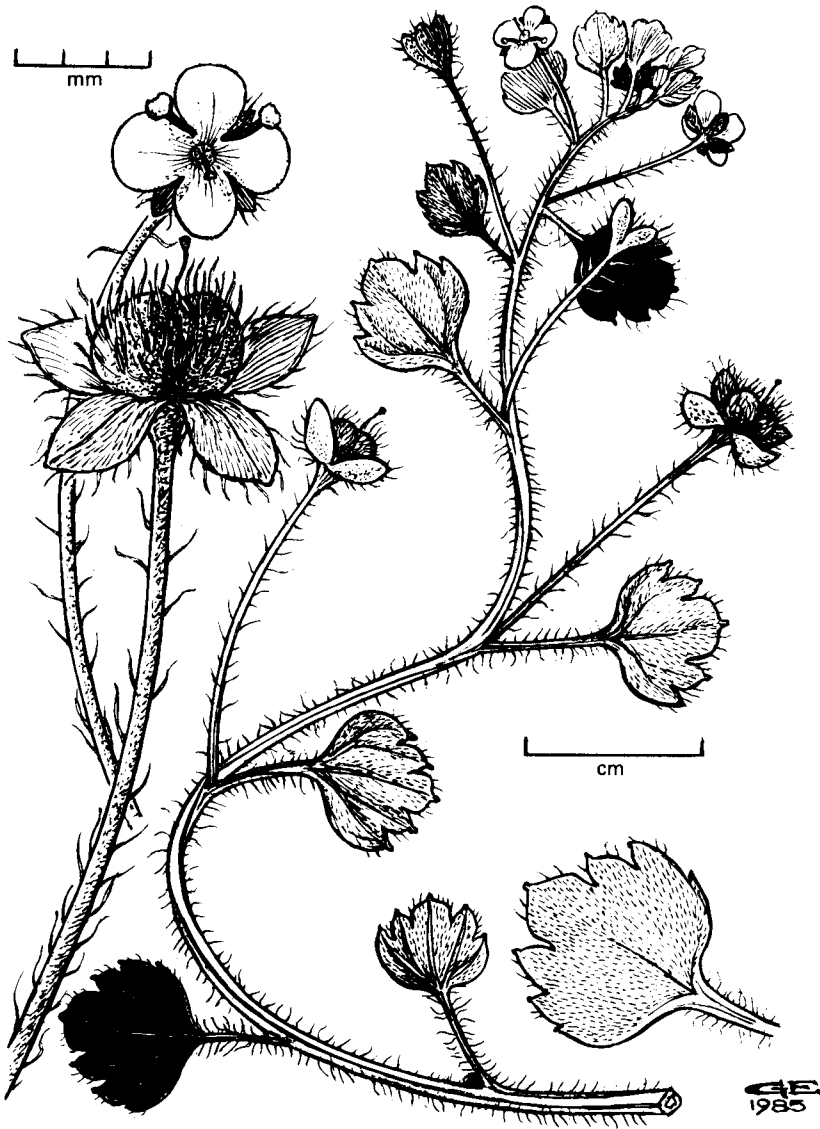


# B.S.B.I. NEWS

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

Sept 1985  
No.40



*Veronica cymbalaria* Bodard del. G.M.S. Easy © 1985

(see p. 14)

# ADMINISTRATION

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

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## SECRETARIES OF PERMANENT WORKING COMMITTEES:

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**MEETINGS:** Mrs Joanna Robertson,  
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**RECORDS:** Mr David J. McCosh,  
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**REPRESENTATIVES ON COUNCIL**, Rule 11:

Mr D.A. Doogue (Ireland); Dr R.A.H. Smith (Scotland); Mr M. Porter (Wales).

Representing N.C.C. by invitation: Dr R.A.H. Smith

Minuting Secretary in attendance: Miss E.J. Rich.

## CONTRIBUTIONS INTENDED FOR

*BSBI NEWS 41*

should reach the Editor before

25th October 1985

# HON. GEN SEC'S NOTES

## The Queen Mother's 85th Birthday Celebrations

On behalf of the Society, the Hon. Gen. Secretary despatched a Telemesssage conveying our congratulations and sincere good wishes on this joyous occasion, to which Her Majesty graciously replied:

TELEMESSAGE

MARY BRIGGS MBE  
THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE BRITISH ISLES  
WHITE COTTAGE, SLINFOLD  
HORSHAM, W. SUSSEX

Clarence House  
LONDON  
SW1

05 August, 1985

I AM EXTREMELY TOUCHED BY YOUR GOOD WISHES ON MY BIRTHDAY AND SEND MY VERY SINCERE THANKS TO YOU AND ALL WHO JOINED IN YOUR MESSAGE.

ELIZABETH R.  
PATRON

### Best-seller

Congratulations to Micheline Sheehy Skeffington and Peter Wyse Jackson, authors of *The Flora of Inner Dublin* – their Flora reached the non-fiction best-seller lists in Ireland earlier this year.

### Authors wanted

To be consulted by hopeful authors in search of a publisher is not an uncommon occurrence, but recently we received the reverse request from a publisher who seeks authors . . .

A new book publishing imprint dedicated exclusively to the publication of books in botany has been formed by timber Press, and a series of books on botanical subjects is planned.

**Dioscorides Press** is now “actively seeking” book manuscripts for the series, and enquiries should be sent to:

DIOSCORIDES PRESS, 9999 S.W. Wilshire, PORTLAND, Oregon 97225, U.S.A.

### Law-breaker thwarted

A Sussex member prevented an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, when she found strangers digging up primroses in her local woods. “Do you know that you can be fined £200?” she asked them, and later told us “I made them put them all back”.

(NB A person found guilty of committing an offence under this Act *may* be fined up to £500. M.B.)

### English Woodcutters

Following the reference to the English felling forest in Maryland, U.S.A. in 1697, *BSBI News* 39 p. 4, Arthur Chater has drawn attention to earlier, and closer to home, reported woodland destruction, by Robin Clidro of Clwyd c. 1580 in the poem “Marchan Wood” (near Rhuthan) who writes of the devastation when “All Rhuthan’s woods are ravaged”. He describes in detail the loss of the wildlife which had been dependent on the trees and of redress being sought from London.

Similarly an anonymous Welsh poet in the poem "Glyn Cynon Wood" wrote "there was never a more disastrous thing than the cutting of Glyn Cynon". The responsibility is set squarely on the English saying:

"Rather should the English be  
strung up beneath the seas,  
keeping painful house in hell  
than felling Cynon's trees".

(The Cynon River is a tributary of the Taf which joins the sea at Cardiff).

The quotations are taken from *To Look for a Wood*, collected translations from Welsh poetry, by Gwyn Williams (1976).

### **Taraxacum Flora**

If any member has a spare copy of *The Taraxacum Flora of the British Isles, Watsonia* Vol. 9 Supplement 1972, not in use, some of the Dandelion field workers in the Society would be grateful – it is now out of print.

**Congratulations** and gratitude to Arthur Wade, now living in Rotorua, New Zealand, whose joining date of 1915 discloses that he has this year been a BSBI member for SEVENTY years!

MARY BRIGGS

## **Important Notice**

### **Members Paying Subscriptions By Direct Debit**

This notice is addressed to all members who pay their annual subscriptions to the Society by variable direct debit. In accordance with the mandate you have signed authorising payment of your subscription, I hereby give notice on behalf of the Society that the following rates were approved at the Annual General Meeting on the 11th May 1985.

Ordinary Members £12.50  
Junior Members £ 5.00  
Senior Members £ 7.50  
Family Members £ 1.00 (no change)

The new rates are effective from the 1st October next and your bank account will be debited on or about the 16th of January 1986 in accordance with the above rates.

M. Walpole, Hon. Treasurer  
2nd July 1985.

### **POST CODES**

The recent disruption of postal services concerned the use of mechanised sorting equipment, now installed in most large sorting offices, and now that staff agreement on its use has been achieved, it will soon be functioning countrywide. The Post Office has warned that if not included in the address or illegible, the machines will reject the item and send it for hand sorting. This will occasion some (slight, they say) delay. Will all correspondents please ensure their letters carry the post code legibly as the last line in the address.

## DAVID ELLISTON ALLEN

Deceased naturalists, the flora of the Isle of Man, the proportion of women in London who wear black stockings compared with those in Manchester, brambles: these are a few apparently unconnected interests that spring to mind when one thinks of David Allen. The connecting links are plants and people. His interest in plants was first aroused at the early age of eight in his first year at boarding school. Many years later he was exceedingly pleased to be able to repay his debt to the teacher responsible by proposing her for membership of the BSBI. He went on to Rugby School which fortunately for him had an active natural history society and by the age of fifteen he had become the moving spirit in its botany section, contributing papers in the society's annual reports on plants seen in the neighbourhood. At the age of sixteen he joined the BSBI, so while relatively young he is already one of our members of long standing.

A turning point in David's interests came during the visit of a school party to the marine biological station at Port Erin. The Isle of Man fascinated him, instilling in him, there and then, a deep desire some time to account for its flora. Observing that the BSBI had no Recorder for VC 71 he volunteered to serve, an offer which was gladly accepted. In the meantime I, as the Society's Field Secretary, and unaware of David's interest, had arranged a week-long field meeting in the Isle of Man. It was, unfortunately, during David's very last term at Rugby. As one schoolmaster to another, I wrote to his headmaster pleading that he should be given leave to attend the meeting. It worked – and the meeting was a rare experience for David, allowing him to be in the field with the likes of N. Douglas Simpson, Edgar Milne-Redhead and Victor Summerhayes. For the benefit of others present he had written a phytogeographical account of the Isle of Man which he was persuaded to read at a reception given in honour of the meeting and attended by the Lieutenant Governor. Little surprise that the island newspaper carried the headline 'A learned youth'.

The years at Rugby had been formative and after he left school the natural history society published his "Flora of the Rugby District" (1957), his first substantial work. Contemporaries at the school included Humphrey Bowen, who shared his botanical interests and was later to be Meetings Secretary of the BSBI, and David McCosh, now the Secretary of the Society's Records Committee.

