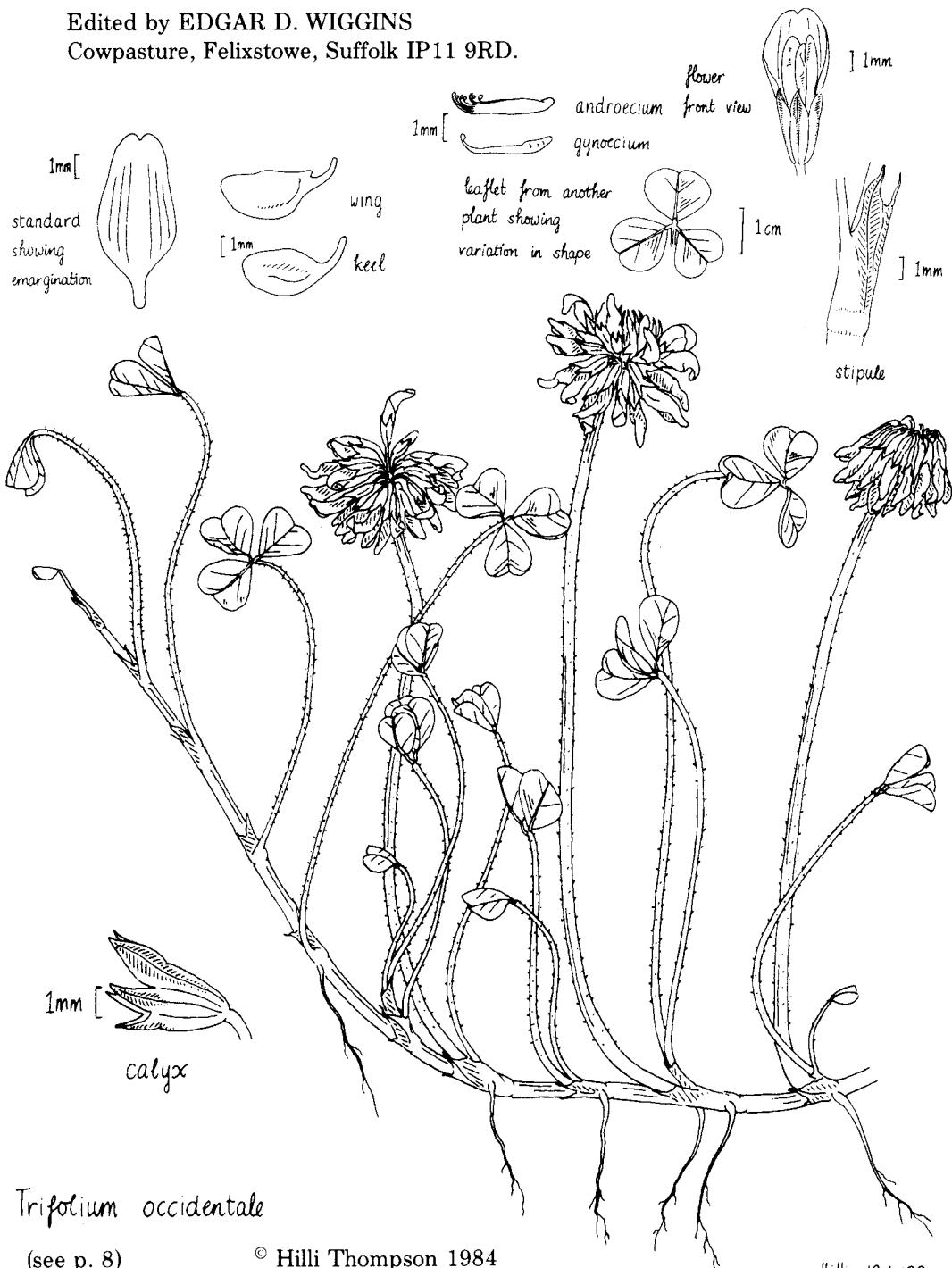


# B.S.B.I. NEWS

Edited by EDGAR D. WIGGINS  
Cowpasture, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9RD.

Sept 1984  
No. 37



## **ADMINISTRATION**

**HON. GEN. SEC. (General Enquiries)                    Mrs Mary Briggs, M.B.E.,  
White Cottage, Slinfold, HORSHAM, West Sussex RH13 7RG.**

**HON. TREASURER.** (Payment of Subscriptions and change of address)  
Mr Michael Walpole,  
68 Outwoods Road, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics LE11 3LY

(Please quote membership number on correspondence concerning membership or subscriptions – your membership number is on the address label of your mailings)

## **SECRETARIES OF PERMANENT WORKING COMMITTEES:**

**CONSERVATION:** Miss Lynne Farrell, (until November 4th) N.C.C., P.O. Box 6,  
HUNTINGDON PE18 6BU.  
**AFTER NOVEMBER 5th:** N.C.C., Northminster House,  
Northminster Road, PETERBOROUGH

**PUBLICATIONS:** Mr Arthur O. Chater, Dept of Botany,  
British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Cromwell Road, LONDON SW7 5BD.

**MEETINGS:** Mrs Joanna Robertson,  
70 Castlegate, GRANTHAM, Lincs NG31 6SH.

**RECORDS:** Mr David J. McCosh,  
13 Cottesmore Gardens, LONDON W8 5PR.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS 1984 – 1985**

Mr J.F.M. Cannon (President); Mr R.W. David, Dr S.M. Walters, Professor D.A. Webb, Mr E.C. Wallace (Vice-Presidents).

Mrs M. Briggs, (Hon. Gen. Sec.); Mr M. Walpole, (Hon. Treasurer); Dr S.M. Eden, Dr N.K.B. Robson, Dr R.J. Gornall, Dr J.R. Akeroyd, Dr B.S. Rushton (Hon. Editors *Watsonia*); Mr D.H. Kent (Hon. Editor *BSBI Abstracts*); Mr E.D. Wiggins (Hon. Editor *BSBI News*); Mrs J. Robertson, nee Martin (Hon. Meetings Secretary).

**Elected Council, in order of seniority, Rule 10:**

Dr R.M. Harley, Mrs. A. Lee, Dr C.J. Cadbury, Dr K.J. Adams, Mr A.L. Grenfell, Dr F.H. Perring, Mr P.S. Green, Dr C.P. Petch, Mr D.T. Streeter, Dr T.A. Cope, Mr E.F. Greenwood, Dr N.T.H. Holmes.

**Representatives on Council, Rule 11:**

Mr D.A. Doogue (Ireland); Mr M. Porter (Wales); Mrs Q.M. Stewart (Scotland).

Representing Nature Conservancy Council: Dr R.A.H. Smith.

#### HONORARY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES 1984 - 1985

*Minuting:* Miss E. J. Rich.

*Historian:* Mr D.E. Allen

*Exhibition:* Miss P M Chorley Mr J M Mullin

**CONTRIBUTIONS INTENDED FOR  
BSBI NEWS 38  
should reach the Editor before  
20th OCTOBER 1984**

# HON. GEN. SEC'S NOTES

Those members who attended the AGM, or have been involved in 1984 field meetings will have already heard the grievous news that **Jeremy Milton**, our Hon. Field Secretary, was killed in a road accident on May 15th. Many tributes to Jeremy as a person, and to his botanical promise have been sent by members who will remember him with affection. On your behalf we sent flowers to the funeral at which BSBI was represented by some members who were close friends, and a letter was sent to his family to express our very sincere condolence. An obituary will be published in *Watsonia*; a posthumus article appears in this issue.

**Joanna Robertson**, at short notice, took over the final organisation of the Normandy meeting and John Ounsted covered the local arrangements there to assist the leader. Joanna is now continuing the preparation of the programme of field meetings for 1985, which Jeremy had in hand, pending the appointment of a new Field Secretary in due course.

Our sincere apologies to **Miss Gladys Haines** of Ringwood whose name was included in error in the Annual Report for 1983 amongst those members who had died during that year. I am very pleased to report now that Gladys is in good health; in a cheerful telephone conversation she told me that she is active and well, but that she does not now botanise far from home.

## Congratulations

Our congratulations to **Professor J.G. Hawkes**, winner of the Linnean Gold Medal awarded by The Linnean Society of London, at their Anniversary Meeting in May. Congratulations also to **Dr Margaret Adey** appointed as Director of the International Bee Research Association this year on the retirement of **Dr Eva Crane**. Dr Adey was the organiser of the Gorses and Brooms Pollinator Survey in 1979, a BSBI Network Research project.

Congratulations too, to **Duncan Donald** (past Hon. Sec. to BSBI Conservation Committee) on his recent appointment as Curator of Chelsea Physic Garden. Duncan and Kate moved into residence there in September and we send our good wishes to them.

A reference to Adrian Grenfell's note on the tan bark aliens at the Manor Tannery, Grampound, Cornwall, (in *BSBI News* 35, p. 10) was published in *Country Life* for February 16th 1984, and led to correspondence with the *BSBI News* Editor and a donation to BSBI. One correspondent had a particular interest as the tannery at Grampound, from which the present Turkish adventive plants had been recorded, has been owned by the family of the writer Mr I.C. Croggon, for seven generations.

At the Conference *Survival or Extinction*, held at RBG, Kew in 1978, Sven Wahlberg of WWF Sweden, referred to the British obsession with mowing as "lawn imperialism". For those who are interested in encouraging plants other than Gramineae in their lawns Dr Oliver Gilbert wrote an interesting historical account of "The ancient lawns at Chatsworth", where the three acre lawn known as 'The Salisburys' is described as "a springy turf containing an abundance of wild flowers and grasses", published in *The Garden* Vol 108 Part 12, December 1983.

The timing, extent, and method of mowing are perhaps the most important management decisions for churchyard conservation and maintenance, and a leaflet "Graveyard Upkeep" provides practical guidance and recommendations on how to cope with the maintenance of graveyards without destroying their character and value for wildlife and historical research. This pamphlet published recently by The Prince of Wales' Committee, is available from Sixth Floor, Empire House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff CF1 6DN. A stamped addressed envelope (8½" x 4½") and 30p for each copy should be sent to The Prince of Wales' Committee, at the above address.

### **Proposed BSBI field excursion to Hungary 1985**

The Hungarian Biological Society has kindly agreed to act as host to the BSBI for this field excursion in 1985. The outline programme is: Travel by coach from England to Hungary for a stay of two weeks in May/June. One week would be based in Budapest, the other at a centre in north-east Hungary, probably Miskolc. We would have the benefit of Hungary's leading botanists as guides, making this a very special opportunity to see and study an Eastern European flora.

