

Short Notes

THE HERBARIA OF JOSEPH WOODS

Joseph Woods (1776–1864), the London architect of Quaker descent in whose honour Robert Brown named *Woodsia*, is best known for his *Tourist's Flora* (1850) and for his pioneer work on the taxonomy of *Salicornia* and *Rosa* in Britain. One of the foremost critical British botanists of the early nineteenth century, his specimens possess more than merely historical interest and the establishing of their present location is consequently of some moment.

Matters are complicated by his having formed more than the one herbarium. What was clearly his main British one was acquired after his death by F. Townsend, who incorporated it into his own collection (Townsend 1883). Along with that it passed in due course to the South London Botanical Institute (SLBI), where its sheets are to be found in the general collection today (Kent 1958, p. 82). In the British Museum (Natural History) (BM) there is a further, small collection of his *Rosa* specimens, which until recently had been in the possession of the Linnean Society of London for many years. According to a manuscript note by H. Trimen in his personal interleaved copy of Trimen & Dyer (1869), now in the library of the Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Woods also had an earlier general British herbarium, which he donated to J. E. Bicheno, who donated it in turn along with his own very extensive collections to the Royal Institution of South Wales at Swansea (SWA) in 1839–40 on his departure from Britain to live in Australia. The Royal Institution's herbaria, after many years of neglect, eventually passed to Swansea Museum; but, though many Bicheno specimens are still to be found there, none of Woods' collecting have been reported (Lewis-Jones 1980), and it must be presumed that this other collection has been irretrievably lost.

There are suggestions in the literature that a yet further Woods herbarium is in the possession of Leeds City Museum (LES). Kent (1958, p. 86) was careful not to make the assumption that a "J. Woods, fl. 1800", whose collection of 700 sheets in eight volumes was included in that museum's return to him, must be Joseph Woods; but Desmond (1977), pardonably, has been less cautious. In a recent report on the Museum's collections, however, Nunney & Norris (1978) make no mention of this herbarium. The only one dating from this early period that the Museum possesses is that of the Rev. William Wood (1745–1808), minister of a Nonconformist chapel in Leeds and an early member of the Linnean Society of London—through whose agency the herbarium, in its original eight leather-bound volumes, was acquired from his great-great-granddaughter in 1949. The similarity of the surname and of the approximate date and extent of the collection leave little doubt that it is the same as the one notified to Kent in the 1950s.

Kent (1958, p. 29) additionally lists for LES a herbarium of some 3,000 sheets in 58 volumes made by an unknown collector around 1820. To the best of the knowledge of the present staff (A. Norris pers. comm. 1982) the Museum has not possessed one answering to this description since the Second World War (when almost all its natural history collections were destroyed by enemy action). At the same time it is difficult to believe that the description is a highly garbled one of the herbarium of the Rev. William Wood. It may be that information from the return made by another institution was inadvertently credited to LES at some point in the compiling or printing of Kent (1958), but unfortunately the completed questionnaires on which that work was based have not been preserved and this possibility cannot therefore now be checked.

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RUPPIA SPIRALIS L. EX DUMORT. AND *R. MARITIMA* L. IN S.E. YORKSHIRE

On August 30th, 1981, Peter Hayward, a birdwatcher from Lincoln, found *Ruppia spiralis* L. ex Dumort. at the edge of Kilnsea Beacon Lane Pond, GR 54/41.17, just to the north of Spurn Point, S.E. Yorks., v.c. 61.

This is the first certain record for *R. spiralis* for Yorkshire and the first time this species has been recorded on the east coast north of the River Humber. The nearest recorded localities this century are in N. Lincs., v.c. 54: Wrangle, 1937, GR 53/4.5, and Butterwick, 1958, GR 53/4.4 (Gibbons 1975).

It is of interest that the Kilnsea Beacon Lane Pond is a Yorkshire Authority borrow-pit created as recently as 1978/79 by the excavation of material to build a sea-wall; it lies just behind coastal sand-dunes. The fact that the species occurred in some quantity near the edge of the pond suggests that it may have been brought by waders or other birds which feed at the water's edge, but it could have been sea-borne as the sea breaks through the dunes from time to time.