At Cambridge, David read Archaeology and Anthropology but spent much of his time in the Botany School herbarium, where he was made welcome by Max Walters and Peter Sell. His interest in the BSBI increased and while still at Cambridge he joined the Development and Rules Committee and at the age of only twenty-one was elected to the Council, the youngest member ever to be so. Ever since, for thirty-two years, he has continuously been a member of one committee or another. He was Honorary General Secretary from 1967 to 1969 and is currently Chairman of the Records Committee. We have much cause to be grateful for his long service to the Society.

After leaving the university he worked for a brief period in a provincial museum before moving to London to enter market research. Eleven years later he took his present post on the administrative staff of the Economic and Social Research Council.

Market research had provided much of the material for his first well-known book "*British Tastes*" (1968), a study of regional differences in consumer behaviour. It revealed his underlying interest in people, which was also shown in his next important book "*The Victorian Fern Craze*" (1969), a skilful study combining his other major interests, plants and social history. It is considered by him to be a fore-runner of his best-known work so far, "*The Naturalist in Britain*" (1976). If this were all it would be a creditable record. David writes exceedingly well and it is not surprising that he has become an international authority on many matters relating to the history of natural history. For many years he has been an active member of the Society for the History of Natural History, which has honoured him with its presidency. He has also been the only amateur on the council of the more select British Society for the History of Science. He has read papers on the subject at many conferences in Britain and also abroad at Uppsala and San Francisco.

Notwithstanding all this, his first interest in British field botany has continued throughout. It began at Rugby but was soon extended to the South Lancashire dunes close to his home, where he made a valuable contribution to Travis's "*Flora of South Lancashire*" (1963). It was maintained in a study of the flora of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens during his residence in London, where he made a new county record for a plant he found growing on the steps of the Festival Hall. It was always what was close to hand that claimed his interest, as it is now around Winchester where he has lived for the last thirteen years.

In his days at Cambridge he ventured into the field of specialisation in trying to solve the *Cardamine pratensis* complex which he had to abandon because it would have involved the use of biometrics and cytology beyond the reach of an amateur. In more recent years it has been brambles, especially those in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. His first interest in the Isle of Man has been maintained throughout, although circumstances have forced it to be one of remote control. We shall rejoice with him when his Flora of the island is finally published, as it soon will be.

Yet with all this to his credit he is in some respects an enigmatic botanist, unlike the majority of us. He appears lukewarm toward the cause of nature conservation and has probably seen but few of the plant species protected by Act of Parliament, with little or no desire to see any of the remainder. The alien flora as such does not excite him. He must be the only one among us who looks at a new county Flora, not to see what interesting species are accounted for, but what additional information may be given on long-departed plant collectors. Although plant collectors fascinate him, his own collection is comparatively modest, other than brambles of course.

The "learned youth" has so far achieved all that might be expected of him. We welcome him as our President, especially as in his term of office we celebrate our 150th anniversary, he being the best qualified amongst us to put on record our progress so far. We can be assured that his presidency will prove to be a fruitful one for the Society.

J.G. Dony

## WILD PLANTS AND THE LAW

### To refresh your memory

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to dig up *any* wild plant without the owner's permission, but 62 endangered wild plants (including nine British orchids) are given total protection, with a maximum fine of £1,000 for digging up or picking *each* specimen. The nine orchids are early spider, fen, ghost, lady's-slipper, late spider, lizard, military and monkey orchids and red helleborine. It is an offence intentionally to pick, uproot, destroy or collect flowers and seeds from any of these plants or to sell them or their seeds if taken from the wild.

#### *Photographs*

Arrangements can be made for photographing some orchids. Please contact, Trina Paskell, Royal Society for Nature Conservation or Penny Evans, Kent Trust.

#### *Royal Society for Nature Conservation*

The Royal Society for Nature Conservation (RSNC) is the national association of the 46 local Nature Conservation Trusts covering the whole of the United Kingdom. Together they form the largest voluntary body in the country concerned with all aspects of nature conservation, owning or managing over 1,500 reserves totalling over 115,000 acres, and with a membership of over 160,000.

### FURTHER NEWS ON THE BLUEBERRY *VACCINIUM CORYMBOSUM* L.

The publication of letters on *Vaccinium corymbosum* L. becoming established at Ashley Heath, near Ringwood, Dorset (VC 11) by E.J. Clement and myself in *BSBI News No 37* has prompted several members to write of their experience of this species in cultivation.

G. Tuley says that many varieties of the American Blueberry were grown experimentally in Wareham Forest, Dorset (VC 9) on Forestry Commission land many years ago and the experiment was subsequently abandoned. They are now seeding into the surrounding area and the original plantings give reasonable crops of berries.

D.G. Hewett informs me that a nursery at Stapehill, Ferndown, Dorset, about 5 miles from the Ashley Heath site, grows many cultivars of this species and also the cranberry *V. macrocarpon* Aiton, which occurs near the *V. corymbosum* at Ashley Heath. His experience of cultivating both species in gardens near Wareham and at Llanfairfechan has shown that quite young berried plants require protection as the berries are eagerly eaten by Blackbirds and Thrushes. This is confirmed by Dr C.D. Needham of Duns, Berwickshire, who suffered the misfortune to have most of his blueberries taken by Blackbirds, which pecked through the plastic mesh of a fruit cage to reach them.

It is therefore highly probable that establishment of seedlings at any distance beyond original plantings is due to dispersal by birds. Regular roosts of Blackbirds and the various thrushes in shrubberies or copses would be obvious sites to look for seedlings, especially where the soil is at all acid

Considering how widespread is the cultivation of blueberry in Britain now, it will surely not be long before it is reported naturalised in other counties.

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

## PLANT RECORDS

Once again the most notable feature of the records submitted is a preponderance of Scottish and north of England entries. Another point is the scarcity of records in the so-called critical genera. This is noticeable with *Rubus*, *Rosa*, *Epilobium*, *Euphrasia*, *Metha* and *Salix*. In *Rubus*, six out of seven are from Scotland with the odd one from Westmorland. Of the *hieracia* all but one of nine records are from Peebles and Banff, reflecting the activities of members on the Field Excursion.

*Crassula helmsii* which is spreading rapidly, features from six localities in four vice-counties. The two *Epilobium* records are of introduced species, whilst in *Rumex R. patientia*, an alien is from VC 59, *R. maritimus* from two localities in VC 68, with the other four records from Scotland. There is only one *Euphrasia*, three *Mentha* and in *Salix* four taxa recorded all from Banff or East Sutherland plus a hybrid from Cambridgeshire. An interesting record from East Sussex (and a new county record) is *Dipsacus pilosus*, a plant quite rare in West Sussex and very local in Kent and Surrey. Another plant which is increasing is *Elodea nuttallii* with a goodly supply of new local records. Surrey has provided a specially good find in the hybrid snowdrop *Galanthus elwesii* x *G. nivalis*. With reference to the record of *Carex lachenalii* Robert Mackechnie and I saw it in Coire an't Saigndeir of Cairn Toul in July 1934, and also on the northern slopes of the mountain in July 1941 where it was frequent. It was found on Cairn Toul by Professor Balfour before 1860. There is an interesting record of *Bromus benekenii* from Denbighshire. This is a grass that has been neglected in the past, though given in a few of our older county floras. I have only seen it on the Chilterns and North Downs. Someone should try and check the old reported localities and compile a list of the vice-counties in which it occurs.

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

### WHERE MY CARAVAN HAS RESTED

I was most interested to read Rosemary FitzGerald's note about *Hieracium speluncarum* in *BSBI News* no 39, and to recall that my father first recorded it from Mells in 1905. Sure enough, in my copy of Murray, *Flora of Somerset* (1896), there is a note in my father's hand "*H. amplexicaule*. Plentiful on walls at Mells 1905".

I remember it in our garden at Millard's Hill, Nunney (about 5 miles from Mells) in my school days, no doubt introduced from Mells. When my parents moved to Cheltenham in 1921, it was one of the plants which my father took to establish in his new garden. When my wife and I started a garden in Petersham, Surrey, in 1934, a plant of *H. speluncarum* was given us by my father. It surprisingly survived there on very sandy non-calcareous soil, even during the War years when the house was let and the garden neglected, till we left in 1969. It came with us to Nayland, where it has flourished, sowing itself on to a mown lawn and into the lime-mortar of our old brick walls. But so far I've not noticed it outside our garden. If BSBI members find it in future years in Cheltenham, Petersham or Nayland, they can blame the Milne-Redheads.

EDGAR MILNE-REDHEAD, Parkers, Nayland, COLCHESTER, Essex. CO6 4HX.



## NO ORCHIDS, PLEASE

The Royal Society for Nature Conservation has been running a 3-month scheme to give round-the-clock protection to Britain's rarest orchids during their vulnerable flowering period. Among species being protected are the Early Spider Orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*) and the Monkey Orchid (*Orchis simia*). The rare plants are at risk from plant thieves and from people who may pick or trample them without realising their value.

Orchid wardens are being employed by local Nature Conservation Trusts in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Kent, Oxfordshire and Yorkshire. The Scottish Wildlife Trust also has an orchid warden, and others will soon be starting.

As well as watching the plants, wardens will hand-pollinate the flowers and collect some of the precious seed for germination trials at RBG, Kew. At some sites wardens will also guide visitors to admire and photograph selected specimens.

Dr Franklyn Perring, Gen. Sec. of RSNC, comments 'As our members already know, owing to land-use changes and some unscrupulous collectors, many British wild flowers are now under threat of extinction. Orchid wardening will help to save some of these wild plants but much more requires to be done and we plan to extend the scheme in the future'.

The project is funded by the Nature Conservancy Council,, the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust and the World Wildlife Fund.

Would you like to join in? If so, contact your local county Nature Conservation Trust (address from libraries, council offices etc) or RSNC, The Green, Nettleham LINCOLN LN2 2NR.

