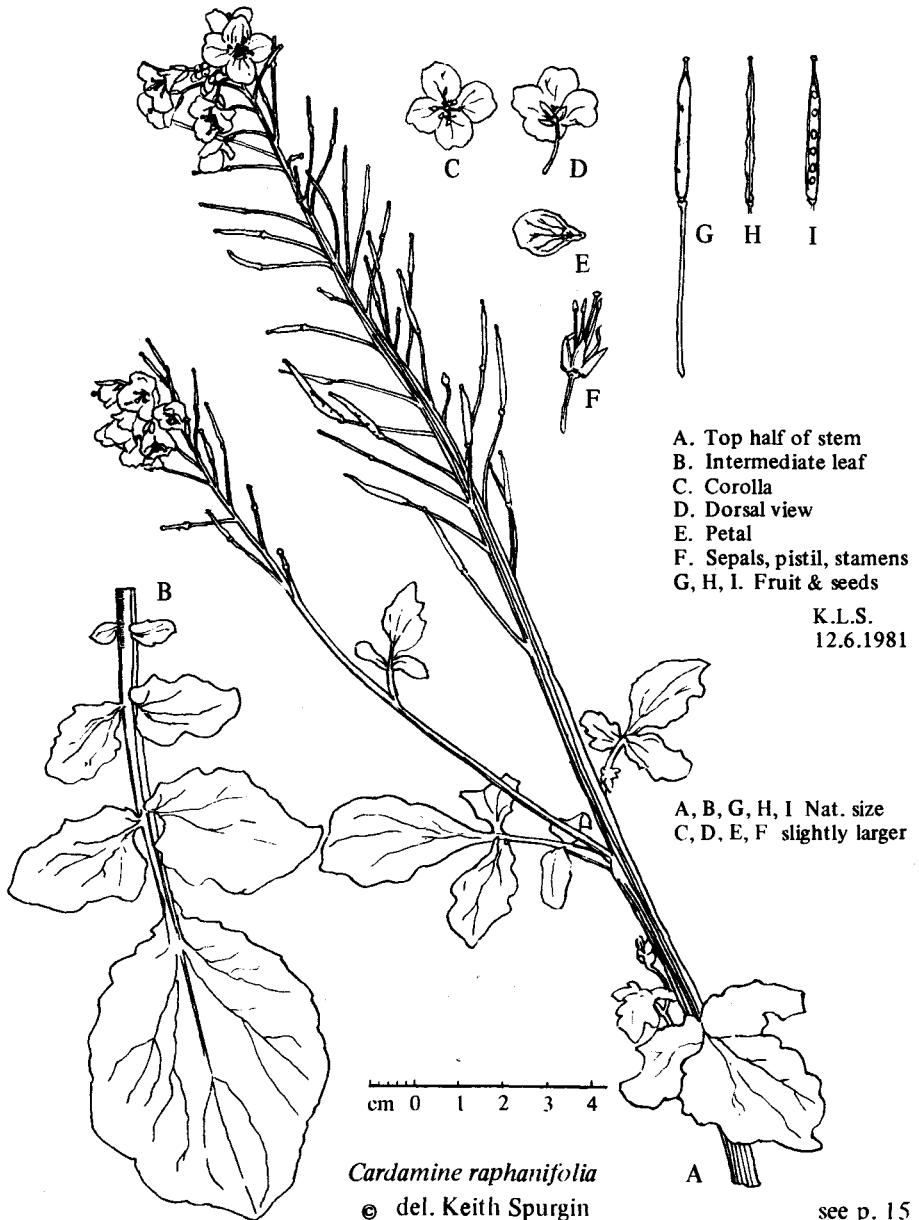


Edited by EDGAR D. WIGGINS

Cowpasture Farm, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9RD



see p. 15

# ADMINISTRATION

HON. GEN. SEC. (General Enquiries)

Mrs. M. Briggs, White Cottage,  
Slinfold, HORSHAM, West Sussex, RH13 7RG.

HON. TREASURER (Payment of Subscriptions and change of address).

Mr. M. Walpole, 68 Outwoods Road,  
LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics. LE11 3LY.

(Please quote membership number on correspondence concerning membership or subscriptions).

HON. FIELD SEC.

(Information on Rare Plants, Field Meetings etc.)

Miss L. Farrell, N.C.C., P.O. Box 6,  
Godwin House, George Street,  
HUNTINGDON, PE18 6BU.

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## ANNUAL EXHIBITION MEETING, NOVEMBER 28.

The closing date for applications for exhibition space at this meeting has been brought forward this year to **OCTOBER 31st**. If intending exhibitors would please take note of this date and send in application forms *early* it will greatly assist the organisers, both with the allotting of bench space and with the preparation of the printed programme. We particularly thank Mary Chorley for her help with setting out this programme, for which she checks and supplies many of the references and authorities, and for her meticulous typing.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1982

Advanced Notice of date and location. **Saturday, 15th May** at Linnean Society and Chelsea Physic Garden. Details available with next mailing.

### FAMILY MEMBERS

Some Family Members who at present receive copies of *BSBI News*, Calendar and Notices of Meetings (in addition to those sent to the Full Member of the Family) have indicated that they do not require these extra copies.

In future, in view of postage costs, these mailings will be sent **ONLY** to those Family Members who specifically request them. If you are a Family Member and would like to receive the mailings, please write to the Hon. Treasurer (address above) to inform him that you do wish to continue to receive the extra copies. (The Ordinary Member of the family will automatically receive all mailings on publication).

### COUNCIL MEMBERS 1981 – 1982

Prof. J.P.M. Brenan (President); Mr D.H. Kent, Mr P.C. Hall, Mr R.W. David, Dr S.M. Walters, (Vice-Presidents); Mrs M. Briggs, (Hon. Gen. Sec.); Mr M. Walpole, (Hon. Treasurer); Dr S.M. Eden, Dr N.K.B. Robson, Dr C.A. Stace, Dr D.L. Wigston, (Hon. Editors *Watsonia*); Miss J. Martin (Hon. Meetings Sec.); Miss L. Farrell (Hon. Field Sec.);

Elected Council in order of seniority, Rule 10:

Mr K.G. Messenger, Dr P.M. Wade, Mr E.D. Wiggins, Mr R.J. Pankhurst, Dr S.L. Jury, Dr G. Halliday, Dr H.A. McAllister, Mr A.O. Chater, Dr A.J. Richards, Dr R.M. Harley, Mrs A. Lee and Mr R.T. Mabey.

Representatives on Council, Rule 11:

Mr T.F.G. Curtis (Ireland); Mr G. Wynne, (Wales); Mrs O.M. Stewart (Scotland).

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

## MARY BRIGGS MBE

Every member of the Society will be delighted, and join in heartiest congratulations to our Hon. General Secretary on the award to her of the MBE in this year's Birthday Honours. The official announcement reads:

**Mary Briggs, Hon. Secretary, Botanical Society.**

As the Head of one of our leading conservation bodies put it:

*"richly deserved by you personally, it is also a fitting recognition of the BSBI's contribution to the public good, especially in the context of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill"*.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like, through "News" to express my gratitude to members of BSBI for electing me President, and record my deep sense of the great honour it confers. I shall endeavour to serve the Society and its interests in every way I can. My own membership started in those days, now seeming far off and very different, when Dr Druce was still a recent memory. Our knowledge and awareness of British plants have made enormous strides forward since then, in large measure due to the stimulus and encouragement of BSBI members. I look forward very much to helping maintain that progress during my term of office. I send all of you my thanks and very best wishes.

J.P.M. Brenan, The Herbarium, Kew.

## HON. GEN. SECRETARY'S NOTES

**Congratulations** to the following BSBI members:

The **British Museum (Natural History)**, holder of the current British title 'Museum of the Year 1980' and now awarded a special commendation in the competition for European Museum of the Year 1980;

**David E. Allen** who has been awarded the Bloomer Medal of the Linnean Society of London;

**Dr John H. Birks** awarded Sc.D., Cambridge, and to **David C. Lang** who has received the Silver Medal of the British Veterinary Association for Research by a practising vet on the use of Ultrasonics as a cure for muscular skeletal disorders.

Our good wishes also to **Maurice Copley** on his retirement after 29 years as Secretary of the Halifax Scientific Society.

**From BSBI Scottish Newsletter No. 3**

"Congratulations to **Elaine Bullard** BSBI vc Recorder for Orkney who was awarded the MBE in the 1981 New Year Honours List, for services to nature conservation. In addition to her BSBI activities Elaine has, for many years, been active in Scottish Wildlife Trust affairs in Orkney, and frequently co-operates closely with the NCC in site investigational work in the islands".

## Bluebell Ties

The Society's motif has been embroidered into navy blue Terylene ties. These are available for £4.25 post paid from Oundle Lodge, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 5TN.

## Records and Referees

The new Honorary Secretary of this Committee will be David McCosh who takes over from Frank Perring. The final handover of papers will take place at the Recorders Conference at Cartrefle College, Wrexham from 11th – 14th September.

An updated list of Recorders\* and Referees, with addresses, is in preparation and will be sent to all members when available. **PLEASE REMEMBER** to send S.A.E. with all enquiries to v.c Recorders and/or Referees and Specialists – or return postage if any specimens sent are required to be returned.

\*(An updated list of the v.c. Recorders in Scotland is published in the current BSBI Scottish Newsletter, Number 3 1981).

## Wildlife and Countryside Bill

Since reported in *BSBI News* 27:p. 5 (1981), the Bill has spent hundreds of hours in Committee, and had a record 1,700 amendments tabled to it. As the Bill returned to the floor of the Commons on 13th July for Report Stage the Government made some concessions, in particular that landowners now must *notify the NCC* before doing anything that could affect an SSSI. Conservationists had suggested this, believing it to be the bare minimum requirement to give any safeguard to SSSI's, and the amendment will allow the NCC the opportunity to try to persuade an owner not to destroy an SSSI.

It is hoped to get the Bill through the Commons and back to Lords by the end of the summer sitting, but the Lords will do the Bill after the summer recess in October. We hope to publish a summary of the completed Bill in *BSBI News* 29.

## Wild Flower Society

Mrs C.M.R. Schwerdt, President of the WFS writes in the Wild Flower Magazine No. 391 Summer 1981, on the links between WFS and BSBI. Recalling the 1920's and 30's when Dr Claridge Druce was "the eminent botanist of the day", both societies were then much smaller and they combined for "10 highly successful Conversaciones at the Great Central Hotel in London". Mrs Schwerdt comments on the 250 (approx.) BSBI members who currently also belong to WFS, and that four members of WFS have been past Presidents of BSBI. We would add that we are pleased to count Mrs Schwerdt among the Honorary Members of *this* Society. Now there are new links between the Societies, with BSBI member Mrs Elizabeth Norman as Hon. Gen. Sec. of WFS, and Michael and Ann Walpole now the membership administration for WFS – as for BSBI. It is therefore most important when writing to 68 Outwoods Road, Loughborough, to quote your BSBI membership number (this number will be on the address label of your mailing).

## Singing from Wales

Congratulations to Goronwy Wynne Chairman of BSBI Committee for Wales, for conducting his Trelawnyd Make Voice Choir into the finals of the BBC Wales Male Voice Choir Championship. The Secretary of the Committee too has been singing, taking part in a sponsored hymn sing straight through Hymns Ancient and Modern in one 30 hour session for the benefit of the NSPCC. We offer admiration to our Welsh colleagues living up to their expected musical traditions.

