Penistone Road, London, S.W.16.

SYSTEMATICS ASSOCIATION

A card index of autecological and/or cytogenetic-taxonomic researches that are being carried out on British flowering plants is maintained by the Association. Copies of the index may be consulted at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, or at the Royal Botanic Garden,

Edinburgh. Its purpose is to obviate overlapping between different workers. Members taking up research of this nature are asked to send particulars either to Mr. R. D. Meikle, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Surrey, or to Mr. B. L. Burtt, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 4.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

Members are reminded that through the kindness of the Council of the Linnean Society of London, they have the privilege of consulting the Library of the Linnean Society at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

ADVERTISEMENTS

A limited number of relevant advertisements will be accepted for the Society's publications as space permits. Enquiries should be addressed to Mr. D. H. Kent, 75 Adelaide Road, London, W.13.