The Hungarian flora is of particular interest in that it contains the easternmost populations of many Western European species alongside species of Asiatic distribution on the western edge of their range. Elements of Mediterranean flora are also present. It is hoped that further details, and the estimated cost, will be published in the 1985 Field Programme, but meanwhile, to assess the likely support for this venture from BSBI members, would those interested please write **NOW** to:- Mr. P.J. Horton, Ings Cottage, East Cottingwith, YORK YO4 4TW, to enable Philip to judge whether or not he should proceed with arrangements for this tour.

### **"Unlucky" Plants**

Members of the Folklore Society this Spring collected information on flowers which are considered unlucky if picked or taken indoors, and a list of over 70 different 'unlucky' plants was compiled. Any member with comments on such plants could write to:

**DR ROY VICKERY, Dept of Botany, c/o British Museum (Natural History), LONDON SW7.**

### **N.C.C. on the move**

On November 5th, the N.C.C. Chief Scientist's Team will be MOVING (with a bang?) from Huntingdon, to:-

**N.C.C., Northminster House, Northminster Road, PETERBOROUGH.**

Please note this new address for our Conservation Secretary, Lynne Farrell (see page 2), and BSBI County Recorders please note this new address for Derek Wells.

Mary Briggs

## **Annual Exhibition Meeting – Slide Show**

The slide show has become a popular feature of the London Exhibition Meeting. In order to ensure that the slides offered are appropriate for this annual gathering I have been asked to edit the slides before showing, as in recent years the slides offered have varied in quality and relevance of subject matter. To make my job easier, would members please bear the following points in mind before submitting slides:-

*Subject matter:* The exhibition deals primarily with studies of the British flora and work done by members of the Society. Slides on such a theme, complementing exhibits or illustrating BSBI excursions, will be given preference when I prepare the programme. Slides should illustrate botanical subjects on the whole: other subjects should have a botanical relevance. Even some botanical subjects may be pointless, especially those unnamed specimens that make regular appearances. Mystery plants may be of interest to the exhibitor but they add little to the knowledge of the audience. A fleeting sight of a plant on the screen (often with no clear indication of scale and size) does not give the best opportunity for an identification. If you have a plant photograph for which identification attempts have been unsuccessful, a print exhibited under a “puzzle plant” title could give a better chance of getting a name for the plant during the day.

*Quality:* The quality of slides shown is very variable. Exhibitors persist in including slides which are obscure, under-exposed, over-exposed, out of focus or simply badly composed in the belief that any picture taken in a remote area such as Outer Mongolia or the summit of Mount Roraima is of interest regardless of what it actually shows. As a general rule, if you have to apologise for the quality of a picture don’t use it!

*Tables, figures and maps:* Fortunately these do not figure frequently in the slide shows because they are too often unsuitable for showing. Slides made by photocopying a page of A4 text are usually illegible beyond the front row of the audience. The best way to deal with such subjects is to re-draw showing the essential information in a bold, simple diagram that will be clear even to those at the back of the lecture theatre.

I hope these notes will encourage exhibitors to be critical in their selection of slides and that I will not have to reject any because they are unsuitable.

JOHN MASON, N.C.C. (West Midlands), Attingham Park, SHREWSBURY, Salop SY4 4TW.

## BSBI COUNTY RECORDERS

Supplement 3 to March 1982 List

(For Supplements 1 & 2 see *BSBI News* 34 & 36)

\* New Recorder † Change of Address ● Additional Recorder

37 WORCS	† Mr J.J. Day, The Bungalow, Dodford Children's Holiday Farm, Dodford, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 9BE
41 GLAM	* (W. Glam) Dr Q.O.N. Kay, Dept of Botany, University College, Singleton Park, Swansea, W. Glamorgan ● (S. Glam) Mr J.P. Curtis, 12 St. Lythan Close, Dinas Powys, S. Glamorgan CF6 4UB.
44 CARMS	† Mr R.D. Pryce, Rhyd-deg, Maesybont, Llanelli SA14 7HG
86 STIRLING	* Mr D. Bayne, NCC, Cottrell Building, Stirling
87 W. PERTH	† Mr N. Stewart, Blaeberry Toll, Muckhart Road, Dunning, Perthshire

The following Counties are temporarily vacant, but with appointments pending:-

56 NOTTS: 102 S. EBUDES; 106 E. ROSS

## BSBI PANEL OF REFEREES AND JUDGES

Supplement 2 to *September 1983 List*

Referee appointment:

HYDROCHARITACEAE:

*Elodea, Egeria, Lagarosiphon* and *Hydrilla*:

Dr D.A. Simpson, School of Botany, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

Referee resignations:

Dr G.A. Nelson – *Symplytum*

Mr R.C.L. Howitt – *Potamogeton* and *Salix*

(N.B. Dr N.T.H. Holmes and Mr A.C. Jermy continue as Referees for *Potamogeton*, and Mr R.D. Meikle for *Salix*, as in 1983 List.)

It is with deep regret we report the recent death of **Leaver Howitt**. We were in correspondence over his decision to resign as Referee, due to illness, and Leaver, who had also been Recorder for Nottinghamshire for 23 years, had strong views on maintaining the amateur status of a proportion of the BSBI County Recorders. An obituary will be published in *Watsonia*.

To those Recorders and Referees who have retired recently we record our thanks and appreciation of their good services to the Society. Particularly we send thanks to **Ursula Duncan** and to **Eric Edees**, active Recorders of long standing. Ursula Dun-

can, Recorder for East Ross for 23 years and author of *Flora of East Ross-shire*, has also been generous with her time and knowledge in leading field meetings in Scotland and giving advice on lichens and on Scottish field botany to many members. Eric Edees, Recorder for Staffordshire for 35 years, and author of *The Flora of Staffordshire*, at the same time has contributed greatly to the knowledge of British *Rubi*, for which he was also a Referee for many years.

**Dr Nelson**, a *Symphytum* Referee on the BSBI Panel for many years has contributed to our understanding of the British *Symphytum* spp., so much increased since the publication of *Atlas of the British Flora* that new maps should be drawn up for this genus – a project that we hope will be possible in the near future. Dr Nelson has also made a special study of poisonous plants. We send sympathy for the ill-health which has caused his decision to retire, and to all we gratefully acknowledge the work on behalf of BSBI through many years.

MARY BRIGGS Hon. Gen. Sec.

DAVID J. McCOSH Hon. Sec. Records Committee.

## PLANT RECORDS

Nothing of outstanding importance to note, hence my report is brief.

A feature of the list of Plant Records in *Watsonia* is the large number that are annotated as being the first for a hundred years in the various localities as well as being the first since 1930. This may mean that members are making more effort at trying to confirm that many old records can, in effect, be substantiated at the present time. There appears to be more records from Scotland and the north of England than from the south of the country. Wales has a fair proportion of entries but there are none from Ireland. In the list of records sent to me I notice *Hieracium dipteroides* was entered twice for vc 104.

An interesting record is that of *Draba muralis* from vc 17, Surrey. It occurred on chalky soil under hawthorns in a natural habitat near Burgh Heath, not Epsom. I have seen it at Coombes in vc 13, West Sussex but here it is in a garden and probably introduced. *Critchmum maritimum*, which thins out northwards is of note in vc 101, Kintyre, as is *Polygonum mite* in vc 67, South Northumberland. There are quite a number of *Euphrasia* and *Hieracium* records but only one *Mentha*. Amongst the Carices I notice *C. norvegica* is annotated 2nd record and localised as Glen Callater.

This probably refers to the station in Glen Callater where it has long been known and is in fact in Coire Kander where it still occurs.

E.C. WALLACE, 2 Strathearn Road, SUTTON, Surrey.

## POSTHUMUS PAPER

Mary Briggs, in her Hon. Gen. Sec's Notes, has alluded to the tragic death of Jeremy Milton. The paper below was received shortly before the accident and the Editor had acknowledged and agreed to print it in this issue.

### TRIFOLIUM OCCIDENTALE D.E. Coombe, an Overlooked Clover

In 1961, D.E. Coombe recognised the existence of an unknown maritime clover which he named *Trifolium occidentale*. This taxon was previously overlooked due to its similarity with *T. repens*, and subsequent investigations have confirmed that these are quite distinct species.

*T. occidentale* is generally smaller and much more constant in all its characters than *T. repens*. As a full description of the differences between these two species does not occur in any British Flora, they are listed below for convenient reference:

		<i>T. occidentale</i>	<i>T. repens</i>
<i>Leaflets</i>	length:	6-8 (-10) mm	10-25 (-35) mm
	shape:	± orbicular	ovate or obovate
	markings:	usually absent	frequently a white 'V'
	lower surface:	dark green, very glossy	paler green, matt, slightly glaucous
	lateral veins:	not translucent	translucent
<i>Petiole</i>	hairs:	short, sparse, persistent	none
<i>Stipules</i>	colour:	deep vinous red	green, sometimes with red veins, rarely vinous
<i>Calyx</i>	colour:	becoming red above	white with green veins
	upper 2 teeth:	often denticulate, parallel or convergent, broadly triangular	entire, divergent, narrowly triangular
<i>Corolla</i>	colour:	creamy white	white to deep red
	scent:	none or slight	always present
	standard:	broadly elliptical, emarginate oblong, apex rounded	
<i>Flowering Period</i>		late March to late June	late May to September

Most of these differences are hard to detect in herbarium specimens. Thus *T. occidentale* is much easier to identify in the field, and, whenever possible, fresh material should be sent for confirmation.

The two species also occur in different habitats. *T. occidentale* always grows near the sea in short, open, well-drained turf on cliff tops or on blown sand. *T. repens* is less drought-tolerant and usually occurs in less exposed spots where the soils are deeper and the vegetation forms a more closed sward.

Until recently, *T. occidentale* was known in Britain only from the Channel Islands, Scilly and W. Cornwall. However, during the last few years it has been discovered in several localities in Ireland and in N. Devon (see short note in *Watsonia* 15, part 2, in press), and it seems probable that this clover may be more widespread than is

generally assumed. Every effort should be made to find it elsewhere, especially along the coasts of Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, S. Wales and S. Ireland, although it may occur in other areas as well. It is hoped that this summary of *T. occidentale* characteristics will be of use when searching for this surely overlooked plant.

I am grateful to J.R. Akeroyd, D.E. Coombe, R. FitzGerald and C.D. Preston for their helpful comments and criticism.

J.N.B. MILTON, School of Biological Sciences, Queen Mary College, LONDON E1 4NS.