Ruppia maritima L. has been recorded somewhat rarely in S.E. Yorks. since 1900, when it was first noted by T. Petch "in tidal pools" at Easington, GR 54/40.19, and a year later at Patrington Haven, GR 54/33.18 (Robinson 1902). Robinson (1900) mentioned the first discovery of *Ruppia* in S.E. Yorks. as for *R. spiralis*, but on repeating the record in his *Flora* (Robinson 1902) gave this and the later record as for *Ruppia rostellata* Koch, the synonym formerly used for *R. maritima* L. No herbarium material has survived to substantiate these early records. Additional records are for a brackish ditch at Kilnsea, GR 54/4.1, May 1933, W. A. Sledge (Sledge 1941); for Cherry Cob Sands, GR 54/2.2, 1953, R. D'O. Good; for a brackish ditch behind the Humber bank at Skeffling, GR 54/38.17, 1973, F. E. Crackles; and two localities at Kilnsea, GR 54/40.16 and 54/41.15, including a newly cut dike, 1974, F. E. Crackles.

It seems possible that both species may be under-recorded, particularly in the more northerly parts of their range in the British Isles, because of the lateness of fruiting or failure to fruit. When *R. spiralis* was found at Kilnsea at the end of August, it bore fruit, and on my visit to Kilnsea Beacon Lane Pond on October 10th, 1981, both species bore both flowers and fruits. But in my experience in Yorkshire *R. maritima* is usually sterile or bears flowers only, and it is possible that fertilisation often does not take place.

It may not be generally realised that at flowering the carpels are sessile and this may result in difficulties in identification; the diagrams of the inflorescence of *R. maritima* given in Proctor (1973) are particularly helpful. The lengths of peduncle and pedicels of each species vary, probably with the depth of water as well as with age. In the case of *R. spiralis* growing in shallow water at the edge of the Kilnsea borrow-pit, the fruiting peduncles were 4.6-6.9 cm long (average 5.5 cm; 12 specimens examined). The lengths of the fruiting pedicels were 1.4-3.2 cm (average 2.1 cm), and not in proportion to peduncle length, so that the ratio of peduncle to pedicel was 1.6-4.9 (rarely less than 2.0; average 2.9). On the other hand a specimen washed up on the shore of the pond had a fruiting peduncle of 23.6 cm, with its longest pedicel 1.4 cm, so that the ratio of peduncle to pedicel was 16.9. These measurements of plants in shallow water contrast with statements by Tutin (1962) that the minimum length of fruiting peduncles in *R. spiralis* is 10 cm and that the peduncle length is several times as long as the pedicel.

The length of peduncles and pedicels of *R. maritima* occurring some ten yards from the shore of the same pond was much less variable: fruiting peduncles 1.7-2.1 cm; longest pedicel 1.3-2.1 cm; ratio of peduncle to pedicel in fruit 0.95-1.4 (average 1.2). Hence a diagnosis of the fruiting peduncles of *R. maritima* as "shorter than to twice the length of the pedicels" (Tutin 1962) appears to separate *R. maritima* from all but the very exceptional *R. spiralis* specimen.

McClintock & Fitter (1955) state of *R. maritima*: "individual stalks at first about equalling the common one, but lengthening in fruit to 4-6 in." and Ross-Craig (1973) shows similar features in her drawing. This conflicts, however, with the above observations and confusion has perhaps arisen from nomenclatural difficulties, since the name *R. maritima* L. has in fact been variously used for both species in the past.

The degree of spiralling of the fruiting peduncles of *R. spiralis* varies markedly. In the case of the Kilnsea borrow-pit material, the broken peduncles which had lost their fruit were much thickened, red, brittle and more spiralled than those bearing fruit, some as closely spiralled as a watch-spring. The fruiting peduncles of *R. maritima*, on the other hand, simply curve downwards at maturity and presumably do not spiral as depicted by Ross-Craig (1973).

The fruit of the two species are distinguished by that of *R. spiralis* being ovoid and almost symmetrical and that of *R. maritima* being markedly asymmetrical with the dorsal side strongly gibbous at the base. The fruits of the two species also differ markedly in size: 2.7-3.0 mm long in *R. spiralis* and 2.0-2.5 mm long in *R. maritima* (Butcher 1961).

