

## Notes

### *GENTIANELLA CILIATA* (L.) BORKH. IN WILTSHIRE (V.C. 8)

While working on Gentianaceae at The Natural History Museum, London (**BM**) in 1992, T.N.H. found a previously unrecorded specimen of *Gentianella ciliata* (L.) Borkh. from South Wilts. (v.c. 8).

This species has only been recorded three times before in the British Isles, two records being from the same locality in Buckinghamshire (v.c. 24), where it was first collected in 1875 and rediscovered in 1982, with specimens of both collections being in **BM** (Knipe 1982; Stace 1991). The third record, from Surrey (v.c. 17), is supported by a specimen at **K**, but is considered to be of an alien, rather than a native, plant (Knipe 1982).

The recently found specimen was collected at Pitton, S. Wilts, “on Down at junction of chalk and Tertiary beds”, by E. J. Tatum in September 1892, and was included in the herbarium of A. W. Bennett.

Edward John Tatum (1851–1929) was a solicitor who was active botanically from c.1880–c.1890. He is known to have been a diligent and meticulous worker who was responsible for several first records to the Wiltshire flora. It would appear that he was puzzled by his *Gentianella* and sent it to Bennett for comment, for it is one of the few Tatum specimens known to be in **BM**, the bulk of his herbarium being untraced (Kent & Allen 1984).

T.N.H. and her Chinese colleagues prefer to treat *Gentianella ciliata* as a member of the genus *Gentianopsis*. If they are followed the species is known as *Gentianopsis ciliata* (L.) Ma.

This interesting record of a very rare plant provides evidence to support Knipe’s hypothesis that *G. ciliata* is native to southern England. It also shows that valuable ‘new’ records can be found even in comparatively well-known herbaria.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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#### A FORGOTTEN SHETLAND DANDELION

In 1907 W. H. Beeby discovered an unusual *Taraxacum* now classified in section *Spectabilia* (Dahlst.) Dahlst. near Lang Clodie Loch, North Mainland (GR HU/31.87), in the remote country

north of Ronas Hill, Shetland (v.c. 112). Late-grown as the material was, it must have struck Beeby as different from any form of *T. faeroense* (Dahlst.) Dahlst. (which he knew as *T. spectabile* Dahlst.), the common dandelion of rocks, marshes, hillsides, etc., in Shetland. He not only preserved a specimen of this new dandelion but brought back a root to grow, and was so impressed by its differences that he described it as a new subspecies of *T. spectabile*, subsp. *geirhildae* Beeby (Beeby 1909).

Beeby was handicapped by making his Shetland visits at a time when most dandelions were past flowering and by having to base his knowledge of them largely on cultivated plants. His description was clearly drawn up from material, wild and cultivated, of the Lang Clodie Loch plant; but when he goes on to say that subsp. *geirhildae* grows not only near Lang Clodie Loch, but also in parts of Central Mainland, many miles to the south and with a quite different terrain, he was apparently confusing forms of *T. faeroense* with his taxon. At all events no recent botanist has seen the Lang Clodie Loch plant in Central Mainland, and Beeby's single specimen from this area (Burn of Quoys, 5 August 1908, **SLBI**), which is in leaf only, is merely *T. faeroense*. Beeby's epithet is romantic but, unfortunately, not very appropriate for a *Taraxacum* of North Mainland: it commemorates Geirhild (daughter of the Viking pioneering seafarer Floki Vilgerdason), who is said to have been drowned in the Loch of Girsta (Pálsson & Edwards 1972), a large loch in Central Mainland which Beeby believed (wrongly) to be a site of his new taxon. Druce (1922, p. 501) misinterpreted subsp. *geirhildae*, and the records of his own which he cites can only have referred to forms of *T. faeroense*. The confusion surrounding subsp. *geirhildae* may have contributed to the subsequent neglect of this taxon by British botanists. In 1980, however, its rediscovery by one of us (W.S.) in the type locality showed clearly that it was something quite distinct from any form of *T. faeroense*. Richards & Haworth (1984) at first referred it to the Scandinavian *T. ornatum* G. Hagl., and it appeared under that name in our Flora (Scott & Palmer 1987); but this identification, it now appears, was mistaken. It seems best to treat the Lang Clodie Loch plant as a new species of the section *Spectabilia* (Dahlst.) Dahlst., raising Beeby's subspecies to specific rank; a new combination is therefore called for.

***Taraxacum geirhildae*** (Beeby) R. C. Palmer & W. Scott, **comb. et stat. nov.** (Fig. 1).

Basionym: *Taraxacum spectabile* Dahlst. subsp. *geirhildae* Beeby, *Annals of Scottish Natural History* 18: 105 (1909).