### *The Flowering of Britain and The Common Ground*

We have just heard from the BBC that their film *The Flowering of Britain*, based on the book of that title by Richard Mabey and Tony Evans (to be reviewed in *Watsonia* 14:1) will be repeated on Sunday 26th July, having been chosen "especially for the pre-Wedding Sunday". I hope that members will have seen this most beautiful portrayal of our wild flowers. The film includes stunning photography — e.g. the meadow flowers in colourful medley seen *through* the close-up of a single flower — and a well chosen script presented by Richard with quiet sincerity. As in the book, his personal observation and experience is reflected in phrases such as — describing the finding of just one fly orchid — "the dusky inflorescences, velvet-bodied, blue waisted, swim up in front of your face in the gloom". We had hoped to give members advance notice of the repeat date for this next showing of the film but, as this has now been brought forward, we are told that another is unlikely before the late summer of 1982 on BBC 1. Meanwhile *The Common Ground* by Richard Mabey, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy Council, reviewed in *Watsonia* 13:4 (1981) is to be published in paperback by Arrow Books on 21st September 1981, at £1.95. It has not been possible to include the colour photographs at this price, but this paperback edition will certainly bring the book, with its clearly set-out conservation message, within the reach of a much wider audience. We are pleased this year to welcome Richard Mabey as a Council Member, elected at the AGM on May 9th, and on his appointment to the Conservation Committee of BSBI also.

### **Not only Aliens on Rubbish Tips**

**Professor John Fremlin**, who is well known for his assiduous hunting for unusual plants in all corners of Britain, made an unusual discovery on his University dump some years ago. It was Priestley's air pump, a piece of apparatus with horizontal cylinder, plunger, valves and a platform for bell-jar, claimed to be an excellent example of the 18th century craftsman instrument-maker's art. In Birmingham last October the Royal Society of Chemistry and British Oxygen Company organised the triennial BOC Priestley Conference, and Professor Fremlin's salvage prowess was acknowledged by his invitation to the Conference Dinner. Joseph Priestley LLD, FRS, was most famous as the discoverer of oxygen, and the discovery of his pump is more significant as most of his equipment was lost when his house and laboratory were burnt down in 1791. The pump is now on indefinite loan from the University of Birmingham to the Royal Society of Chemistry and is on display there at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

### **Tailpieces:**

1. I have just read that Barbara Woodhouse can write 300 letters a day by sending "staccato replies" e.g. "Use a choke chain". I have yet to think of a botanical equivalent — any suggestions?  
M.B.
2. Sent in by Richard Pankhurst:  
Overheard at a party — '*What is he doing at the weekend?*' 'He's got the BSBIAGM' '*Oh dear, does the Dr know?*'
3. At the end of our successful AGM meeting held on May 9th at the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, there was a demonstration of inter-institutional co-operation when the Keeper of the Herbarium, Kew and the Keeper of Botany, British Museum (Natural History) washed and dried the crockery used by the meeting, in perfect harmony.

Mary Briggs

## MORE ABOUT VASCULA by Mary Briggs

Further to my note in *BSBI News 27* I have now received a mini avalanche of vascula each with a history and a character of its own.

I am afraid I cannot give the exact source of the delightful picture reproduced here. It fell from a much-used and battered volume found in (the attic?) my grandfather's house, and possibly entitled *Adventure Tales for Boys*.



Dr Roland botanizing

In size they have ranged from  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 7$  inches (a moss vasculum perhaps?) to  $10 \times 21$  inches; made from tin, iron and copper and painted black, white or green decorated with roses, – as the delightful heirloom donated by **Dr U.K. Duncan**. This antique, Ursula tells me, belonged to her great-grandmother's sister who died in 1906 aged 91. Ursula and her father found it in the house when they inherited it in 1927. As well as the patterned border and floral bouquet painted on the outside an additional feature of interest is a small separate compartment partitioned off at one end. A similar vasculum, green and painted with decorative pictures was shown at the Annual Exhibition Meeting in 1976 by **Guy Messenger** – this had belonged to his aunt. Among some vascula recently offered by the Biological Sciences Dep't at Exeter University was one of a pattern that the Dep't used to have made locally for sale to their Honours Botany Students for £1.

A new member, **Mrs Nora McMillan**, kindly donating her vasculum tells me that it is an "honourable veteran" much used in her native Ulster when she was a "protégée of the mighty Praegar". Mrs McMillan now works part-time at the Merseyside County Museum; she is a conchologist but also a botanist and we are pleased to welcome her to BSBI.

The largest vasculum that I have encountered belongs to **E.S. Eedes** who tells me that it measures  $21 \times 10 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$  inches and that it is ideal for his *Rubi* collecting. Eric writes "I find that if the tins are tightly packed the plants remain in good condition for four days. Years ago when we had a bramble holiday we used to fill the boot of the car with presses and paper and I had to spend hours every evening drying plants and also paper. Nowadays we go away for a long weekend and do the work when we get home. The brambles in the vasculum are easily separated by half sheets of newspaper. I have tried polythene bags as carriers, but brambles are prickly things and it is a fiddling job having to tie

the pieces together. Give me my two vascula (one is slightly smaller), one in each hand, and let me march off into a wood. I met a gamekeeper once who thought I was poaching rabbits. When I showed him a nice piece of *Rubus nemoralis* he was quite taken aback!"

Another anecdote comes from **Jim Milner** who recalls that on war-time military service the space between helmet and gas mask carrier made an ideal plant container for off-duty botanical sorties.

Mrs **E.F. Warburg** donated the vascula from her attic in response to our appeal in *BSBI News* 27:4 (1981) *A Vasculum in the Attic* – well used in historic field work when our "CTW Flora" was in preparation. Another has been offered by **Miss Ruth Hartas Jackson**, and altogether now 28 vascula have been passed on through the BSBI Vasculum Pool. Any member with a genuine need for a vasculum should please contact the Hon. Gen Secretary (address on page 2).

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Dr Ursula Duncan sends us this further note

#### DID THE REV. C.A. JOHNS USE A VASCULUM ?

As vascula are still in the news it occurred to me to look at a copy of Johns' *Flowers of the Field* which my great aunt (sister of the one who owned the vasculum) bought in 1882, to see if the author is depicted carrying a vasculum in the newspaper cutting which Miss Duncan pasted opposite the title page. Here is an amusing sketch of an elderly gentleman wearing a top hat perched half-way up an impossible cliff with rows of imperturbable sea birds on ledges below him. He is impeded by a large oblong rectangular object having the appearance of a plant press or possibly a vasculum slung on his shoulder. Underneath is printed: 'A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF HOW NOT TO GO PLANT-COLLECTING: THE REV. C.A. JOHNS SCALING THE CLIFFS AT GUE GRAZE ON THE SOUTH COAST OF CORNWALL'. And below: 'Still I was not safe – I was now balanced on my hands and one knee on the edge of a cliff – one leg was still hanging over idle – and my book which I had not had the means of getting rid of, had slipped round in front and inserted itself between my body and the rock'.

What was this "book"? The artist clearly did not know.

URSULA K. DUNCAN, Parkhill, ARBROATH DD11 5RG.

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New Vascula – we are informed that although these are still in production, the firm supplying them does not normally sell to individuals. Their model – Catalogue No. YRT-500-U – is of lightweight anodised aluminium 38 cm x 8 cm x 13 cm with flat base for carrying collecting jars. Lid can be opened and closed with one hand. Complete with adjustable webbing shoulder-strap. The current price £30.75 plus packing and postage £2.00 plus VAT £4.91. Members purchasing should *state clearly they are members of BSBI* and enclose remittance of £37.66, and address the order to: GRIFFIN & GEORGE LTD., Gerrard Biological Centre, Worthing Road, EAST PRESTON, W. Sussex, BN16 1AS.

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## INVITATION

### British Museum (Natural History) Centenary Open Days

In celebration of 100 years at South Kensington, there will be Open Days at the Museum on Wednesday and Thursday NOVEMBER 18 and 19 10.30 – 16.30. More than 100 exhibits will be shown and staff will be on hand to talk about their research and services. BSBI members are invited to go "behind the scenes" in six of the Departments:-

Botany, Zoology, Palaeontology, Mineralogy, Entomology and Library Services.

Tickets for admission will *not* be issued, but those who wish to attend are asked to inform the 'Open Days Office', B.M. (Nat. Hist.), Cromwell Road, LONDON SW7 5BD. Telephone: 01-589-6323 Exts. 667 and 206.

## BLACK NIGHTSHADE SURVEY – THIRD INTERIM REPORT

The final year of the Black Nightshade Survey yielded a further 63 completed cards, making a grand total of 341 records during the three years of the survey. Although these new records again represented a fairly wide range of vice counties, with the exception of S. Lincoln (v.c. 53), none were received for any of the other vice counties from which records were missing and which were listed in my Second Interim Report (*BSBI News*, 24: 20-21, 1980). This was a little disappointing, since the *Atlas of British Flowering Plants* (Perring, F.H., Sell, P.D. and Walters, S.M.) gives fairly plentiful records for '*S. nigrum*' in E. Cornwall (v.c. 2), Bedford (v.c. 30), Hereford (v.c. 36), Carmarthen (v.c. 44), Nottingham (v.c. 56) and S.W. Yorkshire (v.c. 63). However, the *Atlas* does also verify the absence of records for this species from Brecon (v.c. 42), Radnor (v.c. 43), Montgomery (v.c. 47) and Anglesey (v.c. 52), while giving relatively few records for it in Stafford (v.c. 39), Cardigan (v.c. 46) and Carnarvon (v.c. 49).

By the final year, most of the difficulties encountered during the scoring of the more variable and complex morphological characters seem to have been overcome, hopefully as a result of the explanatory notes included in my First and Second Interim Reports (*BSBI News*, 21: 12-13, 1979, and *op. cit.*).

The completed records were again predominantly of the purple/black- or black-berried variant of *S. nigrum* L. subsp. *nigrum*. Two possible records were also received of the yellow/green-berried variant of this subspecies; these were from S. Essex (v.c. 18) and Leicester (v.c. 55). Approximately 26 records of this yellow/green-berried variant were received during the survey, indicating that it is comparatively rare in the British Isles, and that it is more common in the south, particularly in the south-east. Most of the records came from E. Sussex (v.c. 14), W. Kent (v.c. 16), Surrey (v.c. 17), S. Essex (v.c. 18), N. Essex (v.c. 19), Hertfordshire (v.c. 20), E. Suffolk (v.c. 25), W. Suffolk (v.c. 26), E. Norfolk (v.c. 27) and Northampton (v.c. 32).

Following my plea in the Second Interim Report for members to be particularly on the look-out for the glabrous-haired *S. nigrum* L. subsp. *schultesii* (Opiz) Wess., three additional records of this subspecies were received. These were from W. Kent (v.c. 16) and Middlesex (v.c. 21), whereas those received last year were from S. Essex (v.c. 18) and W. Norfolk (v.c. 28). So, although this subspecies seems to be comparatively rare in the British Isles, it is more or less confined to the south-east where, I suspect, it is a little more common than our records suggest.

Among the casual relatives of *S. nigrum* found in the British Isles, a further four records of *S. sarrachoides* Sendtn. were received, and these included a new vice county (W. Suffolk, v.c. 26). These additional records were all of the form with the half-acrescent calyces. This species is again largely confined to the south and east, where it appears to be relatively common. During the survey, the variant with the half-acrescent calyces was recorded from E. Sussex (v.c. 14), W. Kent (v.c. 16), Surrey (v.c. 17), Buckinghamshire (v.c. 24), W. Suffolk (v.c. 26), Cambridge (v.c. 29), W. Gloucester (v.c. 34), Worcester (v.c. 37) and Shropshire (v.c. 40). Only two records of the comparatively rare variant with the fully accrescent calyces were received, and these were from S. Essex (v.c. 18) and Hertfordshire (v.c. 20). Perhaps I should mention here, that one record of the hybrid between *S. nigrum* subsp. *nigrum* and *S. sarrachoides*, namely *S. x procurrens* Leslie, was also received this year, this coming from A.C. Leslie, who originally discovered and described it.