The two species differ vegetatively as well: *R. maritima* is a far more delicate plant with bright green leaves only 0.5 mm wide, whereas the leaves of *R. spiralis* are dark green, 1 mm wide and with conspicuous, dilated, pale brown sheaths.

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CAREX DIANDRA SCHRANK \times C. PANICULATA L. IN S.E. YORKSHIRE

A population believed to be of the hybrid *Carex diandra* Schrank \times *C. paniculata* L. = *C. \times beckmannii* Keck ex F. Schultz was found by the author on a marsh by the River Hull, near Wansford, 3 miles S.E. of Driffield, GR 54/0.5, S.E. Yorks., v.c. 61, as long ago as 1960. Recently (November 1981) specimens of the putative hybrid and of the parental species collected from the same locality on 25th June, 1960, have been critically examined (BM) and their identity confirmed by A. O. Chater and R. W. David, who have informed me that the S.E. Yorks. hybrid compares very well with *C. \times beckmannii* specimens from Germany (BM).

The putative hybrid formed a single narrow belt, some yards in extent, at the edge of a low-vegetation marsh in which *C. diandra* is locally common and adjacent to an extensive raised area dominated by *C. paniculata*. In 1982 I found that the hybrid occupied three separate areas each 3-4 yards across.

The hybrid is sterile and intermediate between the parents in some respects, e.g. culm and leaf width, panicle and bract length, and in the shape and venation of the empty utricles. The leaf margin

is serrulate as in *C. paniculata*. The leaves usually taper to a fine point as in *C. diandra*, but not invariably so; the lowest leaf is often broader than the rest and comes to a point abruptly. The culms are appreciably longer than in either species.

C. paniculata is a species of peaty base-rich soils where the water level is at least seasonally high (Jermy & Tutin 1968). Widely distributed in Europe to 62° N, it is scattered throughout the British Isles, becoming less frequent in Scotland due to the lack of suitable lowland habitats. It is frequent in the upper reaches of the River Hull valley by the river and its feeder streams.

C. diandra is a species of wet peaty meadows, alder-sallow carr and more acid wet grassland sites (Jermy & Tutin 1968). Scattered in Europe to 71° N except most of the south, it is a local British plant and rare in S.E. Yorks., being recorded from only two sites this century, both in the Driffield area, and probably now completely lost from the other of them.

The hybrid *C. × beckmannii* has been recorded from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Romania and Sweden (Wallace 1975).

In 1979 A.O.C., R.W.D. and A. C. Jermy examined and confirmed the identity of specimens of *C. × beckmannii* from Mid Cork, v.c. H4, Ireland, collected by T. O'Mahony, this being the only other known record from the British Isles.

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IMPROVEMENTS IN LAND MANAGEMENT: THEIR EFFECTS ON AQUATIC PLANTS IN BROADLAND

In Broadland (the Norfolk Broads) there are approximately 20,250 ha of reclaimed marshland. Until the 20th century these marshes were used almost exclusively for grazing. Since the 1930s, but particularly since the 1960s, an ever-increasing proportion of the marshes has been ploughed up and converted to arable use. (In 1977 it was estimated that of 16,000 ha of marshland that were suitable for conversion to arable use 3,500 ha had already been converted, 1,200 ha were in the process of being converted and a further 1,200 ha were likely to be converted in the near future).

Botanical surveys carried out during the 1970s confirmed the importance of marshland dykes as habitats for aquatic plants in Broadland. Dykes draining less intensively managed grazing marshes were found to support a more diverse flora than dykes draining intensively managed grazing marshes or marshes used to produce hay. The poorest flora was found in dykes draining arable land. Unfortunately none of these surveys compared the dyke floras of a particular block of marshland before and after conversion from grazing to arable use.

In order to monitor the effects of changes in land management on the dyke flora two areas of marshland on the E. Norfolk coast were surveyed in 1973 and 1981. The two areas roughly corresponded to the parishes of Horsey (GR 63/46.23, area c. 1,600 ha) and Somerton (GR 63/47.21, area c. 1,850 ha). The project involved detailed surveys of land use and drainage and recording of the aquatic flora of selected dykes in each area.

