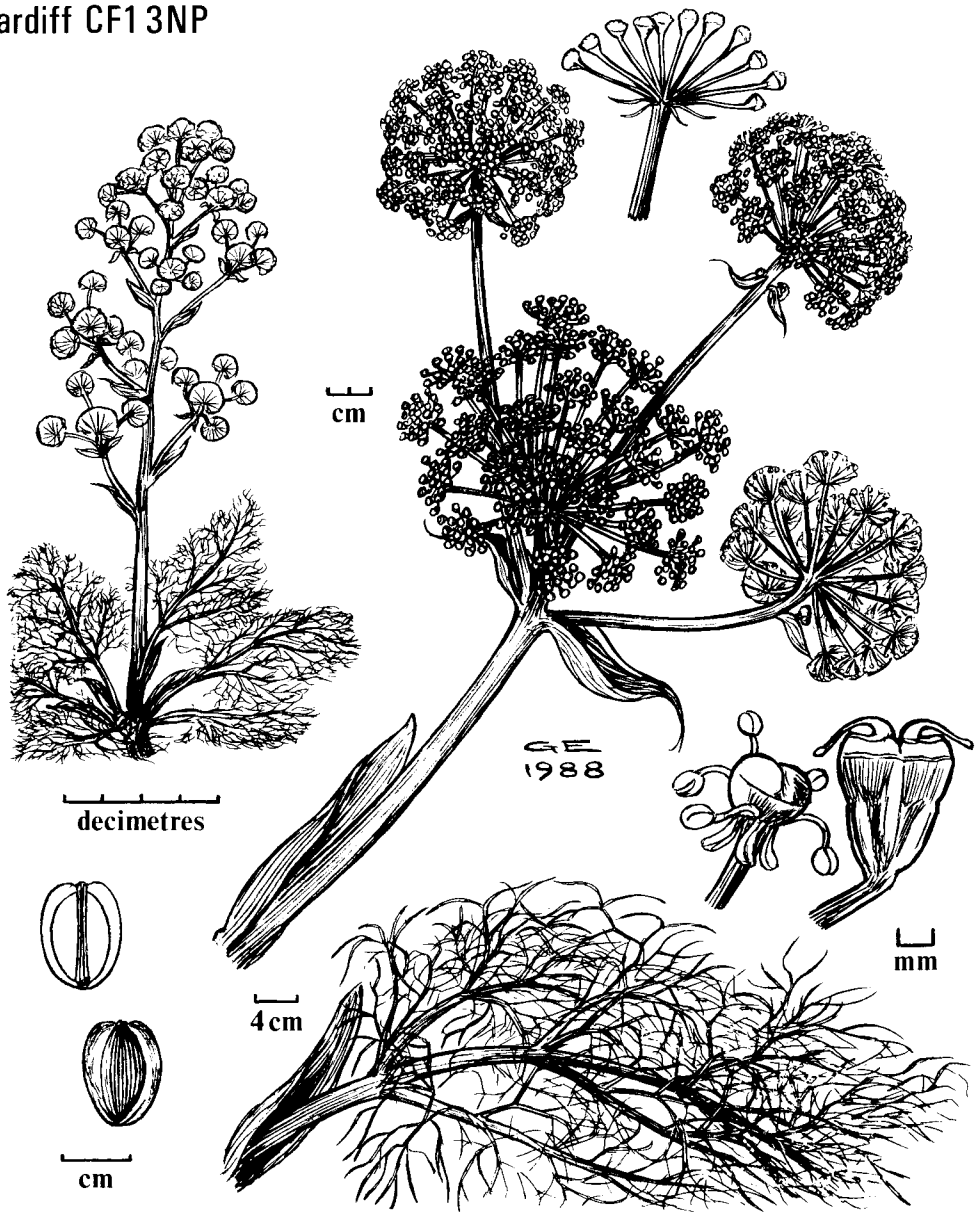


Edited by R. Gwynn Ellis

No. 50

Dept. of Botany, National Museum of Wales

Cardiff CF1 3NP



Ferula communis L. del. G.M.S. Easy © 1988

ADMINISTRATION

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White Cottage, Slinfold, HORSHAM, West Sussex RH13 7RG**

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68 Outwoods Road, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leics. LE11 3LY**
(Please quote membership number on correspondence concerning membership or subscriptions
- your membership number is on the address label of your mailings).

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8 Salcey Close, SWANWICK, Derbys. DE55 1HD**

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

RECORDS: Mr David J. McCosh,
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Pteridological Society).

The President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. General Secretary are ex officio members of all the
above committees.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Nominations for vacancies on Council, in writing, signed by two members of the Society and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate to serve, if elected, should be sent to the Hon. General Secretary, White Cottage, Slinfold, HORSHAM, West Sussex RH13 7RG, to arrive BEFORE FEBRUARY 1st 1989. (See BSBI News 49: 2 (1988) for the list of present members on Council.)

MARY BRIGGS
Hon. General Secretary

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

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Mr E.D. Wiggins

CONTRIBUTIONS INTENDED FOR

BSBI NEWS 51

should reach the Editor before

1st MARCH 1989

DIARY

NB. These dates are supplementary to those in the 1989 Calendar.

1989

January

- 31st : Please note that this is the FINAL DATE for bookings for a guaranteed place on the Pteridophyte Workshop (Bangor, August 18-21), see note on booking in Field Meetings Programme 1989 page 10-11, distributed with this mailing.
- 31st : Final booking date for Species-mapping and the Biology of Plant Distribution Conference at University of Exeter 6-9 April 1989. All booking forms for residential accommodation to Dr M.C.F. Proctor or Dr N. Smirnof, Dept. of Biol. Sciences, Hatherly Laboratories, Prince of Wales Road, The University, Exeter EX4 4PS by **January 31st 1989**. (Please note that due to a misprint on the booking form the Conference Fee is now £5 to all participants.)

February

- 20th : Final booking date for Biological Council Lecture, Reading (see below).

March

- 3rd : Biological Council Lecture, Reading: Prof. C.D.K. Cook (Zurich) Aquatic Plants: Opportunists and Specialists. See booking form distributed with this mailing.

April

- 7th-9th : Exeter Conference: 'Species Mapping and the Biology of Plant Distribution'.

May

- 6th : Annual General Meeting, University of Sheffield

September

- 1st-3rd : Recorders Meeting, St Martins College, Lancaster. Programmes will be available mid-April, and instructions for obtaining further details and booking forms will be announced in BSBI News 51, April 1989.

30th-

- October 1st. : Salicornias and Coastal Ecotypes, papers and field meeting(s), Chichester, West Sussex. Further details will be announced in BSBI News 51, April 1989.

PROFILE

MISS MARY PATRICIA HAPPER KERTLAND M.Sc.

A graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, Pat Kertland later worked for a postgraduate degree during the tenure of a Hugh Wisnom Scholarship. Her studies of the peatland vegetation of Divis Mountain (480m), which forms the south-eastern rampart of the Antrim plateau and dominates the head of Belfast Lough, were published in the Journal of Ecology in 1928, under the title of 'The ecology of Divis'. This paper, following the pioneering study of the 'Vegetation of South Dublin' by Pethybridge and Praeger in 1904, demonstrated an interest in botany which has never faltered. In 1937 she was appointed Curator of the Herbarium in the Queen's University of Belfast. In addition to her duties in the Herbarium, Pat was also a valued lecturer in the Botany Department. She remained at Queen's until her early retirement in 1967 when the Herbarium was transferred to the Ulster Museum.

For 25 years, from 1951 to 1976, Pat was Editor of the Irish Naturalists' Journal a post in which she succeeded Prof. Jack Heslop-Harrison. During her editorship she helped and encouraged countless amateurs and professionals in the preparation of material for publication. When Pat handed over the editorship she devoted much of her time to fieldwork both in Ireland and abroad and was particularly vigorous in her support for the team responsible for the publication of John Harron's excellent Flora of Lough Neagh in 1988.

Pat Kertland was an active member of the BSBI for many years. She did trojan work prior

Profile

to the publication of the Atlas of the British Flora in 1962, coordinating the field botanists of Northern Ireland, teaching the recorders their plants, sorting the records and refereeing the data before passing it to Monk's Wood. In the 1960s Pat took an active part in the formation of the Irish Regional Branch of the BSBI, attending meetings in Kerry, Aran, Roundstone, the Burren, and many other locations throughout the country. She is held in highest regard by the students of field botany in Ireland.

Just before the British Association meeting of 1987 in Belfast, at which she was anticipating meeting many friends and colleagues, she suffered a haemorrhage which caused the loss of her sight. Despite this blow her interest in botany never flags though she now must participate vicariously. Pat Kertland does not give in to adversity and has reordered her life to cope with her physical infirmity. We wish her well.

W. DESMOND LINTON, 25 Newcastle Road, CASTLEWELLAN, Co. Down, N. Ireland
ELIZABETH PLATTS, Belmont, New Road, Littleton, WINCHESTER, Hants. SO22 6QR

[I am indebted to Robin N. Govier, Assistant Editor of the Irish Naturalists' Journal for providing the excellent sketch which accompanies this profile. Ed.]



Mary P.H. Kertland M.Sc. A pencil portrait by Raymond Piper F.L.S., reproduced from the Irish Naturalists' Journal Vol. 19. 1977.

CORRIGENDA CORNER

My apologies to Jenny Moore for an error which crept into her note on **Lamprothamnium** on page 48 of the last issue. On line 6 of this note the salinity figure should read 26‰.

EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Mobile flora

Have members noticed the dramatic reduction in numbers of clean cars seen on our roads today. In bygone days (bring out the violins), owners seemed to take more care of their precious vehicles, lavishing as much care and attention on them as their spouses. This was brought home to me recently when driving behind an elderly Morris Traveller estate car with a wooden framework, from which sprouted a veritable forest of fungi including both 'toadstool' and 'bracket' types (see also p.21 for more news of botanical Morris!). I took great delight in pointing this out to my passengers and had a good moan about the general drop in standards of car cleanliness. Imagine my chagrin, when later that day I chanced to look at the back of my three year old Montego. In a gap between rubber spoiler and boot lid was a thriving colony of a moss and a few clumps of **Sagina procumbens**. Had this been a less common species would it have counted as a new record for every vice-county I drove through?

Since the above was written Richard Pryce, v.c. recorder for Carmes., informs me that his old Land Rover once sported whiskers of **Cardamine flexuosa** from under its wheel-arches!

Whilst on the subject of 'mobile flora', Mark Kitchen from darkest Gloucestershire has written me about a strange 'happening' that he and Adrian Grenfell experienced one "very very wet night" last October. They found a six inch worm crossing the living room carpet. Mark says "To my amazement I found that it was a botanical worm having seeds of not one but two different species firmly stuck to its coat; one of the seeds was 2mm in diameter". Mark wonders if this 'worm dispersal' is common; Adrian has assured us that the worm wasn't a plant!!

EDITOR

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY'S NOTES

BSBI NEWS - FIFTY

With this number we look back to thank all those who have contributed to the success of this, the youngest of the Society's serial publications, and we gratefully acknowledge the three past Editors: John Elsley (Nos 1-5), Kenneth Beckett (Nos 6-14) and Edgar Wiggins (Nos 15-42), with our current Editor, Gwynn Ellis (Nos 43-). In their hands BSBI News has been moulded into the popular journal that it is to-day. We also thank all the authors and the artists, many of whose contributions have been outstanding, and we record a special note of thanks to David McClintock for the far-reaching effects of his influence in setting up BSBI News :1 (Vol. 1, No. 1 at that time) when he was President of the Society in 1972.