## ENGLISH NAMES

John Dony, Stephen Jury and Frank Perring met recently and discussed problems concerning the proposed new edition. They were able to make use of the extensive and valuable comments provided by Dr C.A. Stace and Dr A.C. Jermy. An agreed text has been produced and is at present nearly edited on the word-processor. It is expected that this will be ready in about a week's time. (The arrival of the Final Examinations delayed production!) The revisers would be pleased to circulate the new manuscript for further comments. Any individual who would be prepared to read the text is invited to contact Dr S.L. Jury. It is hoped the definitive text will be ready for press before the summer vacation.

I understand the work is now about out-of-print, and as all herbicides will soon have to have "standard names" printed on their packets an urgent reprint is necessary. Martin Walters of Cambridge University Press has shown an interest in the work, and so it may be possible to get a commercial publisher to take this work on. The situation has changed with regard to the publishing of English Names since it has now become a standard work. It is important that a decision be taken with regard to the nature and timing of the reprint.

STEPHEN JURY, Plant Sciences Labs, The University, READING RG6 2AS.

## **IDENTIFYING PLANTS WITH A BBC MICROCOMPUTER**

Since the note in BSBI News 27 (April 1981) about computer-made keys, there have been a number of requests for a version of the interactive identification program in BBC BASIC for the BBC-B micro. This is now available, and requires a floppy disc drive and the Acorn Disc Filing System (DFS). The disc is necessary to provide enough space for the data sets. Enquiries to:

R.J. PANKHURST, Botany Dep't, British Museum, (Nat. Hist.), Cromwell Road, LONDON SW7 5BD.

## **THE USE OF MICRO-COMPUTERS IN FIELD BOTANY**

As I see it there are three main uses of micro-computers in field botany, as an aid to plant identification, to record and analyse field results and as word processors to aid the presentation of results. Other possible uses include training and literature work. The smallest home computer can be used, though naturally more sophisticated work can be done on the larger professional machines capable of handling more data and larger applications.

Plant identification would seem to be a very good application for the botanically minded computer user, one might even take one of the lap-portables into the field. The actual use of identification programs is relatively straightforward, some programs such as those developed by Dr R. Pankhurst of the British Museum (Natural History) depending on the answers so far, guide the user by suggesting the best characters to examine next. One can use relatively simple but less friendly and helpful specialist programs or perhaps one of the standard data base program. I have even used a word processing program to search data. The key to good identification programs is good taxonomic data. If the data used by the program is sound and comprehensive then identifications will be made quickly and efficiently. If the data is well prepared by an expert on the genus then any competent botanist should get good results using the program. Most identification programs are universal, information on specific groups of plants being held in a data file to be used by the program.

Recording field data is usefully done using a micro-computer the information being held in a computer file or data base. The distribution data for 500 or so species in 1000 areas could be entered and stored with the help of a disk drive unit. The information could then be printed out in the form of computer derived distribution maps or compared and analysed in many ways. For example Staffordshire, an average sized county, has about 800 tetrads which means that vascular plant distribution data on this basis could be held on a couple of floppy disks.

University botanists have long used computers to analyse plant populations for variation, for ecological and other factors. There is no reason why amateur botanists should not do likewise, though one might need to learn the elements of programming first.

The various bird magazines contain advertisements offering bird identification programs for use on your home micro. These programs use computer graphics to draw diagrams on the screen illustrating differences between species. Why not similar programs to teach the art of plant identification? Such programs would need to be at a popular level to sell well but must have a good botanical basis as well as sound programming. With good graphics a sound training program could be written.

The word-processing (typing) facility available for most micros is invaluable. Using a good word processing program the rough draft of an article or even a county flora can be entered into the computer and then later revisions and corrections be made without retyping. It is even possible for the printers to use the floppy disk from the micro to typeset the book for publication, so saving time and reducing errors.

Around the world are a number of major 'host' computers holding large data bases containing millions of bibliographic abstracts, the actual abstracts being similar to those in the BSBI Abstracts. The data bases can be speedily searched for specific information using a micro-computer linked through the telephone system. It is far quicker to make a literature search in this way than by a conventional library work. I have not come across a specifically botanical data base but I have retrieved botanical information from chemical, agricultural and food data bases. These services are cost effective to industry but perhaps not if one's funds are limited. However, one of the hosts has a special low rate for out of hours private use.

I am sure that whilst reading this article anyone connected with computers has thought up many more possible uses for a micro; the uses are limited not by the computer but by the bounds of human imagination.

MAURACE TAYLER, 50 Cricket Lane, LICHFIELD, Staff WS14 9ER.

#### CONYZA

M Guédès makes no reference in his note in *BSBI News* 38 to what has appeared in *Watsonia* on this subject.

Jack Marshall at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) examined many hundreds of sheets of these annual weeds from all over the world. The result of this intensive study was set out as long ago as 1973 in *Watsonia* 9(4) : 372-3 with the synonymy of the three relevant species. By an oversight *C. albida* was omitted from the list for what was there called *C. floribunda*. Shortly afterwards the evidence was obtained to prove that in fact the correct name for this species was *C. sumatrensis* dating back 31 years earlier. The details are in *Watsonia* 10(2) : 166 in 1974. Since I had worked on this with him, I was able to use this name in *The Wild Flowers of Guernsey*, which was eventually published some months later, in 1975. It is also used in *Watsonia* 11(4) : 429 in 1977.

M. Guédès is critical of the treatment of this genus in *Flora Europaea*. So were Mr Marshall and myself. Dr Cronquist's manuscript was sent to us for comment, when we strongly disagreed with only *C. canadensis* and *C. bonariensis* being recognised. He however would not alter his opinion, insisting that the distinctions observable in Europe were not valid in their native areas. Yet Mr Marshall and I became able to tell almost at a glance *bonariensis* from *sumatrensis*, as indeed M. Guédès does. Moreover, various other species have become modified in Europe and do not clearly match their American counterparts, for example in *Amelanchier*, *Aster*, *Oenothera* and *Solidago*. An early reference is in *Watsonia* 9(2) : 201-2, 1972. The modifications eventually published in *Flora Europaea* were the best acknowledgement we could get to the position as we knew it, which seemed not unimportant in a major Flora of that continent.

Mr B. Wurzell has recently been studying our Conyzas. He showed his interim results at the last Exhibition meeting, suggesting somewhat different habitat requirements for each. He is likely to be writing this up after this note appears, so I will not anticipate it. But it will add food for thought to what M. Guédès has written, whom I would like to thank for the fresh details he gives.

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

## SURVIVAL OF ELMS IN VC 55 (Leicestershire and Rutland)

Many miles of Elm hedge continue to grow vigorously all over Leicestershire and Rutland, and there are also woods in which new sucker growth continues to appear year by year, even though the standard trees from whose root systems they originate were killed and felled 5 years or more ago. There is no sign that Elm hedges are open to infection by Dutch Elm disease so long as they are kept trimmed. When however, they are neglected the young trees succumb by the time they are 5 to 10 metres high. Fortunately there are two County Trust Woodland Nature Reserves in which Elm suckers are still growing and the Trust proposes to keep these carefully coppiced until either the danger of new infection appears to have passed or, until we are proved wrong, and they succumb in spite of our efforts.

If we are proved right in our hypothesis that suckers and sucker hedges are safe from fresh infection, and that infection does not travel through the root system to the suckers of infected parent trees, then hedges properly cared for are going to become a valuable source whence old local clones can be re-established. It is fortunate that in 1977-78, a great many of these clones in VC 55 were determined by, or with advice from, the late Dr R.H. Richens, and that records of many individual trees exist in the Vice County Recorders' card indexes for the two "sub" Vice Counties. It is to be hoped that those who agree with Richens' notions of Elm taxonomy will, in due course, be able to find VC 55 newly established trees which exemplify many of the taxa and local clones he determined.

In the meantime, Vice County recorders might care to have a look at their own hedgerows and woods for supporting evidence of our contention.

### Taxonomy

It is of course impossible to determine Hedge Elm precisely, unless you have precise determination of the trees that grew in the hedge previously. Nevertheless it is not impossible to allocate many hedges either to *Ulmus minor* s.l. (sensu Richens) or to *Ulmus glabra* x *minor* (sensu Richens) and with experience it is sometimes possible to pick out hedges of *U. minor* var *vulgaris* (= *U. procera*) from those of others of the varieties accepted by Richens, particularly where the hedge has not been too recently trimmed. In Leicestershire and Rutland however, we have sufficient precise localities where Wheatley's, Plot's and Coritanian Elms were well established, that we can now name the sucker growth from these with the utmost certainty, and the same is true for one or two Huntingdon Elm sites.

Unfortunately, the recorded sites for A.R. Horwood's *U. elegantissima* were very imprecise, and no one is now certain exactly which trees he was referring to, so that, unless one accepts R. Melville's contention that Horwood's trees were f. hybrids between Plot's Elm and Wych Elm, and can still find identifiable examples of these in the field, *U. elegantissima* seems to recede into the realms of botanical mythology. Certainly the last tree in Rutland determined by Melville as being this hybrid, died three or four years ago, leaving no sucker growth behind it, and there is no trace of it in a group of hedges in East Leicestershire where perhaps the same hybrid was dominant. Richens of course regarded Plot's Elm as an easily distinguishable variety (var *lockii*) of *U. minor*.

K.G. MESSENGER, 27 South View, UPPINGHAM, Rutland LE15 9TU.

**BSBI COUNTY RECORDERS**  
(Supplement 6 to March 1982 List)

With regret we report the death of **Doris Pugh**, Recorder for VC 47 Montgomeryshire for 8 years. An obituary will be published in *Watsonia*.

A Recorder for VC 47 will be announced in *BSBI News* 41; meanwhile communications concerning Montgomeryshire should be sent c/o Gwynn Ellis: Mr R.G. Ellis, Dept of Botany, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF1 3NP, and they will be dealt with by Doris' botanical friends locally.

We send our sincere commiseration to **Joan Gibbons** on her serious illness. She has been Recorder for VC 53 and VC 54, and S and N. Lincs since 1949, and she is also the author of *The Flora of Lincolnshire* (1975). For some years Irene Weston has been assisting with 53 and 54 and communications should be sent to her address: Miss I. Weston, Lindhris, Riseholme Lane, Riseholme LINCOLN LN2 2LD.