LECTOTYPUS: "on the Kattarönis, e. of Lang Klödi Loch, Northmaven, Shetland", 28 August 1907, W. H. Beeby 1669 (**SLBI**). (The specimen on the lower half of the sheet; the upper half contains material cultivated by Beeby, 1908.)

As Beeby characterised his taxon only very briefly, a fuller description might be helpful.

Plant medium-sized, robust. Leaves prostrate to widely spreading, typically broadly obovate, (60–)90–100(–140) mm × (22–)25–28(–30) mm, thick, rough above with very short stout hairs, yellowish-green to dark apple green, very sparingly and lightly spotted brownish-red, unlobed, with up to five teeth or small denticulations on either side of the proximal margin, midrib conspicuously reddish, typically very shortly petiolate, occasionally ± wanting. Scape to 18 cm, dull brownish-red. Exterior bracts adpressed, dark green, ovate-triangular, typically 7–8 × 3 mm, with narrow paler border. Capitulum deep yellow, 45–50 mm in diameter; ligules striped dark purplish-grey; styles discoloured (in fresh material); pollen present. Achene 4.3–4.6 mm long, straw-brown, shortly spinulose in apical quarter, otherwise ± smooth.

*T. geirhildae* resembles *T. faeroense* but, as Beeby noted, has markedly larger capitula of a darker yellow, and unlike *T. faeroense* is polliniferous. The very lightly spotted leaves are yellowish-green to dark apple green, firmer in texture than in *T. faeroense* and distinctly glossy (rather than dull); they also have shorter petioles and are somewhat different in shape, being obovate (sometimes broadly so) and never lobed in the wild. (Contrary to Beeby's statement, we find that in cultivation *T. geirhildae* sometimes produces weakly lobed leaves.) The ligule stripe may be best described as a dark purplish-grey (not pinkish-red as is usual in *T. faeroense*). In fresh material of *T. geirhildae* the styles are obviously discoloured; in *T. faeroense* the discoloration is less pronounced.

Flowering in early June, *T. geirhildae* is quite frequent in the type locality, on grassy ledges among rocky outcrops to the south-east of Lang Clodie Loch and towards the south end of Birka Water. This attractive dandelion appears to be an endemic Shetland species.

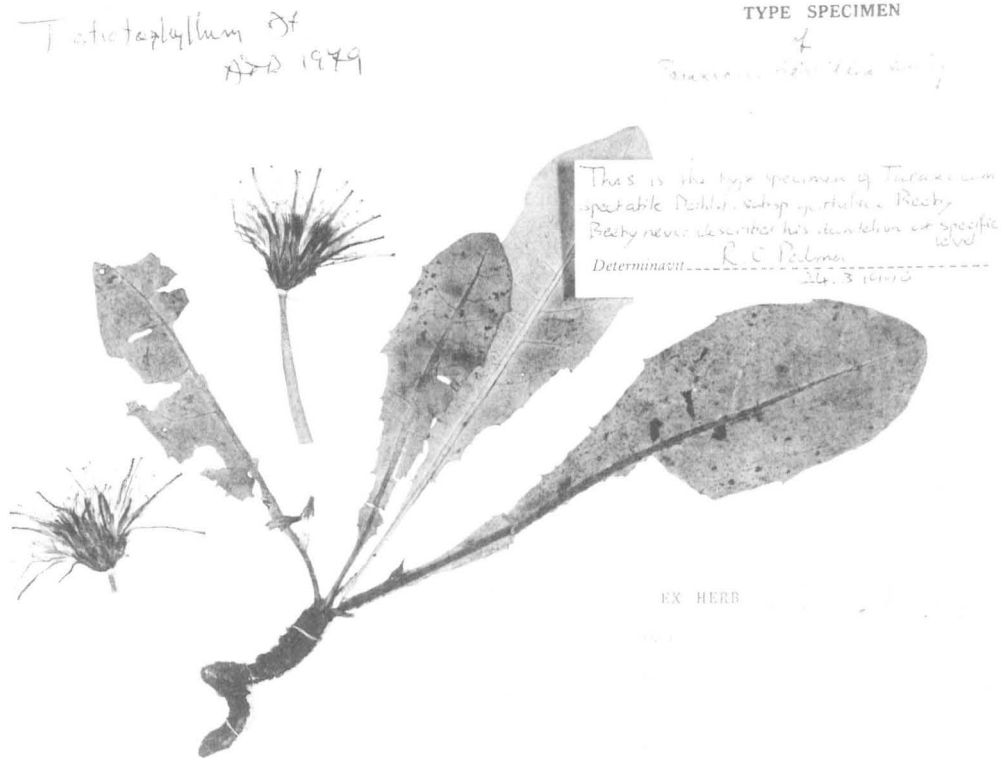


FIGURE 1. Lectotype of *Taraxacum spectabile* Dahlst. subsp. *geirhildae* Beeby (SLBI), basionym of *T. geirhildae* (Beeby) R. C. Palmer & W. Scott. As with most of the specimens in Beeby's North Isles Collection, the label giving all the details appears on the back of the sheet.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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A NEW SHETLAND *HIERACIUM* OF THE  
SECTION *ALPESTRIA* [FRIES] F. N. WILLIAMS