Our thanks are also due to Hilli Thompson to whom fresh specimens were rushed and who made several versions of her drawings for submission to Dr D.E. Coombe (see front cover).

**CORRECTION** – *Wastsonia* Vol. 15, Pt 2, p. 120, line 2 of second paragraph, for Newport read **Newquay**.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO BOLTON MUSEUM HERBARIUM (BON)

Prof. Brian W. Fox has recently donated his herbarium of vascular plants to Bolton Museum.

This includes a large proportion of aliens in a collection predominantly from sites in the north west. It also includes an example of *Cornus suecica* L., Dwarf Cornel, a specimen which the museum is especially pleased to have, as previously there was no local specimen represented in the herbarium. The various naturalists on the staff of the museum over the years appear to have shown remarkable restraint in not collecting this species which locally achieved its most southerly distribution in the British Isles. Unfortunately it is now thought lost from this part of Northern England.

The aliens are from several sites as follows:-

Darwen (Crown Wallpaper Tip)	68 sheets
Manchester Corporation Tip	12 "
Aspull Tip	6 "
Tyldesley Tip	6 "
Middlewood Tip, Marple	5 "
Pennington Flash Tips, Leigh	5 "
Bradshaw Brook Tip	5 "

A few wool shoddy aliens and hot water plants are also included. The collection was made between 1948 and 1978 by Prof. Fox in collaboration with Rev. C.E. Shaw, Mr Roy Lancaster, Mr Charles Howe, Mr J.E. Lousley and others.

The total is 700 sheets of which approximately half were collected in the vicinity of Bolton. Other areas represented include Wiltshire, Teesdale, Northumberland, Buteshire and the Outer Hebrides. We wish to record our appreciation to Professor Fox for this generosity to his native town.

Also in the process of being accumulated are sheets of critical species and local records of interest being collected by the botanists compiling the Flora of Chorley Area (in v.c. 59).

Enquiries regarding these or other material in Bolton Museum should be addressed to:

THE HERBARIUM, Bolton Museum & Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, BOLTON BL1 1SA.

# **REQUESTS**

## **HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

*Most members know that David Allen, the Society's historian, is engaged on the project he mentions in this appeal for assistance. In view of the importance of this work would members who can, make a special effort to meet his request.*

It is intended that the forthcoming History of the Society, to be published in 1986 in commemoration of the 150th anniversary, should include a reasonable number of photographs – some, but by no means necessarily all, portraits of leading past members. Would anyone (preferably Home Counties-based) willing to help in locating and copying suitable subjects – and, in one or two cases, taking original prints – please contact:

D.E ALLEN, Lesney Cottage, Middle Road, WINCHESTER, Hants SO22 5EJ.

## **CANARY ISLANDS FLORA**

I hope to visit Tenerife next April, the purpose of the trip being to see the new La Palma Observatory. However, as a member of the BSBI I would like to see as much of the flora as possible, the Canaries having been described as an “evolutionary workshop”.

Unfortunately, my own experience has been only with the British flora and I should be grateful to any member who can recommend some good sources of information on the Canary Islands’ flora which would help me.

H.W.S. SMITH, 96 Manor Green Road, EPSOM, Surrey KT19 8LN.

## **BRAMBLES IN FOLKLORE**

As part of a long term study of British plant-lore, I am assembling information on the folklore and traditional uses of *Rubus fruticosus* agg. The bramble bush occurs in proverbs, and has a number of healing practices associated with it; other beliefs relate to the gathering of blackberries. Many of these beliefs and practices are still current, or died out comparatively recently, so I should be very grateful if any information on such things could be sent to:

ROY VICKERY, 12 Eastwood Street, LONDON SW16 6PX.

## **BOOK WANTED**

The Editor would like to acquire a copy of “*Wild Flowers of the Channel Isles*” by J. Bichard and David McClintock (1975) Chatto.

# **NOTICES**

*BSBI (official) Notices*

## **BRITISH AND IRISH HERBARIA**

The new edition of this scholarly work is now available and members are reminded that the special offer expires on the 30th September or within 2 weeks of receipt of this copy of NEWS, which ever is the later.

If you wish to avail yourself of the special offer, orders should be sent together with a cheque for £9.00 to:

THE HON. TREASURER, 68 Outwoods Road, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics LE11 3LY.

## **SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER**

The Spring 1984 issue has recently been issued. It contains an interesting article by Alan Silverside on the subspecies of *Ranunculus flammula*, which Olga Stewart has illustrated on the front cover. Michael Braithwaite writes on the Border Pinewoods and ground flora associated with them, and if you have not been caught up in the current interest in Batology, G.H. Ballantyne's article and two tables affords a suitable introduction, which, as he says, can be fun. Finally, Olga Stewart provides a note on the two species of what most gardeners have, and call, *Montbretia*.

To obtain this publication see the note in *BSBI News* 35, p. 18.

## *Other (non-BSBI) Notices*

## **BOTANY FOR BEGINNERS**

A one year basic botany course, at the end of which those who wish can take the GCE 'O' level Botany exam, will be held on Monday evenings 6.15 – 9.00 p.m. at South London College (200 yards from West Norwood Station). The first lecture is on Monday, September 24th 1984 and the course will continue into June 1985.

Enquiries to:                   Mr David McKenna,  
                                         South London Botanical Institute,  
                                         323 Norwood Road,  
                                         LONDON SE24 9AQ. (01-674 5787)

## **POLICE NOTICE**

The West Mercia Constabulary have asked us to circulate a request for any information on Miss Hilda Murrell of Shrewsbury, a BSBI member who was murdered on 21.3.84. Any member who knew Hilda is asked to contact the incident room at Shrewsbury – telephone, Shrewsbury 53971.

## CONGRATULATIONS

All members of BSBI who do not also belong to the *Wildflower Society* will want to join with our President and myself in sending the warmest and sincerest congratulations to our sister publication on producing its 400th issue this summer.

Started 87 years ago by a group of friends which rapidly grew, the *Wild Flower Magazine* first appeared in 1897 and has continued without a break. Besides establishing a *camaradie* amongst plant lovers, it has afforded a foothold by which many now eminent botanists have gained access to a scientific career. With typical British characteristics the WFS needs no special conservation; it is by nature a hardy perennial – floreat!

Ed.

## SIX WALKS FROM LIZARD VILLAGE

Owing to the keen demand, the original printing in August 1983 of 1,000 copies of this 40-page illustrated countryside interpretive booklet (*BSBI News* 34, p. 18) has been sold out. However, a reprint, with additions and corrections, is now available, (price 95p or £1.75 for two copies – post free).

As before, all proceeds are being donated to support further conservation work at the Lizard by our Project Team. Orders should be sent to:

Dr L. FROST, Botany Dept, Bristol University, Woodland Rd, BRISTOL BS8 1UG.

The International Bee Research Association (IBRA)  
announce the publication of a

## DIRECTORY OF IMPORTANT WORLD HONEY SOURCES by

Dr Eva Crane, Penelope Walker and Rosemary Day

Each of the 460 species has details of information on the plant, its economic uses, flowering period, nectar or honeydew flow, honey and pollen production, chemical composition and physical properties of its honey, including flavour, aroma and granulation; plus 850 references and three indexes.

This 384 page book is available direct from IBRA, Hill House, Gerrards, Cross, Bucks SL9 0NR, UK, price £27.50, post paid.

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Mr E.B. Bangerter	Dr G. Halliday	Prof T.G. Tutin, M.A.
Mrs M. Briggs, M.B.E., F.P.S., F.L.S.	Dr P. Jovet	Mrs I.M. Vaughan
Mr J.F.G. Chapple, F.L.S.	Mr D.H. Kent	Mr A.E. Wade, M.Sc., F.L.S.
Prof A.R. Clapham, C.B.E., F.R.S., F.L.S.	Dr A. Lawalrée	Mr E.C. Wallace
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Dr J.G. Dony, Hon. F.L.S.	M.A., F.L.S.	Mr P.J. Wanstall
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Mr E.F. Greenwood, M.Sc.	Mr E.L. Swann	
Mr P.C. Hall		

## A day in MELNESS, Tongue, Sutherland

Occasionally when “botanising” one experiences a day to remember for some time to come. Such was midsummer day this year during a recent visit to Melness, (vc 108).

Melness is bounded on the east by the Kyle of Tongue and Tongue Bay, while to the west rises the vast area of moorland and bog of A’Mhoine. The area visited was to the east of a winding road which leaves the main A838 road at the Tongue Causeway and continues north for five miles to Achininver. The road undulates and rises to a little over 200 before descending finally to Achininver following – at about a quarter of a mile – the indented coastline. The land between the shore and the road rises gently and the cliffs are low. There are sandy beaches at Talmine, which has a small harbour, and at Achininver. The grassland on the cliff tops tends to be marshy with one or two small streams, the underlying geological formation being Moine with some intrusive Hornblendic Gneiss and Hornblende-Schist.

As we drove along, ditches were bright with Monkey flower (*Mimulus guttatus*) and its associated alien Blood-drop emlets (*M. luteus*) from Chile. As we walked above the shore our first find was the Pale Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*) and alongside it the elusive Scottish primrose (*Primula scotica*). Spring squill (*Scilla verna*) which often gives a blue sheen to these shores was past its best but bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) and yellow saxifrage (*Saxifraga aizoides*), whose first flowers were appearing, would soon take its place.

Orchids, of course, took our attention. Tall specimens of the small white orchid (*Pseudorchis albida*) were seen and photographed. There were many Northern marsh (*Dactyrorhiza majalis* spp. *purpurella*), Heath spotted (*D. maculata*) and early marsh orchids (*D. incarnata*). Amongst the more plentiful lesser Butterfly orchids (*Platanthera bifolia*) an occasional Greater Butterfly orchid (*P. chlorantha*) was found. What appeared to be a particularly fine specimen of the Northern Marsh orchid was examined a little more closely. The lip had rounded lateral lobes with a shorter rounded central lobe. Was this *Dactylorhiza majalis* ssp. *occidentalis*?

T. DUERDEN, 23 Meadowcroft, Barnston, WIRRAL, Merseyside L60 1UT.

Richard Bateman comments:

*D. majalis* ssp. *occidentalis* has been rarely reported from Sutherland. However, the criterion used by Mr Duerden to identify his plant is unsatisfactory. I would have expected him to mention

- a) Large flowers
- b) Recurved lateral lobes of the lip
- c) Solid leaf markings
- d) Early flowering (c. 2 weeks before *purpurella*)

The record also appears to be represented by a single specimen, not a population. It may well be merely “a particularly fine specimen of Northern Marsh-orchid”.