In 1973 both areas were drained by extensive networks of open dykes and consisted largely of poorly drained marshland used for grazing or hay. The small amount of arable land was virtually restricted to a few areas of slightly higher ground with better drainage.

In 1973 25 species of aquatic macrophytes and bryophytes were recorded from Horsey (70 sample sites) and 46 species from Somerton (64 sample sites). The mean number of species recorded per dyke was 4 at Horsey (range 1–11 species) and 8 at Somerton (range 2–20 species). The differences, both qualitative and quantitative, between the dyke floras of the two areas were due mainly to differences in salinity and dyke management. Dykes at Horsey were generally more saline than those

at Somerton and a higher proportion of dykes at Horsey was sampled soon after they had been cleaned and before the vegetation had fully recovered. The most common species in the two areas were, in order of decreasing frequency, *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud., *Myriophyllum spicatum* L., *Hippuris vulgaris* L., *Callitriche* sp., *Potamogeton pectinatus* L., *Potamogeton natans* L., *Myriophyllum verticillatum* L., *Carex riparia* Curt., *Ranunculus circinatus* Sibth. and *Elodea canadensis* Michx.

In 1981 land use and drainage at Horsey were virtually unchanged in comparison with 1973. A total of 33 species of aquatic macrophytes and bryophytes were recorded from 26 sample sites. The mean number of species recorded per dyke had increased slightly to 8 (range 1–15 species). Few of the dykes sampled had been cleaned in the recent past and this lack of maintenance was probably responsible for the increased development of marginal species, e.g. *Oenanthe lachenalii* C. C. Gmel., *Scirpus maritimus* L., *Eleocharis palustris* (L.) Roem. & Schult. and *Carex otrubae* Podp.

By 1981 most of the marshland at Somerton had been converted to arable use and effectively drained using a system of porous plastic pipes laid underground. Many of the dykes had been filled in and those that remained had been made wider and deeper. However, due to the general lowering of the water table, even these deepened dykes contained less water than in 1973. Only 38 species of aquatic macrophytes and bryophytes were recorded (from 33 sample sites). Most species had declined in frequency and, in some cases, e.g. *Ranunculus circinatus* (not found), *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, *M. spicatum*, *Callitriche* sp., *Elodea canadensis*, *Potamogeton perfoliatus* L., *Lemna trisulca* L. and *Carex riparia*, the decline was very marked. In contrast a few submerged species, *Potamogeton pusillus* L., *Potamogeton crispus* L. and *Zannichellia palustris* L., thrived in the shallow open water created by the dyke cleaning operations and their frequencies had increased dramatically. The mean number of species recorded per dyke had dropped to 6 (range 1–20 species). Most dykes contained fewer species than in previous years and those species that were present, apart from the three exceptions discussed above, were much less abundant than they had been in the past.

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A NEW BRAMBLE FROM KENT

W. C. R. Watson (Watson 1929, p. 784) determined a bramble which is locally common in woods near Canterbury, E. Kent, v.c. 15, as *R. chaerophyllus* Sagorski & W. Schultze, though he admitted it was not altogether identical with it. I have specimens in my herbarium from Denstead Wood and Bigbury Hill collected by myself in 1969 and one from Thornden Wood collected by B. A. Miles in 1964, and I have seen a specimen collected by A. Newton from Chartham Hatch in 1979. These form a homogeneous set. I have also examined a series of five Continental specimens of *R. chaerophyllus* in MANCH, three collected by H. Hofmann and two by W. Schultze. The English specimens differ from the Continental specimens in the following ways: (1) prickles broad-based and strong, sometimes numerous but often only 5 per 5 cm; (2) leaflets not imbricate and often not even contiguous, the petiolule of the terminal leaflet being 2/5 as long as the lamina; (3) petiole longer than the basal leaflets; (4) terminal leaflet with a longer apex and an entire or emarginate (not cordate) base, and coarsely serrate; (5) rachis less glandular and with few or no pricklets; (6) sepals unarmed; (7) petals apparently larger; (8) stamens distinctly

longer than styles; (9) young carpels glabrous; (10) inflorescence similarly branched but with fewer flowers. The English bramble is described here as a new species.