With regard to the remaining casuals to be found in the British Isles, this year, both *S. chenopodioides* Lam. and *S. scabrum* Mill. were recorded. Both were noted as escapes



from the recorder's garden, in S.E. Yorkshire (v.c. 61). Although I received several possible records of the tiny-flowered *S. americanum* Mill. during the survey, from the information supplied, none of these were verifiable as positive records of this species. Perhaps surprisingly, no positive, or even possible, records were received of the remaining casual, the red- or orange-berried tetraploid *S. villosum* Lam., either as the glandular-haired subsp. *villosum*, or as the eglandular-haired subsp. *puniceum* (Kirschleger) Edmonds. This species is quite common in Europe, and has been recorded in the British Isles.

I have called this the "Third Interim Report" rather than the "Final Report", since a full report of the survey will be written up for publication in due course, and hopefully, for *Watsonia*. This will include distribution maps of the two subspecies of *S. nigrum* and of *S. sarrachoides*, and will give full information on the morphological variation displayed by these two species in the British Isles, and on the variety of habitats that they colonise.

The Black Nightshade Survey has resulted in an extensive correspondence with a large number of BSBI members, which has provided a great deal of interesting information on the plants scored and on their habitats. This has brought me into contact with a great many enthusiastic and willing 'helpers', many of whom patiently revisited sites to collect pieces of particularly difficult plants, so that I could confirm their scoring and identifications. I shall greatly miss this aspect of the survey, and would like to record my final thanks to all those members who helped in this survey, and especially to thank those who worked so hard on my behalf, sending in large numbers of completed cards each year. Without you, the survey, so worthwhile which has yielded so much invaluable information on *S. nigrum* and relatives in the British Isles, would not have been possible.

JENNIFER M. EDMONDS Now of: Department of Agricultural Science, University of Oxford, Parks Road, OXFORD, OX1 3PF.

### ARE BOTANISTS REALLY INTERESTED IN CONSERVATION ?

Over the past few years whilst working at various sites of rare species, I have come across many visiting botanists who have *not* obtained permission from the NCC or the appropriate County Naturalists' Trust. Permission is usually granted to bona fide botanists unless the species concerned is under particular stress and would suffer further from visitors.

Often the same people re-visit a site year after year just to see how the colony is progressing. This information is already being collected, in many cases by official monitors, and the local NCC officer can provide a recent report of the state of play if asked. Visitors are often not aware of the many seedlings and young plants that they damage whilst closely examining or photographing flowering specimens.

Once people have been to a site they seem willing to pass on the whereabouts of the rare species to others, without telling them to obtain permission first, or considering whether the increased number of visitors may seriously affect the well-being of the plants. Would well-intentioned BSBI members please co-operate in the work of conservation by staying away from vulnerable sites.

If members wish to help by monitoring or wardening sites in their own neighbourhood they should either contact me, or the local NCC officer, or County Naturalists' Trust officer. They could then see for themselves the problems caused by needless visiting.

If I do encounter any more unauthorised visitors they had better be prepared to run fast or plug their ears, for I will be exceedingly angry.

LYNNE FARRELL, NCC (address on p. 2).

# NOTICES

## SCOTTISH BIRCHES

Symposium organised by the Botanical Society of Edinburgh  
to be held on 24 – 26 September, 1982, at

### ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH

This will commence with an Open Session on the afternoon of Friday 24 September, 1982 when anyone may submit a paper on rather more specialised aspects of the study of arborescent birches (prior notification to A. Bennell, RBG, Edinburgh). A poster session is being organised for the same period.

Conference fee £5 but contributors will be the guests of the Society.

#### Summary of Programme

##### FRIDAY

Afternoon: Open Session

Evening: Regius Keeper RBG; President BSE; History of Birches by H.J.B. Birks.

##### SATURDAY

Morning: Taxonomy and Distribution; Ecological aspects; Age structure in natural communities; Reproductive character and variation.

Afternoon: Nutrient cycles in birchwoods; Physiological studies; Cytology and Genetics; Epiphytes of birch.

Evening: Macrofungi of birchwoods; Mycorrhizas; Fungal pathogens; Viruses of birch.

##### SUNDAY

Morning: Insects of birchwoods; Habitats of other invertebrates; Exotic birches; Birch in horticulture.

Afternoon: Man's use of birch, past and present; *Betula nana*

Further information from: Dr Roy Watling, Royal Botanic Garden, EDINBURGH EH3 5LR.

## FIELD MEETING – SWEDEN – EARLY AUGUST 1982

### PRELIMINARY NOTICE

By courtesy of The National Swedish Protection Board, tentative plans are being made for an expedition to the Gavle area of Sweden, based for 12 days at the Jadrass Field Station about 100 miles north of Stockholm to study the rich local flora including *Salix* spp. of which there are a great variety. Excursions to the many interesting habitats in this region will be led by R.D. Meikle.

Accommodation in student quarters available to members at advantageous rates.

It is anticipated that transport to the field station will be either by car and ferry (4 passengers the car goes free) or by air from Heathrow to Stockholm and thence by hired vehicle or public transport. Whether or not it is feasible to hire a vehicle will depend on the numbers without a place in a private car.

The estimated cost, based on current prices is £300 and including travel to and from the field station, use of car or hired transport, basic accommodation and meals.

Persons wishing to take part in this expedition should contact me **no later than the 15th October, 1981**, in order that the potential support can be assessed.

E.R.T. CONACHER, An Fharaid, Lawmarnock Rd, BRIDGE OF WEIR, Renfrewshire, PA11 3AP.

## DARWIN CENTENARY CONFERENCE

27 June – 2 July 1982

Darwin College Cambridge is taking the occasion of the Centenary of Charles Darwin's death to promote a Conference to survey the present state and prospects of evolutionary theories in a wide range of scientific domains, as seen by their leading exponents.

The Conference will be primarily scientific rather than historical, but not intended only for specialists. To encourage informed and general discussion, the Conference will be strictly limited in size, and as demand is expected to be heavy, early application is advised.

There will be a Registration Fee of £40, and full board and lodging can be provided for participants at about £30 a day. For more details and application forms, send post-card to the Honorary Secretary, Darwin Centenary Conference, Darwin College, Cambridge CB3 9EU.

### CONSERVATION OF IRISH PLANTS

In connection with the note by James White in *BSBI News* 27, dealing with protection of rare Irish plants, members may be interested to know that in addition to nine of the species which are also in cultivation at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, five others are in cultivation in the Botanic Garden of Trinity College, Dublin. These are:

*Gymnocarpium robertianum*

*Crambe maritima*

*Trifolium subterraneum*

*Limonium transwallianum*

*Poa alpina*

In addition to these there is a considerable collection of moderately rare, very variable or otherwise interesting species, all of known Irish origin, as well as a seed-bank of Irish plants. It is intended that these collections will be added to in the course of the next year or two. Material of them can be supplied on reasonable notice to *bona fide* research workers.

P. WYSE JACKSON and D.A. WEBB, School of Botany, Trinity College, DUBLIN 2.

### WOOL ALIENS

Mr T.B. Ryves, well known for his work on wool aliens, has a large number of duplicate specimens from his extensive collection, which he is willing to make available to members who could make good use of them. Mr Ryves explains that much of the material is "somewhat unidentified and will take quite a lot of time and effort to get it into order; good practice for an enthusiast." In view of the decreasing use of shoddy as a fertilizer over recent years, the specimens will have a special and appreciating value. Interested members should write to Mr Ryves at the address shown below, indicating their special interest in acquiring these duplicates.

T.B. RYVES, 44 Galsworthy Road, KINGSTON HILL, KT2 7BS.

### ORKNEY ISLANDS MEETING CANCELLED (June 27 to July 4)

Our commiserations to those members who had planned to join this meeting (it was fully booked). Elaine Bullard writes that unfortunately it had to be cancelled as the boat was wrecked earlier in the summer.

# ALIENS and ADVENTIVES

## ADVENTIVE NEWS 20

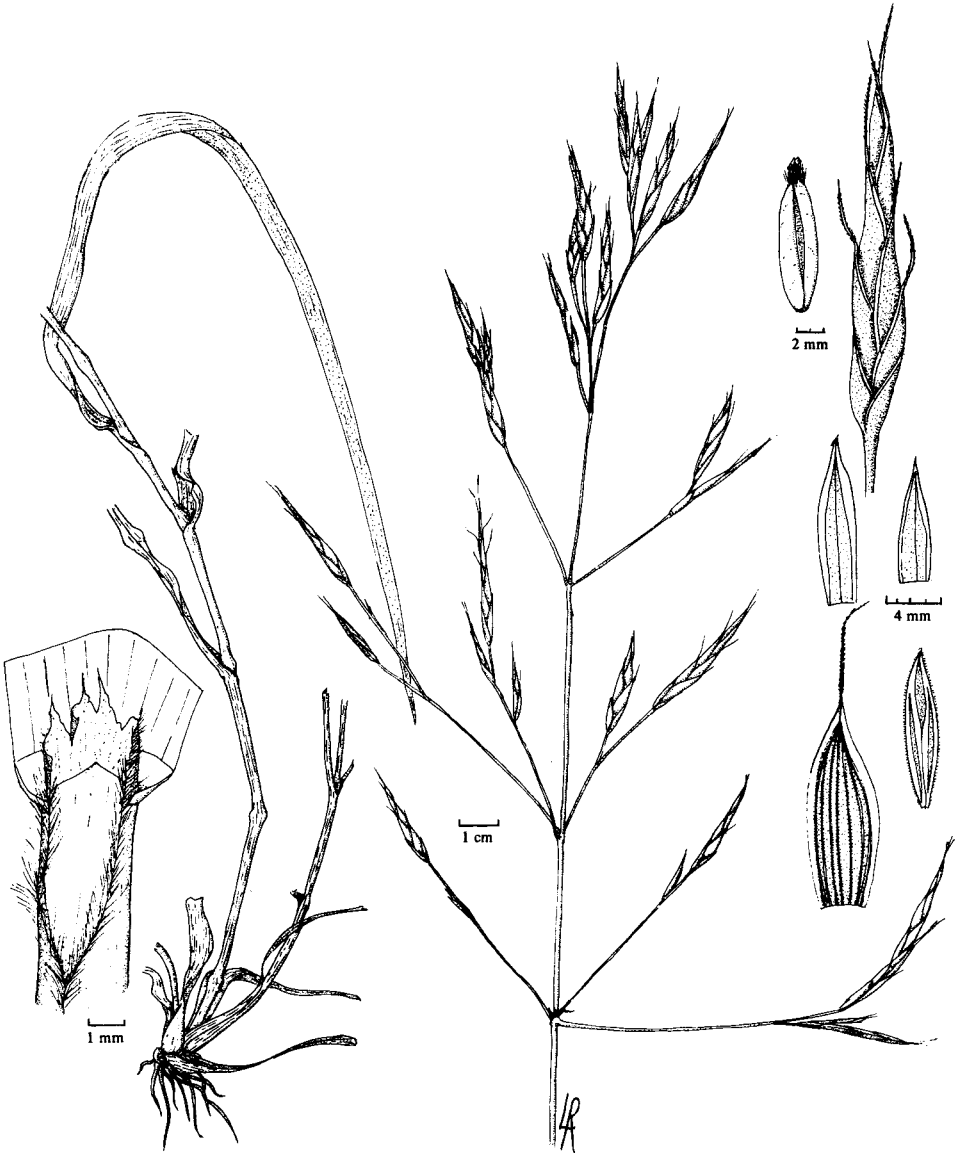
compiled by Eric J. Clement

### SWEET BROMEGRASS IN BRITAIN

The Californian *Bromus carinatus* Hook. & Arn. now dominates several miles of tow-path and roadverges centred about Kew (Surrey); it appears in Dr C.E. Hubbard's *Grasses* (1968) only as a footnote to p. 73 (not p. 71, as in the index), and there is no portrait. Nor does Butcher (1961) supply one. Lysbeth Richards has kindly filled the gap, depicting for us a plant from near Kew bridge. CTW gives a good description; the few and large, heavy-looking, strongly compressed, glistening spikelets with awns 5 - 10 mm long make it a distinct and conspicuous grass – readily confused only with the always-casual *B. unioloides* (awns only 1 - 3 mm). It was first found at Kew as an escape from the Royal Bot. Gdns by CEH about 1919, but not until 1945 was it found in Middlesex on the other side of the mighty R. Thames. Since then it has spread fast – see D.H. Kent's valuable notes in *London Nat.* 46:39 (1967). Its presence at Oxford was first noted in 1937; it "is still around in the Oxford area, especially along the Thames towpath S. of the city. It prefers open, warm soils and does not invade mature closed grassland as does *B. inermis*" (comm. Dr H.J.M. Bowen). HJMB tells me also of his records from 4 localities in Berks (1965-77), Tewkesbury (E. Glos.) in 1977 and Wareham (Dorset) in 1978. Recent NCR's include Durham (1 locality) and E. Suffolk (see below, 1 locality). Miss B. Davies had it on a grassy roadside near Chirk (Denbs) in July 1979. Det. EJC.