# ALIENS and ADVENTIVES

ADVENTIVE NEWS 28

Compiled by Adrian L. Grenfell

## WOOL ALIENS

The hot, dry summer of 1983 led to a good germination of wool aliens and, certainly in the south, the shoddy field explorers have been very well rewarded. C.B. Westall, by carefully following up his observation of *Amaranthus hybridus*, *Datura* and *Echinochloa crus-galli* standing above a parsnip crop, located a previously unknown shoddy-using area near Himley, Staffs. Only one field was good but this yielded a fine selection of foreigners, the identity of which suggested a recent application of wool waste. I was privileged to visit the site accompanied by the finder and Messrs. B.R.W. Fowler and T.G. Evans; together we located several rather uncommon introductions. All members of *Compositae* and of S. African origin, these were:- *Schkuhria pinnata* (Lam.) Thell.; *Senecio pterophorus* DC. (det. EJC on leaves alone); *Tagetes minuta* L.; *Xanthium spinosum* L.; *Bidens subalternans* DC.; *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav.; *Conyza bonariensis* (L.) Cronq. and *Gnaphalium undulatum* L. All Hb. ALG.

In Adventive News 24 I stated that only three mainland records for *Gnaphalium undulatum* were known: I must now modify this following receipt of J.M. Mullin's communication concerning its occurrences as a wool alien at Charlton, Worcs. in 1963 (Miss M. McCallum Webster) and at Baildon, W. Yorks. in 1964 (Mrs F. Houseman). The Charlton plant was grown on under glass and attained a height of 2½ m. There is also an undated record from N. Hants in Lousley's Wool Alien Census List. The location of these fields in Staffordshire suggests that more may exist, especially in the S. Midlands and further north. Areas still within a day's return lorry journey of Halifax are all potential users and well worth exploring: but please remember to get permission before you botanise on private land!

## MIXED BAG

*Aronia melanocarpa* (Michx.) Elliott: Boggy area near small lake, Llyn Hafod-y-llyn. May 1980. Mrs J. Sykes. Det. S.G. Harrison. NMW. Comm. G. Ellis. "Probably spread naturally from planted trees in garden some distance away. Almost certainly not planted originally". First Br record.

*Bromus inermis* Leyss.: Established on road verge nr. Wotton-under-Edge, Glos. Mrs M. Burhmill, on BSBI field meeting, 7 July 1984. Det. ALG. Over 2 m in height with 50 cm panicles, this robust form of Hungarian Brome is a relic of cultivation here.

[*Colobanthus quitensis* (Kunth) Bartl.: A rumour that *C. quitensis*, (*Caryophyllaceae*), found on the decks of the S.S. *Great Britain* in May 1971 some ten months after she had returned to Bristol from the Falkland Islands, is established and spreading in the centre of Bristol has recently reached my ears from a BSBI member. A search of the area (well known to the writer) has revealed no trace of this taxon and so the rumour must be discounted: neither this nor *Empetrum rubrum* Vahl, the other Falklands native present on the S.S. *Great Britain*'s decks, have any claim to inclusion in the British List of Aliens and Adventives. See *Watsonia* 9: 146-147 (1972).]

*Carthamus tinctorius* L.: On dumped shale/ballast, building site, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, S. Hants. July 1984. Miss M. Howard. Det. ALG. Also on waste ground by rubbish dump, Summers Lane, Barnet. October 1982. D. Bevan.

*Cotoneaster acuminatus* Lindley: In mixed broad-leaved woodland, E. end of Ampfield Wood, nr. Hursley, Hants. 7 June 1983. R.C. Stern. Det. & Hb. EJC. ?1st Br record. Lacking "pale brown wool" on young shoots demanded by Bean: the recorder suggests that it is bird-sown from Hilliers Nursery about 1½ miles away.

*Cotoneaster delsianus* Pritzel: Disused railway line, Corfe Castle, Purbeck, Dorset. 30 August 1982. G.S. Joyce. Det. EJC. Perhaps best distinguished from similar *C. franchettii* by the white not yellowish tomentum on the undersides of the deciduous or semi-evergreen leaves.

*Echinops banaticus* Rochel ex Schrader: Walls of Roslin Castle, nr. Edinburgh, Midlothian, single large plant. 17 August 1983. J.N.B. Milton. Conf. & Hb. ALG.

*Gentiana asclepiadea* L.: Single plant beside stream originating from garden c. 100 m away where it sows itself freely, Twyford Lodge, W. Sussex. August 1982. D. Bevan.

*Geranium × magnificum* Hyl.: Well established a long way from gardens, Southsea, S. Hants. Rev. E.A. Pratt. 1983. The '*G. ibericum*' of horticulture, this large purple-blue flowered Crane's-bill, arising from the crossing of *G. ibericum* and *G. platypetalum*, is absolutely sterile but spreads vigorously by vegetative means: its presence in the wild being entirely due to the dumping of garden waste. Also a large and persistent patch on waste ground near Colney Hatch on northern side of North Circular Road. May 1982. D. Bevan. Small clump on Crumlin Burrows, W. Glam. during a June 1984 Bristol Naturalists' Society field meeting.

*Phacelia tanacetifolia* Benth.: Several plants c. 2 ft high in a young grass ley nr. Machynlleth, Powis. July 1984. F.E. Sant. Det. ALG. An annual of W. North America belonging to the family *Hydrophyllaceae*, *P. tanacetifolia* has attractive lavender flowers in scorpioid racemes and continues to confound botanists; it has been variously sent to me as ?*Echium* or ?*Sympyrum* sp. Widely cultivated for bees in S. Europe and as a garden annual in Br: introduced with imported grass seed here?

*Trifolium leucanthum* Bieb.: On spent tan bark, Manor Tannery, Grampound, Cornwall. October 1983. Also a single overwintering plant of *Hippocrepis unisiliquosa* L. in a Philleigh, Cornwall, garden. Mrs B.E.M. Garratt. Det. ALG. Two rare legumes from Turkey to be added to the tan bark list in Adventive News 26.

#### *PHALARIS PARADOXA* L.

Dr S.L. Jury, Department of Plant Sciences, Reading University, had kindly listed specimens at RNG, all but one ex Hb. J.E. Lousley: of fourteen sheets dated 1926-1963 seven represented wool shoddy introductions, the balance were mainly grain aliens from docks, waste ground, maltings and a chicken run. The history of *P. paradoxa* as an arable weed in Britain seems to date from the late 1970's. Five of these records relate to var. *praemorsa* Coss. & Dur. (var. *appendiculata* (R. & S.) Chiov.) in which the glumes of the sterile spikelets are all deformed and club-shaped.

The name Awned Canary-grass apparently derives from the spinose apices, up to 3.5 mm in length, of the glumes. Its spikelets are arranged in groups of (5)-6-(!), one hermaphrodite, the rest male or sterile, falling as a group at maturity: it thus differs from all other annual species of the genus.

## CULTIVATED LUPINS

Although I have not yet received records it appears that seed of annual lupin species is being imported for cultivation of fodder crops. In July I encountered *Lupinus albus* ssp. *albus* in Gloucester Docks (seeds light in colour and up to 15 mm in diam., flat with deep depressions in their surfaces) and later noted another strain (as yet unnamed) growing in Avonmouth Docks (seeds spherical and approx. 6-7 mm in diam.). Members' records, specimens and observations would be most gratefully received.

## CORRIGENDA

E.J. Clement tells me that *Eleagnus angustifolia* (Adventive News 27) was incorrectly determined, proving to be *E. umbellatus* on re-examination. My own reference to Fuller's Teasel under *Dipsacus pilosus* (Aliens Galore at Brislington Tip - BSBI News 25: 18) should, of course, read *Dipsacus sativus* (L.) Honckeney and, in the same article, *Cleome spinosa* L. should be referred to under *C. hasslerana* Chodat.

I am still seeking information regarding *Cucurbitaceae* to enable me to complete my notes concerning this neglected group in Br. Meanwhile your valued correspondence, criticisms and records are eagerly awaited.

Please continue to send in your records and specimens which will help in mapping the distribution on a national basis.

ADRIAN L. GRENFELL, 19 Station Road, Winterbourne Down, BRISTOL BS17 1EP.

## CONYZA BONARIENSIS (L.) Cronq. IN CENTRAL LONDON

This Fleabane from the Americas has been observed quite frequently as a wool alien over the years, or on rubbish tips. Apart from this, however, it can become established in some quantity in more natural habitats, where it may be overlooked because of its superficial resemblance to the widespread Canadian Fleabane, (*C. canadensis*). The latter, however, has a glabrous inflorescence with longer rays, whereas *C. bonariensis* is stickily hairy, and its overall grey-green colour can be noticeable enough to cause one to turn back and look at it more closely.

I saw a sizeable colony on the coast at Chalkwell, Essex in 1977, and another colony in September '83 in London on a roadside E. of Blackfriars Station. A plant from this Middlesex locality has been drawn by Hilli Thompson.

Some characters of the species are variable. The Blackfriars plants had white pappus with grey-green involucral bracts.

It's worthwhile looking out for this species in ordinary places, since it is probably more frequent than the records show.

J.R. PALMER, 19 Water Mill Way, S. Darenth, DARTFORD, Kent DA4 4BB.



*Conyza bonariensis*

15.9.1983

## CYPERUS REFLEXUS Vahl AT BLACKMOOR (N. HANTS)

Few alien Cyperaceae have ever been recorded from Br. Still fewer get a mention in the BSBI Handbook, *Sedges of the British Isles*, 1982, as it overlooks the only major reference to them! – viz. T.B. Ryves, in *Watsonia* 11(1):69-70 (1976). Since this paper, TBR has successfully identified or confirmed additional species, including *Cyperus reflexus*, but sadly the results still lie unpublished.

This plant was first brought to my attention by D.N. Turner, who collected fine, rooted material for me from Blackmoor Fruit Farm (N. Hants) on 23 Oct 1976 (**Herb. EJC**). It was 8-12 inches tall, with thin stems (1 mm across), entirely smooth-and-obtusely angled; lvs mainly basal, 1.5 mm wide, deeply channeled; fls congested in dense heads 1.5 cm across, subtended by three long bracts; 3 styles; ripe nutlets shorter than the glumes. It had been introduced via wool shoddy and was plentifully established, with lots of inflorescences, along several yards of one field-edge. Significantly, this was two years after the last and final batch of shoddy had been applied to the farm. TBR had known the patch for some years, but it was not named until 1978, when I sent abundant material (grown on easily in my hot and dry garden-let) to R.B.G., Kew, for determination. It still thrives (7/83) vigorously with me, flowering every year, from August onwards, and I am surprised that ploughing or herbicides apparently extinguished it at Blackmoor (*comm. TBR*). It is a shortly-rhizomatous, perennial species.