Please continue with your support by sending in your notes, comments and views; and may I add a reminder that BSBI News has also a second purpose; i.e. to inform members of programmes, administration, forthcoming publications and offers, and to announce any alterations to these. These notices are always printed in the first few pages of each number, so please remember to read these **as soon as your mailing arrives**.

Field Meetings - Coverage in British Isles

As you will see highlighted on the map of field meeting localities in 1989, there is a lamentable absence of meetings in N.E. England. This was not in any way intentional on the part of the programme planners, and we apologise to our members living in the north east of England. As the 1989 programme was assembled it happened that a number of meetings were

offered for the south and west (more than sufficient for one year in the south-west where we now have some postponed until 1990), whereas plans for proposed meetings in the north east fell through for a variety of reasons. Meetings Committee has firmly resolved to give priority to N.E. England for field meetings in 1990, and if any member has suggestions, requests, or offers of meetings in this area, the Field Secretary, Mr R. Smith (address on page 2) would be very pleased to receive them.

A Botanist's Nomenclature

For those puzzled by the synonymy of Dr D.L. Dalby with Kery Dalby - the type specimen tells me that the initial D stands for Dunkery, from which the specific Kery is derived, as in Dunkery Beacon, Somerset. Dunkery Hill was within sight of the house where Kery was born.

Kery is giving a paper at the **Salicornia** weekend meeting 30 September / 1st October, and is a leader for the associated field excursion.

BSBI Members on the Air

We listen with special interest when we hear the voices of BSBI members on the air. Our v.c. Recorders are heard in wildlife programmes, as when Eric Bignall recorded a leech new to the island of Islay; others heard recently include Dr Goronwy Wynne from Flintshire, Dr Larch Garrad from the Isle of Man, Andy Currie from the Isle of Skye, and Mike Scott is frequently one of the presenters when natural history programmes come from north of the Border. We also enjoyed Gren Lucas speaking of his duties as Keeper of the Herbarium at Kew, Nigel Hepper's programme on plants of the Bible and Brian Wurzell on 'Supergrass' [see also p.11. Ed.].

Vascula Offer

Nellie Gibby has three Vascula which she will not be using again, and she is offering them to any member who could make good use of them, or as 'museum pieces'. One is shop-bought, about a foot long; the others are large home-made aluminium ones 'about 17" long and correspondingly fat'. Nellie says that the better one of these had a special catch to keep it well fastened - and adds that in her active days she used it as a pillow when sleeping out!. Any enquiries please to the Hon. Gen. Sec.

The Life of Charles Ledger

Alpacas and Quinine is the sub-title of The Life of Charles Ledger which has an insert advertisement with this mailing. As the subject is outside BSBI studies and scope this book will not be reviewed in Watsonia. It is an account of the adventures of an English trader in the nineteenth century who took cross-bred alpaca/llamas across South America and then to Australia. The unusual and descriptive water-colours were painted by one of the men on the alpaca droves across South America.

The author, Gabriele Gramiccia, is a malariologist and the botanical interest is in his description of Ledger's discovery of good quality Cinchona seed in Peru. This involved years of camping among the Cinchona trees waiting for a good flowering and seed production, followed by the intrigues and hazards of getting these to Europe and finally into cultivation in Java and India.

The book would be enjoyed by members with interests in travel, medicinal plants and exploration for plants; a tombstone newly added to his grave is inscribed "Charles Ledger ... he gave quinine to the world."

Churchyards Handbook

The 1988 revised third edition of this comprehensive book on churchyard management stresses the importance of respect for wildlife as a major consideration in the care of the 16,500 or so Church of England churchyards. The Council for the Care of Churches has been in close contact with this Society following the BSBI Network Research recording survey, and 15 of the 200 pages give guidelines for the protection of flora and fauna and the management of churchyards for natural history, with a further 6 pages on trees.

Beware 'the omnivorous mower' is advised, with a recommendation that churchyards should not look like lawns. The book also includes chapters on the legal framework and regulations and planning controls, as well as sections on history, archaeology and monuments - of these 38 are illustrated by photographs. The authors are Peter Burman, F.S.A., Secretary of the Council for the Care of Churchyards, and the Rev. Henry Stapleton, F.S.A., Dean of Carlisle; the book is from Church House Publishing, and can be

obtained from BSBI Books, F. & M. Perring, 24 Glapthorn Road, OUNDLE, Peterborough PE8 4JQ for £8.80 including postage.

Churchyards leaflet

BBONT has produced a leaflet for Buckinghamshire Churchyards; their care, maintenance and wildlife conservation. Roy Maycock, M.Sc. wrote the practical and informative text and the leaflet is attractively illustrated by local artists.

Wildlife Conservation in Essex Churchyards by Dr Ken Adams and the Essex Churchyards Conservation Group, was reported in BSBI News 46 : 27. **Other counties please follow**

MARY BRIGGS, Hon. General Secretary

RECORDERS AND RECORDING

Amendment No. 1 to Vice-county Recorders, September 1988

Two resignations to report: Ann Powell from Radnorshire (v.c. 43) and Noel Pritchard from Moray (v.c. 95). We sincerely thank them both for holding the fort in these vice-counties, with acknowledgment to Ann for her 23 years as Recorder.

Welcome to these newly appointed Recorders:

V.c. 43 Rads: Dr D.R. Humphreys M.D., F.R.C.P., Knill Court, Knill, nr PRESTEIGNE, Powys LD8 2PR.

V.c. 95 Moray: Mr J.R. Edelsten, 12 Durn Avenue, PORTSOY, Banff AB4 2QJ.

There is one change of address to report:

V.c. H14 Laois: Dr P.J. Foss, 5 Royal Marine Terrace, BRAY, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

There are also two postcode and one address corrections to the 1988 List:

V.c. 39 Staffs: Mr B.R.W. Fowler... WV6 8SL.

V.c. 67 & 68: Prof. G.A. Swan... NE61 3QY.

V.c. 90 Angus: Mr A.B. Ritche, 43 Albany Terrace...

MARY BRIGGS, Hon. General Secretary

DAVID J. McCOSH, Hon. Secretary, Records Committee

A NEW ATLAS

One of the aims of the Monitoring Scheme, which formally ends on 31 August 1989, was to act as the first step towards a new Atlas of the British Flora. Discussions have been taking place on the next steps and Council have now agreed outline proposals which envisage two projects:

- (i) A two year project from 1/10/89 to 30/9/91 to collate records for all those less common plants thought to occur in 16-100 10km squares. Red Data book species occurring in 1-15 squares are already well documented.

This is largely a desk job and would involve recorders checking draft lists provided to them and adding to or amending those lists, although this would not preclude any field confirmation that members feel capable of giving. A costed proposal for the work has been submitted to NCC and we would hope to hear early in the new year whether a contract has been approved.

- (ii) A five year project (incorporating field seasons 1992-5) to resurvey all the 10km squares not covered by the Monitoring Scheme. The eventual Atlas to distinguish 3 date classes:

(i) 1987 onwards, (ii) 1970-86, (iii) pre 1970

No costings have yet been prepared for this stage and detailed methodology has still to be worked out. However on the assumption that finance will be available to allow the project to go ahead, there is nothing to stop those members who wish from recording 10km squares from 1989 onwards. At this stage it appears that either ordinary field cards or Monitoring Scheme cards will be acceptable. Completed cards should be retained by recorders until the details of the scheme have been settled.

D.J. McCOSH, Hon. Secretary, Records Committee

REPORT OF TAXONOMIC WORKSHOP / RECORDERS' MEETING

LEICESTER, SEPTEMBER 1988

The 1988 Taxonomic Workshop and Recorders' Meeting was held at Leicester University on the 2nd-4th September. 94 members and guests attended and were treated to a full programme of talks, workshops and excursions. The two talks were held on the Friday evening ("Land-use and plants in a Leicestershire parish" by Ian Evans) and on the Saturday evening ("Monitoring Scheme - stage II and after" by Franklyn Perring). Ian Evans' talk was an entertaining and instructive example of what could be done at a local level in the way of not only recording the flora but also in interpreting it by relating it to past and present management practices and land-use.

Frank Perring's talk was typically upbeat and outlined the proposal to produce a completely updated version of the Atlas. Not surprisingly, this was followed by a great deal of discussion about the best strategy to adopt; the vital importance of adequate organisation and preparation before starting the project was stressed. Another important point raised was that volunteers should be kept fully informed of progress being made.

Most of Saturday was given over to four taxonomic workshops, any three of which could be attended by the participants. As last year, *Festuca* and *Rosa* were on offer, this time explained by Mike Wilkinson and the Rev. Tony Primavesi, respectively. The other two featured *Hedera* (demonstrated by Hugh McAllister) and *Dryopteris affinis* (demonstrated by Christopher Fraser-Jenkins). There was also a display of commercially available microscopes and lenses which attracted much attention. Saturday afternoon was rounded off with a tour of the Botanic Garden.

Sunday was excursion day and, after some complicated travelling arrangements, two fleets of cars ferried participants to three localities in the Charwood Forest area of north-western Leicestershire to look at *Rosa* and *Dryopteris*; after meeting up again for a picnic lunch in Swithland Woods, participants 'swapped genera' for the afternoon's botanizing.

The *Rosa* party, ably led by Tony Primavesi, first visited the woods by the Grace Dieu Manor school, near Coalville, where *Equisetum sylvaticum* and *E. fluviatile* were shown to us; the sharp eyes of Olga Stewart also spotted *E. x litorale*, a new vice-county record. We then examined the rose flora of a nearby disused railway embankment and a neighbouring, but rather smelly, cutting. A short car-ride then took us to Coleorton Common where some more roses, primarily *R. obtusifolia*, were demonstrated.

The *Dryopteris* party met in the grounds of the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire's residence in Woodhouse Eaves, where Christopher Fraser-Jenkins convinced us that you could in fact distinguish between *Dryopteris filix-mas*, the three subspecies of *D. affinis* (subsp. *affinis*, *cambrensis* and *borreri*) and all combinations of their hybrid with *D. filix-mas*; needless to say, this particular locality is unique in the British Isles.

On behalf of all participants I would like to thank the speakers, workshop tutors and excursion leaders for their hard-work, helpfulness and enthusiasm, and Prof. Stace for organising so efficiently this successful weekend.

RICHARD J. GORNALL, Botany Dept., The University, LEICESTER LE1 7RH

MERTENSIA MARITIMA (L.) S.F. Gray ON THE SCOTTISH EAST COAST

Although *Mertensia* is reported as being extinct on the Scottish East Coast (BSBI News 49: 51), it still survives at the northern end of this site group. I saw five plants in Sandford Bay between Peterhead and Boddam in 1985 (10km square 48/1.4), and Michael Innes, in a brief respite from sea-watching, has seen more plants this summer in the next bay south near Farrah Head. An old record for Collieston 48/0.2. (Naturalist 1 1865) links these northern localities to sites further south that are shown in the Atlas as having no records since 1930.

DAVID WELCH, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Banchory Research Station, Hill of Braathens, Glassel, BANCHORY, Kincardines. AB3 4BY

AN ARTIFICIAL KEY TO BRITISH MAYWEEDS

The superficially similar group of plants often referred to as Mayweeds do at times give problems with identification, mainly because they do not naturally come together in the usually available keys to Compositae. The following key I produced some time ago, mainly for use with mapping the Kent flora, and, prompted by a couple of recent requests for copies, I hope that some other members might find this key of use.

