

THE SCOTTISH RECORDS OF *SENECIO SQUALIDUS* L.

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Clapham (1952) gives the British distribution of *Senecio squalidus* L. as "throughout S. England to Lancs. and Yorks., locally in S. Scotland".

The earliest evidence of the occurrence of the species in Scotland appears to be contained on two sheets in the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh. The first sheet is labelled "Leith Walk, Edinburgh, 1833, J. H. Balfour", and bears the following annotation, "no doubt this was a relic of the Old Botanic Garden which was finally removed from Leith Walk about 1822", W. R. Evans, 1943. The second sheet is labelled "waste ground N.E. of Edinburgh, 1833", and Mr. B. L. Burt informs me that it probably refers to the same locality as that given on the first sheet. Mr. J. E. Lousley has recently located a third sheet at Edinburgh; this is labelled "near Leith, June, 1890" (Terras herbarium), and no doubt this refers to the same locality as the earlier sheets. In Herb. Bentham at Kew there is a further undated and unsigned specimen labelled "Nat'd., near Edinburgh". The plant appears no longer to occur in the Edinburgh area, nor is there any evidence to suggest that it has been seen there since 1890.

The earliest printed record of the plant in Scotland appears to be that given by Fraser (1911), viz. "*Senecio squalidus* L. forma. One at Galafoot in 1908". Apparently the plant, if correctly identified, was merely a casual wool-adventive. It seems probable, however, that the plant in question was the polymorphic *Senecio inaequidens* DC. which superficially resembles *S. squalidus*, and is now known to be introduced with "shoddy" (cf. *Year Book, B.S.B.I.*, 1953, 107, and *Proc., B.S.B.I.*, 1, 256 (1954)). Hayward and Druce (1919), in citing the record, add: "We have not seen Scottish specimens".

Druce (1932) gives the Scottish distribution of *S. squalidus* as v.c.c. 78 and 79; there are no Scottish specimens in Herb. Druce and an exhaustive search of botanical literature has failed to produce confirmation that the plant was ever found in the first mentioned vice-county. The record for v.c. 79 appears to be based on the record given by Fraser (1911).

There appears to be only one recent printed record for Scotland—"Bonnybridge, Stirling", W. J. in *Country-side*, (N.S.), 14, 187 (1947); this has not been confirmed and was probably based on a misidentification.

Miss C. W. Muirhead has recently informed me that the plant was found "growing on a roadside bank near New Craighall Colliery, near Musselburgh (v.c. 83)" in May 1954 by Dr. J. Milne. This is the first definite evidence of the occurrence of *S. squalidus* in Scotland during this century.

In conclusion both Mr. J. R. Lee and Mr. R. Mackechnie inform me (*in litt.*) that they have never seen the plant growing in Scotland; nor do they know of any Scottish records other than those that I have given. I am indebted to Mr. B. L. Burtt and Mr. J. E. Lousley for information relating to the specimens at Herb. Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

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