Miss S.S. Hooper's kind reply (5/10/78) to me from Kew read: "It is *Cyperus reflexus* Vahl var. *reflexus*, native of subtropical north and south America. We will grow and press it. Thank you for good material."

This species was recently reported by R. Auriault, in *Le Monde des Plantes* 399:4 (1979), as naturalised in a ditch, by a brook, and in grassland near to the Chateau du Rouet, Muy, France (Var). I do not, at present, know of it in N. Europe; nevertheless, Raoul Auriault, of Toulouse, has generously provided us with a fine illustration in the hope that sites for it might be found. It certainly enjoys Kingston, with no winter protection at all.

E.J. CLEMENT, 13 Shelford, Burritt Road, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, Surrey KT1 3HR.

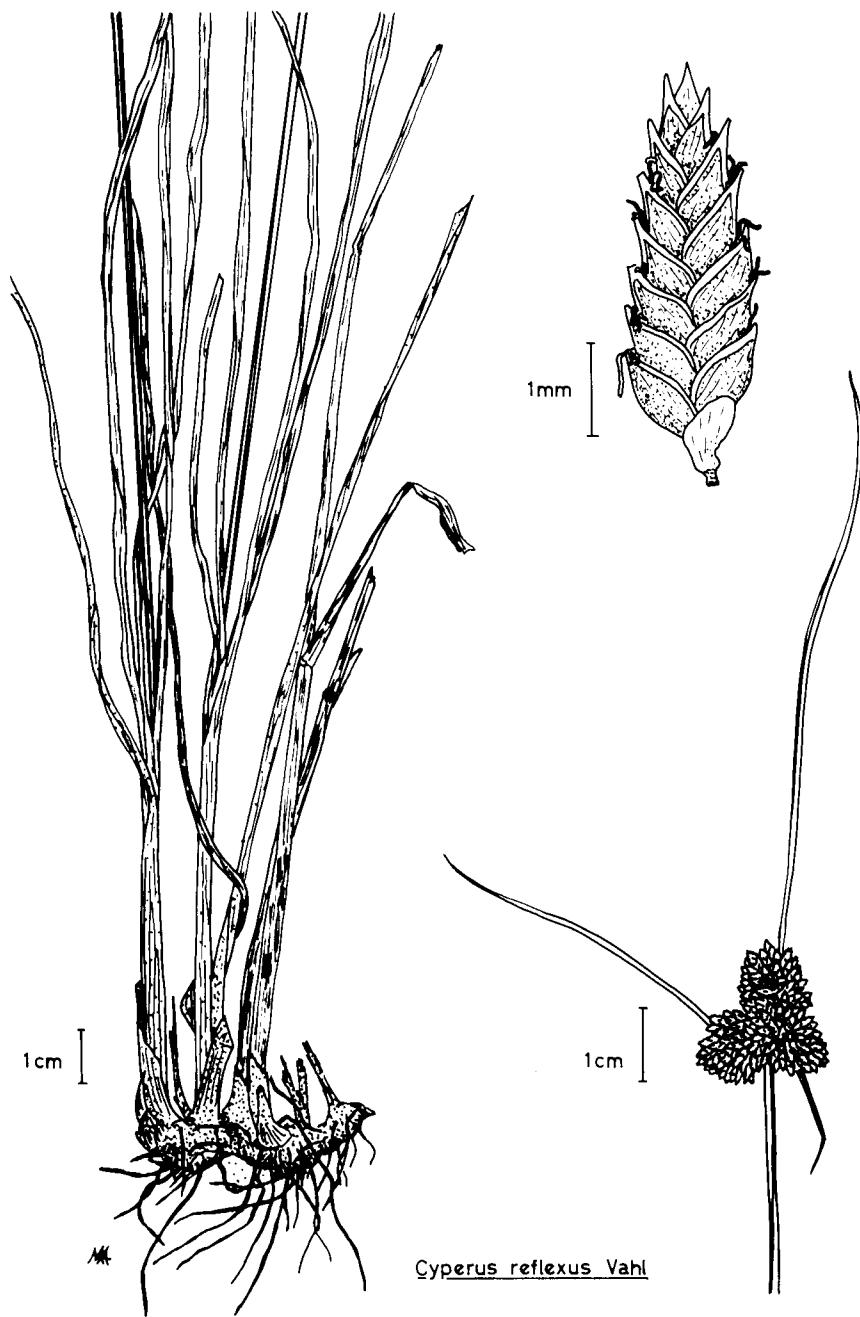
### NEWS FROM OUNDLE LODGE

My machine washable, all woollen, original-designed machine knitted jumper with a bluebell motif was much admired at the AGM in May! If you are interested in buying one, contact me and I will put you in touch with the designer who lives locally. You can then discuss styles and colour combinations.

By the way, I still have a few of the BSBI's bluebell ties left!

MARGARET PERRING, Oundle Lodge, Oundle, PETERBOROUGH PE8 5TN.





*Cyperus reflexus* Vahl

© R. Autio

**BLUEBERRY, (VACCINIUM CORYMBOSUM L.)  
ESTABLISHED IN S. HANTS (v.c. 11)**

In July 1980 R.P. Bowman discovered *Vaccinium corymbosum* L. naturalized on the sandy ground of Ashley Heath, near Ringwood, Dorset (S. Hants, v.c. 11). This is, rather surprisingly, the first record for Britain. Even *Flora Europaea* 3:12 gives no continental localities, simply stating that "the blueberry, from E. North America, is cultivated locally in W. & C. Europe for its edible fruits. It is a deciduous shrub with elliptical leaves c. 40 x 15 mm; white, cylindrical corolla c. 8 mm, and blue berries 7.10 mm." Nothing more is said: but there is at least one alien record for the Netherlands, as given in the worthy *Gorteria* 5(12):275 (1971) and *De Levende Natuur* 53:137.

The blueberry was found, accidentally, when checking on a 1979 record, *comm.* Dr H.J.M. Bowen, for its alien congener, *V. macrocarpon* Aiton, which also thrives elsewhere in Hampshire (viz. on Beaulieu Heath in the New Forest, v.c. 11, and on Kingsley Common, v.c. 12). The *V. macrocarpon* was found to be abundant and extensive in the bog on both sides of a small stream under ± open *Salix/Betula*, amongst *Erica tetralix*, *Myrica*, *Sphagnum* and *Polytrichum commune*: the *V. corymbosum* was first found only c. 100 yards from the bog, on drier, sandy heath.

Mr Bowman's initial herbarium specimen was labelled as "*Rhamnus*", which reveals its general appearance, and I, at first, provisionally named it as *Vaccinium australe* Small. In the wild, it forms part of a critical complex, and it seems best (easiest, at least!) to consider this 'split' and others to lie within the variable *V. corymbosum* L. aggregate. Hence, I now regard the description given by Bean, vol. 4, p. 667-8 as too restrictive (e.g. lvs "downy beneath on the midrib and veins": they are quite glabrous on the voucher in **Herb. EJC**). Cultivars and hybrids further confuse the taxonomy, and again recommend a 'broad' treatment.

At my suggestion, RPB kindly revisited the site, in August 1982, and his detailed observations are appended. (Flowers, presumably produced during May, have yet to be observed).

E.J. CLEMENT, 13 Shelford, Burrit Road, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, Surrey KT1 3HR.

Quoted below are some field notes I made on the distribution and the plastic morphology of *V. corymbosum* on my return visit to Ashley Heath. I carried out a thorough search of the area and discovered between 40 and 50 bushes and shrublets varying in height from 0.74 m (on open heath) to over 2.0 m (on edge of roadside pine-plantation).

*South side of the Ashley Heath - Woolsbridge road (GR 41/106.045)*

(i) Growing amongst tall *Calluna*, *Erica tetralix* and young *Pinus sylvestris*, on damp sandy heath. I have a colour transparency of this plant with berries.

Low bush on open heath branched from base, 0.74 m high. Lvs entire, ovate-pointed, shortly mucronate at tip, alternate, strongly recurved at sides, up to 5.5 cm long with short red stalks, midrib largely red and often lateral veins also, lvs mostly flushed coppery; stems pale red-brown to grey-brown, young twigs green or tinged dull red. Young shoots with lvs smaller, to c. 3.0 cm long, becoming smaller down stem. Upper lvs of young shoots flushed purple-brown, edges with fine forward-pointed teeth furnished with long-stalked glands. Berries (very few formed) c. 1.2 cm width x c. 1.0 cm depth, at first pale glaucous green tinged rose-red, becoming blue-black and strongly pruinose.

(ii) In shade or semi-shade under young pines in needle litter and moss or in *Molina* – *Calluna*. No berries on these scattered bushes.

The mature lvs were pale dull green to mid-green and slightly shiny, up to 8.0 cm long. Ultimate twigs zig-zag, pale green, slender with appressed to crisped hairs. Old main stems of one bush 2.0 cm diameter at base, grey-green, with papery flaking bark. One low bush 1.24 m high had long spreading lateral shoots to 1.30 m Lvs at base of lateral twigs small, 1.0 cm or less. One group of 3 shrublets, growing admixed with *V. macrocarpon* on edge of pines on wet ground had lvs broader 8.0 x 4.2 cm. One young plant was wholly coppery-red.

(iii) In streamside birch-wood with occasional *Sorbus aucuparia*, with dense undergrowth of grasses, ferns and blackberries. Many plants, but no berries.

*North side of the Ashley Heath – Woolsbridge Road (GR 41/108.047)*

(iv) In a close-spaced, young pine-plantation with occasional *Betula*, *Frangula alnus*, etc. and light *Pteridium* cover. Four tall bushes, close to the road, with green or ripening berries.

The population of bushes is spread out over a distance of almost 300 m. Some bushes in the birthwood are as close as c. 25 m from the nearby housing estate gardens, but I could discover none growing in any of the adjacent gardens. I am still unable to discover the source, but perhaps birds may have eaten berries from some distant nursery, dispersing the stones in their droppings. EJC also suggests the possibility of deliberate introduction of the plant into the area, long ago, as a potential food-and-cover plant for pheasants.

It is interesting that both species of *Vaccinium* are growing so close, and both well worthy of a place on the British list of established aliens.

R.P. BOWMAN, 22 Kennedy Road, Maybush, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 6DQ.