The species included are:

<i>Anthemis arvensis</i> L.	Corn Chamomile
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking Chamomile
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i> L.	Yellow Chamomile
<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i> (L.) All.	Chamomile
<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i> (Less.) Porter	Pineappleweed or Rayless Mayweed
<i>Matricaria recutita</i> L.	Scented Mayweed
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> Schultz Bip.	Scentless Mayweed
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> (L.) Koch	Sea Mayweed

1. Ray florets absent. Strongly aromatic (of pineapples!). A common plant of waysides and waste-places **Matricaria matricarioides**
1. Ray florets present 2
2. Ray florets yellow. A garden plant occasionally naturalised in waste places **Anthemis tinctoria**
2. Ray florets white 3
3. Receptacular scales present 4
3. Receptacular scales absent 6
4. Perennial; tube of disk florets not flattened or winged; achenes ribbed only on one face, rounded above. The Chamomile of 'Chamomile lawns'. Very local and scarce as a genuine wild plant **Chamaemelum nobile**
4. Annual; tube of disk florets flattened and somewhat winged below; achenes ribbed on both faces, truncate above 5
5. Plant usually pubescent or woolly, aromatic; receptacular scales lanceolate-cuspidate; ray florets with styles; achenes strongly ribbed, not tubercled; the involucre bracts all green. A very local plant of arable fields and waste places, usually on calcareous soils **Anthemis arvensis**
5. Plant glabrous or slightly hairy, foetid; receptacular scales linear-acute; ray florets usually without styles; achenes tubercled; involucre bracts whitish with a narrow green midrib. A frequent (but perhaps declining?) species on arable and other disturbed soils **Anthemis cotula**
6. Heads with ray florets soon reflexed; receptacle hollow, conical from the first; involucre bracts linear, blunt, yellowish-green with the narrow scarios margins much the same colour; achenes with 4-5 slender ribs on one face and lacking oil-glands. Plant pleasantly aromatic. A locally common plant of arable fields and waste places **Matricaria recutita**
6. Heads with ray florets spreading until near end of flowering; receptacle solid, flat becoming conical in fruit; involucre bracts oblong, blunt, with narrow brown scarios margins; achenes with three corky ribs on one face and two conspicuous oil-glands on the other. Plant scentless or nearly so 7
7. An annual, occasionally biennial, erect plant; leaf-segments pointed, not fleshy; heads 2-4cm diameter; achenes 1.5-2mm with clearly separated ribs and \pm circular oil-glands. A common plant of arable land **Tripleurospermum inodorum**
7. A biennial to perennial, decumbent plant; leaf-segments blunt, fleshy; heads 3-5cm diameter; achenes 2-3.4mm with the ribs on the inner face broad and almost touching, and the oil-glands vertically much elongated. A plant of various maritime habitats on the coast **Tripleurospermum maritimum**

ERIC G. PHILP, Maidstone Museum, St. Faith's Street, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME14 1LH

SUPERGRASS!

On June 7th, 1988, while leading a wildflower identification course as part of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers' Training Programme, a grass suddenly caught my eye which didn't 'fit the books'. Before twelve bemused students, I found myself reasoning why this unexpected plant looked like a mixture of two others, and, if so, was almost unknown elsewhere in the world at that actual moment. Professor Clive Stace (pers. comm.) soon confirmed that it was indeed **Festuca rubra x Vulpia myuros**.

The site was Gillespie Park, in the London Borough of Islington, formerly a railway goods yard, now an ecological open space much loved by local residents and much used for children's nature studies. Diane Hasnip, publicity officer for B.T.C.V., launched a press conference and contacted the live media in a remarkably effective campaign to broadcast the discovery. 'Supergrass' revelations duly hit the local and national press with photos of me caressing the appropriate tuft (there are actually sixteen tufts). Breakfast radio and supper TV told the same story. It was raised in the House of Commons that "the grass should grow under our feet" indefinitely, for, like many good places nowadays, Gillespie Park faces the threat of concrete invasion. 'Gillespie Fescue' and 'Islington Supergrass' were original titles coined by me for a detailed description of the hybrid and its circumstances. This document was produced and distributed in July.

Occurrences of x **Festulpia** are always rare, but are doubtless under-recorded because it does take a finely-tuned eye to detect them amidst their parents. Since 1957 there have been only five crosses between **Festuca rubra** or **F. nigrescens** and **Vulpia myuros** reported anywhere in the world (Ainscough *et al.* 1986). Of these, only two plants at Oswestry, Salop (in 1983) had involved **Festuca rubra** subsp. **rubra** as certainly as does the current Gillespie colony, a claim made possible by the detection of small weak rhizomes.

Reference

Ainscough, M.M., Barker, C.M. and Stace, C.A. (1986). Natural Hybrids between **Festuca** and species of **Vulpia** section **Vulpia**. Watsonia **16**: 143-151.

BRIAN WURZELL, 47 Rostrevor Avenue, Tottenham, LONDON N15 6LA

BSBI ARABLE WEED SURVEY : A BRIEF APPRAISAL

Q. Was the survey successful?

A. Yes. I believe that any venture which has encouraged 192 individuals to survey over 1100 sites in 332 of our 10km squares in Britain, must be accounted a success. This may only amount to some 10% of the total land surface, but then most of the 25 species of arable weeds are limited to lowland arable sites, mainly in southern regions. Inevitably the cover has been uneven - the distribution of surveyed sites is closely correlated to the distribution of keen botanists.

Q. What has the survey achieved?

- A. 1. It has aroused considerable interest in a group of plants which normally receives little attention.
2. It has stimulated research into conservation aspects of arable weeds. The British Agrochemical Association and NCC have funded a major research project, being conducted by Phil Wilson as a member of the Game Conservancy Cereals and Gamebirds research team. Phil has used the survey records to pinpoint areas for intensive survey and analysis. He has in return contributed a large number of record cards.
3. It has enabled NCC and other organisations (or even individuals in some instances) to initiate conservation measures on 'quality' sites.
4. It has uncovered new sites for some of the rarer species, including some which were not listed for survey.
5. It has given pleasure to many people who normally would not take part in network surveys.

Q. Could it have been conducted differently?

A. Yes, of course. A more systematic survey in which all the ground is covered by armies of disciplined and well-trained recorders, would be ideal. In the real world, however, one is dependent on the good will and expertise of volunteers. It is both unfair and

unwise to expect to be able to dictate just which areas are to be covered and how. Having made this point, it would appear that some vice-county recorders are able to do just that! Several have made an effort to draw the BSBI members from their county into a botanical work force and, with help and advice along the way, they send forth their team to survey. These vice-counties have provided a good indication of the level of decline in the 25 species.

Q. What conclusions may be drawn?

A. Pending further analysis of the results, some tentative conclusions may be drawn:

1. All the listed species have declined to some extent over the last 20 years. Some, such as **Euphorbia exigua**, have lost ground on the periphery of their former distributions (taking that given in the Atlas of the British Flora as a base line) whilst retaining some of their former abundance in their core distributions on the calcareous soils of southern Britain. In others (eg. **Torilis arvensis**, **Scandix pecten-veneris**, and **Ranunculus arvensis**) the decline has been far more catastrophic. In Warwickshire alone, the number of records received for **Torilis arvensis** during the survey was for two sites, as compared to the 15 received for the 'Computerised Flora'. Although the latter were collected over a period of 13 years (1955-68) the rarity of this species provides an added incentive to investigate the sites of old records and, I believe, the paucity of records reflects the decline of this arable weed. Overall, the survey elicited 10 records for **T. arvensis**.

3. Some species were badly under-recorded; this is almost certainly true of **Anthemis arvensis**, for which only 11 records were received, as against the 275 10km squares given in the Atlas! Whilst I have no doubt that **A. arvensis** has declined tremendously, I believe that the paucity of records in this instance reflects the terror many botanists have of the mayweeds. [See the key on page 10. Ed.]

This is not the place for a detailed analysis. That will come later. However, I am still keen to hear from people who may have records for the 1986-87 period lying around in data-bases or field note-books, or who may have up-dated information on quality sites which have been monitored.

Finally, I would like to thank all 192 surveyors. Without them the survey would have been a non-starter.

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THE GOOD WEED GUIDE?

WWOOF stands for Working Weekends On Organic Farms, an organisation which helps environmentally concerned people to meet, to work the land together, to travel widely in Britain and overseas, and to promote chemical-free food production generally. To quote their brochure, 'WWOOF is an exchange; in return for our work on organic farms, gardens and smallholdings (full-time and quite hard!) we receive meals, somewhere for our sleeping-bags, and, if necessary, transport to and from the local station.' The membership secretary's address is 19 Bradford Road, Lewes, Sussex BN9 1RB.

When first introduced to WWOOF in the summer of '88, it immediately struck me that a directory of organic farms also doubles as an excellent signpost to localities where some of our sensitive and threatened arable wildflowers can still survive. To a passionate botanist like myself, such clues are welcome indeed.

Of course, even a botanically-aware WWOOF volunteer would be expected to pull up his or her host's weeds, not just sit there admiring them! But need there be any conflict? On the contrary, I believe most botanists and organic farmers share a similar desire that our rarer wild plants should not be destroyed wantonly. Moreover, it also makes economic sense to crop some of the commoner ones for salad or herbal use, since it is by no means unusual to find unsprayed vegetable or cereal fields actually producing a greater bulk of consumable vegetation **between** the planted rows! And not least worthy of mention is the fact that 'all-out' weed clearance by hand amounts to a chore, while enlightened discriminative clearance could prove a much more interesting exercise for the worker.

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CHENOPODIUM VULVARIA IN DORSET

Chenopodium vulvaria L. - Stinking Goosefoot - according to the Red Data Book is a "native or persistent introduction in south and east England. It was particularly associated with waste ground near the sea and may have been a natural component of strand-line vegetation. Since 1960 it has been recorded from only about 15 10 kilometre squares in England, from rubbish tips and similar habitats, except for a few localities along the south coast, in Dorset, Sussex and Kent".

By 1988 it appears (pers. comm. R. FitzGerald) that it had declined to one site in Kent, where it was rediscovered in 1987, and a site in Suffolk, where its appearance is erratic. To support this Philp (1982) mentions only one record on Romney Marsh whilst Hall (1980) says that it was last seen in Eastbourne in 1947. Good (1984) merely repeats the comment in the 1948 Flora - "uncommon and local in bare patches and disturbed ground along the coast and at Poole." This is undoubtedly an historical statement

Mansell-Pleydell (1895) gives various casual occurrences and also records from South Haven and Studland Sandbanks. These latter are supported by specimens in his herbarium at Dorset County Museum (1872 and 1890 respectively). He also mentions "Burton Bradstock; pastures on the cliffs; roadside between Bridport and the harbour." Good (1948) gives the comment quoted in the Concise Flora (Good 1984 above), with no localities. But in his card index of the 7000 plus stands he surveyed in Dorset in the 1930s he records it, with no comment, from a two mile stretch of cliff between West Bay and Burton Bradstock. (Site No. 851 of 1932, although the actual record of the **Chenopodium** is added later among a few additions for 1937).

The writer visited the site in July 1988, with no expectations, partly because of the current apparent rarity, and partly because of the unlikelihood of the habitat, unless Good meant the shingle at Burton Freshwater. It transpires that Dr H.J.M. Bowen, the BSBI vice-county recorder knew of the site, having seen the plant there in the 1950s. **Chenopodium vulvaria** was present in abundance along 600 yards of cliff edge, about 140ft above the beach, on bare soil with no competition, a total of between 1200 and 1800 plants. A few plants had spread to bare patches by the coast path and on to the adjoining golf course. The beach below was also inspected, and perhaps half a dozen plants were found growing on rock falls. On a second visit, after a very heavy storm on 31st August 1988, all these plants had vanished, presumably buried by sand washed down from above.