I wonder how this grass naturally spreads? Its large seed size (1000-seed weight of around 10 grams – compared with 2-3 grams for *Lolium multiflorum*) does not aid dispersion! And the seed is markedly lacking in its ability to adhere to clothing or fur. Its predilection for grass verges suggests that grass-cutting machinery might be a major feature of its spread in Br. (The very broad-bladed leaves and its short-lived perennial duration make deliberate sowing unthinkable). In my own Kingston-on-Thames (Surrey), its only site that I know of is immediately outside the Council sheds where the mowers are stored! A few years ago I saw a few plants on neatly-trimmed residential road verges in nearby New Malden and Worcester Park existing by tree-bases where the mower could not cut. They have perished, whereas at equally nearby Ham the rough grass verges bristle with this brome. By the Thames, it frighteningly dominates totally and ousts out all competition from grass and herbs alike. I conclude that short and regular cutting eliminates it, but occasional cutting greatly encourages it. Its very vigorous growth, especially in late summer, together with my observations of the grass's ability to set seed in almost *every* month of the year certainly helps it. Such flowers are cleistogamous – indeed, I could find, in Oct 1978, any chasmogamous flowers for our artist to draw. (Nor have I seen any since!). The caryopsis develops immediately; the rudimentary anthers sit on top of the ovary (see drawing).

And now agriculture is helping the spread. Mr J.P. Shildrick (Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, W. Yorks) and Mr D.T.A. Aldrich (NIAB, Cambridge) generously supplied me with much information, pointing out that further, widespread records are imminent. *Bromus carinatus* 'Deborah' has recently been widely introduced into agricultural use in the U.K. as a potentially better alternative to Cocksfoot (*Dactylis*) for dry areas or light soils. Marketed by the well-known firm *Dunns Seed and Grain Ltd.* of Corsham, Wilts, as Sweet Bromegrass ("The Revolutionary – an exciting new grass for Mid-season production"), it has lived up to its promise in independent tests by the



*Bromus carinatus* © Mrs L. Richards

West of Scotland Agricultural College (see *Tech. Note* No. 24, Apr 1978, by R.D. Harkess) and by the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) at Cambridge. Dr T.I. Emercz of *Dunns*, who was responsible for its selection, kindly wrote to me at length (18.11.1980), and I quote:

"I started to work with the species in the 1960's and the variety was brought into commerce in the mid 1970's. It is based on two ecotypes; one which colonised in the Thames Valley after escaping from the RBG at Kew, and the other originated from collections made on the slopes of the Andes in Latin America. The original plants were subjected to simulated grazing treatment and selected plants were used to provide crossings on which subsequent breeding work was carried out.

"The variety Deborah is somewhat shorter, but considerably more leafy and more digestible than the original ecotypes. Various quality analyses were carried out with the variety, and it was shown to be generally very high in nutritive value. The name Sweet brome is my own creation and it is based on the fact that its soluble sugar content is higher than any other *Bromus* species and this is associated with high palatability. The Sweet brome name, therefore, does describe the characteristics of the material in a meaningful way to the farmer. It is usual to have a so-called common name, a substitute for the botanical name, but as the species was not in use prior to our introduction, I thought that the introduction of a new common name would also be appropriate.

"The spread of the usage of Deborah is very considerable, and stretches from Cornwall to Kent in an East-West direction and up to Ayr and Edinburgh in the North. There is considerable usage in the Eastern counties of England as well. One could virtually say that there is usage in every county. In this respect I am talking only of Deborah, because there are no other varieties, ecotypes or strains of *Bromus carinatus* which would be either in private or commercial use. Prior to the release of the seed by us, there was no utilisation of the species in the U.K., with the exception of reference samples in the Royal Botanic Gardens".

The change of name from Californian Brome (used throughout USA) to Sweet Brome is unfortunate, but I think Br field botanists should follow suit: that is how it is sold to our farmers. 'Deborah' has performed well, too, as an export to Australia, France, Sweden, etc. But, at CARB Research Station, Beaverlodge, Alberta, Canada, it flopped when compared with *B. inermis*, presumably due to the cold climate. Contrast the 1976 drought in Britain, when it was reported as the only green grass in the Bristol area. I conclude with my only record supporting the above facts: has no one else spotted it as a crop relic? (or as a crop).

Densely sown, narrow strip at edge of field left uncut and now merged into grass verge of roadside, in Harkstead Lane, Woolverstone (E. Suffolk), Sept 1978. Mrs E.M. Hyde. Hb. E & MH. Conf. EJC. The farm-manager explained that it was grown for silage, and was a drought-resistant race called 'Deborah'. Further spread from here is predictable. It is still unknown by botanists in W. Suffolk and in many other vc's.

## MIXED BAG

Several of the records below are new, or nearly new, to Br. It is remarkable how some quite common garden plants have *never* been reported as escaped, or "apparently wild", before. Records of rare aliens or adventives are sometimes published in the countless local newsletters or journals: those of national interest should be reprinted, or at least referenced, in *BSBI News*. Contributions of this nature I always greatly welcome.

*Aconitum vulparia*: Large patch on edge of drainage ditch in pastureland, by road from Dunnett to Dunnett Head (Caithness), July 1978. A.L. Grenfell. Within 100 yards of the well-known *Senecio smithii* site. Cf. *BSBI News* 23, p.8.

*Althaea cannabina* L. : Waste ground, car-park outside RHS Garden, Wisley (Surrey), Sept 1973. Dr A.C. Leslie. Hb. ACL. Now gone, but still in cult. by ACL at Guildford.

*Amaranthus lividus* L. : Grand Douit, Rue Sauvage, St. Sampsons (Guernsey), 1980. Carolyn Hellyer. Det. EJC. Only one other recent record exists?, as follows: grown on by C.G. Hanson from wool shoddy ex Newnham (Herts), 1973. Hb. EJC. In 1980 CH also

collected the perennial *A. deflexus* L. (conf. EJC) from by the Power Station, Vale (Guernsey), but this very similar species is well-known and established in the Channel Islands. Dandy (1958) has the wrong plant out of this pair in his *List!*

*Asperugo procumbens* L. : A few plants at edge of sugar-beet field, Sudbourne (E. Suffolk), June 1980. M.A. Hyde. Hb. E & MH. A virtually weed-free field with no associated aliens. No other recent casual records are on my files, yet it is still thoroughly naturalized at just one spot in Br (since 1848!) – on the shore below cliffs at Auchmithie (Angus). Pilgrims visit it each year! Curiously, it is a fully established alien in Greenland in various localities, including “on cliffs” (Pederson, 1972:10).

*Chenopodium capitatum* (L.) Aschers. : In carrots, West End Farm, Stevington (Beds.), Oct 1980. Dr J.G. & Mrs C.M. Dony. LTN. “Our greatest pleasure this year”, wrote CMD. ? 1st Br record for some years, and a species to be removed from Dandy’s *List Br Vasc. Plants!* It was in Beds., Herts, etc. some 20 years ago, but has not been seen since. Dr H.J.M. Bowen’s 1972 record, from Oxford tip, is the only other correct one known.

*Clematis tangutica* (Maxim.) Korsh. : Quarry at Cothill, Oxon (v.c. 22, Berks), 1976. R.C. Palmer. OXF. Det. DMcC. Comm. HJMB & J. Milton. Dumping here stopped in c. 1962, so this vine was apparently long overlooked in the BBONT nature reserve, and is now extinct (killed by the winter?).

*Cardamine raphanifolia* Pourret: On river bank, between Fentongoose and Hugus (W. Cornwall), June 1981. Jean McNaughton. Comm. K.L. Spurgin. Conf. EJC. More than 100 plants, in shade of deciduous trees, stretching over 75m. 1st record for Cornwall. Keith Spurgin has meticulously portrayed his plant for us: this species may be overlooked elsewhere. CTW, p. 163, gives its status as “occasionally established”, which is still very true, but describing the *fruit* (not seeds) as “winged” is an obvious error. When without its deep lilac fls, it could be mistaken by its leaves as a *Barbarea* sp. (I have done so!).

*Cornus macrophylla* Wallich: Naturalized by R. Wey, Godalming (Surrey), 1978. Mrs J.E. Smith & Dr A.J. Stevens. (*Surrey Flora Committee Newsletter* – March 1979). 1st Br record.

*Dianthus* cvs: New roadside verge, at end of A40, Asthall Barrow (Oxon), 1980. Found independently by HJMB and Dr P Machperson from their respective cars! HJMB collected a voucher for RNG, labelling it “*D. plumarius* L. – or hybrid? – fls pink, base cerise, bearded; fragrant”. PM sent me six small samples: all differed to some extent and they suggested *D. caryophyllus* × *gratianopolitanus* × *plumarius* in various combinations – four were *D. cary.* × *grat.* and one was *D. cary.* × *plum.* . . . I believe.

*Dicksonia antarctica* Labill. : Woods W. of Knightstown, Valencia Island (S. Kerry), Sept 1960. D. McClintock. RNG. Det. C. Jermy, 1961. Several large clumps, 6 ft tall, in competition with native plants. All without spores. J.M. Mullin confirms that it is ± natzd in W. Ireland and the Scillies. L.J. Margetts reports that this Tree Fern “seeds itself freely in some of the larger (derelict) estates in W. Cornwall – there is a good colony near Falmouth on the roadbanks of a road going through an estate. One can nearly always find at least 50 sporelings here”.

*Ecballium elaterium*: On rough slope by promenade, Westgate (E. Kent), Aug 1961. B. Wurzell. Hb. BW. Det. JEL “Naturalized”, but no more recent reports exist for Kent/Sussex. Cf. *BSBI News* 26, p. 16. There are no Br sheets of Squirting Cucumber in BM (not even an historical gathering). In RNG there is just one, from Thornton-with-Cleveleys tip, nr. Blackpool (W. Lancs.), Nov 1959, coll. Rev C.E. Shaw. “Frs about 2 ins long, curved like a sausage, with spines”. It was reported as a weed in Oxford Bot. Gdn. some 5 years ago, and there is just one record from wool shoddy (Beds, 1955, Hb. HJMB).

To see it thriving, one must go to Jersey (note that the Channel Islands are considered as Ga (=France) in *Flora Europaea* 1-5), where it is well-established (e.g. a weed in the Fantastic Gardens).