A new Recorder appointed for **VC H14** Laois in Ireland is:  
Mr P.J. FOSS, Botany Dept, University College, Dublin, Belfield, DUBLIN 4.

Please note also the following changes of address:  
**VC 87** W. Perth, N. STEWART, NCC, 12 Hope Terrace, EDINBURGH EH9 2AS.  
**VC H38** Co. Down, P. HACKNEY, 146 Gobbins Road, ISLAND MAGEE, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland BT40 3TX.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Peter Foss**, and to thank all our VC Recorders, who put considerable work into varied tasks undertaken for the Society – and who are the nerve-centres of the BSBI.

### **NOTE FOR RECORDERS**

The current list of Recorders and their addresses is kept and updated by the HON. GEN. SEC. and also by DEREK WELLS (BSBI Recording Scheme Organiser) and on computer at BM (Nat. Hist). Will **Recorders** please inform the Hon. Gen. Sec. of any address changes; these will then be circulated to those concerned and published in *BSBI News* as above. (*Members'* changes of address should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, but his membership computer does not tell him that you are a VC Recorder, so this selected system is required for the vice-county Recorders' list).

### **PANEL OF REFEREES**

At present we have no Referee for Violets (*VIOLACEAE* Subgenus *Viola*) as Professor D.H. Valentine has had to resign because of failing eyesight. We send Prof. David Valentine our sympathy, good wishes and thanks for past years as Referee.

MARY BRIGGS Hon. Gen. Sec.  
DAVID J. McCOSH Hon. Sec. Records Committee

### **VC RECORDERS' CONFERENCE 1986**

The next conference for all BSBI VC Recorders will be held on 5th, 6th, & 7th September 1986 at St Martin's College, Lancaster. Details will be sent to Recorders and be available to others in good time; please wait for further information.

JOANNA ROBERTSON, 70 Castlegate, GRANTHAM, Lincs NG31 6SH.

# ALIENS and ADVENTIVES

## ADVENTIVE NEWS 31

compiled by Adrian Grenfell

### NOTES ON A BOTANICAL TIME TRAVELLER (by J.B. Latham)

The return of *Centranthus calcitrapae* (L.) Dufresne to the alien flora of S.E. England is a matter of recent record (BURTON, R.M. 1983. *London Naturalist*. Botanical records, p. 107). It was well established on a wall of Kew churchyard in 1982 from wind blown seed, an order bed in Kew Gardens being the obvious point of origin. But after weeding in that year it did not reappear at the churchyard until June 1985 when it was found in good quantity in an *Iris germanica* bed. The history of this plant as an escape shows that it has a predilection for old walls, though as the latest record shows is quite happy off them. Previous records are given below together with the approximate year of its extinction at these sites:-

Garden wall at Enfield – 1770.

Walls of Chelsea Hospital – 1813.

Wall of Eltham Churchyard – 1890.

The Eltham population, an introduction by the 17th century botanist Dillenius, was of longest duration by far, persisting for two centuries until the wall was rebuilt for an extension of the burial ground.

*Centranthus calcitrapae* is seldom grown in Britain and then only as a curiosity of botanic gardens. From its commoner relative, *C. ruber*, it is easily distinguished by its deeply cut leaves and smaller, notably short-spurred flowers which are largely self-pollinated.

FOOTNOTE. *C. calcitrapae* (illustrated by J.B.L. opposite) is widespread in S. Europe: unlike the great majority of *Centranthus* and closely related *Valeriana* species it is an annual. The genus *Centranthus* differs from *Valeriana* in its spurred or prominently gibbous corolla tube and single (3) stamen – A.L.G.

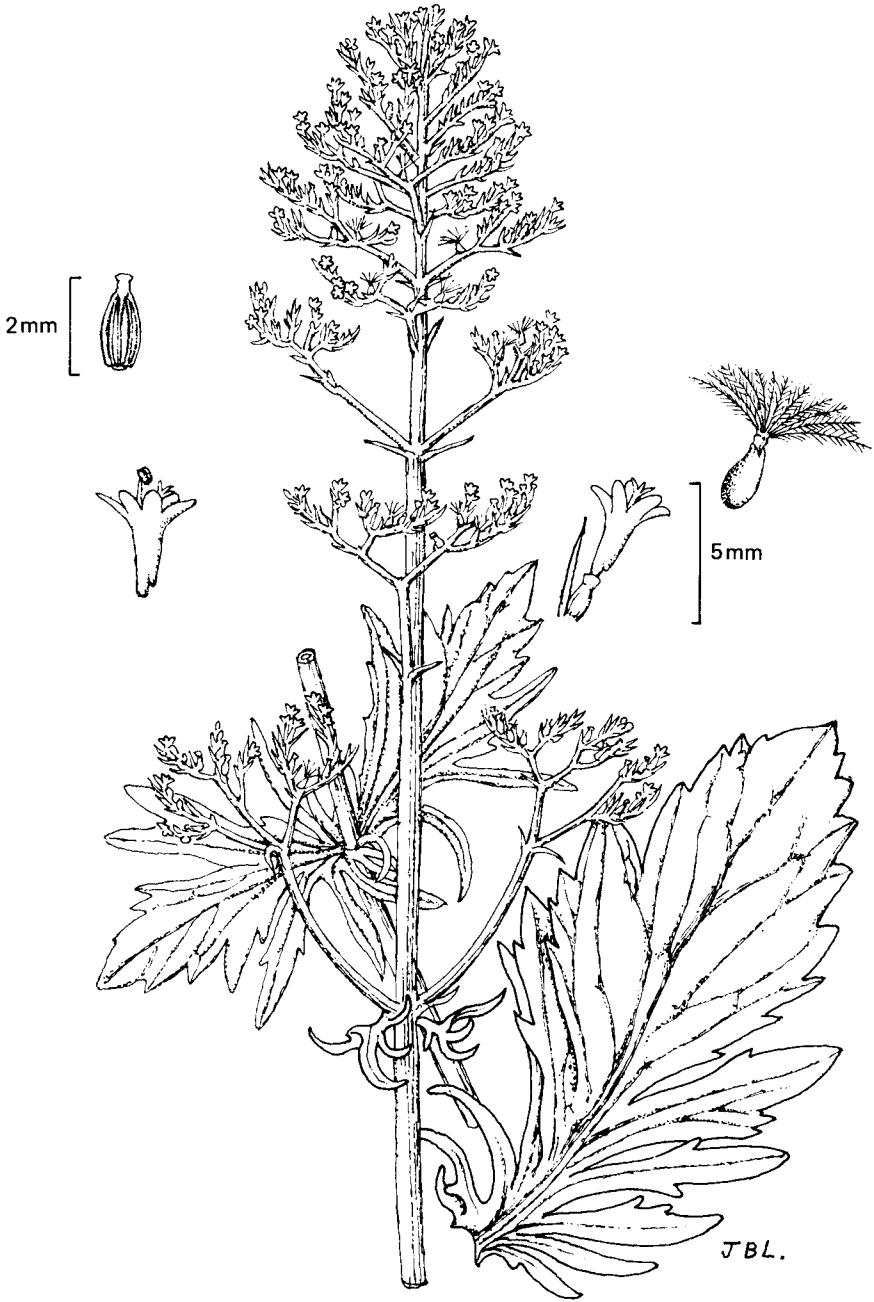
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### VERONICA CYMBALARIA Bodard – New to Britain

Also from S. Europe and well-known to members holidaying in the Mediterranean is *Veronica cymbalaria* Bodard, surprisingly recorded for the first time in Britain. Miss B.M. Sturdy reports several plants (conf. A.L.G. & E.J. Clement) on hedge verge by road at Goldsithney, nr. Penzance, Cornwall, flowering and fruiting on March 29th 1985 (comm. Miss R. Murphy). The mode of introduction was not apparent. *V. cymbalaria* is rather similar in general appearance to *V. hederifolia* and could well be overlooked as white-flowered variant of the latter. It is rather variable but differs from *V. hederifolia* in its longer pedicels (much exceeding the leaves), shallowly 2-lobed calyx segments (4-lobed in *V. hederifolia*), longer style and ciliate capsule. We are indebted to G.M.S. Easy for rapid execution of the fine drawing, from the Cornish specimen, reproduced on our front cover.

### ALIEN RECORDS

In recent years records of certain alien taxa appearing in Plant Records in *Watsonia* have elicited considerable criticism. A number of these have related to the merest casuals which clearly have little or no qualification for inclusion. An attempt is now being made to rectify the situation and in future records not considered appropriate for inclusion in *Watsonia* will appear in the summer issue of *B.S.B.I. News\**. In a changing flora the status of individual species will invariably be the subject of discussion: hopefully the publication of a new British list, now in the course of preparation, will lessen such arguments! Several of our commonest and most familiar plants have a relatively short history in Britain: the trio of composites *Senecio squalidus*, *Matricaria matricarioides* and *Crepis vesicaria* provide ample illustration of this. All three were first recorded less than three hundred years ago but their rapid advance is inextricably linked with the development of the road and rail networks, largely in the last 100 years. The spread of *Matricaria matricarioides* has been the most spectacular: since the first record, from N. Wales, in 1871 it has spread to over 90% of the British Isles and is now only absent from parts of the Scottish Highlands and remoter parts of Ireland. The following list contains one species which already shows signs of a similar spread – the N. American *Amsinckia intermedia* Fischer & C.A. Miller. This polymorphic orange-flowered member of Boraginaceae is a frequently recorded alien and is well established in arable land in East Anglia; it displays a remarkable resistance to herbicides, a factor very much in favour of its further spread.



*Centranthus calcitrapae* (L.) Dufresne del. J.B. Latham © 1985

\* In normal circumstances only 1st and 2nd vice-county records will be included. Records of unusual interest may be dealt with more fully, in which case further detail may be required.

The following signs are used;

\* before the record to indicate new vice-county record.

[ ] enclosing a previously published record: to indicate that the record should be deleted.

Records are arranged in the order given in the *List of British Vascular Plants* by J.E. Dandy (1958) and his subsequent revision (*Watsonia*, 7: 157-158 (1960)). With the exception of collectors' initials, herbarium abbreviations are those used in *British Herbaria* by D.H. Kent and D.E. Allen (1984).