On the cliff top the plants were scattered in the west by the golf course car park, gradually increasing in number and becoming fairly densely clustered at the east end of the site above a small coombe. None were growing further back than c. 4ft from the cliff edge, where the soil is kept bare by erosion. Further back, the bare soil is fringed with a dense growth of **Carduus tenuifolius** giving way to **Festuca rubra** dominated turf. In the bare soil other species found were: **Plantago coronopus**, **Malva sylvestris**, **Atriplex patula**, **Arenaria leptoclados**, **Bromus hordeaceus** subsp. **ferronii**, **Phleum arenarium**. The **Phleum** is another interesting record, as it is distinctly uncommon in Dorset, its preferred habitat being sand dunes etc. although Good does record it from Bridport Harbour and Burton Bradstock.

The rest of the cliffs to the east, to Burton Freshwater and on to Burton Bradstock beach, were also searched without any further records. It was noted that the **Chenopodium** was only found where the eroded edge of the cliff was earth. Where, as in the bulk of the cliff edge, it was exposed rock admixed with earth there was no **Chenopodium**, although most of the other species were present.

In addition to the County Floras mentioned above, the national Floras of Britain have been consulted, as have those of France, Germany, Italy and various Mediterranean countries. The plant is or was common in all, and none refer to any habitats other than waste, disturbed or cultivated ground, although there are generalized references to beaches and salt marshes. There are no references at all to cliffs, although several to the bases of walls. It seems unadventurous but one must suppose that in the current habitat it has spread from another source - Mansell-Pleydell's pastures? - and found a habitat where it has little or no competition. Presumably the same applies to **Phleum arenarium**.

On a lighter note, the smell of the plant is truly grim and persistent and the comments in the Floras apt. These range from Collins' 'Rotting Fish', and Flora Europaea 'Decaying Fish' to Sowerby's 'Stale Salt Fish - Lobel tells us it is peculiarly attractive to dogs', and finally to a concise German Flora 'a revolting smell of decaying pickled herrings' if my German is correct!

The plant is fully protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, i.e. it shall not be disturbed in any way. In the current site it appears reasonably secure. Presumably as one section of the cliff falls, the area of eroded turf expands landwards and the fresh earth is recolonised either from dormant seeds or from adjoining populations. The cliffs are absolutely sheer and although the coastal footpath is heavily used, the cliff edge is avoided.

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ALLIUM VINEALE var. COMPACTUM IN N.E. SCOTLAND

The Allium on the Dorset coast described by A.H. Aston in BSBI News 49: 10, seems similar to plants growing along estuaries in north-east Scotland. These too produce globose heads of bulbils, and flowers are very few or lacking (see fig. 1). Multiple heads occur, but I have done no counts on frequency. By September the heads become fragile and break up into the component bulbils. From bulbils I introduced plants to my garden and the characteristics of the inflorescences have not varied in six years.

I reported these colonies in 'Plant Records' (Watsonia 14: 430) as Allium vineale, assuming they belonged to var. compactum from the descriptions in CTW. Malcolm Smith, who made the first recent find in 1976, was also puzzled. The only previous record for Allium vineale in N. Aberdeen (v.c. 93) is merely a name in a list (Trail & Roy 1884) so we cannot be certain that it is of the same type. However the locality, Collieston, is on the coast.

The present N. Aberdeen colonies are centred around high tide level, two at the Ythan being on mud and one on the Ugie having a more sandy substrate. Associated plants are Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani at the Ythan and Scirpus maritimus at the Ugie.

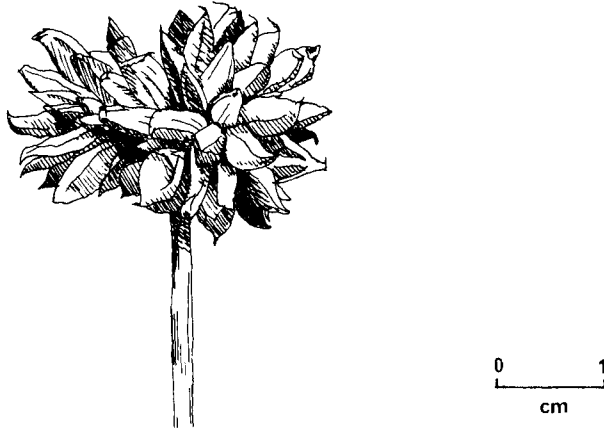


Fig. 1. A maturing head of the Aberdeenshire Allium. Del. A.J. Welch

Reference

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OENOTHERA AND THE ATLAS OF THE BRITISH FLORA

Due to increased knowledge since the late 1970s, distribution maps for *Oenothera* in the Atlas of the British Flora are more in need of revision than most.

The position in Wales was updated in 1979 (Rostański and Ellis) and again in 1983 (Ellis). Distribution in the rest of Britain, if *Watsonia* Plant Records are any guide, seems to have lagged behind and a lot needs to be done if a realistic picture is to emerge in time for a mid-90s edition of the Atlas.

Oenothera stricta Ledeb. ex Link is a species apart and its map is likely to be representative. The maps for *O. erythrosepala* Borbás, *O. biennis* L. and *O. parviflora* L. are another story, for over the years distribution has been much confused both taxonomically and also by hybridization.

Many of the inhibiting identification problems disappeared in 1977 when Professor K. Rostański discovered that almost all plants in Britain recorded as *O. parviflora* were in fact *O. novae-scotiae* Gates (*O. cambrica* Rostański). Since then, despite international controversy about the legitimacy of the new species and whether or not it should be included in *O. biennis* for phylogenetic reasons, it has been described in most new British floras. And whatever the wider issues, with *O. novae-scotiae* well-defined, it became very much easier for British species and most of their hybrids to be reliably identified.

There are undoubtedly many more sites in v.c. 38 (Warwickshire) than are indicated on the three maps in the Atlas. As the following table shows, far from being unrepresented, the predominantly coastal *O. novae-scotiae* and its hybrids are fairly well scattered about one of the most inland counties. On the other hand, very few recent sightings indicate that *O. biennis* has either become quite rare, or has been much misidentified in the past.

Vice-county 38 (Warwickshire)

Recent records for *Oenothera* subgenus *Oenothera*

Taxa	1950-1970		1971-1988 Additional		Totals	
	Tetrads	10km sq.	Tetrads	10km sq.	Tetrads	10km sq.
<i>O. erythrosepala</i>	13	9	11	5	24	14
<i>O. fallax</i>	-	-	3	2	3	2
<i>O. erythrosepala</i> x <i>novae-scotiae</i>	-	-	1	1	1	1
<i>O. biennis</i>	26	17	2	2	28	19
<i>O. biennis</i> x <i>erythrosepala</i>	-	-	1	1	1	1
<i>O. biennis</i> x <i>novae-scotiae</i>	-	-	2	2	2	2
<i>O. novae-scotiae</i>	-	-	5	3	5	3
<i>O. novae-scotiae</i> x <i>biennis</i>	-	-	3	3	3	3
<i>O. novae-scotiae</i> x <i>erythrosepala</i>	-	-	1	1	1	1

Details for 1950-1970 taken from the Computer-mapped Flora of Warwickshire (Cadbury, Hawkes and Readett (1971)); 1971-1988 from the Biological Records Centre, Warwickshire Museum. There have been no records for *O. parviflora* from v.c. 38.

Backcrosses and triple hybrids have been found at one site in the county (Emscote, Warwick).

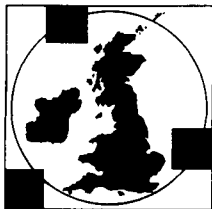
Ten out of the 12 records involving *O. novae-scotiae* are from disused railway sidings.

I am always happy to receive specimens. There is an account of the British species with key and Table of Characters in the Plant Crib (Rich & Rich, 1988).

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As 1988 draws to its close, the final Monitoring Scheme records are being collected and everyone can have a jolly good rest. Everyone, that is, except Rosemary and I, who have to process and then analyse all the data! Before I tell you what we and some others have been doing, there are two messages:

THANK YOU to everyone who has recorded, visited out-of-the-way places, determined specimens, vetted records and helped with the organization of the Monitoring Scheme.

DEADLINE The absolute/final/no kidding deadline for receipt of cards at Monks Wood is **31 JANUARY 1989**. Please tidy your desks and check under the bed, and get your cards to the v.c. recorders as soon as possible. Any cards after this date will **ONLY** be accepted after a LOT of grovelling and a BRIBE of a packet of chocolate biscuits for Rosemary.

Dave Earl and Jim Bevan were checking on *Hieracium vinicaule* which grows on an island in a loch in Shetland. Dave had to strip off to his underpants, swim out to the holm, count the plants, shout the associated species back to Jim, then swim back with a voucher in his mouth!

Ian and Paul Green and Geraldine Crouch stumbled on a plant in a Galway bog so weird we couldn't even do family. Norman Robson and Mike Mullin at the BM pinned it down in the end as *Haloragis micrantha* - a first for Ireland and the northern hemisphere. I also hear rumours from the Republic of a flying visit to a remote tetrad - by helicopter!

Gillian Beckett wants to know whether she should record *Agrimonia* "not noticed in the square but one seed removed from left sock on arrival home?" Any suggestions?

Congratulations to Mary Elspeth who was taken out botanizing by Anne and Colin two days before she was born!

WORK AT MONKS WOOD

During 1987 and 1988 we have compiled records collected during the original Atlas of the British Flora survey and distributed lists with all available details to the v.c. recorders. In total there are about 200,000 records for the selected squares, representing about one-ninth of the 1.5 million records collected for the Atlas. These lists were 15 months late due to an under-estimation of the work involved in their preparation.

We have also now processed the 1987 data for the selected 10km squares and tetrads, and distributed summaries to the v.c. recorders. About 5000 cards containing 481,300 records from 372 squares were collected last year. This, for 1987 alone, is approximately one-third of the records collected for the whole of the Atlas, 70% of the bryophyte atlas records, and about a third of the total BRC 'Oracle' database!

Careful checking of the computer printouts by the v.c. recorders has revealed a number of amusing records: *Orchis militaris* and *Lythrum hyssopifolia* in Scotland, *Veronica spicata* in Northern Ireland, *Ludwigia palustris* in the Republic of Ireland and *Pinguicula grandiflora* in Kent. Our data processing error rate is estimated to be about 0.1% per record, which naturally we blame on the computer!

COVERAGE

The final coverage will not be known until we have received all the cards (a map will be given in the April 1989 BSBI News). At the moment probably fewer than 10 out of the 420 10km squares will not have been visited at all (mainly remote coastal squares) and probably all but about 25 tetrads will have been visited at least once. I await the final picture with trepidation!

The experience gained during the Monitoring Scheme must be used to set up the new proposed Atlas in an efficient manner. [see also p.8. Ed.] Very careful consideration must be given to the work to be undertaken by BSBI members, staff at Monks Wood and especially the v.c. recorders.

CORRIGENDA TO PLANT CRIB

A corrigenda slip for the Plant Crib will be available in the New year. If you require one please send me an SAE labelled 'Plant Crib corrigenda'.