***Rubus canterburiensis* E. S. Edees, sp. nov.**

Turio arcuatus, obtuse angulatus superficiebus planis vel leviter excavatis, purpurascens, glabrescens, glandulis subsessilibus nonnullis munitus, aculeis 5–15 per 5 cm plerumque ad angulos dispositis, 3–8 mm longis, e basi lata declinatis armatus. Folia subpedata; foliola 3–5, vulgo non contigua, superne glabrescentia, subtus primo pilis brevibus numerosis vestita; foliolulum terminale 8–10 × 5–7 cm, ovatum, acuminatum, basi subintegrum, grosse sed non profunde serratum, ad marginem undulatum. Ramus florifer flexuosus, rufescens vel purpurascens, in parte superiori dense pilosus, glandulis breviter stipitatis et aciculis brevibus sparsim vel satis confertim instructus, aculeis nonnullis 6–7 mm longis declinatis vel leviter curvatis armatus. Inflorescentia superne diffusa pedunculis pedicellisque longis, inferne ramulis axillaribus adscendentibus multifloris aucta. Flores c. 3 cm diametro; sepala griseo-viridia, albo-marginata, glandulosa, patentia; petala c. 14 × 8 mm, alba, elliptica vel obovata, non contigua; stamina alba stylos pallidos superantia; carpella glabra; receptaculum pilosum.

Stem arching, bluntly angled with flat or slightly furrowed sides, glabrescent with sparse, more or less patent, short or medium, chiefly simple hairs and sparse to fairly numerous sessile and subsessile glands; prickles 5–15 per 5 cm, chiefly on the angles but not always confined to them, 3–8 mm, unequal (or subequal when few and confined to the angles), contracted suddenly from a broad or long compressed base, straight or rarely a little curved, declining, purple with yellow point. Leaves digitate or subpedate; leaflets 3–5, sometimes contiguous but usually well spaced, yellowish-green, glabrescent above, soft beneath at first with numerous short simple hairs; terminal leaflet 8–10 × 5–7 cm, ovate, with an acuminate apex c. 1.5 cm and entire or subentire base, coarsely and sharply but not deeply serrate, margin undulate, the petiolule 1/3 to 2/5 as long as the lamina; petiolules of basal leaflets 2–5 mm; petiole longer than the basal leaflets, purple, with numerous more or less patent, short to medium, simple and tufted but chiefly simple hairs, sparse to numerous sessile and subsessile glands, sparse or rare short stalked glands and 5–18 declining or curved prickles 3–5 mm. Flowering branch with 3-foliate leaves below and often one simple leaf above, not leafy to the apex; inflorescence consisting of a short broad truncate extension above the leaves, with long patent 1–3-flowered peduncles and long patent pedicels, and ascending many-flowered axillary peduncles as long as or shorter than their leaves; rachis flexuose, green or reddish-brown or reddish-purple, with numerous short simple and tufted hairs becoming dense above, sparse to fairly numerous short and very short stalked glands, some short acicles and frequent long-based but slender declining or slightly curved prickles 6–7 mm; pedicels with dense short and very short simple and tufted hairs, numerous sessile and subsessile glands, some short stalked glands and several slender prickles 2–4 mm. Flowers c. 3 cm in diameter; sepals greyish-green, white-bordered, with numerous to dense, short and very short, simple and tufted hairs and numerous sessile and very short-stalked glands, short- or long-pointed, patent; petals 14 × 8 or 16 × 7 mm, white, elliptical, entire, with sparse short or very short simple hairs on the margin, not contiguous; stamens exceeding styles, filaments white, anthers glabrous; styles pale green; young carpels glabrous; receptacle hairy.

HOLOTYPE: Denstead Wood near Canterbury, GR 61/0.5, E. Kent, v.c. 15, 17/7/1969, E. S. Edees no. 20361 (**herb. E.S.E.**).