PLEASE NOTE that records should be sent to the appropriate vice-county Recorder.

- 74/3 *Raphanus sativus* L. \*44. Carms.: Pen-y-coed, Bwlch Newydd, GR 22/36.23. Dung heap. R.D. Pryce & D.H. Williams, 1984. 1st record.
- 76/2 *Rapistrum rugosum* (L.) All. \*4. N. Devon: Torrington, GR 21/50.19. Waste ground. M. Tulloh, 1973. 1st record. 70. Cumberland: Carlisle, GR 35/41.54. P. Tolfree, A. Franks & M. Dickinson, (undated), conf. E.J. Clement. 1st post-Atlas record.
- 79/4 *Lepidium rudérale* L. 4. N. Devon: Fremington, GR 21/51.33. Quay area. M. Tulloh, 1965. 1st post-1930 record.
- Amsinckia intermedia* Fischer & C.A. Meyer 96. Easternness: Inverness, GR 28/67.46. Longman tip. M.McC. Webster, 1981, E. 2nd record.
- 169/2 *Erodium moschatum* (L.) L'Hérit. 29. Cambs.: Hauxton, GR 52/43.52. Waste ground. A.C. Leslie, 1983, herb. A.C.L. 2nd record since 1909.
- 224/1 *Acaena anserinifolia* s.s. \*4. N. Devon: Winkleigh, GR 21/61.09. Runway verge of former aerodrome W.H. Tucker, 1966, herb. W.H.T., det. P.F. Yeo 1st record.
- Cannabis sativa* L. \*96. Easternness: Inverness, GR 28/65.42. New pavement verge. P. Shirreffs & M. Barron, 1984. 1st record.
- 407/cus *Cuscuta campestris* Yuncker \*44. Carms.: Brechfa, GR 22/52.30. Garden weed – introd. with carrot seed? E. Grey, 1984, NMW, det. R.G. Ellis. 1st record. 2nd Welsh record.
- 408/1 *Nicandra physalodes* (L.) Gaertn. \*44. Carms.: Capel Hendre, Ammanford. GR 22/59.11. Garden (old chicken run). A. Wilkinson & A.M. Pell, 1984, NMW, det. R.G. Ellis. 44. Carms.: Rhydeg, Maesybont, GR 22/54.17. Garden R.D. Pryce, 1984. 1st and 2nd records.
- 412/1 *Physalis alkekengi* L. 44. Carms.: Ynys-y-rhyd, Pontynyswen, GR 22/53.27. Spontaneous garden weed. T. & G. Heal, 1984, det. R.D. Pryce. 2nd record.
- 676/14 *Poa palustris* L. \*4. N. Devon: Velator, Braunton, GR 21/48.35. Garden. M. Jacques, 1978, det. C.E. Hubbard. 1st record.
- 720/20 *Setaria verticillata* (L.) Beauv. \*49. Caerns.: Penmacho, GR 23/79.50. Allotment. M. Morris, 1984. 1st record.

Once again I thank you for your records – the 1985 flood is already upon me. As always I would remind you of the usefulness of the 5" x 3" record slips (SAE for a supply) and of the importance of packing of specimens. If you send fresh material please despatch by first class post to avoid delay – I prefer dried material with colour notes etc. Please remember to include stamps to cover return post and state if return of specimen is required: also to notify the appropriate vice-county Recorder of your finds – I cannot undertake this. I am indebted to Mr C.D. Preston of the Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood for communication of the alien records.

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

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### Supply of *EUPHRASIA* Reprints Exhausted

The 40 odd copies of my paper 'A taxonomic revision of *Euphrasia* in Europe' which were the backing for my offer in 'News no. 39' p. 31 were spoken for within a week of publication of the offer. Many applicants were unlucky and had their stamps returned with a letter of apology.

Evidently amateurs (nearly all applicants were such) are shy of applying to authors for reprints, perhaps because few can offer reprints in exchange, but are very keen to acquire them if they know they can be had.

P.F.YEO., University Botanic Garden, CAMBRIDGE CB2 1JF.



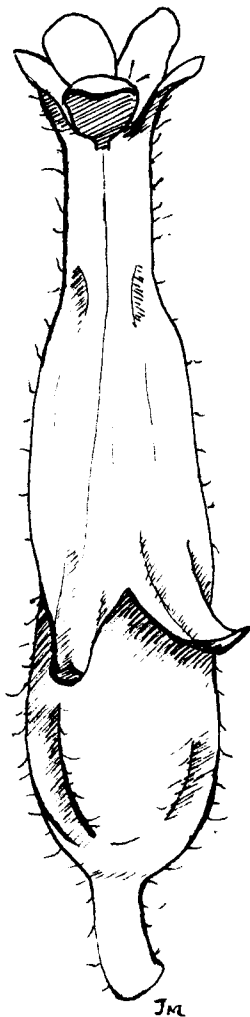
### PELORIC FLUELLEN

In late Summer 1984 among a tangle of *Kickxia spuria* on the edge of an arable field at Warning Camp, West Sussex, two plants were seen to have flowers of a peloric form. In each case only two or three blooms on each plant showed the aberration.

As the sketch shows the sepals of the affected flowers were fused and the spurs divided. The latter were greenish in colour with a feint mauve tinge towards the points. The petals were the usual deep yellow, three only bearing small purple blotches.

Unlike *Linaria vulgaris* no mention is made of a peloric form of *Kickxia* ssp. in C.T.W. although it is interesting to note that Sowerby states it to be "not infrequent". Has the incidence decreased in recent years? We had not encountered it before.

P. and R. FOLKERD, 21 Greystone Avenue, WORTHING, West Sussex BN13 1LR.



*Peloric fluellen*   
1 cm.

## THE RACE QUESTION

In 'The Race Question', *BSBI News* 39:27, Gerald Dawe refers to BSBI Committees reacting "as responsibly as they have been able to" to the increase in the marketing of wild flowers for cultivation. This is indeed a problem which has had the attention of our Committees; in particular the Working Party set up in 1978 for the study of the cultivation of native plants, under the Chairmanship of Max Walters and at the instigation of John Kelcey, then ecologist for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation and very much aware of the landscape architects' designs for the use of native plants. Through this sub-committee *Planting Native Trees and Shrubs* by Ken and Gillian Beckett was published, with a sequel on native aquatic plants now to be in print later this year.

Herbaceous plants were acknowledged as a more difficult problem, but with the realisation that growing these was a trend with increasing repercussions, some controlling guidelines were attempted. In response to very many enquiries BSBI produced an information sheet on growing wild flowers from seed, with advice on restriction to gardens and landscaped areas and with recommended seed suppliers. This latter was a joint distribution with NCC and the 6th edition is currently available from NCC, Peterborough.\*

In considering the problems, it was realised that although from the viewpoint of botanical recording and purity of geographical race some would prefer wild flowers never to be cultivated, it was soon evident that this practice would become increasingly popular, and would indeed benefit the promotion of general interest in, and appreciation of, our native wild flowers. A significant fact is that our native flora has reached stability (cf. Australia) for example, and introductions seldom show lasting aggressive invasion. A recent survey on introductions by the IUCN Conservation Unit, Kew, showed that for plants (in contrast to animals) in the last few hundred years, a very small proportion of introduced plants has become established in our plant communities. The growing of some British native plants in gardens for centuries e.g. *Dianthus gratianopolitanus* (Cheddar Pink) – readily available from plant nurseries – has not distorted the native distribution pattern. However, herbs originally introduced to, and escaped from, gardens e.g. *Aegopodium podagraria* (Ground-elder or Goutweed), have become well naturalised and in some cases are now considered as part of our natural vegetation!

At the same time there was, in committee, serious concern about the possible spread through cultivation of our rare or local native plants, and on our behalf Frank Perring first and later Derek Wells had many meetings with plant nurserymen supplying native seeds – of these most have co-operated by using seed collected from British plants (now increasingly available) and by not including Red Data Book species, or local species e.g. *Trifolium ochroleucon* (Sulphur Clover), in general seed mixes.

The sub-committee members were well aware of the "possible ambiguity" with regard to botanical recording, but I am not convinced that this "confusing iceberg tip" will develop rapidly over the coming years, and some of the adventures with erratic occurrence in natural habitats form the quarry for those well-known 'Alien Hunts' which delight some of our members.

MARY BRIGGS

\* NCC/BSBI *Growing Wild Flowers from Seed*, from:  
NCC, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA. (s.a.e. please)

# ADVERTISEMENT

## CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION OF BOTANICAL SOCIETIES wishes to appoint a national BOTANICAL CONSERVATION OFFICER Salary £10,000

To assist the association in promoting good botanical conservation at a national level. Applicants should be professionally qualified and experienced in both botany and conservation with a working knowledge of our native flora. The officer will co-ordinate the member societies to national issues which have implications for botanical conservation and to threats to plant species and sites of botanical importance as well as taking on specific projects.

The post is funded for 3 years by the Nature Conservancy Council and World Wildlife Fund. The officer will be based in London. For application form and further details send S.A.E. to Mr J. Montgomery, The Salters' Company, Salters Hall, Fore St, LONDON EC2Y 5DE. Closing date 25th September 1985.

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### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY

#### 1985

September 21-22nd, A.G.M. and paper-reading meeting, Nat. Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

Local Sec: Mr A.R. Perry, Botany Dep't, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

Details in *B.B.S. Bulletin* 46.

November 2-3rd. Taxonomic workshop, Gilbert White Museum, Selborne.

Local Secretary: Dr J.E. Chatfield, The Gilbert White Museum, "The Wakes", Selborne, Alton, Hants, GU34 3JH.

Details in *B.B.S. Bulletin* 45.

#### 1986

April 2-9th. Spring field meeting, East Dereham, Norfolk.

Local Sec: Mr R. Stevenson, 111 Wootton Road, King's Lynn, PE30 4DJ.

For preliminary details see *B.B.S. Bulletin* 46.

July 23-August 5th. Summer field meeting, 1st week, Fort William; 2nd week, Gairloch, Wester Ross.