TIM RICH, Monitoring Scheme Organizer

MULLING IT OVER

Having been fairly adventurous in 1987 for the BSBI Monitoring Scheme - visiting squares in Argyll, on Fair Isle and the ultimate - the Dutchman's Cap, I was more restrained in 1988 and joined the Agnes Walker weekend in July on Mull, and then sailed on to Tiree with Ro Scott.

Ro and I arrived at the Salen Hotel, Mull, at 8pm on Friday 8th July. This may not be a fact of great significance, but if you look at the following timetable, you will realise that it was a substantial achievement.

- 09.20 Walk to the bus stop in Hemingford Grey, Cambs, in order to catch 09.26 bus to Huntingdon.
- 09.36 Bus arrives 10 minutes late, and stops at every opportunity over next 5 miles.
- 09.53 Bus eventually reaches Huntingdon bus station.
Sprint across meadows with small rucksack and small suitcase (always travel light) setting new record time between bus and railway station, equivalent to 4-minute mile.
- 09.57 Arrive breathless at railway station and attempt to get a ticket.
- 10.00 Train on time! Leap on it to Kings Cross.
- 11.00 Arrive Kings Cross.
Catch tube almost immediately to Heathrow.
- 12.00 Arrive Heathrow Terminal One to find flight DA 156 delayed until 14.15. Relax, drink coffee and eat Danish pastry (called Viennese cakes in Denmark!).
- 14.15 Take off for Inverness.
- 15.30 Arrive Inverness airport. My baggage takes 15 mins to travel 200 yards from plane to terminal, but not a minute wasted - hire car contact made - it's a Metro 110, not exactly the most powerful car for a now essentially quick drive.
- 16.00 Drive out of airport and set off to Fortwilliam. Not too many caravans, thank goodness, no monster in Loch Ness, but do you know how many times the road crosses the railway line and how many barriers there are? "Most unusual" was Ro's comment.
- 17.45 Arrive at Fortwilliam NCC, new office, in rush-hour (but they are all rushing out of town).
Leave hire car in car park and keys in office to be collected. Leap straight into Ro Scott's 'new' car with Dan the dog and drive to ferry.
- 18.10 Catch ferry Coran to Ardgour.
- 18.20 Drive 40 miles from Ardgour to Lochaline in 40 minutes, most along single-track road.
- 19.00 + 30 seconds. Arrive at Lochaline to find, hurray, the last ferry (19.00) still at pier, as several lorries were having problems manoeuvring off.
- 19.15 Arrive Fishnish. Drive to Salen, via dog kennels as we'll have to leave black Dan there when we go on to Tiree.
- 20.00 Walk into Salen hotel bar and order fish and chips. Agnes greets us "Nice to see you. Where have you come from today?..."

9th & 10th July - help record tetrad A in 17/5.3 and along the northern shore of Loch Ba, finding **Osmunda regalis** scattered along small, wooded streams in the latter locality. The stony shoreline of Loch Ba proved well worth a visit with both species of **Scutellaria**, much **Thalictrum minus** and **Botrychium lunaria**. (For a more detailed account of the recording weekend, see Agnes Walker's meeting report in a future issue).

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NOTES AND ARTICLES

INCREASED NOMENCLATRURAL STABILITY
THROUGH LISTS OF NAMES IN CURRENT USE

The pressure from the users of names of organisms on taxonomists to produce more stable systems of names is increasing (1-4). Names change for one of two reasons: the strict application of the rule of priority or other nomenclatural caveats of the appropriate International Code, or new knowledge on the circumscription, rank or position of a taxon. Changes of the latter kind relate to the advancement of scientific knowledge and are of value to users in indicating not only relationships but also physiological and biochemical attributes. Changes for nomenclatural reasons alone, in contrast, benefit no-one.

In perpetuating the present system, taxonomists are failing to satisfy a key requirement of their consumers (5) and it is therefore not surprising that support for taxonomic research and services is meagre and only grudgingly obtained. The problems of the instability of names have become accentuated by the needs of the information service industry for data retrieval, and the requirements of health, trade, conservation, and quarantine authorities for stable names to use in legislation, regulations, and property rights protection. Action is long overdue and urgently needed not only to satisfy the demands of users of names, but further to restore something of the lost credit of taxonomists in the sight of their consumers.

Bacteriologists overcame this problem in 1980 by the adoption of a new starting date for nomenclature and the publication of an 'Approved List' of names (6-7); only 2,500 of 30,000 species names were listed. In the case of groups covered by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN), there are about 36,500 generic and 400,000 species names in use, out of about 79,000 generic and 1,700,000 species names published. It has been suggested that approved lists of names are issued at five-yearly intervals (8), that a list of currently accepted names of the world's flora be produced which could be accorded some specially protected nomenclatural status (9), and in zoology that particular works be granted a protected status (10-11).

Proposals to introduce formal procedures for the registration on newly published names (12) were debated during the XIV International Botanical Congress in Berlin in July 1987. A Special Committee on Registration was established which is to report to the next Congress in Tokyo in 1993. However, such a process would not overcome the instability caused by the repeated re-introduction of long-forgotten names. The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), with the support of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT), sponsored an international meeting at Kew on 22-23 April 1988 to consider the feasibility of the production of lists of names in current use for all groups of organisms covered by the ICBN; i.e. living and fossil flowering plants, ferns, mosses, hepatics, algae, cyanobacteria, fungi (including lichens), and certain protocists. The meeting was attended by 23 specialists, including key personnel associated with the current cataloguing of names (i.e. the Index Algarum, Index of Fungi, Index Kewensis, Index Muscorum, Index Nominum Genericorum), together with representatives of selected user groups. The key conclusions of this meeting, a full report of which will appear in both Biology International and Taxon, were:

(1) The preparation of lists of names in current use is in itself a worthwhile objective. Moreover, it would, if such lists were accorded specially protected nomenclatural status over all names not on the list by a future International Botanical Congress, promote stability in names by almost entirely eliminating the majority of name changes due to nomenclatural reasons.

(2) It is now technically feasible, in the light of machine-readable and card files which have already been compiled, to produce lists of the approximately 36,500 generic names in current use for all groups covered by the ICBN, given the necessary international support. The starting point for such a list is the IAPT Index Nominum Genericorum database held at the Smithsonian Institution, and publication is to be realized in 1991.

(3) The situation with respect to the approximately 400,000 species names in current use varies markedly from group to group, and such lists will have to be prepared on a group by group basis; pilot studies can now feasibly be carried out (e.g. legumes, mosses, yeasts) provided that the necessary resources are made available.

(4) IUBS, through its Commission on the Nomenclature of Plants (General Committee), should be encouraged to establish a Special Committee on Names in Current Use charged to make formal and detailed proposals to the next International Botanical Congress with

respect to granting special status to the lists of generic names, to consider, if appropriate, mechanisms for updating them, and to define procedures for the preparation and adoption of species names lists.

(5) The newly appointed Special Committee shall work in collaboration with that on Registration already established, which is considering the question of the registration of newly published names. The work of the two Committees is entirely complementary.

(6) The proposals developed at the Kew meeting need to be widely publicized to promote discussion amongst users of names, not only systematists.

(7) The IUBS should be encouraged to adopt this task as a part of its forthcoming Scientific Programme for 1988-1991 and secure international funding to assist in the preparation and publication of the generic and sample species names lists.

If the necessary resources can be made available, there is now a scenario available which, if accepted by the biological community at large, would materially improve the stability of names of all organisms covered by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. The participants in the Kew meeting wish to encourage a lively in-depth debate on this matter, and invite comments from both users and taxonomists, which will be made available to the proposed Special Committee which will be responsible for both the production of the generic and pilot species lists, and the preparation of detailed proposals for decision at the 1993 International Botanical Congress.

Assistance towards the costs of the meeting received from the International Union of Biological Sciences, the Royal Society of London, and CAB International is gratefully acknowledged.

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ALLIUM SPHAEROCEPHALON L. AS A GARDEN WEED

Richard Fitter reports, in *BSBI News* **49**, that in his garden (on, I believe, the clay-with-flints of the Chiltern plateau) contrary to reports from elsewhere, *Allium sphaerocephalon* is a very well-behaved plant that does not spread. In my garden, on the Cotswold side of Oxfordshire, it certainly does behave as a weed, as do several other species of *Allium*. The different behaviour is probably to be explained by the different soil. My soil is a light highly calcareous loam, containing much broken limestone, and very inclined to dryness. I note, however, that Richard Fitter's stock came from a wild plant, whereas mine came from a commercial source; it is therefore possible that there is a genetic difference, though I think that the difference in soil may be a sufficient explanation.

Incidentally, It is remarkable how some native plants which one might have suspected of being choosy, thrive under conditions that seem vastly different from those of their natural habitat. I find that *Hierochloa odorata* (L.) Beauv. quickly becomes a menace and can hardly be kept in check, though it does not flower freely.

EUSTACE W. JONES, The Green, Kirtlington, OXFORD OX5 3HJ

HOW THEY WENT IN 1988 FROM UPPSALA TO ABISKO
(with apologies to Robert Browning)

I flew in from Heathrow, with Peter, Ellen and Steph,
We struggled with baggage through customs, and left
To be greeted by Fred at the barrier rail
And driven to town before the light failed
To meet with the others at the Hotel Linné
And greeted by the president with welcome drinks tray.

We set off quite early and kept up the pace
With Lars the coach driver knowing every place.
John read from 'the travels', and Roland chipped in
With remarks that informed us and made us grin.
We arrived at Skuleberget and climbed up the hill
To the Robber's Cave, which gave us a thrill.

Next day was the boat trip to Ulvon isle
But three ladies walked for a Swedish mile.
Waylaid a Ford Transit and a local man
Saying 'Get us to the ferry as quick as you can!'
And at the jetty all the group reckoned
We clambered on board at the very last second.

Then back in the coach, along the eastern shore,
First swimming, then shopping and journeying more,
Till at 5pm we reached the Arctic Circle,
Took photos, stretched legs and discovered bog myrtle.
And finally we came to the huts of Kvikkjokk
Where some of the pairings caused some a shock.

Next day we ascended the mount of Sjnjerak (Sneerak)
With rare alpiners abundant every step of the track.
Lunch on the summit in a warm, wooden hut
Whilst rain descended and mosquitoes struck.
Returning to base by the expanding Lake
Mary surprised us with a Lappland cake.

Down to the river, now at least 3 feet higher
Long faces; umbrellas; a quick visit to the mire.
Two hours later we embarked in a frail craft
Which zoomed down the channels just like a raft.
We had wonderful views of the flooded delta
Of Lake Saggat whilst we whirled helter-skelter.

Then another climb up, Prinskullen and heights,
Where King Carl's Sceptre was within our sights,
And lunch on the summit was followed by a sweet
Of *Rubus chamaemorus* which grew at our feet.
Those who lingered had their patience rewarded
When several reindeer wandered towards us.

By contrast the next day was a cultural tour -
First Jokkmokk museum, then Kiruna iron-ore,
Old Lapp churches, and modern town halls,
Hydro-electric schemes, and salmon leaping the falls.
Then a long drive north-west to the open vista
Which led to the famous exclamation "A-bisko!"

Low cloud, heavy drizzle, so a trip into Narvik
To shop and to look, and a discovery tragic -
Manchester City had been there 2 days before me!
John in his element with many a fine story
Of sea battles around the inlets near Gratangen
Which we had to imagine as the mist was a' hanging.

The Wednesday was fine - not a whisper of wind
So up by the ski-lift to Njulla we ascend;
Encountering there a Japanese botanical group
So Latin was the common link between all of the troops.
Across to snow patches where alpine buttercups rested;
Experimental seedbeds, meteorological plots were investigated.