The *Hieracium* described below was first collected in 1952 by the late Professor D. H. N. Spence at West Burrafirth, West Mainland, Shetland (v.c. 112) (*Spence 417, STA*, two sheets), and was subsequently found by W. S. in various places in the West Burrafirth area and in the Norby and Bousta districts of Sandness, also in West Mainland. When describing *H. attenuatifolium* Sell & C. West from the mouth of the Laxo Burn, on the east coast of Mainland and some 20 km E.N.E. of West Burrafirth, Sell & West (1965) referred W.S.'s material from West Burrafirth and Bousta to their new species while recognising certain differences. In our Flora (Scott & Palmer 1987) we included the West Mainland plant under *H. attenuatifolium* without comment. Doubts as to whether it was really *H. attenuatifolium* were raised by R.C.P. after a visit to West Burrafirth in 1986, and these misgivings were endorsed by J. Bevan when he visited Shetland in 1987. Bevan (1988) later referred to the West Mainland plant as 'Taxon A', an undescribed species. Further careful study of the plant both in the wild and in cultivation has confirmed us in our view that the West Mainland plant is fully distinct from *H. attenuatifolium*; it appears to match no known species, and is therefore described as a new species.

***Hieracium spenceanum* W. Scott & R. C. Palmer, sp. nov.**

**HOLOTYPE:** common on steep bracken slopes, head of West Burra Firth, West Mainland, Shetland Islands, v.c. 112, GR HU/257.567, 5 August 1986, *R. C. Palmer S1986/80 (OXF, sheet 1, left-hand specimen)*.

Caulis robustus, (10–)20–40(–80) cm altus, plerumque ubique rubellus sed interdum parte basali rubellus superne viridis, raro ubique viridis, modice ubique (praesertim inferne) pilosus, parcissime inferne densius superne floccosus, eglandulosus. Folia saturate viridia, subtus atque interdum supra purpureo-tincta, marginibus modice pilosis, rubellis. Folia basalia (0–)3–5(–7), saltem nonnulla florendi et fructificandi tempore paene semper praesentia, eis temporibus bene rosulata; folia primigenia parva, subrotunda, late elliptica vel ovato-elliptica, ± abrupte in petiolum alatum contracta, apice ± late rotundato, saepe minute apiculato, folia posteriora grandiora, alioquin similia; omnia subintegra vel minute denticulata, subtus parcissime floccosa parce pilosa (pilis simplicibus in costa numerosioribus), supra modice pilosa, efloccosa. Folia caulina 3–7, plerumque elliptica, 2.5–plo—3.5–plo longiora quam latiora, saepe in caule inferiore coacta, infima in petiolum alatum angustata, mediana et superiora ovato-elliptica, sessilia, semiamplexicaulia; omnia minute usque distincte et regulariter denticulata, interdum paucis vadosis dentibus utrinque praedita, apice minuto apiculo acuta, utraque pagina (praesertim subtus) pilis stellatis dispersis vestita, modice subtus (praesertim in costa) et parce supra pilis simplicibus induta, superiora glabrescentia. Anthela compacte cymosa, acladio brevi et capitulis (1–)2–6(–24), interdum (in plantis luxuriantibus locorum umbrosorum) ramos longos ex axillis foliorum superiorum emittens. Pedunculi modice floccosi, necnon pilis aliis simplicibus sparsis pallidis nigribasibus, aliis glanduliferis paucis obscuris inaequalibus induti. Capitula c. 35 mm diametro, basi subtruncata. Involucri squamae 10–11 mm longae, 2 mm latae, lineari-lanceolatae, ante anthesin incumbentes, apice obtuso, obscurae, parce floccosae, parce pilosae pilis pallidis nigribasibus, uberrime pilis glanduliferis obscuris valde inaequalibus vestitae. Ligulae flavae, apice glabro. Styli mediocriter lividi, id est mediocriter olivacei. Cypsela 4.5 mm longa, saturate fulva. Receptaculi alveoli margine dentati, dentibus projecturis brevibus filamentosis armatis.