Local Sec: Mr G.P. Rothero (for Fort William), Benmore Centre, By Dunoon, Argyll, Scotland; Mr D.G. Long (for Gairloch), Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh EH3 5LR.

For preliminary details see *B.B.S. Bulletin* 46.

September. A.G.M. and paper-reading meeting, University of Leeds.

Local Sec: Prof. D.J. Cove, Department of Genetics, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT.

November. Taxonomic workshop, University of Reading.

For preliminary details see *B.B.S. Bulletin* 46.

#### 1987

April 6-13th. Spring field meeting, Penzance, Cornwall.

Local Sec: Mrs J.A. Paton, Fair Rising, Wagg Lane, Probus, Truro, Cornwall, TR2 4JU.

For preliminary details see *B.B.S. Bulletin* 46.

July. Summer field meeting, 1st week, Achill Island, Co. Mayo; 2nd week, Westport.

Local Sec: Dr D.M. Synnott, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland.

For preliminary details see *B.B.S. Bulletin* 46.

# NOTICES

(BSBI (official) Notices)

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

It is intended to produce an updated membership list based on our computer-held details of current names and addresses. This will be available in the Autumn and a copy can be obtained by sending to the Hon Treasurer a stamped (18p) and self-addressed envelope measuring at least 6.5" x 9".

If you require a copy, please ensure your application reaches the Treasurer by September 30th at the latest, for only a limited quantity of lists will be produced.

M. WALPOLE, 68 Outwoods Road, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics LE11 3LY.

### Advance Notices

#### FIELD MEETING IN JERSEY 1986

The Meetings Committee is organising a field meeting in Jersey to be held from Wednesday May 21st to Wednesday May 28th 1986. It is hoped to retrace some of the journeys made during the first field meeting on the Island in 1923 at the same time of year, and also to give the opportunity of using the new Jersey Flora.

As the proposed week includes the Bank Holiday, accommodation will need to be booked early and so it is desirable to finalise arrangements before the 1986 Field Meetings Programme is published. Therefore, will all members who are interested in participating **please write to me** (enclosing s.a.e.) for further details, which will hopefully include a travel/accommodation package, **before October 14th**.

ROY SMITH, Hon. Field Secretary, 8 Ripley Road, Sawmills, Ambergate, DERBY DE5 2JQ.

### The Long Tradition

(the exploration of the flora of the British Isles)

A Conference to be held in EDINBURGH

**SEPTEMBER 12 – 14 1986**

the programme, arranged jointly by

Botanical Society of the British Isles

Botanical Society of Edinburgh

Society for the History of Natural History (formerly the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History)

will include: an introduction by Sir George Taylor, and papers on early botanists and the exploration of well-known botanical sites in Scotland, Wales, Ireland and England (including Oxford, Cambridge, Teesdale, the Lizard, the Lake District and the London area).

There will also be Exhibits and visits to a number of libraries.

The conference will be based at the Pollock Halls of Residence, University of Edinburgh.

**A full programme will be sent to all BSBI members with the New Year mailing – meanwhile a date for your 1986 diaries.**

M.B.

## **CHURCHILL TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS**

Categories for the 1986 awards include:

Endangered and threatened British species – animals and plants.

To apply: send your name and address on a S.A.E. to:

**THE WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST**, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace,  
LONDON SW7 5PR for the application form.

*Application forms* must reach the Trust Office by **31st October 1985**.

## **Recording in the NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK**

The North York Moors National Park covers some 555 sq miles of the wildest scenery in England, with extensive tracts of heather moorland intersected by deep valleys, and bounded by high coastal cliffs or limestone escarpments. It offers a wide variety of plant habitats. Historical records which I have accumulated indicate many under-recorded areas and absence of species/habitat data.

In an attempt to get an overall assessment of the Park flora in a habitat context, I have this year started a species/habitat recording scheme, and would warmly welcome offers of help from members who may be visiting or staying in the National Park. Recording sheets specific to this area are available. Helpers may select the location and size of area they wish to record. Equally, one-off records of unusual plants will be welcomed.

For further details, please write to: **NAN SYKES**, 2 Brook Lane, **THORNTON DALE**, North Yorkshire YO18 7RZ.

A BSBI weekend field meeting based on Goathland (in the heart of the North York Moors) is planned for 1986. This will be announced in the 1986 Programme, but if advance details are required please write to Roy Smith, Field Secretary, (address on page 2).

## **EUROPEAN WEED RESEARCH SOCIETY**

7th International Symposium

15-19 September **1986**

## **AQUATIC WEEDS: BIOLOGY AND CONTROL**

University of Loughborough

Further details from:

Dr **MAX WADE**, Human Sciences Dep't, (Ecology Group), The University, **LOUGHBOROUGH**, Leics. LE11 3TU.

## FROM A PERSIAN GARDEN?

Dear Experts,

What's this that in my garden groweth  
That wind or bird or creature soweth  
There's not a book or friends that knoweth  
What it is?

I've been each place I know and had a  
Look at Goosegrass, Woodruff, Madder  
Know you there atop the ladder  
What it is?

Winged insects seem to like it well  
I'd grow it for its pleasant smell  
For now I'll wait for one to tell  
Me what it is?

Thanks

IRENE STILLWELL, The Quarry, Binstead Road, RYDE, Isle of Wight PO33 3NQ.

This verse accompanied a specimen sent to the B.M.! It was identified by Mary Chorley as:

*Phuopsis stylosa* (*Crucianella stylosa*)

In the British Herbarium there are two specimens of this plant from the I.O.W. – one from Carisbrooke Castle collected in 1868, and one from Ventnor in 1966. It is a native of Iran, grown here in gardens.

Mary Briggs

## Lichens On Elms

I am undertaking a study of lichens on Elms for my B.Sc Final Year project. Similar studies have already been done on the lichen flora of Oaks and Birches. However, after the ravages of Dutch Elm Disease, I would be grateful to locate a living Elm!

Any samples of lichens from Elms and/or any other information would be gratefully received. (I would be pleased to refund postage).

MARK F. WATSON, Dep't of Botany, Plant Science Laboratories, The University of Reading, Whiteknights, READING RG6 2AS.

## PERSONAL

Does anyone know the present whereabouts of Dr R. Ubsdell who contributed papers *Centaurium* in *Watsonia* 11:12? Please contact: Dr G. HALLIDAY, Dep't of Biological Sciences, The University, Bailrigg, LANCASTER.

## *SAMBUCUS NIGRA* forma *ROTUNDIFOLIA*

There are two national collections of the genus *Sambucus*, neither of which contains a specimen of the form described above.

An inquiry was directed to me because of a former record from the Isle of Wight contained in Bromfield's *Flora Vectensis*, 1856, but there are no later references to the plant.

Would members who may be aware of any known specimens in Britain today, please contact, B. SHEPARD, 87 Elm Grove, NEWPORT, I.O.W. PO30 1RN.

## *MENTHA X MUELLERIANA* – STILL IN CULTIVATION?

I am anxious to obtain living material (rhizomes) of *Mentha x muelleriana* F.W. Schultz for cultivation. This is the hybrid between *M. suaveolens* and *M. arvensis*. The particular clone required was originally discovered at Salcombe, Devon by Mr Pugsley and replanted in Babbacombe Bay in 1936.

Up to a few years ago it was in cultivation at Kew and elsewhere. Can anyone help to locate a live plant? If so, please contact me before sending the material, so that its safe reception can be assured.

Dr R.M. HARLEY, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, RICHMOND, Surrey TW9 3AB.

## *FUMARIA BASTARDII* Bor. var. *HIBERNICA* Pugsley.

After several field trips to the Lizard Peninsula (Cornwall) during which I examined many *Fumaria* populations, I have become increasingly aware of the occurrence of *F. bastardii* var. *hibernica* in several sites. This variety differs from typical *F. bastardii* in having dark red tips to its upper petals (whereas in var. *bastardii* this petal is uniformly pink) and in having fewer flowers per inflorescence. var. *hibernica* might be mistaken for *F. muralis* ssp. *boraei*, which also shows the above differences from typical *F. bastardii*, however the fruits of var. *hibernica* are typical of *F. bastardii* in having truncate bases and rough periderms (when mature and dry). In contrast the fruit bases of *F. muralis* are usually narrow (compared to *F. bastardii*) and the periderms are almost smooth.

The fruit outline of var. *hibernica* does differ slightly from that of typical *F. bastardii* in showing a rounded obtuse apex, whereas in the latter it is simply rounded. This feature can be recognised with a little practice but I do not know how reliable it is. If anyone has examined this variety, which has been recorded from other parts of the British Isles (see Pugsley 1912)\*, I would be interested to learn their opinions concerning this latter character.

PAUL L. SMITH, 238 Linden Road, GLOUCESTER, GL1 5DU.

Reference

\*Pugsley, H.W. (1912). The genus *Fumaria* L. in Britain. *Journal of Botany*, 50:1-76.

## STACHYS GERMANICA

Recent observations of this very rare plant in its ten or so extant localities in western Oxfordshire seem to be very few. Current information suggests that it occurs mainly in hedges of ancient date and close to or within the original boundaries of the royal forest of Wychwood, and in disused quarries and arable fields in which game crops are grown. I would greatly welcome information on any recent sightings of the species or any details of historic sites not described in the Floras. Any information will, of course, be treated in confidence.

PETER MARREN, Rose Cottage, 9 Hungerford Newtown, Berks.

### IS ECBALLIUM STILL IN SUSSEX?

The recent *Sussex Plant Atlas* (1980) gives no records for Squirting Cucumber (*Ecballium elaterium* A. Rich.). The classic old locality where it was naturalized, "on a bank, by the seashore, a little distance from Shoreham, towards Brighton", quoting *London Flora* (1838), pp. 302 & 304, seems unlikely still to yield it, but has anyone searched just 10 miles to the east, at Peacehaven?