Karkevagge, 'the valley of stones', with spectacular scenery
Was really the highlight, with all its greenery
Containing such richness that 6 hours simply gave us the time
To admire the beauty of a few rare alpiners -
Chamorchis, Veronica, Pinguicula, Potentilla
Many 'captured' by Rosemary, but in real life perfect thrillers.

LYNNE FARRELL, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, PETERBOROUGH PE1 1UA

A DUMP GOES BACK TO NATURE

Wimbledon Common is best known (botanically) for its heathlands, but it also has several interesting aliens. A solitary *Leucojum aestivum* grows with daffodils on the side of one of the large hills in the common's centre. Most of the aliens, however, are concentrated in one small area in the west of the common. This area is, in fact, an old dump, which is now covered in grass, willows and blackthorn, testifying to an age of many decades. Several plants which probably originated as outcasts are now fully naturalised. Commoner ones include *Pentaglottis sempervirens*, *Symphytum orientale*, *Ribes sanguineum* (also on several other commons in the area) and of course the inevitable Japanese Knotweed.

Vicia lutea was found here by Stoddart in 1980 and by me in 1985, but now seems to have gone. *Helianthus* hybrids (Sunflowers) are abundant in one part. *Lathyrus hirsutus* and *Thalictrum minus* are shared with nearby Ham Lands, which is a similar habitat on a much larger scale. Also shared is the native *Lathyrus nissolia*, which seems to have a marked preference for artificial grassland.

A few flowerless *Hemerocallis* plants grow in shade on the side of the dump. *Centaurea montana* provides a splash of blue in one spot, just beside a single bush of *Philadelphus coronarius*. Best of all, however, is a 20 strong colony of *Allium carinatum* which grows half hidden by a willow tree.

The site can easily be reached from the A3, it is just across Beverly Brook from a small car park at Kingston Vale, and is well worth a visit, especially in late summer

RICHARD MILNE, 41 East Sheen Avenue, SHEEN, London SW14 8AR

GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES OR FOOT UP AND DOWN

The two vice-counties formed from Aberdeenshire, north and south, are often confused, the latest example being in BSBI News 49: 16, where we learn that v.c. 92, N. Aberdeen (sic) is the vice-county most in need of help in the Monitoring Scheme.

Maybe it's the positions of the team currently acting as recorders in north-east Scotland that cause the problem. I live in Banchory, Kincardineshire, and record for N. Aberdeen, v.c. 93. Eric and Evelyn Birse live in Aberdeen and record for Kincardineshire (v.c. 91). Noel Pritchard also lives near Banchory but doesn't record for Moray despite what it says in the September 1988 list. But Noel and I dance for the Banchory Morris team together with several other local botanists. And Peter Marren,

recorder for S. Aberdeen, v.c. 92, used to declaim in the Morris mens' mummer plays until we sent him off to Peterborough.

DAVID WELCH, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Banchory Research Station, Hill of Brathens, Glassel, BANCHORY, Kincardines. AB3 4BY

IVY LEAVES

I was interested in the Rev. A.L. Primavesi's prints of Ivy leaves in his article in BSBI News 49. Recently I collected about a dozen differing juvenile wild ivy leaves within 0.5km of my home (a suburban area with many old lanes) and sent them for possible identification to Mr S. Taffler, President of the British Ivy Society. He replied that most could not be named but were different selections of *Hedera helix*, and that ivy varies naturally very much according to age, position, growing conditions etc. There were plenty more ivies on walls and in hedgerows in the vicinity, all differing from each other either in size, colour, shape, glossiness, veining etc. One does indeed wonder what is a typical 'Ivy' leaf!

Miss I.F. GRAVESTOCK, 8 Cranleigh Gardens, STOKE BISHOP, Bristol BS9 1HD

PLANTS ARISING FROM LONG-BURIED SEEDS FOLLOWING THE STORM OF OCTOBER 1987

Following the severe storm of October 1987 I have observed, in a number of sites in Kent and Surrey, young plants of the common Yellow Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus* L.), and of Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna* L.), growing in the disturbed soil around uprooted trees. Presumably these plants have resulted from the germination of long-buried seeds brought to the surface.

Has anyone else noticed population explosions in these, or in any other species?

V.A. JOHNSTONE, 25F Nevern Square, LONDON SW5 9PD

COMPUTERS

COMPUTER USERS GROUP

Following on from the article by Rene Weston and Tim Rich in BSBI News 48, 31 (1988), the BSBI is setting up a computer users group. An inaugural meeting was held at the British Museum (Natural History) on 18th October 1988. The group has the following aims:

1. To act as a central source of information, advice and ideas
2. To promote the development of computing within the BSBI
3. To assess and recommend software for record handling, map drawing, keys, etc.
4. Possibly to organise introductory/training sessions or workshops
5. To distribute public domain software such as a list of BRC species numbers and a list of English names of plants

In order to find out who is using computers, what they use them for, and to ascertain what interest there might be in such a user group within the BSBI, a questionnaire has been prepared which will be sent to any member on request.

If you would like to receive a copy of the questionnaire or have any comments to make on the Computer Users Group, please write or phone:

MARK ATKINSON, 308 Mill Road, CAMBRIDGE CB1 3NL (Tel. Day 0223-840932 ext. 295;
Evening 0223-240202)

WHY DON'T WE HAVE STANDARDISED COMPUTER SYSTEMS - AN ANSWER

In BSBI News 48 (April 1988), Tim Rich calls for a 'standard computer system' for botanical use. Apart from the occasional obligatory mention of the BBC, the items on computers in the last few issues of BSBI News have exclusively concerned IBM PC and 'clones' (PC-compatible systems, like the Amstrad PC1512 and PC1640) and I assumed de facto standardisation had already taken place...

IBM's PC-DOS systems (ie the PC family) have given the world four or five years of standardisation, but this is now coming to a close. IBM have stopped making the basic PC and PC-XT and transferred their effort to their new PS/2 range and its OS/2 operating system. The PC-AT is still sold but widely expected to be discontinued before long. The compatibles are continuing under their own momentum waiting to see what to be compatible with next!

Two things have brought about this change. The first is a widespread dissatisfaction with DOS (the operating system on IBM PC's and their clones) among software developers; it doesn't provide the sophisticated tools required today (never mind tomorrow!). This concerns you as the user because as the emphasis changes to newer systems, supplies, support and maintenance become unavailable - tried buying a BBC model B lately?

The second factor is the arrival of 32-bit chips (Intel 80386, Motorola 68020) which enable computers to run faster. Increased speed means that you can do the same thing more quickly or more often in the same time. Although important, neither of these aspects are fundamental. What is crucial is that you can do more complicated things in the same time. This means more 'intelligence' can go into the program. It can be made to work more in a way that suits you, rather than you having to learn to work in the way which suits the computer.

All this time there has been another world out here, called Apple Macintosh (or more often just 'Mac'). The Mac popularised - and has become almost synonymous with - the WIMP interface (WIMP : Windows, Icons, Mouse and Pull-down-menus), a method of communicating with the computer which is less offputting to beginners and significantly easier and faster both to learn and to use. The advantages have been known all along, but with the exception of a few Universities, the Mac didn't really catch on, particularly in the UK. Many reasons were advanced, but one in particular was that there were no clones; nobody to force the price down, nobody to fly the flag if Apple lost interest or went bust.

GEM provides a Mac-type interface on the IBM PC and clones, but due to the limitations of DOS, it doesn't provide the responsiveness necessary to be a success.

From now on computers are about software not hardware and the next generation of IBM systems are to be based on the WIMP interface. However, this time IBM has been clever. It has managed to patent the guts of the system in such a way that cloning will be illegal (they hope!). There will be no competition to force the price down.

Meanwhile Apple has had the Macintosh II on the market for over a year. Software that runs on the ordinary Mac will also run on the Mac II: the range is compatible. Its slice of the market is growing.

There is never a good time to attempt standardization, but now is worst than most! IBM's de facto standard is coming to an end, and we must resist the temptation to try and prolong it by artificially enshrining it as a 'standard'. At present the BSBI Computer Users Group would find itself choosing between the dinosaur (outdated, ugly, physically large) and the trilobite (even more outdated and slow with it). Don't mistake fossilisation for standardisation!

The next ten years in the computer world are going to be even more exciting than the last ten. Software is finally coming of age. Some of the programs appearing now are almost unbelievable. To steal a phrase, the adventure is just beginning...

WHAT YOU SHOULD DEMAND FROM YOUR COMPUTER FOR THE 1990s

Starting Point

I use an Apple Mac Plus with a 20megabyte hard disk - ten years ago even a floppy disk system was too expensive to contemplate. In selecting a system for the next decade and considering the way ahead beyond that, we can expect new technologies to become commonplace - though they may currently be prohibitively expensive. Among these are: colour screens of photographic quality (what use is anything less?) colour printout of similar quality, interactive video, hi-fi quality sound, WORM (Write Once Read Many) optical disks, scanners and optical character readers.

WIMP interface (Windows, Icons, Mouse and Pull-down-menus)

Only a minority of botanists are used to using computers. The majority, especially amateurs are at best nervous, at worst afraid, of them. (How often have you noticed your friends go quiet as soon as you mention the subject?) The WIMP interface puts beginners at ease. It allows the more experienced user to concentrate his attention on the work (e.g. botany) rather than the tools (i.e. the computer).

When the WIMP interface is used consistently in all your programs, you can switch between them without getting confused. (This is vital if you're running two or more programs at once). In this day and age nobody should have to remember F10 for quit (or is it F3?)

Information Exchange

It must be possible to exchange information (text, graphics, etc. - not just text) between different programs.

What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG)

The image on the screen should look exactly the same as the printout.

Desk-Top Publishing (DTP)

You can now take a disk to your local copy shop and get publication-quality laserprinted output, with half-tone diagrams and proportionally-spaced and kerned text. You could produce the entire *BSBI News* including the drawings and italicised species names, except for the photographs which would need to be pasted in by hand. This is now the norm and full colour photographic quality is not far away. (You've still got to get it printed though, so don't get carried away!)

Life Expectancy

The time-span of Botanical survey projects is longer than the life expectancy of any computer product, so a change of hardware may be necessary during the course of the project. To minimise the interruption, a high degree of compatibility is required. There are actually two separate aspects to this: Data and Programs:

Preservation of the data is unlikely to present problems. Even if the new machine cannot read the new disks, you can connect the two computers and send the information from one to the other (there are numerous programs which will do this). The only caveat is that you must ensure your programs can produce files which consist of ordinary text, or [are compatible with] one of the small number of standard interchange formats. In ten year's time there will be many more of these! I suspect that new media like the WORM optical disk will add a few more.

Preservation of programs is less vital. A program can always be rewritten (assuming that you can remember what it did!) The data for 1987 cannot be regenerated. Otherwise, I can offer this glimmer of hope: The more a computer manufacturer has invested in the operating system, the more he will try to preserve that investment and both Apple and Microsoft/IBM have invested vast resources in their respective WIMPs offerings. Both are likely to outlive the currently envisaged hardware, which means that programs which run now are likely to still run on future hardware. In a similar vein, Digital Research, the company that produced GEM, have announced plans to convert it to run on the IBM PS/2 range, thus programs written using GEM should be able to run on the PS/2.