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THE DUSTY MILLER'S TALE, OR *SENECIO CINERARIA* DC. RESTORED

The apparently unbending rules of plant nomenclature have led to the rejection of many familiar names and their replacement by older obscurer ones revived by the antiquarian aspects of the *International code*. Rarely does this affect plants wild or naturalised in Britain, for so many of them have Linnaean binomials, though, in recent years, we have lost, among others, *Eriocaulon septangulare* With. (= *E. aquaticum* (Hill) Druce), *Neotinea intacta* (Link) Rchb.f. (= *N. maculata* (Desf.) Stearn), *Phragmites communis* Trin. (= *P. australis* (Cav.) Steud.) and, most recently, *Silene alba* (Mill.) Krause (= *S. pratensis* (Rafn) Godron & Gren.) as names of native plants. These changes are based largely on nomenclatural considerations and not taxonomic judgements.

An example in the naturalised flora is the Silver Ragwort or Dusty Miller, *Senecio cineraria* DC. The typical form of this plant is native to the western and central parts of the Mediterranean region, while widely cultivated is an apparently closely allied plant, which is naturalised on cliffs on the south coast of Britain and the east coast of Ireland. This plant has formed hybrids with the native *S. jacobaea* L. and *S. erucifolius* L. and is represented in cultivation by some named clones, the most praised possibly being 'Blue Diamond'. It is also held that it has formed hybrids with other species in cultivation and, as with so many cultivated ornamentals and their wild relations, it is not absolutely clear what its status, with respect to the wild *S. cineraria*, really is. Furthermore, the wild plant is closely allied to other plants in the Mediterranean basin, which differ in the dissection of the leaves and other minor features. The relation between all these wild and cultivated plants would make an interesting study, requiring considerable fieldwork and a knowledge of the horticultural literature.

At present, though, we have a working arrangement proposed by P. H. Davis and executed by Chater (1974), where the wild plants are considered as geographical subspecies of a single species, variable in habit, while a variant from Chios, known only from the type specimen, is maintained at varietal level. In making this arrangement, though, Chater had, regretfully, to make *S. cineraria* a subspecies of *S. bicolor* (Willd.) Tod., a name based on the earliest available epithet and used for the taxon from the central and eastern part of the Mediterranean region. Thus the well-known epithet *cineraria* appears merely as subsp. *cineraria* (DC.) Chater.

Monographic work on Asiatic woody plants has led me to examine the voluminous literature, notably that based on Indian materials, that was, for very good reasons, neglected in the nineteenth century. Today it is perilous not to consider these works when carrying out a monographic study which aims to be definitive. I was dismayed to find hundreds of binomials which had been completely bypassed (see Mabberley (1981) for summary) in the literature, not only of Asiatic botany, but also African, American and European. Fortunately the bulk of them pass straight into synonymy, but some make later names junior homonyms. Having completed that work, I decided to examine as much ephemeral material associated with European botanic gardens as is held in Oxford, Kew and the British Museum (Natural History) for such names, particularly in view of the current interest in the cultivated flora of Europe. Such archaeology rarely wins an author friends so it is a particularly happy occasion when one can restore a well-known name, for it transpires that *S. bicolor* (Willd.) Tod. is a junior homonym of *S. bicolor* Viv., a name unrecorded in *Index Kewensis*, and we must therefore revive *S. cineraria*. The taxa recognised in *Flora Europaea* and *Flora of Turkey* are therefore as follows.

***Senecio cineraria* DC.**, Prodr., 6: 355 (1838)

(a) subsp. ***cineraria***

S. bicolor (Willd.) Tod. subsp. *cineraria* (DC.) Chater in Bot. J. Linn. Soc., 68: 273 (1974).
West and central Mediterranean. The same as the plant naturalised elsewhere?

(b) subsp. ***bicolor*** (Willd.) Arc., Comp. Fl. Ital., 2nd ed., 672 (1894)

Cineraria bicolor Willd., Sp. Pl., 3: 2085 (1803).

S. bicolor (Willd.) Tod., Ind. Sem. Horti Panorm., 1859: 30 (1860), non *S. bicolor* Viv., Elench. Pl. Dinegro, 32 (1802), i.e. ?*Gynura* sp., possibly *G. bicolor* (Willd.) DC.

Central and eastern Mediterranean.