The clue appears in *J. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **80**:283-285 (1958), wherein L.R. Brightwell describes his cultivation experiences with this species. He collected seed from Elba in July 1951, planted them a few weeks later in a rockery directly facing the sea, and within a fortnight the seed had germinated. Today (1958) this plant has fairly taken charge of the seaward aspect of the rockery, is well established on the cliff edge, and is continually being reported from neighbours, some of them a mile distant. He provides an excellent drawing of the plant by himself, and states his confirmation of its perennial habit *if* the air be sufficiently dry, and the climate equable. (*CF.*, e.g. *RHS Dict. Gardening*, **2**, where it is given as an invariant annual.). He commends the plant as a curiosity, and states that it is in some demand by school teachers wishing to demonstrate an unusual method of seed distribution.

The garden, alas, is not localized in print, but our enthusiastic member K.L. Spurgin, who enjoys research into such mysteries, recently delved with kind assistance from Mary L. Taylor, into the archives of the MBA (Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom) at Plymouth, and, from the members *Directory* for 1952, 1954 and 1956, ascertained that the precise locality was 1 Edith Avenue, Peacehaven.

L.R. Brightwell concluded that "One thing is certain – *Ecballium* looks like becoming an established feature of the Sussex coastal flora." Was he wrong? (Please take great care to respect the privacy of the new tenants, should anyone deign to investigate).

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



# APPEAL

## INKPEN CROCUS FIELD

One of the few remaining fields with naturalised crocus (*Crocus vernus* subsp. *vernus*) is for sale with threats of possible development. The site, at Inkpen in Berkshire, has been known to harbour the plant for nearly two hundred years, and the present population is estimated to be ten thousand corms. The old meadow of 3.5 hectares in which it grows has not been ploughed within living memory, and other plants known there are *Carex ovalis*, *Dactylorhiza maculata*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Silaum silaus*, *Stachys officinalis* and *Succisa pratensis*.

My impression is that this is the best British site for *Crocus vernus*, an adventive from east Europe, said to have been brought over by the Knights Templars who had a centre at nearby Templeton; but I would welcome correction on this point from BSBI members.

An appeal is being organised to save the field, partly by local people led by Miss L.M. Watts, but also by the relevant naturalists' trust, BBONT. Several thousand pounds is still needing to be raised. Contributions made payable to BBONT, may be sent to M.T. HORWOOD, 2 Church Close, Benson, OXON.

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## LETTERS

### THE LINDLEY MEDAL

John Lindley, after whom the RHS Library is named, died on 1 November 1865. In the following month it was decided to institute a medal to commemorate him and was first awarded in that December. It was in three grades, silver-gilt, silver and bronze, for exhibits of special interest or beauty showing exceptional skill in cultivation and for educational exhibits.

Until last year, the decision when to grant this, rather than one of the other medals, had become increasingly uncertain. Consequently the RHS Council decided that from 1985 it would be recommended solely by the Scientific Committee for exhibits of special scientific or educational merit and, at present, in only one grade, the standard for which was set very high.

None were recommended until the magnificent show in connection with the great Centenary Orchid Conference. It must give pleasure to the BSBI as well as to the recipients, that the first award on this new enhanced basis went to Miss C Saunders and St Christopher's School at Burnham on Sea for her exhibit demonstrating the unflagging work, a continuation of the work her pupils (none over 13) have done on the local Bee Orchids since 1977. She has shown results at our Exhibition Meetings, but here was the full tally, which immediately impressed the Committee, and also the President and Director-General, who were specially shown it; and Council readily confirmed the Award.

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

## A SPURGE WORTH LOOKING OUT FOR

During the late summer of 1983 some time was spent botanising in part VC 16 with considerable historical connections;

At Blackheath and Greenwich, many interesting plants were found, some of which still await determination.

One species new to me, was *Euphorbia robbiae* W.B. Turrill (conf. EJC), a Turkish species which is naturalised in a wide tree-lined alleyway, obviously an escape from the large walled gardens nearby. In 1984 I noticed it again, in a roadside ditch near Hayes Common, W. Kent. *E. robbiae* is interesting in that to the casual glance it resembles the common Wood Spurge (*E. amygdaloides* L.) from which it differs however in its darker green, hairless, leathery leaves; larger flowers and fruits; and its creeping rootstock. The latex is bluish-white.

It could be worth taking a second look at occurrences of 'Wood Spurge' near habitations since they might be this rarer species. (Material from the Blackheath colony has been drawn by Hilli Thompson).

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

## BE CAREFUL IN A REED MARSH

An appeal was made recently by Mr H.T. Tribe, Biological Safety Officer to the Department of Applied Biology, University of Cambridge in which he urged caution in the laboratory. He wrote, "The Simple Holder for Petri Dishes, is, in its present form, potentially dangerous . . . . But similar dangers are known in the gardening world: both stakes and dead dry upright herbaceous flower stalks have caused severe facial injuries".\*

Each season I counsel myself to be mindful when botanising a *Phragmites* marsh. In a seemingly pure stand of reeds there is often a diverse ground vegetation and, on the lower culms of the grass, an interesting cryptogamic flora. When working such habitats the sighting of a plant of interest may result in a swift movement to collect a specimen. Short, hard, broken reed stems abound, an encounter could result in injury to the face or worse, injury to the eye – the best technical instrument available to the field botanist.

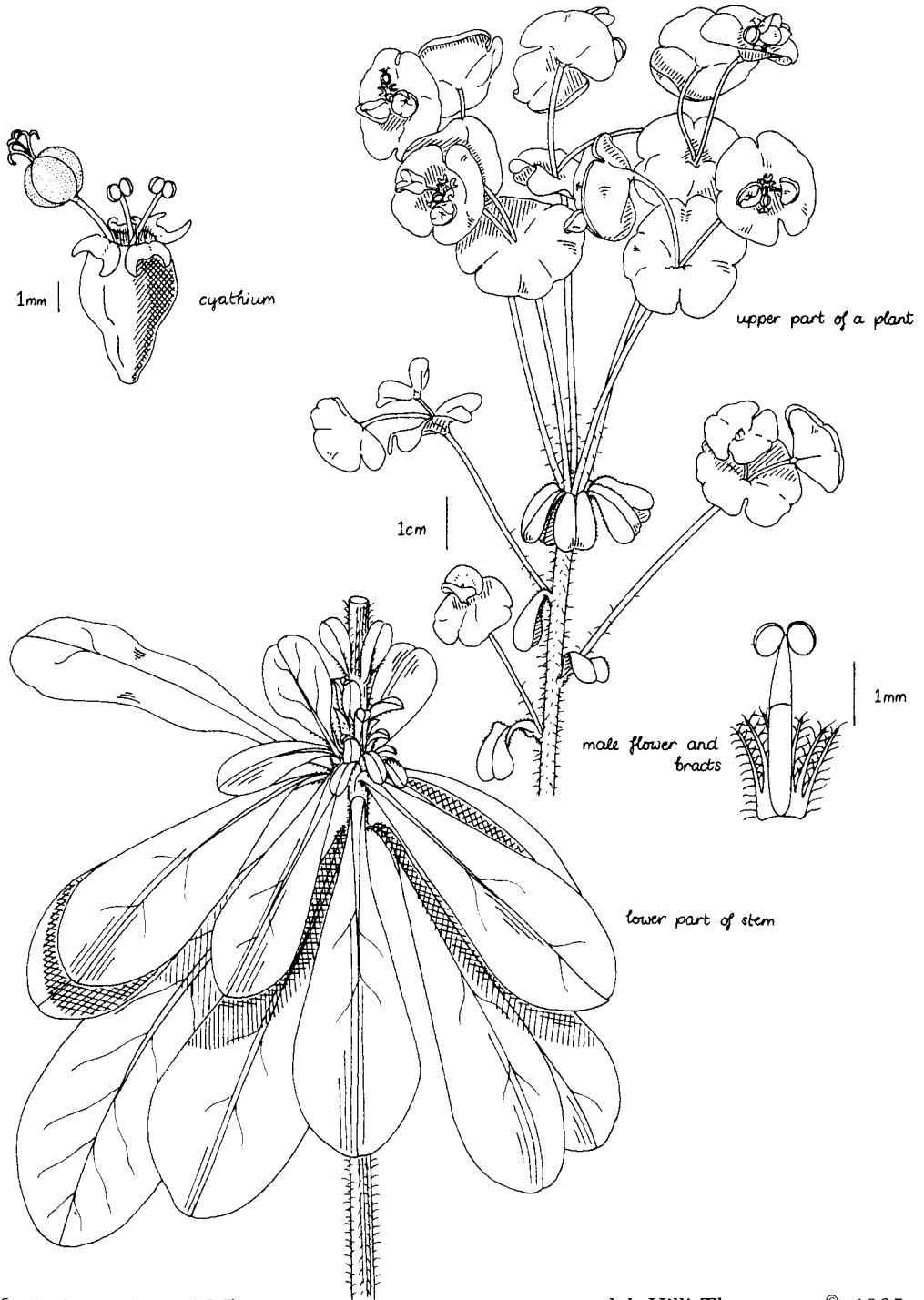
\* In *Bulletin of the British Mycological Society*, 18 (1984).

Miss M.J.P. SCANNELL, Dep't of Agric. and Fisheries, Nat. Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, DUBLIN 9, Ireland.

*We are in touch with a firm supplying industrial safety spectacles giving eye protection, both front and sides, as used by scientists to guard against laboratory accidents. In heavy plastic, can be worn over glasses; price approx £3.50 incl. carrying case and p. & p. Send S.A.E. to Editor for details.*

ED.

**The Editor's thanks** go to two members who kindly corrected his mis-spelling of *Campanula poscharskyana*.



*Euphorbia robbiae* W.B. Turrill.

del. Hilli Thompson © 1985

## ‘HELP’ (or ‘Bring Out Your Bugbears’)

“Help” is a regular exhibit at the Annual Exhibition Meeting. It started in 1980 (as ‘20 Questions’), it was a personal exhibit to plead for help with some awkward specimens of my own. It attracted some interest and was a lot of help, so much so that I decided to ‘go public’ and invite all and sundry to submit their bugbears, anonymously if preferred.

At first it was touch-and-go. Would we have enough to justify our allotted area, or too many, necessitating invasion of adjoining space? Would we get anything at all!

Last year everything melded perfectly. Several members dived in and displayed their own ‘bugbears’ without needing to be urged. That is how it should be; anyone can join in.