MALCOLM STOREY, 2 Fairlawn, Liden, SWINDON, Wilts. SN3 6ET

DMAP REVISITED

DMAP is a computer program for distribution map and coincidence map plotting which will run on a wide range of IBM-compatible PCs (e.g. the Amstrad PC1512 and PC1640, Opus, and Wyse PCs). Since the description given in *BSBI News* 48 (April 1988), a number of enhancements have been made to the program, which include:

1. In addition to generating printed maps on ordinary 9-pin or 24-pin dot-matrix printers, DMAP now supports inkjet and laser printers which are Hewlett-Packard-compatible. This means that very high resolution publication-quality maps can be produced without the need for a pen plotter.

2. An automatic 'print-run' of maps can be generated, taking each species sequentially, without the need for keyboard intervention.
3. DMAP is now supplied with a separate, simple database program which facilitates the entry of species data from grid square (or site) recording cards. The database is not sophisticated, but data are packed in an efficient way, and the program is particularly useful for users without a hard disk. A single 5.25" floppy disk is sufficient for the storing of plant distribution records for an average-sized vice-county (recorded by tetrads).

For further details of the latest version of DMAP, write to:

ALAN MORTON, Imperial College, Silwood Park, ASCOT, Berks. SL5 7PY

ALIENS AND ADVENTIVES

ADVENTIVE NEWS 39

compiled by Adrian L. Grenfell

ALIEN RECORDS 4

A further batch of 'out-takes' from Watsonia - records of plants of uncertain standing or persistence which are perhaps best dealt with under 'Aliens and Adventives'. An asterisk (*) before the record indicates a new vice-county record. 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: 157-178 (1969)). With the exception of collectors' initials, herbarium abbreviations are those used in British and Irish Herbaria by D.H. Kent and D.E. Allen (1984).

- 53/ste **Berberis x stenophylla** Lindl. *77. Lanarks.: Anniesland, Glasgow, GR 26/54.68. Laneside. P. Macpherson, 1987, **herb. P.M.**, det. A.C. Leslie. 1st record, presumably bird sown.
- 68/1 **Erucastrum gallicum** (Willd.) O.E. Schulz *73. Kirkcudbrights.: Dalbeattie, GR 25/83.60. Roadside. O.M. Stewart, 1986. 1st record, casual.
- 71/1 **Hirschfeldia incana** (L.) Lagr.-Foss. *73. Kirkcudbrights.: Maxwelltown, GR 25/97.75. Waste ground. O.M. Stewart, 1986. 1st record, casual.
- 79/4 **Lepidium ruderales** L. *73. Kirkcudbrights.: Dalbeattie, GR 25/83.60. Roadside. O.M. Stewart, 1986. 1st record, casual.
- 85/1 **Teesdalia nudicaulis** L. 41. Glam.: Whitchurch, Cardiff, GR 31/13.81. On newly seeded bank of supermarket car park. G. Hutchinson, 1985, conf. J.P. Curtis. 1st record since 1805 and first confirmed record.
- The apparent occurrence of **Teesdalia** as a contaminant of grass seed adds to the growing list of such impurities and belatedly provides a possible explanation for a casual occurrence in S. Gloucestershire (1971-73).
- 111/1 **Descurainia sophia** (L.) Webb ex Prantl *73. Kirkcudbrights.: Dalbeattie, GR 25/82.60. Roadside and bridge over R. Urr. O.M. Stewart & C.D. Preston, 1986. 1st record, casual.
- This and **Erucastrum**, **Hirschfeldia** and **Lepidium ruderales** are common grain aliens and frequently to be found on roadsides, in docks, around grain silos and handling areas and railway lines.
- 118/gra **Helianthemum nummularium** (L.) Mill. ssp. **grandiflorum** (Scop.) Schinz & Thell. *77. Lanarks.: Busby, by Glasgow, GR 26/58.56. Roadside wall by old abandoned nursery. P. Macpherson, 1986, conf. E.J. Clement. 1st record.

Spinacia oleracea L. *77. Lanarks.: Glasgow, GR 26/59.64. Two plants by railing in public park. P. Macpherson, 1987, **herb. P.M.**, det. E.J. Clement. 1st record, casual as forma **inermis** (Moench) Peterm., the so-called Round-seeded Spinach

Aliens and Adventives

with spineless fruit. The seeds of the typical var. *oleracea* (Prickly-seeded Spinach) are enclosed in spiny capsules.

- 168/mag **Geranium x magnificum** Hylander *99. Dunbarton.: Aikenshaw, GR 26/23.87. Rough, wooded ground on shore of Gareloch. A.McG. Stirling & A. Rutherford, 1985, det. C.D. Brickell. 1st record.
- Cicer arietinum** L. 77. Lanarks.: Wilderness, Glasgow, GR 26/59.71. Casual, refuse tip. P. Macpherson, 1985, **herb. P.M.**, det. J.H. Dickson. 1st record since 1919.
- 192/22 **Trifolium aureum** Poll. *99. Dunbarton.: Clydebank, GR 26/4-.7-. L. Watt, 1881, **GL**, orig. mis-det. as **T. procumbens** (= **T. campestre**), re-det. A.McG. Stirling. 1st record - probably casual, A.McG.S. in litt. 16.12.85. 99. Dunbarton.: Cardross Station, GR 26/34.77. Several plants in neglected flower bed. A.McG. Stirling & A. Rutherford, 1985, **E**. 2nd record, probably casual, A.McG.S. in litt. 16.12.85.
- 225/3 **Rosa multiflora** Thunb. *99. Dunbarton.: below St. Bernard's Weir, Upper Helensburgh, GR 26/30.83. Rough, damp ground on burn-side. A. Rutherford, 1984, det. J. Taggart. 1st record - an enormous bush several metres across.
- 226/8 **Prunus lusitanica** L. *99. Dunbarton.: deciduous wood on bank of Glenoran Burn between Helensburgh and Rhu. A.McG. Stirling & A. Rutherford, 1983. 1st record, single plant. Seldom seeding, unlike **P. laurocerasus**.
- 227/wat **Cotoneaster x watereri** Excell (**C. frigidus x salicifolius**) *99. Dunbarton.: Upper Helensburgh Station (W. Highland railway), GR 26/30.83. On old sandstone wall. A.McG. Stirling & A. Rutherford, 1984, det. C.D. Brickell. 1st record, two large specimens.
- Anethum graveolens** L. *77. Lanarks.: Cathkin, Glasgow, GR 26/62.58. Casual, refuse tip. P. Macpherson, 1984, **herb. P.M.**, det. D. McClintock. 1st record.
- Turgenia latifolia** (L.) Hoffm. *52. Anglesey: Beaumaris, GR 23/6-.7-. "In a hen run". Miss A.J. Armitstead, 1929. 1st record. Pers. comm. R.D. Tweed, 1984.
This and the very similar **Caucalis platycarpus** were naturalised in Britain in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries: over 40 years have elapsed since the last British record of **C. platycarpus** although **Turgenia** was recorded by F.H. Perring in Cambridgeshire in 1963 as a bird-seed alien. Both are still to be found in France.
- 396/1 **Anchusa officinalis** L. ?*39. Staffs.: Terrace St., Blackheath, GR 32/96.86. On two-year old demolition site. B.R. Fowler, 1987. ?1st record, two plants.
- 430/9 **Veronica longifolia** L. *99. Dunbarton.: by junction of two roads to Camis Eskan, E. Helensburgh, GR 26/31.81. Single clump on edge of sycamore wood. A. Rutherford, 1986. 1st record.
- 492/1 **Leycesteria formosa** Wall. 12. N. Hants.: Wonston, GR 41/46.38. Single bush outside garden. R.P. Bowen, 1985. 2nd record.
- Helianthus x laetiflorus** Pers. (**H. rigidus x tuberosus**) *77. Lanarks.: Kinning Park, Glasgow, GR 26/56.64. Waste ground. P. Macpherson, 1987, **herb. P.M.**, det. A.C. Leslie. 1st record, casual.
This hybrid, rather than **H. rigidus**, is the commonly grown perennial and is the usual escape. (A.C. Leslie - Flora of Surrey, Supplement and Checklist).
- 713/2 **Phalaris canariensis** L. 93. N. Aberdeen: Delgaty, GR 38/76.49. On dump. D. Welch, 1986, **ABD**. 1st post-1930 record. (Recorded as a casual by Trail [1901] in Flora of Buchan).

MIXED BAG

Amaranthus blitoides S. Wats.: Single completely prostrate plant at edge of sandy arable field, Icklingham, Suffolk (v.c. 26), Aug. 1988. E. Milne-Redhead, det. A.L. Grenfell. The seeds of *A. blitoides* are several times larger than those of any other amaranth likely to be encountered in Britain.

Berberis x chenaultii Ahrendt (***B. gagnepainii* x *verruculosa***): 'Looks pretty wild' in hedgerow nr. Halstead, W. Kent (v.c. 16), Oct. 1985. G. Kitchener, det. and comm. J.R. Palmer.

Caragana arborescens Lam.: Seedlings of various sizes noted on roadside, Wrotham Heath, W. Kent (v.c. 16), 1984 and 85. J.R. Palmer. Since also found in Middlesex. Grown for its showy flowers, the Siberian Pea Tree seldom sets seed.

Chrysanthemum frutescens L.: Many seedlings in street, Yeomans Row (nr. Harrods), London SW1 (v.c. 21), Dec. 1982. J.R. Palmer. Also on steps of 'Prior's Park' teahouse, Bishop's Park, Fulham, London SW6 (v.c. 21), autumn 1982. J.B. Latham. Marguerite, Canary Islands.

Collomia cavanillesii Hook. & Arn.: Single plant appeared as a garden weed, Ashbourne, Derbys. (v.c. 57), June 1980 with further plants during next two years. Miss K. Hollick, det. E.J. Clement. An attractive scarlet-flowered annual member of the Polemoniaceae from South America which is easy of cultivation. Almost certainly an impurity in bought seed.

Cotoneaster multiflorus Bunge: On downs, Whipsnade, Beds. (v.c. 30), Aug. 1985. J.C. Dony, comm. J.R. Palmer.

Eruca vesicaria (L.) Cav. ssp. ***sativa*** (Miller) Thell.: Single plant of an unusual bright yellow-flowered form by roadside, Avonmouth Docks, Bristol (v.c. 34), June 1988. A.L. Grenfell. Also single plant on Romsey Town Tip, Cambridge (v.c. 29), autumn 1988. G.M.S. Easy who has kindly supplied the excellent drawing on page 28. A rather infrequent casual in Br. but extensively naturalised in Mediterranean regions where it is widely grown as a salad plant.

Euonymus hamiltoniana Wallich: Wild on roadside, Thursley, Surrey (v.c. 17), Oct. 1985. A.C. Leslie. Status very good (Himalayas to Japan).

Geranium eriostemon Fisch. ex DC.: Rough damp ground, St. Bernard's Weir below Upper Helensburgh, Dunbarton (v.c. 99), 1979. A. Rutherford, det. C.D. Brickell, 1985, who writes "rare, even in cultivation". Unknown to the writer, this native of Siberia to China appears to be new to Britain.