## SHERWOOD OAK

Having heard about the remarkable results in preserving ancient trees, our Hon. Gen. Sec. contacted the conservators of Sherwood Forest who replied:

We do indeed have an old and venerable oak here at Sherwood called the Major Oak after a Major Hayman Rooke who published a book in 1790 about some of the old and interesting trees of this area.

We roughly estimate the age of the tree to be about 650 years. It measures 10 metres around the girth and is approximately 25 metres high.

In 1969 when Sherwood Forest Country Park was opened, the major Oak was in rather a sorry state, having suffered for many years from the effects of hundreds of thousands of visitors' feet compacting the ground immediately around the tree and eroding away the topsoil in that area. To alleviate this problem, in 1976, a fence was erected surrounding the Major Oak and the soil surface around the tree was broken up and reseeded. Various tree surgery and feeding work has been carried out since then by Southern Tree Surgeons of Leek, Staffordshire, so that we now have a very healthy and thriving old oak. During the early 1900's the first steps were taken to preserve the old tree. Chains were attached around some of the heavier boughs to place the main weight of the crown over the tree hole. Since that time the chains have been replaced with steel cables and dead limbs have been removed.

You may have read in the national press about the fire in the Major Oak on August Bank Holiday 1982. It would appear that this was started by a couple of young boys although we have never been able to identify them. The local fire brigade were immediately summoned and spent approximately twelve hours using 100,000 gallons of water to finally extinguish the fire. Fortunately, the tree seems none the worse for the ordeal and with soil feeding and the application of a waterproof and fireproof paint inside the hollow trunk by the surgeons the Major Oak is looking as good as ever.

If we can supply any further details of interest to you please do not hesitate to contact us.

IAN SOLLY, Managing Ranger, Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, Edwinstowe, MANSFIELD, Notts. NG21 9HN.

## LONICERA spp IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

In 1. *Lonicera nitida* Wilson (*BSBI News* 29, p. 12) I promised to summarize all wild records known to me for this popular garden plant of which *CTW2:790* says no more than "Many spp (of *Lonicera*) are grown in gardens, including *L. nitida* Wils. from W. China, with evergreen lvs, c. 1 cm, now much used for hedges." The response to my request for info. overwhelmed me: records came in from the C.I., v.c. 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 22, 29, 35, 41, 44, 50, 55, 62, 73, 79, 80, 85, 103, 106, H9, H15 and H31.

This was all the more surprising to me as my own Metropolitan experiences paralleled those of B. Wurzell, who wrote (2/81) that this species "only occurs as planted relics. I have never seen this in flower in 20 years of searching, let alone self-sown seedlings! Surely, it is only a garden-hedge relic at best (and frequent as such)." Even J.R. Palmer, my mainstay for info. on alien plants could help very little saying (12/81) only that "my first record of this was from a rubbish tip on Stanpit Marshes (S. Hants) in 1965. Subsequent records I have no means of tracing but I am sure that some at least were seedlings."

Bean's 4 vols of *Trees & Shrubs* has few faults, but he does not always give the all-important-to-gardeners flowering (or fruiting) dates! The only clue I can find for locating the inconspicuous fls is given on p. 77 of *Fl. Isle of Wight*, 1978, which states that "during the mild winter of 1974/75, neglected specimens were flowering freely." (Trimmed bushes never flower). The authors also remark that this species "if found more distant from habitations than some of the accepted species (in Dandy's List.)"

RNG (which contains **Herb. JEL** and much of **Herb. HJMB**) provided no pressed specimen at all, not even a cultivated one for the university Horticulture students. Nor did I find any early records made by MMcCW in her very fine alien-plant card-index, which is currently in my possession. Nil returns ended here, and I quote below a selection of records that have either escaped publication or are otherwise of interest: I am especially indebted to C.D. Preston of BRC, Dr C.A. Stace and Mrs M.C. Foster for drawing my attention to many of these.

Field hedge, Magham Down, Herstmonceux (E. Sussex), GR 51/622.113, May 1951. Dr D.P. Young. "Planted; frequently seen in this locality." **Herb. DPY** (still not "incorporated" in **BM**). DPY presumably wished to put this on record, as he despatched an IRC to BRC. (For revelation, see *News* 11, pp. 17-20).

Chalk scrub on side of valley, nr. Cheverells Farm, Titsey (Surrey), GR 51/397.567, 1955. R.A.R. Clarke. Originally planted, now running wild well among native scrub.

Seedlings along a wall and hedgebank opposite, Gunnaveen (S.E. Galway), July 1962. N.D. Simpson. **BM**. Conf. EJC. (No other alien specimens were found in **BM** incorporated within the main British collection).

On natural rock face, steep railway cutting, nr. Carlingford Castle (Co. Louth), 1967. *Irish Nat. J.* 14(3):89 (1974).

Near Chard (S. Somerset, c. 1970. Dr H.J.M. Bowen. In flower.

Self-sown bushes on an old railway embankment, nr. Galashiels (Selkirks, v.c. 79), Jan 1978, and on a new, rocky, road-cutting nr. Galashiels (Roxburghs, v.c. 80), May 1978. R.W.M. Corner. **Herb. RWMC**. Det. RBG, Edinburgh. Only three bushes in all, but stated to be "well-naturalised."

S.E. corner of Lucy Wood, Kirtling (Cambs), GR 52/687.569, April 1978. A.C. Leslie & R.I.S. Brettell. NCR. "20-30 bushes, presumably introduced as trial pheasant cover."

Edge of woodland, Forestry area, Hutton Lowerross (N.E. Yorks), 1978. YNU Meeting, comm. Mrs F. Houseman.

On old tip, near Chickerell (Dorset), 1980. Dr H.J.M. Bowen.

In wood, Chepstow (Mons), GR 31/53.92 and on the bank of the R. Wye, near Wyastonekeys (Mons), GR 32/52.14, 1982. The woodland bush may have propagated itself from dumped hedge clippings.

Undoubtedly, this is yet another plant to add to our list of established aliens, although none of these records clearly constitutes a self-perpetuating colony. Noteworthy is that all my file records are post-1950. The species was not introduced into British gardens until 1908, and this initial introduction was a very reluctant flowerer. Other clones followed later, and some proved much more fertile (e.g. cv. 'Fertilis' appeared as late as c. 1927). See P.F. Yeo, in *Baileya* 12(2):56-66 (1964), for full details, plus photos of some original herbarium sheets. He also includes therein the related *L. pileata* (see below).

## 2. *Lonicera pileata* Oliver IN GREAT BRITAIN

In Dec. 1981, J.R. Palmer wrote to me about *Lonicera*: I quote his comments in full:

"With reference to your request for records of *Lonicera nitida* may I point out that the generally similar *L. pileata* is widely planted and can be confused at the seedling stage (possibly) with the former species by an unsuspecting person. Mature plants are less likely to be confused."

"On 6/12/81 I noticed a seedling of *L. pileata* in a roadside shrubbery on the outskirts of New Ash Green, W. Kent, a considerable distance away from the nearest planted colony, therefore obviously birdsown. Further research was prevented by the severe weather. This species has larger translucent violet fruits produced much more abundatnly than with *L. nitida*. As *L. pileata* is very extensively planted (outside gardens) in the New Ash Green area, seedlings may prove to be quite common there."

This species, again hailing from China, is indeed very close to *L. nitida* and, as Dr Yeo suggests, hybrids may be in cultivation, grown as cultivars of *L. nitida*. The two taxa may be separated as follows:

Typically 5-10 ft tall; branches upright; lvs  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  ins long

..... *L. nitida*

Rarely up to 4 ft tall; branches spreading or prostrate; lvs

$\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  ins long ..... *L. pileata*

*L. pileata* flowers, and reliably so, in May, and it is increasingly grown as ground-cover. It is a species to look out for. MCF has kindly combed the literature for me and has discovered only one previous record for Br, given in *Fl. Rutland*, 1971. This work lists *L. nitida* as "frequently planted in garden hedges, and has been found as an escape in Ketton quarry, 1963", and then adds that "*L. pileata* has also been found in a hedge at Ketton, 1959." Are both species truly present about Ketton – or is one an identity error?

E.J. CLEMENT, 13 Shelford, Burritt Road, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, Surrey KT1 3HR.

## THE "BRITISH" PROBLEM

The note on this by the Council (*BSBI News* 36 p. 3) may succeed in clearing up one ambiguity only to introduce another. The name of the largest of the British Isles is Great Britain, and by itself "Britain" refers to the whole United Kingdom (as does the adjective "British" in most of its usages) unless otherwise defined. The BSBI should adopt the same division into "territories" as *Flora Europaea* does, and if this is made clear in our literature it should avoid courtesy to anyone.

R.G.B. ROE, Seafin, Charlton Adam, SOMERTON, Somerset TA11 7AS.

## BIDENS CONNATA IN THE THAMES ESTUARY

Articles by R.M. Burton in *B.S.B.I. News* 18 and *The London Naturalist* No. 58 have described the American species *Bidens connata* Nuhl. ex Willd. and its distribution along waterways N. of the Thames in Middlesex, Herts and Bucks. In August 1983 a colony was found by the tidal R. Thames in W. Kent, not far E. of Cross Ness. There were half a dozen large plants spread over a hundred yards, and these have since seeded themselves abundantly. A portion of one plant was removed and has been drawn by Hilli Thompson. (The species may well occur elsewhere along the coast and rivers of N. Kent and could be searched for along the south coast of Essex also).

The plants by the Thames were accompanied by a few oil milling adventives, and some consideration at least must be given to this source as responsible for the introduction of *Bidens connata* along European waterways. Oil milling factories tend to be near navigable water in order to facilitate the transfer of bulky material to shore, and immature *Bidens sp.* have been seen in soya waste. Soya Foods Ltd., Springwell, Middlesex was by the Grand Union Canal where *Bidens connata* is now established but D.H. Kent tells me that no *Bidens* were observed there during the period the factory flourished. It is also quite likely that seeds of *B. connata* could be waterborne from its main localities W. of London to North Kent. Brackish water would not necessarily be an impediment. Drifted seeds from certain freshwater plants quite commonly grow and flourish for a time on beaches and river walls along the tidal Thames in Kent e.g. *Trifid Bur-Marigold*, *Common Skullcap*, *Gypsywort* and *Orange Balsam*.