(c) subsp. ***nebrodensis*** (Guss.) Mabb., **comb. nov.**

C. nebrodensis Guss., Adnot. Cat. Pl. Horto Boccad., 4 (1821), non *S. nebrodensis* L. (1763).

S. bicolor (Willd.) Tod. subsp. *nebrodensis* (Guss.) Chater in Bot. J. Linn. Soc., **68**: 273 (1974). Northern Sicily.

The variety from Chios is *S. cineraria* var. *plattii* Meikle (*S. bicolor* (Willd.) Tod. var. *plattii* (Meikle) Matthews).

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THE ROBERT MACKECHNIE HERBARIUM

After Mr Robert Mackechnie's death in 1978 his herbarium was offered to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, in June 1978 (Ribbons 1979). A schoolmaster by profession and an ardent amateur botanist who loved walking the Scottish hills, Mackechnie built up over the years a fairly comprehensive herbarium of flowering plants and ferns of the British Isles. In addition to his own specimens from Scotland, Donegal and Fermanagh he had also acquired the bulk of his herbarium from E. C. Wallace, mainly from Hampshire, Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Essex and the Scottish Highlands. Other contributors to his herbarium included such eminent botanists as Sir G. Taylor, J. E. Lousley and A. E. Wade. Several of the difficult groups have been confirmed by specialists such as H. W. Pugsley (*Hieracium*), C. E. Hubbard (Gramineae), G. Taylor (*Potamogeton*) and E. Nelves (*Carex*).

The importance of the herbarium lies partly in the excellence of the specimens themselves and partly in its containing several new vice-county records and even a new British record in *Rumex aquaticus*.

When the 78 boxes of his herbarium came through from Shawlands, Glasgow, to Edinburgh a substantial number of them had unfortunately been damaged from being stored in latter years in a rather damp cellar.

In all there were about 11,000 numbers in the herbarium. The specimens were carefully worked through and the most important (new or interesting vice-county records) were set aside for mounting and incorporation into the British herbarium at Edinburgh. Those which were already well represented were separated and sent to the Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow.

Approximately 3,700 numbers from his herbarium have now been incorporated into the Edinburgh collections, including 150 Scandinavian; the remainder of c. 10,000 specimens went to Kelvingrove Museum.

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CAREX RUPESTRIS ALL. AND *POTENTILLA CRANTZII* (CRANTZ) G. BECK EX FRITSCH IN SKYE

In June 1981 C. W. Murray asked A. A. P. Slack and A. McG. Stirling to join in a search for *Carex rupestris* All. on the Cambrian limestone of Suardal on Skye, v.c. 104, since the sedge was known to occur on the same rock formation at Kishorn, W. Ross, v.c. 105, only 20 miles away to the north-east. The search was successful beyond all expectations. *Carex rupestris* was found in quantity virtually encircling Ben Suardal above about 850 feet, and the population would probably qualify for David's (1979) class 'D' (=over 1,000 plants). The sedge occurs wherever rocky outcrops appear, growing in cracks and on ledges. At one spot it was accompanied by scattered plants of *Potentilla crantzii* (Crantz) G. Beck ex Fritsch, already past flowering, and also the calcicolous moss *Rhytidium rugosum*. None of these three species has ever been claimed for Skye in the past, though there is an old (1884) unconfirmed record of *P. crantzii* from Rum (Rhum of O.S. maps), and *Rhytidium* was found (new to v.c. 104) on Eigg in 1979.

On a return visit a month later, the *Carex* was well past flowering, which may explain why it has remained undetected so long. Further search failed to find more *Potentilla* until May 1982, when the original group was seen in flower and three new areas were discovered, one on the far side of the same hill. In all these sites the *Potentilla* was growing in grass, sometimes accompanied by *Dryas*, and the fact that the Suardal plants are no bigger than neighbouring *Potentilla erecta* suggests that many more may go unnoticed when not in flower.

Both the *Carex rupestris* and the *Potentilla crantzii* are located well away from the more frequently visited marble quarry area to the south-west of Ben Suardal.

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C. W. MURRAY, A. A. P. SLACK & A. MCG. STIRLING
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TARAXACUM CENABENSE SAHLIN, A NEW ANGLO-FRENCH SPECIES

In 1972, I collected this delicate species in the Loire Valley, France, and provisionally named it after the adjacent Roman city of Cenabum. Later, it was detected at a station in West Sussex, England, as well as at another French station in the Ardèche. R. J. Pankhurst has introduced the name into the third version of his 'polyclave', the computerised identification system at the British Museum (Natural History) for dandelions of the British Isles. Thus the new species should be validly published.