*Hypericum pseudohenryi* N. Robson: River bank, in woodland, at Glengarriff (W. Cork), Aug 1979. R.C. Stern. Det. Dr N.K.B. Robson. There were a number of bushes, c. 1m tall, scattered along the river bank, some distance from houses, and certainly looking naturalized; it was locally known as "Rose of Sharon"! The only other alien present was *Rhododendron ponticum* (assuming the *Arbutus* to be native there). NKBR wrote (Dec 1980): "It is not *H. forrestii* (as misdet. EJC) but *H. pseudohenryi* N. Robson (in *J. Roy. Hort. Soc.* 95:493 (1970), which was introduced into cultivation somewhat earlier than *H. forrestii*. I am most interested to know that it has become naturalized in Ireland. There are no other records of this species – or, indeed, of any other member of sect. *Ascyreia* except *H. calycinum* – for the British Isles, despite the popularity of this group of species in gardens. 'Hidcote', of course, is sterile".

*Iris orientalis* Miller, non Thunb. (*I. ochroleuca* L.): Outside old garden, Abbotsbury (Dorset), 1960-80. Dr H.J.M. Bowen. This distinctive plant is probably better regarded as a white-yellow fld var. of *I. spuria*.

*Lamarckia aurea* (L.) Moench: River shingle, Galashiels (Roxburghs.), June 1979. Mrs O.M. Stewart. E. Olga Stewart has kindly depicted this pretty, ornamental grass for us: it is a small, Mediterranean annual with bright green leaves and a silvery-green inflorescence turning to light brown at maturity, and often tinged with purple or gold. It has repeatedly (but rarely) come into Br with wool shoddy. Coincidentally, "Golden Top" was featured, with a drawing, in *Veld & Flora* 66: 123-125 (Dec 1980): it has been known on the Cape for 80 years, but has still not spread elsewhere in S. Africa, "a benign invader". Our Royal Navy may have transferred it to the dockyard there from Malta.

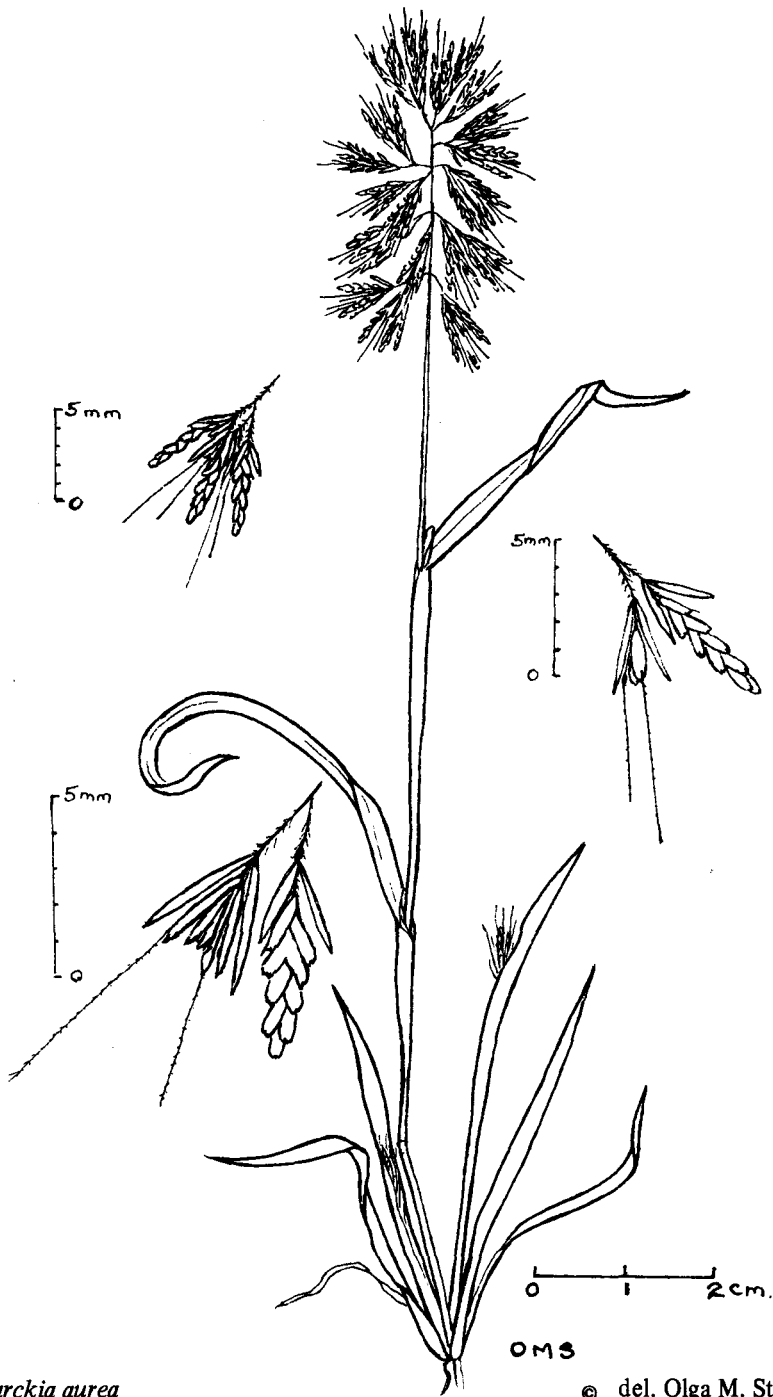
*Limonium latifolium* (Sm.) O. Kuntze: Waste ground at edge of railway, Histon (Cambs.), July 1973. G.M.S. Easy. "Grown locally as a horticultural crop".

*Linum austriacum* L. ssp. *austriacum*: New roadside verge, at end of A40, Asthall Barrow (Oxon), June 1980. Dr P Macpherson. Hb. EJC. One plant, some 10 yards from the *Dianthus* complex (see above). Presumably introduced c. 2 years ago with grass-seed/white-clover mix; no other aliens were present. It is a perennial very closely allied to *L. anglicum*, but has smaller capsules and seeds and recurved fruit pedicels. Inexplicably, the drawing in Butcher (1961), 1:519, is a good match for this alien! I have no other modern records for this C. & S. European sp., but noteworthy it is naturalized in Denmark (Hb. EJC). It may have been overlooded in Br?

## RARE BIRD-SEED GRASSES

C.G. Hanson has, for some years, meticulously grown diverse samples of bird-seed mixtures in his garden and greenhouse at Ware, Herts. Almost all the common grass and non-grass tip species normally assumed to be of bird-seed origin are now "proven" as regards this vector of introduction (perhaps one of several in some spp.). Some seed (notably that from Ethiopia) initially proved very difficult to germinate and to grow to maturity, and indeed, it might never germinate in the wild in Br, but the extraordinary results are worthy of record here. Noteworthy, one of the most difficult ones, the *Beckeropsis*, did prosper in Sept 1965 in a railway-yard in Rotterdam harbour (Holland) – see the fine drawing, labelled as *B. cf. petiolaris*, in *Gorteria* 3:55-56 (1966). CEH wrote (13.7.1976):





*Lamarckia aurea*

© del. Olga M. Stewart 1981

"The *Eragrostis* (BS 240) is one of the numerous varieties of *E. tef* (Zucc.) Trotter, which differ in the form of the panicle and in the colour and size of the spikelets. The *Phleum* (BS 237) is a form of *P. pratense* L. The *Pennisetum* is the East African *P. glabrum* Steud., probably from Ethiopia. The *Setaria* (BS 233) is *S. sphacelata* (Schumacher) Stapf & Hubbard, a perennial African species, widespread from W. Tropical to E. Tropical and south to S. Africa; it has larger leaf blades and inflorescences than *S. pallidifusca* which is an annual".

CEH wrote further (1.3.1977): "There are some interesting species, including *Hyparrhenia anthistirioides* (A. Rich.) Stapf, of N.E. Africa which I do not remember seeing as an introduction before. Also *Digitaria ternata* (A. Rich.) Stapf, of tropical & S. Africa, which occasionally comes in as a wool alien; this specimen is not fully developed, the fruit turning blackish at maturity. The specimen of the African grass *Sporobolus panicoides* A. Rich. is very young and consequently does not show the characteristic large brown grains. The grass with the petiolate leaf-blades is *Beckeropsis petiolaris* (Hochst.) Fig. & de Not. of N.E. Africa, which I believe you have had before. Similarly *Setaria sphacelata*, a very common African grass. Lastly *Digitaria sanguinalis*".

Other extraordinary plants grown from the Ethiopian niger seed (*Guizotia abyssinica*) were the broad-bladed creeping grass *Oplismenus hirtellus* (L.) Beauv. and *Beckeropsis nubica* Fig. & de Not. Of the latter, CEH wrote (6.2.79): "It is very probably this annual grass of north tropical Africa (Nigeria to Sudan and Ethiopia), but it is necessary to have the lower part of the plant to be certain, as in the closely-allied *B. petiolaris* the lower leaf-blades have a cordate, sagittate or rounded base and a long petiole (up to 5 ins long)."

#### *ERAGROSTIS NEOMEXICANA* Vasey

It is remarkable that *E. neomexicana* should have appeared at Brislington tip (N. Somerset) for three consecutive years, 1978-80, collected by T.G. Evans, A.L. Grenfell and others. CEH was at first non-committal about its identity, but then he wrote (12.11.1979): It is "*E. neomexicana* Vasey with glandular depressions on the leaf sheaths, following various American interpretations of that species. While the type-collection is eglandular, Hitchcock (*Manual of the Grasses of the United States*, edn. 2, p. 157 (1951)) writes of it 'often with glandular depressions along the keel or nerves' (of the leaf sheaths); I have seen glandular specimens from the United States. Similarly in Burkart's *Flora Illustrada de Entre Rios (Argentine)*, Parte 2, 175 (1969), E. Nicora describes (in Spanish) the leaf sheaths and margins of the blades as generally with sessile glands. I have seen glandular material from parts of Europe where the species has been introduced, so for the meantime at least, your plant may be placed under *E. neomexicana*".

This confirmed his comments of 3.9.1974 when Mrs J.F. Leslie found it on the refuse-tip at Guildford (Surrey) in Oct 1971. He wrote: "... a glandular form of *E. neomexicana*, widely distributed in N. & S. America, with eglandular and glandular forms. In your specimen the pedicel bears a single gland beneath the spikelet, a ring of depressed glands beneath each node, and numerous  $\pm$  circular or elliptic sunken glands along the ribs or the leaf-sheaths".

Please, I beg, let me know if you spot errors in *Adventive News* (pref. on paper slips, 5" x 3"): I do not want to mislead the authors of FOGBI and others. Thank you.

ERIC J. CLEMENT, 13 Shelford, Burrett Road, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, Surrey, KT1 3HR.

# REQUESTS

## COLLECTIONS RESEARCH: CAN YOU HELP ?

A large number of museum curators with responsibility for natural sciences collections have been collaborating as a team to record the existence (or known fate if lost) of all collections of natural science specimens in the British Isles. Recently the Federation for Natural Sciences Collection Research (FENSCORE) was formed, with representatives from many major provincial museums and from all the relevant national museums. The information being gleaned about collections is fed through FENSCORE into the national database being compiled by the Manchester Museum Computer Cataloguing Unit on the Manchester University computer.

The primary purpose of the database is to provide researchers with a means of rapidly locating collections containing material of relevance to their studies. For example, details can readily be retrieved of the collections known to:

- 1) Contain material of a given group
- 2) Be associated with a particular person or expedition
- 3) Be gathered from a particular area of the world

Until recently the curators involved have been concentrating on collections held in provincial museums and kindred institutions, but now wish to expand the scope of the Register to include details of collections outside museums, such as those in private hands or in the teaching departments of educational establishments.

If you own, or are in charge of, botanical, geological and/or zoological collections, and you think its existence should be recorded in the Register, then please get in touch with Mr Pettitt at the address given below; note that arrangements can be made to keep the precise location of valuable collections confidential.