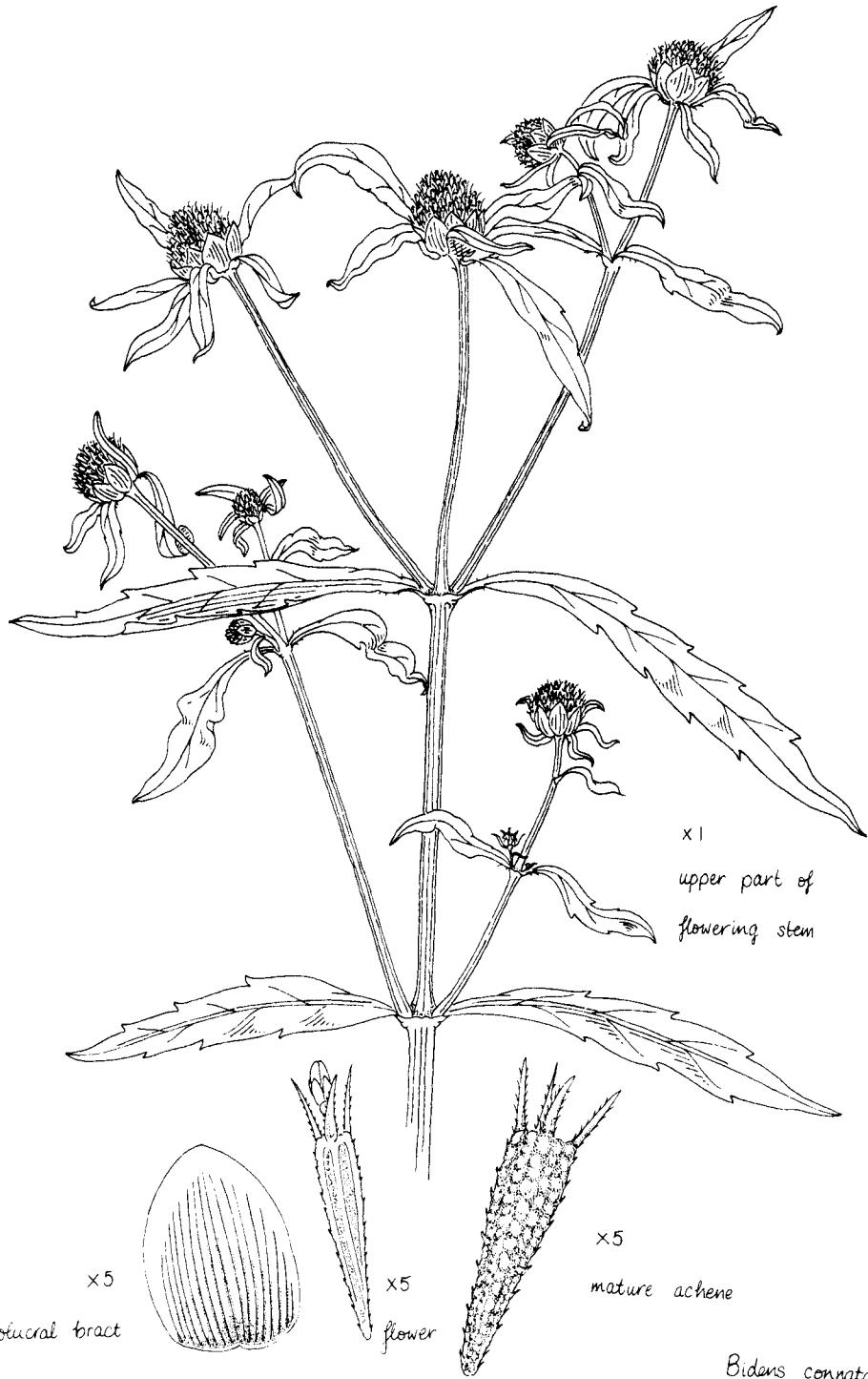
J.R. PALMER, 19 Water Mill Way, South Darenth, DARTFORD, Kent DA4 9BB.

## WILD VEGETABLES

A request from Lawrence D. Hills of the Henry Doubleday Research Association (see *BSBI News* 36) prompted the Editor to enquire as to how our members could assist his project, elicited the following reply:

What I am trying to collect is seed from as many sites as possible. We will be growing these at our sanctuaries to see if they vary and to pass a stock on to the National Vegetable Gene Bank at Wellesbourne and anyone else who requires them. What we need is people who will gather seed. We have got Members in most areas and they could do it because very many botanists are not familiar with the importance of waiting 'til seeds split and show the ripeness within. I have now got 2 sites and would like to get some all round the country because all could be inbred populations and those self-pollinated which tend to breed to a pure line suited to the conditions under which they grow. My hope with the cabbages is to find a variation which has the genes of clubroot resistance. A cabbage that has managed to grow on a ledge for even a hundred years has probably got clubroot resistance, and this is why the National Vegetable Research Station are interested, as we are.

LAWRENCE D. HILLS, Convent Lane, Bocking, BRAINTREE, Essex CM7 6RW.



*Bidens connata*

© Hilli Thompson 1983

## **ARTEMISIA BIENNIS BY THE THAMES**

At least 85 foreign plant species have been recorded wild in Britain as a by-product of the oil milling industry. (Others have been raised artificially in gardens from soya bean waste etc.).

Many of these plants being of N. American origin are hardier in Britain than other groups, such as bird seed aliens. Nevertheless there is comparatively little evidence of naturalisation so far. There are only about 10 species for which any degree of persistence can be claimed.

One of these, however, is the attractive *Artemisia biensis* Willd. which usually behaves as an annual in Britain, and can range in height from a few inches to over 6 feet. It seems to have become established on a stretch of about 15 yards on the river wall at Belvedere, W. Kent, while access to the Thames was restricted during construction of the Woolwich flood barrier. The accompanying drawing is by Hilli Thompson.

J.R. PALMER, 19 Water Mill Way, S. Darenth, DARTFORD DA4 4BB.

## ***OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGATUM AS A LAWN WEED***

Two colonies of *Ophioglossum* appeared in 1984 on my lawn at Denholm, Roxburghshire. The species is rare in VC 80 and the nearest known colony at 5 Km was all but exterminated by ploughing early in 1983.

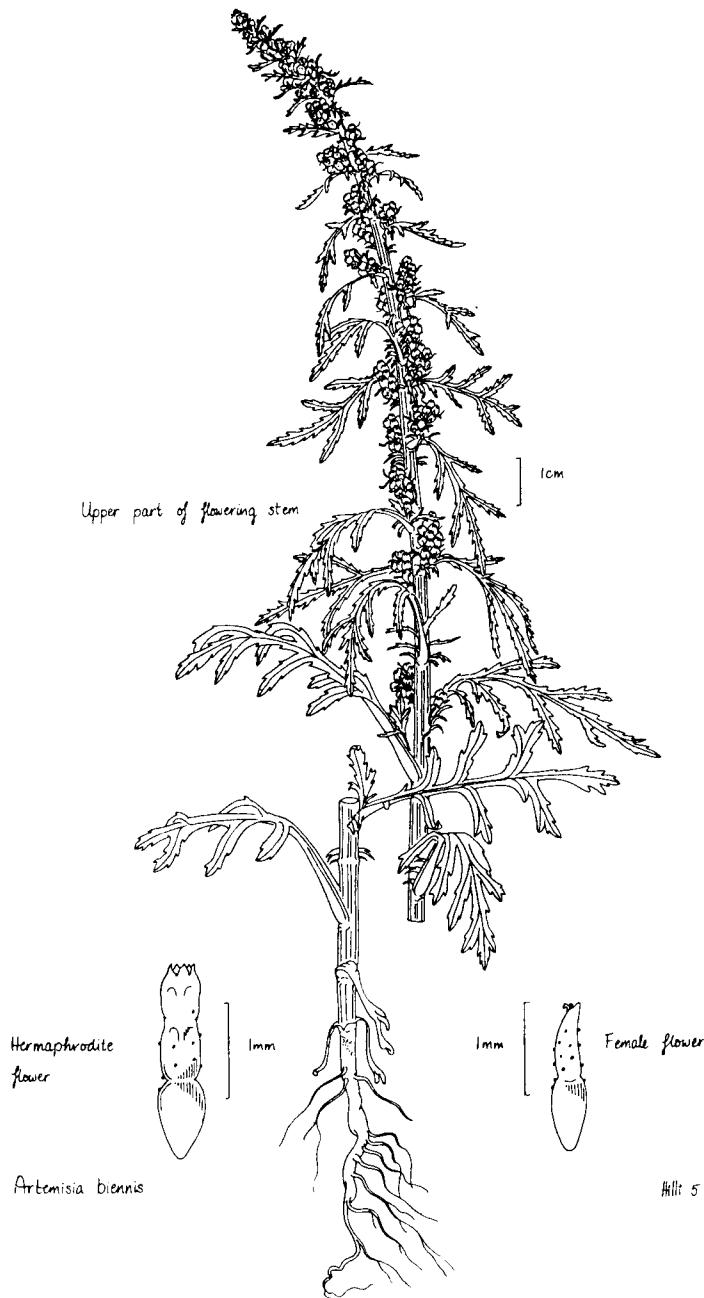
*Ophioglossum* is approaching extinction on the Borders and this was something of a surprise.

The lawn is on clayey soil and although it is a former tennis court the drainage is now impeded. It had been closely mowed until 1981 but since then this part has been cut infrequently to a height of 2-4 cm and only some of the cuttings removed. The dominant species are now *Stellaria graminea*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Trifolium repens*, *Veronica chamaedrys* and *Ranunculus acris*. 4 spikes of *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* appeared in 1983.

Of particular interest is whether the two colonies, one of 8 fronds and diameter 70 cm, one of 50 fronds and diameter 100 cm could have developed by 1984 from spores accidentally introduced on my boots in 1981 and 1982 after visits to *Ophioglossum* sites in the area.

Comments on this occurrence from members in areas where this fern is commoner would be welcome.

M.E. BRAITHWAITE, Cockspurs, Lilliesleaf, MELROSE, Roxburghshire.



*Artemesia biennis*

Hilli 510.783

*Artemesia biennis*

© Hilli Thompson 1983

## *CRASSULA HELMSII – again*

I am sure that members cannot have failed to notice the spread of the aquarists' throwout *Crassula helmsii* around pond margins, if not in the wild, at least within the pages of *BSBI News* (nos. 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24). For those not acquainted with this fairly attractive plant, a fine illustration of the species appears in *BSBI News* 19 (Sept 1978) p. 11.

In my view the plant has two faults. Firstly, it forms dense mats and competes with the native vegetation all too successfully and secondly, it can spread at an alarming rate. For these two reasons, and bearing in mind the scarcity of the habitats it colonizes, I suggest to BSBI Members that it should be "nipped in the bud" whilst still relatively localised and uncommon. Eradicate it at all the more scientifically important sites where it has appeared. To list just three examples (with which I am personally acquainted) where *Crassula* threatens the vegetation and flora, I can mention ponds in the New Forest, S. Hampshire; similar habitats on the Lizard, W. Cornwall and ponds on Gerrard's Cross Common, Buckinghamshire.