Taraxacum cenabense Sahlin, sp. nov. (Sect. *Erythrosperma* (H. Lindb.f.) Dahlst.) (Fig. 1)

Folia 90–120 mm, laete canescenti-viridia, subglabra vel parce araneosa. Lobi laterales 5 vel plures, distantes, falcati vel in foliis exterioribus non raro latiores et deltoidei, retroversi vel nonnunquam hamati, saepe integri vel inferiores dorso dentibus singulis vel paucis praediti, ad apicem sensim angustati, apice obtusiusculum. Interlobia utrinque 1–2 lobulis vel dentibus praedita. Lobus terminalis mediocris triangulari-trilobatus sagittatus obtusiusculus. Petiolus angustus, parte principali vulgo nervum medianum pallidum aequans. Scapi 50–135 mm, glabri et pallidi. Involucrum parvum, post anthesin ad 15 mm altum, olivaceo-viride. Squamae exteriores lanceolatae, c. 2 × 6–8 mm, ad medium interiorum attingentes, suberectae, apicibus recurvatis, utrinque sat obscure virides, sat sensim in apicem angustum abeuntes, conspicue albido-marginatae, plurime infra apicem callosae; squamae interiores callosae. Calathium 25 mm in diam., aureo-luteum, radians. Ligulae marginales extus stria atroviolacea ornatae; ligulae interiores apicibus purpurascenscentibus. Antherae polline carentes. Stigmata virescentia. Achenium laete hepaticocinereum, pyramide inclusa 4.1–4.5 mm longum, superne sat breviter squamulosum, ceterum ±

tuberculatum, in pyramidem 0.7–0.9 mm longam cylindricam, sensim abiens. Rostrum 7 mm longum.

HOLOTYPE: France, Ardèche: between Satillieu and La-Louvesc on R.N. 578A, alt. 800 m, 6.5.1978, B. de Retz 77274 (S). Isotypus: P.

PARATYPI: France, Loiret, Sully-sur-Loire, wall by the castle, 7.5.1972, C. I. Sahlin (**herb. C.I.S.**). England, W. Sussex, v.c. 13, Bignor Hill, GR 41/983.133, 4.5.1980, M. Marsden (**BM**).

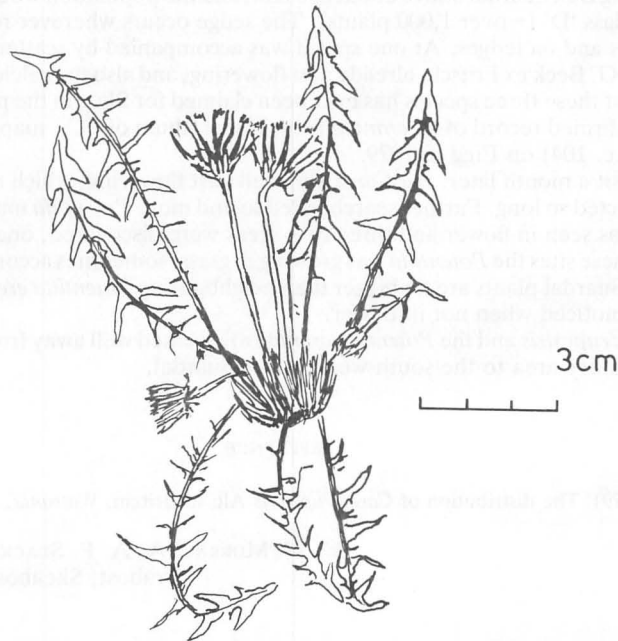


FIGURE 1. *Taraxacum cenabense* Sahlin, drawn from holotype.

The species recalls *T. callosum* v. Soest, but the latter has pollen, and smaller achenes with a rather short cone (only 0.25 mm). In my view the latter species may be better placed in the section *Alpestris* van Soest, but *T. cenabense* certainly belongs to section *Erythrosperma*. It has the achene colour of the 'Dissimilia-group' and pallid petioles. There are only a few species with this combination of characters, but none of them seems to be related to *T. cenabense*.

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