You will be sent the necessary forms and instructions, together with the name and address of the nearest involved curator, to whom the completed forms should be returned, and who will be able to answer any queries you may have.

The work of compiling the Register is unfunded, so it would be appreciated if you could include a stamped, addressed envelope (at least 9" x 3½") with your letter.

CHARLES PETTITT, Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, MANCHESTER M13 9PL.

### *VIOLA RIVINIANA* as a garden weed

The southern part of the London Borough of Ealing has been extensively built up since the early part of the present century, and *Viola riviniana* has, until the last three years, been a rare plant, lingering only in a few surviving shady ditches and hedgerbanks.

In 1978 *V. riviniana* appeared as a weed in my small garden and was noted also in other gardens in the district. Since that time it has spread with great rapidity and is now known in some thirty locations in an area of about 2 square miles. It favours shady situations under shrubs and tall herbs and occurs also in crevices between paving stones and garden walls. Although I have long cultivated *V. odorata* I have at no time grown *V. riviniana*. I should be interested to hear if this phenomenon has been noted in other built-up areas.

D.H. KENT, 75 Adelaide Rd, W. Ealing, LONDON W13 9ED.

## EPIPACTIS MUELLERI

Referring to the correspondence on the above species (BSBI News 25 p. 24, *ibid* 16 p. 27-28) it will be appreciated that because of increasing difficulty with travelling I am now no longer able to fulfil my promise to visit each site in person. Instead, I suggest the following procedure to send me material for identification, of this and other critical taxa.

- (1) Two fresh individual flowers, **one about to open**, the other above it **and in bud**
- (2) Two bracts, one being the lowest, the other higher up the raceme
- (3) Two leaves, one being the lowest, the other at middle of leafy rachis.
- (4) Transmission in small plastic tube, circa, 4 cm long x 2 cm wide, plugged with cotton wool to prevent movement (material in spirit is undesirable).
- (5) Send by first class post, preferably on a Monday to avoid delay over weekend.
- (6) Photographs — helpful as an adjunct to 1 — 3 above, with the caveat that the Photographers' Code of Conservation is strictly observed, i.e. careful "gardening" and no onlookers.

*This has been submitted to members of our Conservation Committee who agree that this is unlikely to cause the death of the plant, if meticulously carried out.* Ed.

As regards the plant described and illustrated in *BSBI News* 23 pp. 16 & 17, David Lang and I are both of the firm opinion that the Bexhill *Epipactis* is *E. helleborine* (L.) Crantz and *nothing else*. The almost suborbicular lowest leaf in the sketch is characteristic of the species, i.e. when it occurs which is fairly often.

Although it is on the cards that *E. muelleri* Godfrey could turn up in S.E. England some day — I have had an eye to this for at least ten years — I would not guarantee to spot it amongst *E. helleborine*, although I am aware of its characters (more aware than many, having seen it growing in N.W. France). Incidentally, *E. leptochila* and *E. phyllanthes* must have been overlooked for years, until the late Col. Michael Godfrey spotted the former at E. Horsley in Surrey.

Dr J.H.T. KNIGHT, Rivermead House, 20 Egham Avenue, EXETER, EX2 4RG.

## OAK and IVY

We know that young Oaks, Beech and Hornbeam do not shed their leaves in the autumn.

For the purpose of this enquiry may we consider just the Oaks.

These mature trees shed their leaves from all the mature branches but frequently retain them throughout the winter on the young trunk branchlets and burr shoots.

In January of this year I realised that when ivy is present on the trunk the young branchlets growing in the ivy area appear always to shed their leaves.

From January until April I examined every Oak that I could find and it does seem that if ivy is on one side of the trunk the young leaves will fall, while on the "clean" side they will remain. The same effect applies above and below the ivy line. The only exception I have found is when a reasonably mature branch grows out from the ivy area. In this case, the leaves fall near the ivy but often remain further along the branch.

My enquiries to knowledgeable arborists and some research centres indicate that no one is aware of this fact, if fact it proves to be.

If any reader has worked on ivy, and/or this question, it would be most interesting to learn if ivy has any special properties that could induce leaf fall. For example, does it liberate large quantities of ethylene?

JAMES CROSS, 52 Crockford Park Road, Addlestone, WEYBRIDGE, Surrey KT15 2LX.

## **CALLITRICHE TRUNCATA : DECREASING DISTRIBUTION ?**

Having recently embarked upon an autecological study of *C. truncata* it is clear that this retiring water plant is becoming increasingly hard to find. Changes along the River Darent, Kent, have apparently had adverse effects on the species, although in parts of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire it is still present in healthy stands. Part of our autecological study is dependent upon describing the communities and conditions under which *C. truncata* grows and we would be most interested in making contact with anyone with personal knowledge of present sites of this species.

DR P.M. WADE & R. BARRY, Department of Human Sciences, University of Technology, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics, LE11 3TU.

## **DODDER and BROOMRAPE**

I am currently researching into British heterotrophic angiosperms and would appreciate information on two particularly elusive species, namely Flax Dodder, *Cuscuta epilinum* and Branched Broomrape, *Orobanche ramosa*.

If anyone is fortunate enough to locate either of these species I would be grateful for the following information:- 1) Grid Reference, 2) Brief description of the habitat, 3) Approximate number of plants, 4). Apparent host plant. Please send (postage refunded) to: M. JONES, 6 Lambs Lane, BUCKLEY, Clwyd, North Wales.

## **Letters of the late DR C.E. HUBBARD**

My appeal in *BSBI News 27* on behalf of the Records Committee for letters from the late Dr Hubbard, is proving successful. However, with a personal collection of over 20 years, I realise that people may be reluctant to part with the originals. Apart from suggestions that collections may be left by Will to the Society, it often happens that the best of intentions are not fulfilled. Would members please consider either sending me photo-copies or loan me the originals which will be returned after copying?

P.J.O. TRIST, Glovers, 28 High St, BALSHAM, Cambs. CB1 6DJ.

## **ALEXANDRA PALACE & PARK**

The landscape Architect of the Alexandra Palace Development Team writes that the original Palace contained a Palm Court and it is hoped to reconstruct this and plant it up with a horticultural collection. If any member happens to know of any palms or other suitable plants which will be in scale with the building (and may consequently have outgrown other glasshouses and buildings) Mr Steve Dale would be pleased to hear of these. I can supply his address on request.

## **FOR SALE**

One of our members has a duplicate copy of Vol. 2 of Butcher's *A New Illustrated British Flora* which he is anxious to sell. Enquiries should be by phone to CHEPSTOW (STD 02912) 70802.

### ***BSBI NEWS 29***

**Contributions intended for publication in this issue  
must reach the Editor**

**BEFORE 29th OCTOBER, 1981**

## "ALL-DAY GUARD ON RARE ORCHID"

It is not often that a British plant makes the front page headlines in one of our prestige national newspapers. Yet such was the case in the *Sunday Telegraph* of July 26, 1981, in which is described the 24-hour vigil on the one single specimen, of Lady's Slipper Orchid, fenced in against the ravages of vandals. The story is illustrated with a line drawing, and its sad reduction in numbers is attributed to ploughing, drainage and the use of chemical sprays.

An article by Brian Holliwell of Kew, throws a different light on its disappearance. He writes:

### Lady's Slipper Orchid — Concern for its Preservation

*Cypripedium calceolus* the Lady's Slipper Orchid is probably the rarest of our wild flowers for it is now reputedly confined to one locality in the British Isles. Rather too late it at last has the law to protect it, a pity that this could not have happened two or more centuries earlier. It is doubtful if it was ever common in this country but its almost complete disappearance is due to misguided plant enthusiasts who have dug it up to transplant into their gardens. How long ago this started cannot be known but John Gerard was growing it in his garden at the end of the 16th century. Almost every gardener of note in the century which followed had it in his garden: John Parkinson, Sir Thomas Hanmer, John Rea and the Tradescents, father and son. Terrestrial orchids were fashionable in 17th century gardens and it would seem there was more success in their cultivation than is achieved nowadays. Today their life in a garden is often short; was it very much longer three hundred years ago or was it just that garden writers then did not admit their failures? John Parkinson, in his book *Paradisus in Sole* published in 1629, didn't actually admit to failure, but as he received plants regularly one suspects that they did not always thrive. In his book he records, "It groweth likewise in Lancashire neare upon the border of Yorkshire in a wood or place called the Helkes, which is three miles from Ingleton as I am enformed by a courteous Gentlewoman, a great lover of these delights, called Mistris Thomasin Tunstall, who dwelleth at Bull-banke, neare Hornby Castle in those parts, and who hath often sent mee up the rootes to London, which have borne faire flowers in my garden."

Reginald Farrer, almost three hundred years later in his book *My Rock Garden* published in 1920, waxes wrathfully about Mistress Thomasin. "A worthy gentlewoman indeed! O Mistress Tomasin, if only you had loved these delights a little less ruinously for future generations! Do you sleep quiet, you worthy gentlewoman, in Tunstall Church or does your uneasy spirite still haunt the Helke Wood in vain longing to undo the wrong you did?" He goes on in similar vein, "And after Mistriss Tomasin had long been dead as the *Cypripediums* she sent up to Parkinson, there came a market gardener, a base soul animated only by the love of lucre (and thus be damned to a far lower Hell than the worthy if over-zealous gentlewoman), who grubbed up all the *Cypripediums* that she had left, and potted them up for sale. The Helkes Wood, now, is an oyster forever robbed of its pearl." Continuing about the fate of the Lady's Slipper Orchid he moves to another part of Yorkshire. In the Arnecliffe Valley the history of the Lady's Slipper has been even darker. Here in these mountain copses, ever since the time of Withering, the *Cypripedium* has been known. And one old vicar kept careful watch over it, and went every year to pluck the flowers and so keep the plant safe, for without the flower you might, if uninstructed, take the plant for Lily-of-the-Valley. Then one year he fell ill.

The plant was allowed to blossom; was discovered and uprooted without mercy, and there was an end of him." Having chided a gentlewoman and damned a market gardener, Farrer then turns his wrath upon a scientist, someone who ought to have known better. 'And worse is to follow: for a professor from the north – I will not unfold whether it were Edinburgh, or Glasgow, or Aberdeen, or none of these, that produced this monster of men – put a price on the head of the Cyripedium, and offered the inhabitants so much for every rooted plant they sent him. The valley was accordingly swept bare.' He terminates his diatribe with, "Accursed for evermore, into the lowest of the Eight Hot Hells, be all reckless uprooters of rarities, from professors downwards.

Would plant conservation benefit more if writers with a fine turn of phrase like Farrer, expressed their abhorrence of uprooting plants so forcefully ?

(*Editor's note:* BSBI members, even those not gifted with a fine turn of phrase, can continue Farrer's good work by contributing articles, letters, poems etc. to local publications, such as newspapers, parish magazines, school magazines, internal house journals. Editors of such periodicals are always short of good 'copy' and welcome items of current public interest. BSBI, of course, is always ready to help with suitable material.)

## LETTERS

### English Names of Wild Flowers

The first edition of this book had its unsatisfactory features, despite the immense industry of Dr Dony. The reprint introduces more.

What is the value of the tinkering set out in News 27 ? Why only four aliens added and not four hundred ? It is precisely here, among new-comers, that it is important to start off with unambiguous names. The photo-litho allowed for a score or more of "significant" alterations, including the mess-up at the top of p. 30: it could have allowed for more. What a missed chance.

A curious addition is the difficult-to-separate *Galium erectum*. I was perplexed by the extract in News where this was to be a Hedge-bedstraw, when *G. mollugo* was a Hedge Bedstraw. Having now the reprint, I see both are now hyphenated, but those who, fairly enough, do not think they need buy the new version, may well puzzle.