In the New Forest it is now reported from a number of sites, among them the botanically-famous Hatchet Pond, near Beaulieu, where the rich pond-margin, flora (including *Elatine hexandra*, *Galium debile*, *Illecebrum verticillatum*, *Ludwigia palustris* and *Mentha pulegium*) could be threatened in the near future through the spread of *Crassula*.

On the Lizard, the occurrence of this species has only this year been reported, in a heathland pool, not far from the ornamental pool where the species was originally introduced, and from which it has now escaped. Here too, a rich and decreasing flora of heathland pools is at stake.

In Buckinghamshire, the two ponds on Gerrard's Cross Common represent only one of three localities in the county where the extremely rare *Damasonium alisma* has been seen since 1960. *Crassula* is now well established in one of these pools, and could effectively quench any revival of *Damasonium* or other local species at this site.

Though not "anti-alien" – discovering an alien plant adds an unexpected bonus to a day's botanising – I do believe the short term benefits gained from a 'sighting' should come second to the welfare of our native vegetation. There are cases where an aggressive alien has colonised natural habitats to their detriment.

How is *C. helmsii* eradicated? I cannot satisfactorily answer this question, but only suggest removal by hand; not a simple task in view of the ease with which this species reproduces vegetatively from small fragments of shoot. However, if BSBI Members were to 'weed' out this species whenever they found it in the early stages of colonising a new pond, I think we might at least check its spread. Recent legislation regarding the uprooting of wild plants, and the ownership of sites, must be taken into account when carrying out such remedial work.

Many botanists may question the desirability of attempting such conservation. I do, however, feel that it should receive some discussion. We do not, as yet, know the full potential of this newcomer, or whether it will become a pest, but we certainly should be on the alert.

A.J. BYFIELD, 'Rose Cottage', 22 Church Road, Abbots Leigh, BRISTOL.

### **NOTE**

*One of our members at the Weed Research Organization (WRO) whom we consulted, tells us that the aquatic weed section there could only give limited information, because C. helmsii does not pose a threat to any commercial crop, and hence has not received much investigation. Any chemical weedkiller, they think, would most probably harm other species in the same habitat, and, because of its ready fragmentation, hand or mechanical clearance would at best, only check its rate of increase, not eradicate it.*

(Ed.)

## TWENTY YEARS OF TETRADS

G.H. Forster (*BSBI News* 36) raises an important problem which has an historical background. It was about 1953 that E.S. Edees, in the preparation of his excellent *Flora of Staffordshire* (1972), first adopted the tetrad system of recording, but with no designation of the tetrads. It was so obviously an ideal method that it was soon used by others of us, each of whom used a method of his own to designate the tetrads. I made a plea at the BSBI Conference on Local Floras in November 1961 that we should all meet and decide to use the one method that we considered to be the most satisfactory. One active recorder refused to be party on the grounds that nothing could persuade him to change the method he was using. In November 1963 a paper of mine in *Watsonia* gave the designation of the tetrads by the method I was using, no doubt the first time any method appeared in print. My *Flora of Hertfordshire* (1967) and *Bedfordshire Plant Atlas* (1976) were based on it, as is now the *Atlas of the Kent Flora* (1982). It has been used in two county atlases of breeding birds and has the recommendation of the BSBI Records Committee for its use. It has had more use than any other method and will no doubt continue to be used, but 23 years ago I would gladly have abandoned it for another method that all recorders were agreed to use.

Mr Forster recommends the use of a method which, with justification, he claims is the only logical one, but it could be confusing to the majority among us who at times find difficulty in using the grid. A major problem is met in describing the limited distribution of a species in a few tetrads – say TQ00 98, TL00 00, 00 02, 02 00 and 02 04. The letters could be omitted as in most counties there is no duplication of 10km<sup>2</sup> numbers. The London Flora was helpful in making it clear which ten-kilometre grid squares are involved, most readers having some knowledge of these, but an economy of space and some impression of the nearness of the records could be given with 09E, 00ABFH, the method I adopted; or 09A, 00MQVW by that of the Sussex Flora.

J.G. DONY, 9 Stanton Road, LUTON, Bedfordshire LU4 0BH.

## STANDARD TETRAD LAYOUT

I agree with G.H. Forster (*BSBI News* 36 p. 31) and wish flora compilers would stick to the National Grid convention that areas are defined by the grid reference of the south-west corner. Tetrads are bounded by the even-numbered grid lines and it is not difficult to see for instance that the point 135279 falls within tetrad 1226. This system was used in the Somerset flora survey and none of the participants had any difficulty with it.

R.G.B. ROE, Seafin, Charlton Adam, SOMERSET TA11 7AS.

## BOTANY BETWEEN THE PAVING STONES

*We instinctively associate botany with rural environments. Even those of us who live in cities inevitably go out to select venues "in the country". But what of those who cannot get to a habitat conducive to botanical study, even occasionally?*

The **Urban Spaces Scheme**, based at the Polytechnic of North London, is a project promoting the use of local open areas for ecological teaching in schools in North London. Concentrating in the Boroughs of Camden, Islington, Hackney and Haringey, the scheme currently employs 3 full-time and twenty-two part-time workers, all graduates in environmental and related sciences, who design and produce teaching aids and field information for teachers in schools.

Schools in urban areas have underused local open spaces for ecological teaching, resulting in part, from the misconception that the educational potential of the man-made environment in cities is not suitable or, at best, offers very limited scope for field studies. However, ecological surveys of many sites within four North London boroughs have shown that even the smallest, highly disturbed sites support a rich variety of plants and invertebrates. This has demonstrated that with a little assistance and simple ecological management these habitats may be encouraged to expand in diversity and hence increase their ecological potential. It is therefore possible to devise work programmes for schools to follow on these sites, including seasonal nature trails and long and short term monitoring projects using both descriptive and quantitative techniques.

Working on sites close to, or within, school grounds, to examine their existing ecological status, the vegetation and invertebrates have been identified and recorded, and the areas mapped. Recommendations for the management required to enhance and extend the ecological potential of the sites have been proposed with due regard to the requirements of the schools.

At the Polytechnic, reference material is being collated: invertebrates, fresh-water plants and animals, fungi and plant galls collections are continuously being added to, as well as a herbarium. A reference library of teaching aids and articles is being built up, not only to assist workers on the project, but to provide a useful resource for those concerned with ecological teaching.

Earlier this year the Polytechnic of North London hosted a Conference bringing together a diverse range of environmental interests under the general theme of the "**Urban Environment as an Ecological Resource**". Organised jointly by the Urban Spaces Scheme and the Polytechnic's Department of Food and Biological Sciences, reflecting the commitment of the Polytechnic to the realisation of the potential that the urban environment offers for education purposes. Delegates from all over the country heard of the initiatives in this direction being made not only in London, but in the Birmingham and West Midlands area. The role of Government funding, from the Manpower Services Commission for projects, enables work concerned with environmental improvement as well as the educational use to which sites may be used, to go ahead and representatives of many such schemes were present at this Conference.

Anyone who would like further information should contact **Monica Hale** at the Polytechnic of North London, Urban Spaces Scheme, Department of Food and Biological Sciences, Holloway, London N7 8DB. (Telephone: 01-607 2789, extn. 2118).

## A FIELD BOTANIST IN THE STREETS OF CHELSEA

As is well known, inner London has a microclimate favourable to the survival of rather tender plants, thanks to the protection afforded by walls, tall buildings and basements, not to mention the heat emanating from office blocks, houses and underground pipes. In the Chelsea area where I did some botanising in the autumn of 1982, there is additionally some ameliorating influence from the tidal Thames nearby.

One of the plants found there, the pink flowered *Polygonum capitatum*, from India, was drawn in issue No. 34. The plant was growing on a rather weedy pavement near the Embankment, and in a quantity sufficient to indicate that it had probably survived the previous very severe winter. No gardens were nearby, only house basements, although the colony could possibly have seeded itself, for example, if at some time tubs of plants had been placed outside on the pavement. The leaves of *Polygonum capitatum* usually carry a dark marking like an inverted 'V'; this fades after material is gathered. Other exotica seen growing on pavements etc., in the Chelsea/Belgravia areas were *Begonia rex*, *Physalis peruviana*, *Impatiens sultani*, *Oxalis latifolia*, and (in particular abundance) *Solanum capsicastrum* which is widely grown in tubs and window boxes. *Tradescantia fluminensis* was flourishing on ruined steps near Vauxhall Bridge. herbs included *Lavandula angustifolia*, *Thymus vulgaris* (10 seedlings in Chester Row), and *Melissa* on stone walls in Ranelagh Gardens. There was a sizeable colony of *Chenopodium murale* at the foot of walls in Cheyne Walk. Caper Spurge was in Eccleston Square, and *Verbena rigida* creeping along an alleyway.

Apart from the ubiquitous Bracken, Hartstongue Fern was very common and *Polypodium vulgare* occasional. *Pteris cretica* was noticed in a disused basement in Chesham Street and on a wall in King's Scholars' Passage; Maidenhair Fern was observed in Ranelagh Grove. *Panicum miliaceum*, Canary Grass and *Guizotia* originated from bird seed, whilst *Persea gratissima* was growing well from a discarded stone thrown into a churchyard. *Campanula porschkyana* was abundant in many places, and *Lobelia erinus* occasional. Among the shrubs *Hebe* x *franciscana* seemed to seed itself most frequently, but *Cotoneaster salicifolius* and *C. franchetii* were seen in several places and (in one area only), *C. lacteus*. A seedling of Snowberry was on the pavement outside the Halkin Arcade, but seedlings of London Plane though abundant are short lived.

One of the few remaining bombed sites is on the corner of Luper Street and Claverton Street where several large seedlings (of a tree) which were not accessible, and not easy to determine from a distance (perhaps a Mulberry). An *Oenothera* which has been a weed for some time at St. Peter's Church, Belgravia also awaits determination.

Finally, some interesting native plants were seen on pavements; Buckshorn Plantain and *Thymus pulegooides* near the Embankment, and *Veronica agrestis* in Alderney Street.

J.R. PALMER, 19 Water Mill Way, S. Darenth, DARTFORD DA4 9BB.

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The Hon. Gen. Sec., c/o Botany Dept, British Museum (Nat. Hist.),  
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

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