Besides being (hopefully) useful, it can be fun. Some specimens will stay in my mind for a long time. I liked the *Orobanche* attached to its host plant in a 2 foot diameter planter full of other plants, *O. caryophyllacea* was the consensus.

One specimen of grass acquired 5 different names from a total of 12 helpers, with quite a vigorous exchange on the suggestions on the card, e.g. “Definitely *B. unioides*”, “I agree” “No, *B. carinatus*”, “Yes,” “No, *B. unioides*”.

*Bromus unioides* emerged triumphant, from this noble battle.

Sometimes the helpers get vocal. Last year three very experienced botanists were heard vigorously disputing the identity of a slide for some time until one conceded that she must have a mental block and would clear it when she got home. It happens to all of us! Another prominent botanist confidently wrote *Corrigiola litoralis* on a card and later realised that he had meant to put *Illecebrum verticillatum*, but had confused the names mentally. When he returned to correct it, card and plant had gone. A few days later a postcard to my home corrected his slip, and apologising quite needlessly.

Occasionally even the specimen is missing – apart from slides that is. One exhibit was of a house for sale advert which boasted a “garden with established carnivorous trees”. This elicited a suggestion that they might be ‘Piranha Pines’ (*Pisco-pinus ferocissimus*)!

There is sometimes a vague element. A solitary leaf went un-named on paper. (Some did get it right over sherry in the evening). Collected from a non-flowering plant, it looked weird. Some thought it was fern, but in fact it was only *Capsella bursa-pastoris*. But how often do we look twice at it!

Enough from me. Now it is your turn. Bring (or send) your awkward specimens to the next Exhibition Meeting, and get some help, given gladly with no embarrassment either way. Let’s make 1985 a bumper bugbear burying year.

SEAN L.M. KARLEY (assisted by Mrs ANN M. KARLEY)

**N.B.** If desired specimens can be sent to me at home:  
30 Harrowden Road, WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants.

## CHURCHYARDS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the BSBI vice-county Recorders who responded to my breathless request for information about churchyard flora. Because of the pressing publishing schedule, I regret that I have not been able to reply personally to everyone; no proper way to express my gratitude for the generous help I have received. Without such staunch support not only from the BSBI, but from Women's Institute members, county Bat Groups, The Lincoln Society and a number of clergymen, I would not have got very far with the subject in under a year. I hope that those who so kindly became involved with this project will not be disappointed with the result.

*God's Acre - the Flowers and Animals of the Parish Churchyard*, illustrated by Clare Roberts is being published on 23rd September (Orbis edition £12.95, W.I. Books edition £7.95). Although there are a number of our rarer native and naturalised plants to be found in churchyards, most emphasis is placed on the characteristic wildlife of a traditional churchyard. I plead for methods of management which are conducive to living things, especially the meadow flowers which so often surround the church, and those of walls and gravestones, - also to bats and birds which seek shelter in the churchyard.

In arriving at some conclusions about conservation, I have drawn on the work of Dr. Franklyn Perring and the Northamptonshire Trust for Nature Conservation, which is acting in splendid alliance with the Rural District Council in the interest of conserving wildlife in churchyards. I am deeply indebted to Arthur Chater for his wise advice and criticism not only on the subject of conservation but on all aspects of churchyard fauna and flora. Finally, but not least, I must thank Mary Briggs who maintained a constant flow of invaluable notes and information throughout the period I was researching and writing this book.

Churchyards occupy a very special place in our landscape. It is not always recognised to what extent their fauna and flora is part of their appeal - to many others besides naturalists. They are profoundly beautiful and interesting places, and I hope that an enhanced consciousness of their nature will result in practical conservation and that they will continue to be so.

FRANCESCA GREENOAK, 4 West Row, Wigginton, TRING, Herts. HP23 6HS.

### M.Sc. Course in Countryside Management

Our member, Dr John Sykes of Ramsbottom, Lancs, a lecturer at Manchester Polytechnic, recently developed the country's first M.Sc. course in Countryside Management. Besides serving as an honorary Conservation Officer with the Lancashire Trust for Nature Conservation, John has also commercialised his long-standing interest in old books on Botany and Natural History. He invites members who may have difficulty acquiring or disposing advantageously of books to contact him or are interested in his course.

Dr JOHN SYKES, 10 Lumb Carr Avenue, Ramsbottom, BURY, Lancs BL0 9QG.

## NEWS FROM OUNDLE

On 2nd August we moved from Oundle Lodge – the 18th century farmhouse a mile from the town, and our home for 14 years – into Oundle itself. It has been a wrench, not least for our daughter Emma who was born there. But Margaret and I both feel we were very privileged to have enjoyed living at ‘The Lodge’ for so long, especially as our farming landlord Bob Gent, a confirmed conservationist, who with his son John, carried off this year’s Silver Lapwing award given by *Country Life* for the Conservation Farm of the year. John has now married and needs the house and so we move on.

The new address is **24 Glaphthorn Road, Oundle PE8 4JQ**. The telephone number is unchanged **(0832) 73388**. We did toy with the idea of naming the house ‘The Lodge’ but have since discovered it already has a name ‘Sydney Villa’ – so we have settled for plain ‘24’. We have no doubt that mail will continue to be addressed to Oundle Lodge for years to come (there are thousands of Endangered Plants posters alone carrying the name), however our local post office is very friendly and Margaret does not expect any delays in sending your orders. On the contrary, with post delivered at 7.30 a.m. rather than noon she may even be able to speed up the service!

However, even if some mail does find its way to O.L. all will not be lost. The book store will still be there and we are keeping on the kitchen garden for the time being. So there will long continue to be books (and blackcurrants) from Oundle Lodge.

Franklyn and Margaret Perring

## New BSBI Publications

### A Map flora of Mainland Invernessshire

This new Flora, published in conjunction with the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, is now available. It contains 146 pages including 798 distribution maps and is the outcome of a comprehensive survey of the flowering plants and ferns of the region which was carried out by members of the BSE and BSBI.

Copies are available, price £4.95p (which includes postage and packing) from the address below.

### Flowering Plants and Ferns of Selkirkshire and Roxburghshire

This new check-list for vice counties 79-80 has been prepared by Mr R.W.M. Corner and will be available by the time this issue of the BSBI News is received. The format of the check list follows that used in the check list of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Cumbria which was published in 1978. There is a brief introduction and an outline map of the two counties. The appendices include details of the less common casuals and aliens and the list is available (price £3.50p post free) from:

F. & M. PERRING, Oundle Lodge, PETERBOROUGH PE8 5TN.

### Wild Flowers of Kinross, by G.H. Ballantyne

Readers both North and South of the Border may like to know that a second edition of this check list, compiled by the Recorder for VC 85, has just been published. Compared with the first edition of 1977, the format has been changed to large A5 with double-sided pages and some line drawings. The contents have been considerably up-dated and there are entries for 35 new species.

Kinross-shire is a small natural area in east central Scotland, dominated by Loch Leven NNR and encircled by hills. It is rural in character and has a number of plants, either rare or very local in the region. Locations, past and present, are given for all species.

To obtain a copy send remittance (£4.00 which includes postage) and made payable to the Scottish Wildlife Trust to:

Mrs E. CORMACK, 58 Buchanan Gdns, ST. ANDREWS, Fife KY16 9LX.

### **WELSH BULLETIN No.41 (Spring 1985)**

This issue, edited by I.K. Morgan, is accompanied by a supplement consisting of R.G. Ellis' Welsh Plant Records 1982 arranged under counties. Most of the contents are devoted to a long article jointly by the Editor and R.D. Pryce on "Carmarthenshire Pteridophytes". All the taxa recorded in the County are considered separately, each with a dot map of its distribution.

The other main features are an article by T.G. Evans on assessing the relative population of eelgrass (*Zostera* spp) in the Severn Estuary which he concludes with, "Any tips to smooth identification of these taxa will be thankfully received", Alison Rutherford writes a short article on "Canary Ivy in Wales?" and invites specimens to be sent to her, and Miss A.C. Powell contributes a letter on *Campanula patula* in the Hereford/Wales border, and records of other species in her garden.

Members not resident in Wales can obtain "Welsh Bulletin" - Two issues per year Annual subscription £1.00 incl. p. & p. Send to: R. G. ELLIS, Botany Department, National Museum of Wales, CARDIFF, CF1 3NP.

### **SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER No.7**

Under the joint Editorship of Messrs. Macpherson and Stirling the Spring 1985 issue presents a full, varied and informative list of contents. After appreciative obituaries on two prominent figures in Scottish botany, Ursula Duncan and Prof. Braid, G. H. Ballantyne recalls a personality from longer ago, Charles Howie who compiled an unusual flora in and around Fife incorporating folklore and horticulture.

Several species are singled out for special treatment, notably Olga Stewart's account of the rare occurrences of the five taxa in the *Carex muricata* group, including recent finds. Alison Rutherford re-prints a detailed account of *Orobanche hederæ*, (featured on the front cover), from the Journal of British Ivy Society.

Other species which are the subject of articles are: *Elatine hydropiper* in Carron Reservoir, *Epipactis helleborine* in Glasgow gardens, *Arum maculatum* and a strange form of *Cardamine amara* as well as further mentions in Miscellaneous Notes.

A. Currie gives the latest news from the Western Isles Integrated Development Project, in the surveys and flora of which BSBI members could assist. There are reports on the 1984 Scottish Recorder's Weekend, Exhibition Meeting last November.

To remind readers outside Scotland; you can obtain this and future copies of the Newsletter by depositing at least £1.00 (which will last until exhausted) to: Dr. P. MACPHERSON, 15 Lubnaig Road, GLASGOW G43 2RY.

### **The Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (CNHSS)**

This Society, whose activities cover a wide area in S.E. England, announces publication of Volumes 15, 16 and 17 of its "Proceedings" and the parts already issued. Another new publication is the "Checklist of the Flora of the Croydon, Surrey Area" with notes and distribution maps. There is also a fixture list of meetings, excursions for the remainder of 1985.

Further information can be obtained from the Society's registered office: 96a Brighton Road, SOUTH CROYDON, Surrey, CR2 6AD.

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