Why produce Western Clover for *Trifolium occidentale*, when on several previous occasions, including two books six years ago, I had called it Atlantic Clover ? Surely this is apter for its distribution ? Equally, in one of these books, I had argued against changing Flax-leaved St John's-wort to Toadflax-leaved. Was this not best left ?

Much, much worse, however is the confusion bound to arise by changing the application of English names. To those who have the original edition, Marsh Yellow-cress will be *Rorippa islandica*. To those who look at p. 121 of the reprint, it will be *R. palustris*. But what are we expected to make of p. 51 ? – *R. islandica* Marsh Y. . . . *palustris* Marsh Yellow-cress ? Could those responsible stand up ?

DAVID McCLINTOCK, Bracken Hill, Platt, SEVENOAKS, Kent TN15 8JH.

### AN EARLIER COUNTY FUNGUS FLORA

Re the note in *BSBI News* 27 p. 10, I am sure I shall not be the only member to write and refer you to a publication of 1905, of which I have a copy, entitled *The Fungus Flora of Yorkshire* by Massee and Crossland.

I do not claim that this is the first of its kind but it is certainly earlier than *The Fungus Flora of Warwickshire*.

CHRIS HEMINGWAY, 10 Kingsway, SEAFORD, E. Sussex BN25 2NE.

**POLYSTICHUM MUNITUM Presl** – a new British alien

V.c. 17 Surrey Hascombe, two plants at the top of the bank of a shady, sunken lane, GR41/996.403 K.W. Page, E.V. Pilcher, A.C. & J.F. Leslie, 5 April 1981. Herb. ACL. First British record for the Western Sword Fern.

(One of these plants had previously been recorded here in October 1980 (KP & EVP) but had been determined as *Polypodium interjectum* (Herb. EVP)).

It is a large, hardy, evergreen fern with fronds often 3-4 ft long, simply pinnate, with spinulose teeth and an eccentric lobe ('auricle') at the base of each pinnule (on the side nearest the frond apex). The fertile pinnules are not noticeably distinct from the remainder and the sori, which may be in several rows, do not cover the whole of the lower surface. The indusia are papillose-toothed to ciliate.

This west North American species is similar to the eastern *P. acrostichoides* Schott which is also occasionally grown in this country. The latter has shorter fronds (up to c. 2 ft.) and conspicuously smaller and narrower fertile pinnae, whose lower surface may be completely covered by the spore masses. It has glabrous and entire indusia. The only British species likely to be confused with *P. munitum* is *P. lonchitis* and this can readily be told by being much shorter and in its lower pinnae being reduced to mere triangular lobes.

The source of these plants is clearly the derelict woodland garden beside the lane, where there are numerous fine clumps of this attractive fern. However, the position and relative size of the two recorded above indicates that they are self-sown sporelings, outside the boundaries of the old garden.

A.C. LESLIE, Monksilver, 72 Boxgrove Road, GUILDFORD, Surrey, GU1 1UD.

**Who buys a local flora ?**

When Dundee Museum decided to publish the *Flora of Angus* earlier this year, we were uncertain of the support that we might expect to receive. With the generous offer from the B.S.B.I. to pay for a publicity leaflet and the invaluable advice of Dr Frank Perring, we embarked on the venture, distributing the leaflet widely through potentially interested organisations.

Pre-publication sales turned out to be most gratifying, amounting to 532 copies (of which 54% went to B.S.B.I. members). The vice-comital distribution of purchasers proved interesting with, not surprisingly, the greatest number from the adjoining vice-counties of South Aberdeen, East Perth and Fife. The surprising factor was the amount of interest from further afield. 221 copies were ordered from England and Wales with scattered ones from the rest of the world. The distribution in England was characterised by a thin general cover with "hot spots" of botanical activity notably in Surrey, Middlesex (including London), Oxford, Cambridge and South Lancashire.

Interesting social and professional trends were observable when our list of subscribers was compared with that of William Gardiner's flora of the county of 1848. Traditionally botany was associated with the land-owning and leisured strata of society, however this has changed during the last 140 years. Gardiner's list of one hundred subscribers included 6 titles and 7 men of the cloth; we mustered only 3 titles and 2 clergymen out of 532. On the other hand Gardiner counted only 3 professors and 7 doctors as opposed to 9 professors and 55 doctors in 1981 (comprising mainly professional botanists).

The pre-publication orders have all been despatched; anyone who has not received their copy should write to the address given below. Copies may be obtained from the same address at the published price of £7.25 (post free) H.J. Noltie, R.K. Brinklow DUNDEE MUSEUM, Albert Square, DUNDEE, DD1 1DA.



## ZIZIPHORA CAPITATA L. — new to the British Isles

About eight years ago I purchased a bag of a proprietary brand of organic manure, of which about half has now been used sparingly as a feed for garden plants outside in large pots, here at S. Darenth, W. Kent.

In 1980 I noticed that a small branching pink-flowered Labiate had appeared in one of the pots, later determined by E.J. Clement as the above species, from S.E. Europe. *Ziziphora* L. is a genus of dwarf annual herbs or sub-shrubs, thyme-like in appearance with terminal globose heads of flowers.

A few years ago *Solanum cornutum* Lam. grew on the surface of a pot at S. Darenth from the same substance. This type of material is sold nationwide in considerable quantities and it is interesting to speculate whether some of the unusual adventives which now and again appear in gardens spontaneously and inexplicably, are in fact attributable to this source.

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

### Long Bramble

Referring to Dr McClintock's note in *BSBI News* 27, p. 31, in 1979, whilst refurbishing a well-known garden at Eckington, near Pershore, Worcs., I identified a number of interesting weeds including a *Rubus fruticosus sensu lato* with an annual stem length of 23 ft 6 ins. (The river is close by but this is no fishy story). I did however find a *Salix caprea* which had managed, unrecognised, to attain a height of 15 feet by sheer insidiousness.

P.F. WHITEHEAD, "Moor Leys", Little Comberton, PERSHORE, Worcs. WR10 3EP.

### The Fracas of 1881

Exactly a hundred years ago the Botanical Exchange Club (as the BSBI was then called) was riven by a mysterious row. Certain of the members, led by E.F. Linton, seem to have taken serious exception to the new Secretary, Charles Bailey, doubling up as Distributor (in the absence of any volunteer) and making comment in that capacity on the specimens contributed. According to Druce, a circular "by no means pleasant" in its wording was sent round to this effect; and although Bailey knuckled under, apparently the disaffection was such that a section of the Club was led to throw in its lot with the rival Watson Club when that started up in 1884.

Without knowing more it is difficult to interpret this clearly rather traumatic episode in the Society's history. I am therefore particularly anxious to trace any copy of the circular in question (which was presumably printed) that may still exist. The reply made by Babington to the circular appears on p. 393 of his published Correspondence and reveals that it was dated 20 January 1881 and went out over the name of the Distributor for that year, James Groves. Just possibly a copy has been preserved by being bound in with some library's set of the BEC Reports.

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

## HAVE A GO ?

At the last Exhibition Meeting I displayed a number of problem specimens, some my own, some from friends, and asked for help with naming them. This generated a gratifying amount of interest and a lot of help (see below). I said that if other members felt the exercise was worthwhile, I would mount a similar exhibit this year and invite anyone to bring or send their own bugbears along.

Given the slightest encouragement, that is what I now intend to do.

I sometimes get stuck over the identification of a plant, which I then press and put in the herbarium 'until I get round to it'. (Sometimes I never do get around to it!).

The difficulty may arise from a number of causes, e.g.:-

Parts may be missing, such as flowers or fruits.

It may not be in the books to hand, aliens for instance.

The Keying out just will not make sense; even the best books contain errors.

These can be exacerbated with specimens collected on holiday, because you can't go back for another look.

No doubt someone else would recognise the plant at a glance, nevertheless one may be chary of sending it to an expert for several reasons; he/she is too busy, I don't want to bother them, I expect it is only a common species in any case, and usually, I am too embarrassed to ask.

Here is your chance to avoid all these problems. Bring your own bugbears to me at the next Exhibition Meeting, or send them to me well in advance, and I will display them and ask the largest gathering of botanists in the country to identify them for you. If you wish, we can do this anonymously; just don't sign the sheets!

It is a chance also for the experts to enjoy themselves by knocking off a few 'easy' ones and chewing over some of the others in congenial company; maybe even slipping in a few of their own bugbears. Remember, everyone is an expert at something, and a novice at something else.

So, can I have lots of specimens, preferably mounted, bearing in mind the strict rules regarding the collection of wild plants, and either send them to me or at least let me know how many to expect.

The Exhibit will be called simply "HELP".

Even the experts don't always get it right! Last year one card was marked thus:-

Expert	1	<i>Bromus unioloides</i>
"	2	Crossed out <i>unioloides</i> , and inserted <i>carinatus</i>
"	3	Ticked <i>carinatus</i>
"	4	Denied <i>unioloides</i>
"	5	Confirmed <i>carinatus</i>
"	6	Denied <i>carinatus</i>
"	7	Re-inserted <i>unioloides</i>
"	8	Ticked "
"	9	Underlined "
"	10	Re-iterated " and signed it
"	11	Confirmed <i>unioloides</i> verbally

This could be great fun !

SEAN KARLEY, 30 Harrowden Road, WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants, NN8 3BH.

## WINTER BOTANISING

The mild winter in W. Kent led me to do more botanical exploration than usual with very encouraging results, particularly as regards records for the forthcoming Kent flora.

As might be expected the benefits are particularly marked in scrub and woodland area where leaf fall can reveal winter-green herbs and evergreen shrubs not normally noticed.

Among the undershrubs *Daphne laureola*, *Ruscus*, *Hedera*. spp. *Heathers*, *Hypericum* spp. are all more visible in winter and among the herbs *Helleborus* spp., *Iris foetidissima* *Doronicum* spp. *Pentaglottis*, *Sedum* spp. *Lamium maculatum* come to mind as particularly noticeable. Ferns are worth looking for in winter, for instance *Polystichum setiferum* almost unknown in this part of Kent, was found in some quantity near Wilmington. However, the most interesting feature of this winter activity was that naturalised evergreen shrubs and their birdsown seedlings became much more noticeable.

All the following were found to be well naturalised in this part of the County, often in several different localities: *Cotoneaster affinis* Lindl., *C. frigidus* Wall. ex Lindl., *C. salicifolius* Franch., *Prunus lusitanica* L., *P. laurocerasus* L., *Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb., *Ligustrum ovalifolium* Hassk. *Euonymus japonicus* Thunb., *Teline monspessulana* (L.) C. Koch, *Choisya ternata* Kunthe, *Hebe salicifolia* (G. Forster) Pennell, *Viburnum rhytidophyllum* Hemsl., *V. tinus* L. *Pyracantha coccinea* M.J. Roem.

Many different species of conifers are well naturalised locally and much easier to see in winter, but I do not propose to list these at this stage.

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

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## ORCHIDS IN WEST WALES

Recognising the diminishing area of old meadows still surviving the West Wales Naturalists' Trust, as a result of its Dyfed Wildlife Appeal, was in 1978 able to purchase some 40 acres of wet heathy pasture known as Rhos Glyn-yr-Helyg, near Gorsgoch, Ceredigion. The centuries old tradition of winter grazing so allowing the vegetation to flourish in the summer, and with no improvements to drainage or the addition of fertilisers and herbicides, will benefit the strikingly rich flora, including several species of orchid.

The Trust has now been afforded an opportunity of purchasing four small pastures, again of an unimproved type, on a dry sunny slope known as Caeau Llety Cybi at Llangbi, near Lampeter. The particular habitat here has become very scarce and undoubtedly the site would be improved for agriculture if not purchased as a nature reserve. One particularly noteworthy species is the Greater Butterfly Orchid which occurs in all four pastures, though is scarcely known elsewhere in Ceredigion.