Stem robust, (10–)20–40(–80) cm high, normally reddish throughout but sometimes reddish at base and green above, rarely green throughout, moderately pilose throughout (especially below), very sparingly floccose below but more densely floccose above, eglandular. Leaves deep green, suffused with purple beneath and sometimes also above, with moderately pilose reddish margins. Basal leaves (0–)3–5(–7), at least some nearly always present at flowering and fruiting and often forming a well-developed rosette at those times, the primordial small, subrotund, broadly elliptic or ovate-elliptic, ± rapidly contracted below to a winged petiole, apex ± broadly rounded, often minutely apiculate, the later basal leaves larger but otherwise similar. All basal leaves subentire or finely denticulate, very sparingly floccose beneath, sparingly pilose beneath (but pilose hairs more numerous on the midrib), moderately pilose and efloccose above. Stem-leaves 3–7, typically elliptic, 2.5–3.5 times longer than broad, often concentrated in the lower part of the stem, the lowest

TABLE 1. A COMPARISON OF THE CHIEF CHARACTERS OF *HIERACIUM SPENCEANUM*, *H. AUSTRALIUS* AND *H. ATTENUATIFOLIUM*

Character	<i>H. spenceanum</i>	<i>H. australius</i>	<i>H. attenuatifolium</i>
Presence or absence of lower leaves at flowering time	Present	Absent	Absent
Number of stem-leaves	3-7, concentrated towards base	5-10, $\pm$ evenly spaced	8-10, $\pm$ evenly spaced
Stem-leaf length/width ratio	2.5-3.5	2.5-4	3.25-3.75
Shape of stem-leaves	elliptic	elliptic	widest above middle
Diameter of capitula	35 mm	c. 35 mm	50 mm
Glandular hairs on phyllaries	markedly unequal in length	of $\pm$ uniform length	markedly unequal in length
Style colour	medium livid	dark livid	yellow
Cypsela length	4.5 mm	3.5 mm	c. 4 mm

narrowed to a winged petiole, the median and upper becoming ovate-elliptic, sessile and semiamplexicaul. All stem-leaves finely to distinctly and  $\pm$  regularly denticulate, sometimes with a few shallow teeth on each side, apex acute with a minute apiculus, with scattered floccose hairs on both surfaces (especially beneath), moderately pilose beneath (especially on the midrib), sparingly pilose above, upper stem-leaves becoming glabrescent above. Inflorescence compactly cymose with short accladium and (1)-2-6(-24) capitula, sometimes with long branches from the upper leaf-axils in well-grown plants from sheltered sites. Peduncles moderately floccose with scattered, pale, dark-based pilose hairs and a few unequal dark glandular hairs. Capitula c. 35 mm diameter, subtruncate-based. Phyllaries incumbent in bud, 10-11  $\times$  2 mm, linear-lanceolate, tip obtuse, dark, sparingly floccose, sparingly pilose (the hairs pale with dark bases), and with abundant very unequal dark glandular hairs. Ligules yellow, glabrous-tipped. Styles medium livid (medium olive-green). Cypsela 4.5 mm long, deep reddish-brown. Receptacle pits dentate, the teeth with short filamentous projections.

*H. spenceanum* is quite different from *H. attenuatifolium*; indeed, its affinities lie more with *H. australius* (Beeby) Pugsley. The chief characters of the three species are set out in Table 1.

*H. attenuatifolium*, as here delimited, seems restricted to the mouth of the Laxo Burn, where it has become almost extinct as a consequence of grazing pressure. All the other stations cited for *H. attenuatifolium* by us (Scott & Palmer 1987) in fact belong to *H. spenceanum*, which occurs in a handful of stations, usually in small numbers, in the West Burrafirth and Sandness areas, both on the northern coastal fringe of West Mainland. There is, fortunately, a particularly splendid colony of *H. spenceanum* in the type locality, on low rocky sea-banks and bracken slopes near the head of West Burra Firth, which may well have been Spence's station. *H. spenceanum*, like *H. attenuatifolium*, is probably endemic to Shetland.

We have named *H. spenceanum* in honour of the late Professor David Spence of the University of St Andrews, in recognition of his pioneering work on the ecology of Shetland (in particular his studies of the serpentine and relict scrub sites), and also, on a more personal note, to record our appreciation for the help he gave us in many ways in our own studies of the Shetland flora.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful thanks are due to J. Bevan, whose stimulating observations encouraged us to look more closely at the West Mainland plant we had been calling *H. attenuatifolium*. Our thanks must also go to Professor M. B. Usher, who spurred us on to describe the present taxon as a new species.

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