The importance to nature conservation of unimproved meadows is enough to warrant a special appeal for funds. Undoubtedly other sites will become available from time to time and the Trust must be able to act quickly in order to ensure that a representative series of these habitats is maintained. In the case of Caeau Llety Cybi our target is £9,000. Almost a third of this has been raised, while a loan of £6,000 has been received from the Land Fund of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. We urgently need £6,000 by January 1982 to repay the loan and so complete the purchase of Caeau Llety Cybi.

We ask all those who value the varied countryside of Wales, generously to support this Appeal and so help protect our heritage.

Can you help us achieve our target? Address for contributions or further information: ORCHID APPEAL, W. Wales Naturalists' Trust, 7 Market St, HAVERFORDWEST Dyfed.

## BOTANY AT BOSTON SPA

Where is Boston Spa and what is so botanically special about it? A large village in W. Yorks, not to be confused with Boston, Lincs. or the W. London suburb of Boston Manor. Situated in the centre of a triangle bounded by York – Harrogate – Leeds, it is not well known even though it enjoys an international reputation in the world of learning. Here, close by the lower reaches of the River Warfe, the British Library, Lending Division is located.

The BRITISH LIBRARY was set up in 1973, bringing together several existing national libraries. These were: the British Museum Library and the National Reference Library of Science and Invention, (formerly the Patent Office Library) which has a branch covering all Life Sciences in Holborn, both being organised for reference as opposed to lending. Lending facilities were provided by the National Central Library, established in 1916 as a mainly non-scientific collection, and the National Lending Library for Science and Technology (NLLST) created in 1960 at Boston Spa to give a rapid postal borrowing service.

The aim of NLLST, now merged into the British Library Lending Division, is to collect all literature likely to be required by other libraries for lending to their own users. It offers a lending and photocopy service to these other libraries, whether municipal, academic or commercial, providing them with easy access to material they are asked for but do not hold in stock. The Division handles nearly three million such requests for literature each year, 15 per cent of which come from outside the U.K.

Thanks to its dual origin the collection at Boston Spa is extremely comprehensive. The NLLST, right from its inception, adopted a policy of subscribing to all periodicals likely to be needed by scientists regardless of price, language or country of origin. This policy continues and today the Lending Division subscribes to more than 54,000 periodicals, in all fields of knowledge. Books, as distinct from periodicals, are purchased on the same basis but, with the exception of scientific books in Russian, books in foreign languages are only acquired if they are not readily available elsewhere in the U.K. Some 8,000 Russian books are obtained every year, but there is much less demand for books in other languages. Altogether the Division holds 140,000 periodical titles and 2¼ million books, all of which are available to a reader through his local, college or firm's library.

With such a mass of material it is not possible to say how it is distributed amongst the various disciplines. Boston Spa's main purpose is to provide a rapid and efficient postal lending service. To achieve this a library making a request *must* supply precise details – name of periodical, volume and page numbers together with author and title – of what is wanted, because the Lending Division is not equipped to search out subject references.

Periodicals and books are not classified by subject but are arranged by title regardless of topic. However, by using the "Keyword" approach it is possible to locate over 700 titles containing the word "Botany" or its equivalent in various languages. A further 70 titles will be found under "Flora", most regional and national floras being in stock, some long outdated, but nevertheless valuable on that account. This still leaves the problem of locating works where the title does not contain the sought-for Keyword. In these case a search of other bibliographical reference and abstracting publications must first be made. The fact that a book may be quite old does not preclude its being found at Boston Spa thanks to donations and exchanges. Moreover, access may be had to certain specialised libraries who will only lend their stock at the request of the BL Lending Division.

As well as journals and books, the Division also collects published conference proceedings, government and other official publications. One of the most valuable resources is the indexed collection of translations. These are of articles from foreign language journals made by competent translators belonging to commercial companies, research associations, academic bodies and by private individuals. The monthly intake of conference reports is about 1,000 and all are indexed by key words, a list of new accessions being available to librarians and researchers.

So far little has been said as to how the individual reader can derive benefit from, or have access to, this vast treasure house of information. His approach must be through some recognised library to which he has access and to which the Lending Division will lend or send a photocopy. However, for those who can visit Boston Spa personally, an extremely pleasant public Reading Room is provided where any member of the public is welcome. It is well stocked with reference books plus a comprehensive collection of abstracting and indexing works ready to hand. Thus for botanists the giant *Biological Abstracts* can readily be consulted as well as more specialised services such as *Weed Abstracts*. By handing in a request at the desk, any item a reader may wish to consult, will, if in stock, be brought to him within fifteen minutes and photocopying facilities are available. Even the inner man is catered for, the Division's canteen being open to visitors.

The Library, which is 2½ miles via a signposted turning off the A1 Wetherby by-pass, has an hourly bus service from Leeds, and is well worth a visit if you are in the vicinity. Leaflets on the Library and the services it offers are available on request. The address is THE BRITISH LIBRARY (Lending Division), Boston Spa, WETHERBY, W. Yorks, LS23 7BQ.

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### NCC Bibliographies

The Nature Conservation Commission Information and Library Services announced in June the publication of No. 4 in their series of Bibliographies which comprises four titles, viz:

- (1) *Nature Conservation and Agriculture* – £1.00
  - (2) *Wildlife in the City* – £1.00
  - (3) *The New Forest* – £2.00
  - (4) *Natural Environment of the Severn Estuary* (mainly concerned with marine and estuarine aspects) – £3.00
- and one published jointly by ITT and NCC entitled  
*Peatland Ecology in the British Isles* compiled by E.M. Field and D.A. Goode £4.00.

Orders for any of the above should be accompanied by remittance for the amount indicated (which includes VAT and postage) and addressed to:  
The LIBRARIAN, NCC, Calthorpe House, Calthorpe Street, BANBURY, OX16 8EX.

## BOOK NOTES

In the January part of *Watsonia*, Vol. 14 (1), it is hoped to include reviews of the following books:

- Historical Plant Geography*, by P. Stott.  
*Atlas of the Netherlands Flora, vol. 1*, by J. Mennema, A.J. Quene-Boterbrood and C.L. Plate.  
*Atlas de la flore belge et luxembourgeoise (ed. 2)* and *Commentaires*, by E. van Rompaey and L. Delvosalle.  
*Flowers of the Balkan Peninsula*, by O. Polunin.  
*Origin of Species*. The book of the Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) centenary exhibition.  
*Orchids of Greece*, by J.D. Lepper.  
*Ancient Woodland*, by O. Rackham.  
*The Backgarden Wildlife Sanctuary Book*, by R. Wilson.  
*Susswasserflora von Mitteleuropa, vol. 23(1): Lycopodiaceae bis Orchidaceae*, by S.J. Casper and H.-D. Krausch.  
*Three-dimensional structure of wood (ed. 2)*, by B.G. Butterfield and B.A. Meylan.  
*A taxonomic Review of the Genus Origanum (Labiatae)*, by J.H. Ietswaart.  
*Biochemical Evolution*, edited by H. Gutfreund.  
*Name that Succulent*, by G. Rowley.  
*Gardening with Children*, by Alison Ross.  
*The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Trees of the World*, edited by B. Hora.  
*Thonner's Analytical Key to the Families of Flowering Plants*, by R. Geesink, A.J.M. Leeuwenberg, C.E. Ridsdale and J.F. Veldkamp.  
*100 Families of Flowering Plants*, by M. Hickey and C.H. King.  
*Flora of Iraq, vol. 4*, edited by C.C. Townsend and E. Guest.  
*Hedgerow*, by E. Thomas and J.T. White.  
*A Handbook for Naturalists*, edited by M. Seaward.  
*Chemosystematics: Principles and Practice*, edited by F.A. Bisby, J.G. Vaughan and C.A. Wright.  
*The Flowering of Britain*, by R. Mabey and A. Evans.  
*The Wildflower Key*, by Francis Rose.  
*A Common Green*, by D. Synnott.
- The following books have been received recently. Those that will NOT be reviewed in *Watsonia* are marked with an asterisk:
- The Shaping of Cambridge Botany*, by S.M. Walters.  
*Conservation and Evolution*, by O.H. Frankel and M.E. Soule.  
*The Flora of Angus*, by Ruth Ingram and H.J. Noltie.  
*Bible Plants at Kew*, by F.N. Hepper.  
*Wild Flowers and Other Plants of the Peak District*, by Penny Anderson and D. Shimwell.  
*Index Holmiensis, vol. 5*, edited by H. Tralau.  
*The Northwest European Pollen Flora, vol. 3*, edited by W. Punt and G.S. Clarke.  
*The Evolving Biosphere*, edited by P.L. Forey.  
*Evolution and Pollution*, by A.D. Bradshaw and T. McNeilly.  
*The Natural History of Great Britain and Ireland*, by Heather Angel *et al.*  
*The Evolution of Plants and Flowers*, by B. Thomas.  
*Collins Guide to the Pests, Diseases and Disorders of Garden Plants*, by K.M. Harris and S.T. Buczacki.

\**Catalogue of Plants in the Cambridge University Botanic Garden*, by P.F. Yeo and C.J. King. Cambridge University Botanic Garden, 1981. Price not indicated.

As well as a list of c.8000 taxa of plants grown in the Garden in October 1980 and an explanatory introduction, this catalogue includes an interesting foreword by the Director of the Garden, Max Walters, about other catalogues for this and the previous Botanic Garden in Cambridge. It is issued on the occasion of the present Garden's sesquicentenary.

\**Mountain Wildlife*, by R. Perry. Croom Helm, London. 1981. Price £6.95 (ISBN 0-7099-0247-6).

This book on the wildlife of mountains around the world includes chapters on "The Uplands of Britain" and "The Highlands of Scotland". Although these are very largely devoted to the animal kingdom, there are two pages on plant succession on the 'ultimate summits' and a few references to plant adaptation (such as the high production of pollen at high altitudes); and some specific plants are mentioned as hosts, providing food and/or shelter for a variety of specialised insects or other animals.

\**Paradise Lost*, by Angela King and C. Conroy. Friends of the Earth, 9 Poland St., London W1V 3DG. 1981. Price 95p + postage.

This attractively presented booklet, with foreword by David Bellamy, gives in a 'nutshell' the facts and figures on wildlife habitat loss and the issues which must be faced if we are to conserve our natural heritage.

\**A Fungus Flora of Warwickshire*, edited by M.C. Clarke, 1980. British Mycological Society, London. Price £8.00. (ISBN 0-903-1300-5-X).

This flora, the only fully detailed County Flora devoted entirely to fungi, gives much more information on habitats, distribution and interesting details concerning 2,600 species (including lichens by D.C. Lindsay and Myxomycetes) which were observed during the survey, initiated in 1965, on which the volume is based. There is a succinct and interesting account of the history of mycology in the County.

N.K.B. ROBSON, Botany Dep't, British Museum (Nat. Hist.) LONDON SW7 5BD.

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#### CORRECTION

##### Naturalized *Doronicums*

The Editor regrets the omission from A.C. Leslie's article in *BSBI News* 27 p. 22 of two size indications in section 2 of his key which should read:

- 2 Basal leaves (fig. h) deeply cordate; capitula usually 1-3, mostly < 45 mm broad . . . . . *pardalianches*
- 2 Basal leaves mostly truncate; capitula usually 1-3 mostly > 45 mm broad . . . . . 3

Will readers please amend their copies accordingly.

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We apologise for the omission of Rosemary Wise's contribution, promised for this issue, on the drawing of wild plants, which we hope to publish in the next *BSBI News*.

***BSBI NEWS 29***  
Contributions intended for publication in this issue  
must reach the Editor  
BEFORE 29th OCTOBER, 1981

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