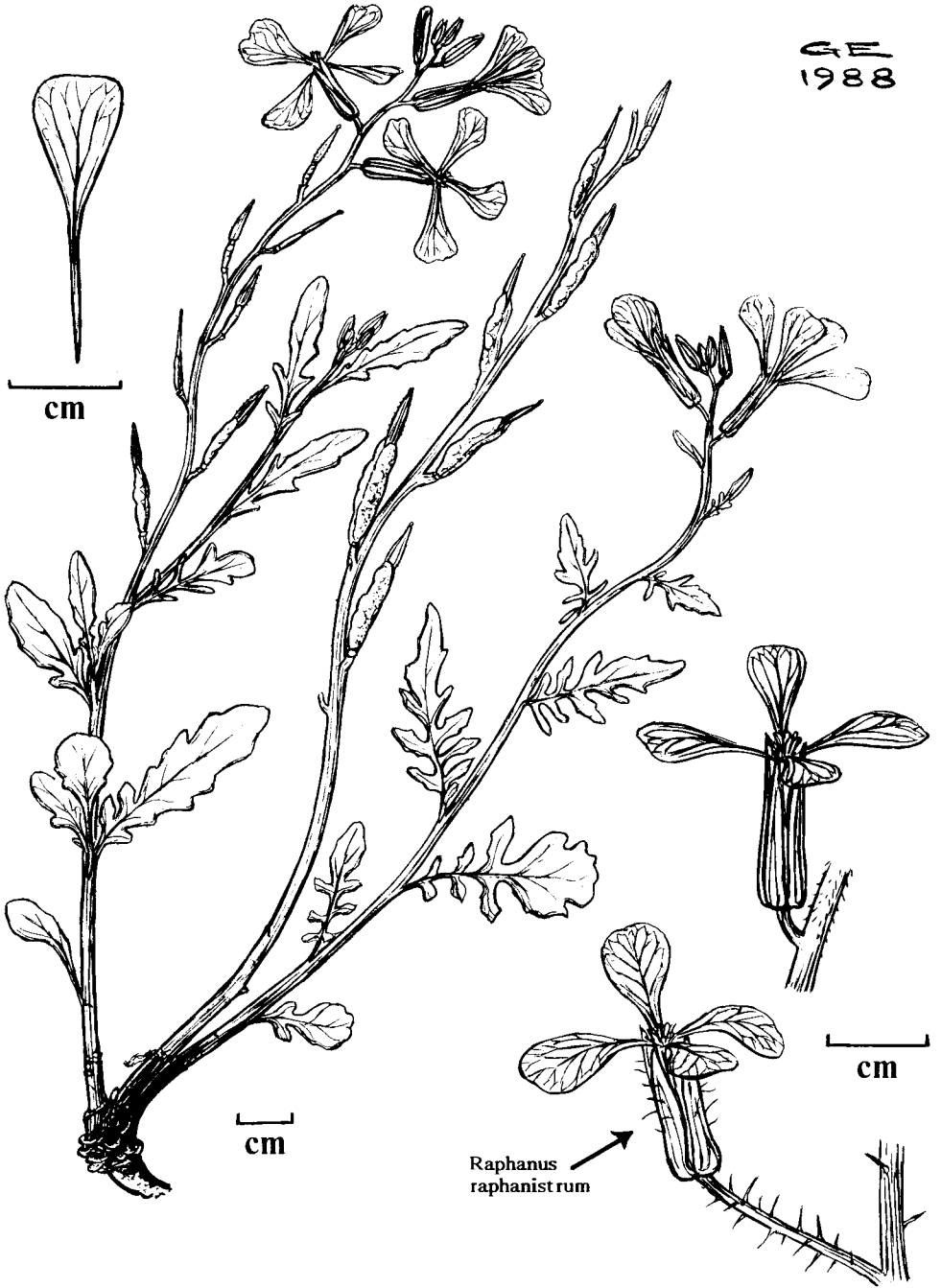
Geranium psilostemon Ledeb. (***G. armenum***): Rough verge near Aber village, Dunbarton (v.c. 99), Aug. 1986. A.McG. Stirling & A. Rutherford, det. C.D. Brickell. An Armenian species much prized by gardeners. Tall (to 3.5ft.) with 1.5ins. dark magenta fls. and petals blotched black at base: difficult to raise from seed but getting into the wild nonetheless.

Iris kaempferi Siebold ex Lem.: Apparently this, known for years and presumably bird-sown in swamp on Dartford Heath, W. Kent (v.c. 16), July 1985. J.R. Palmer. Japanese Iris.

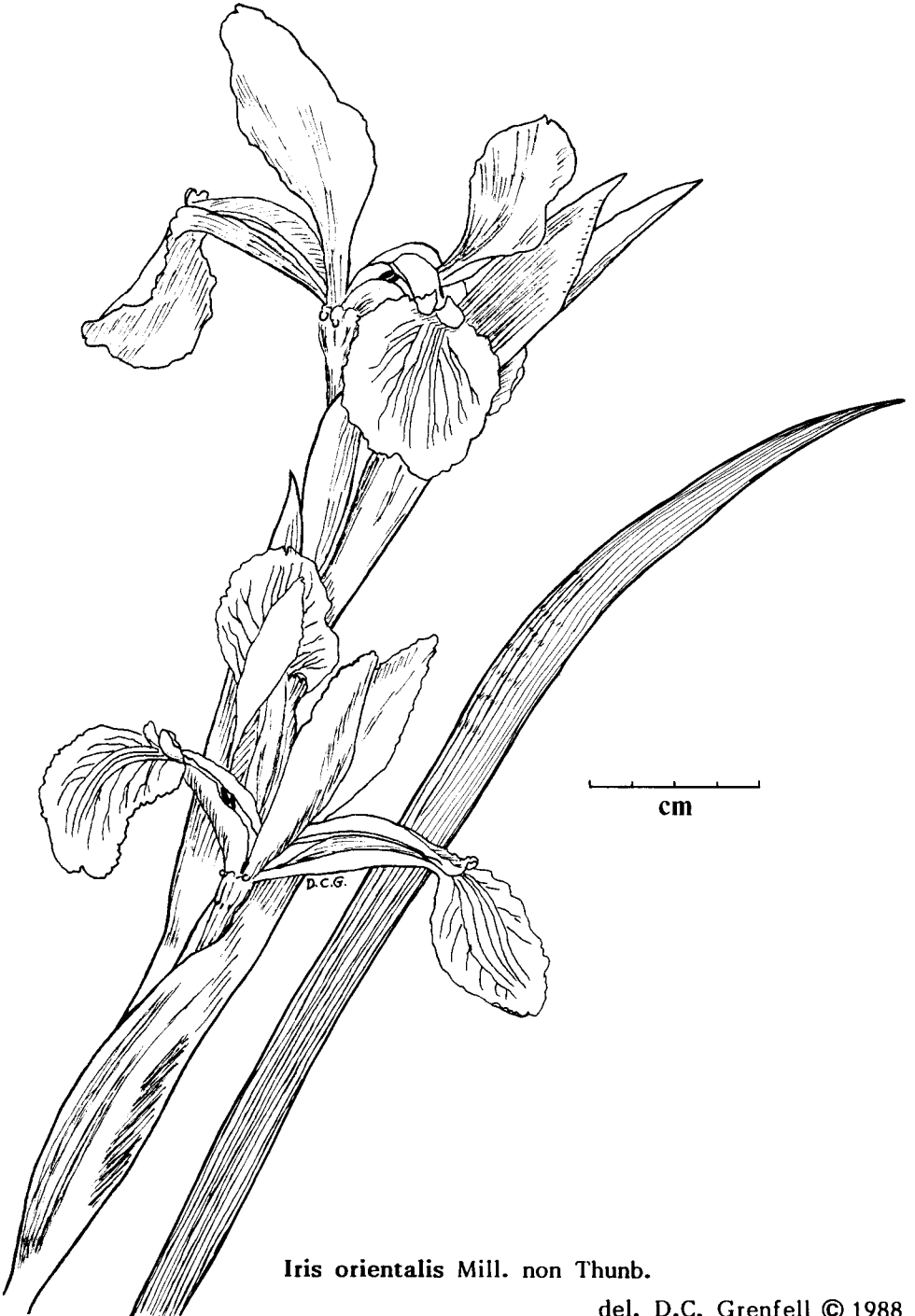
Iris orientalis Mill. non Thunb. (***I. ochroleuca***): Several plants in scrub on Carboniferous Limestone, Sand Point, Kewstoke, Som. (v.c. 6) where it has been naturalised at least since the early 1950s and probably much longer. Det. A.L.G. A very shy flowerer, this fine tall iris, with white falls blotched golden-yellow and lemon-yellow standards, has been known here by many botanists over the years but has remained, until now, un-named. Mrs D.C. Grenfell provides the illustration (on page 29) from garden material kindly provided by J.E. Mandeville. *I. orientalis* is a native of W. Asia Minor: some workers consider it doubtfully distinct from *I. spuria*.

Lens nigricans (Bieb.) Godron: A single plant growing near a recently planted tree, Norwich City Centre (v.c. 27), June 1988. E. Daniels, det. A.L.G. Sent as a ***Vicia*** species

GE
1988



Eruca vesicaria (L.) Cav. ssp. *sativa* (Miller) Thell. del. G.M.S. Easy © 1988



***Iris orientalis* Mill. non Thunb.**

del. D.C. Grenfell © 1988

Aliens and Adventives

which it much resembles but differs from in having equal calyx teeth over twice as long as the tube. It is also notable for its aristate, jointed peduncles.

Quercus castaneifolia C.A. Mey.: c.4 small saplings in **Rubus** and **Crataegus** scrub at the top of the Black Rock Gully, Clifton Down, Bristol (v.c. 34), Oct. 1988. A.L. Grenfell, det. J. White (Westonbirt Arboretum, Forestry Commission). First British record. Possibly arising from a squirrel's or bird's cache of acorns although their provenance is quite unknown.

Saxifraga cymbalaria L. var. **huetiana** (Boiss.) Engler & Irmscher.: Weed in flower pot, Relubbus, Cornwall (v.c. 1), May 1985. N. Tregenza, det. E.J. Clement, comm. K.L. Spurgin. See BSBI News 25: 10-12.

Scrophularia vernalis L.: Six plants, Chislehurst Common, W. Kent (v.c. 16), May 1985. J.R. Palmer.

Sisymbrium volgense Bieb. ex E. Fourn.: Waste ground adjoining a farm track nr. Altrincham, Ches. (v.c. 58), 1988. D.J. Tinston, det. T.C.G. Rich who notes "it is the unusual variant with \pm entire leaves".

Symphoricarpos x **chenaultii** Rehder (**S. microphyllus** x **orbiculatus**): Waste ground under development, Maxwelltown, Kirkcudbrightshire (v.c. 73), Sept. 1986. Mrs O.M. Stewart. Also grassy waste ground, Shieldhall, Glasgow, Lanarks. (v.c. 77), Oct. 1986. P. Macpherson & E. Teasdale, det. D. McClintock. Grown for its ornamental fruits as well as its foliage, this hybrid is more hardy than its (presumed) parents and frequently naturalises.

Tribulus terrestris L.: Single plant on railway track, Avonmouth Docks, Bristol (v.c. 34), Sept. 1988. A.L. Grenfell. Familiar to summer travellers to the Mediterranean as 'Maltese Cross'. The fruit, viewed from the underside, is very distinctive taking the form of a Maltese or cross of St. John. **T. terrestris** (Zygophyllaceae) is a plant of the Old World tropics which is widely naturalised in warmer regions of the world as a weed of dry open habitats. It is widespread in S. Europe and the Mediterranean and extends locally northwards into N.W. France, S.E. Czechoslovakia and E.C. Russia. It is a very rare British alien, however, with few, if any, records since the first third of this century. Its most likely mode of introduction at that time would have been as a 'ballast alien' but this is no longer a possibility. The most likely means of introduction in this instance is in animal foodstuffs.

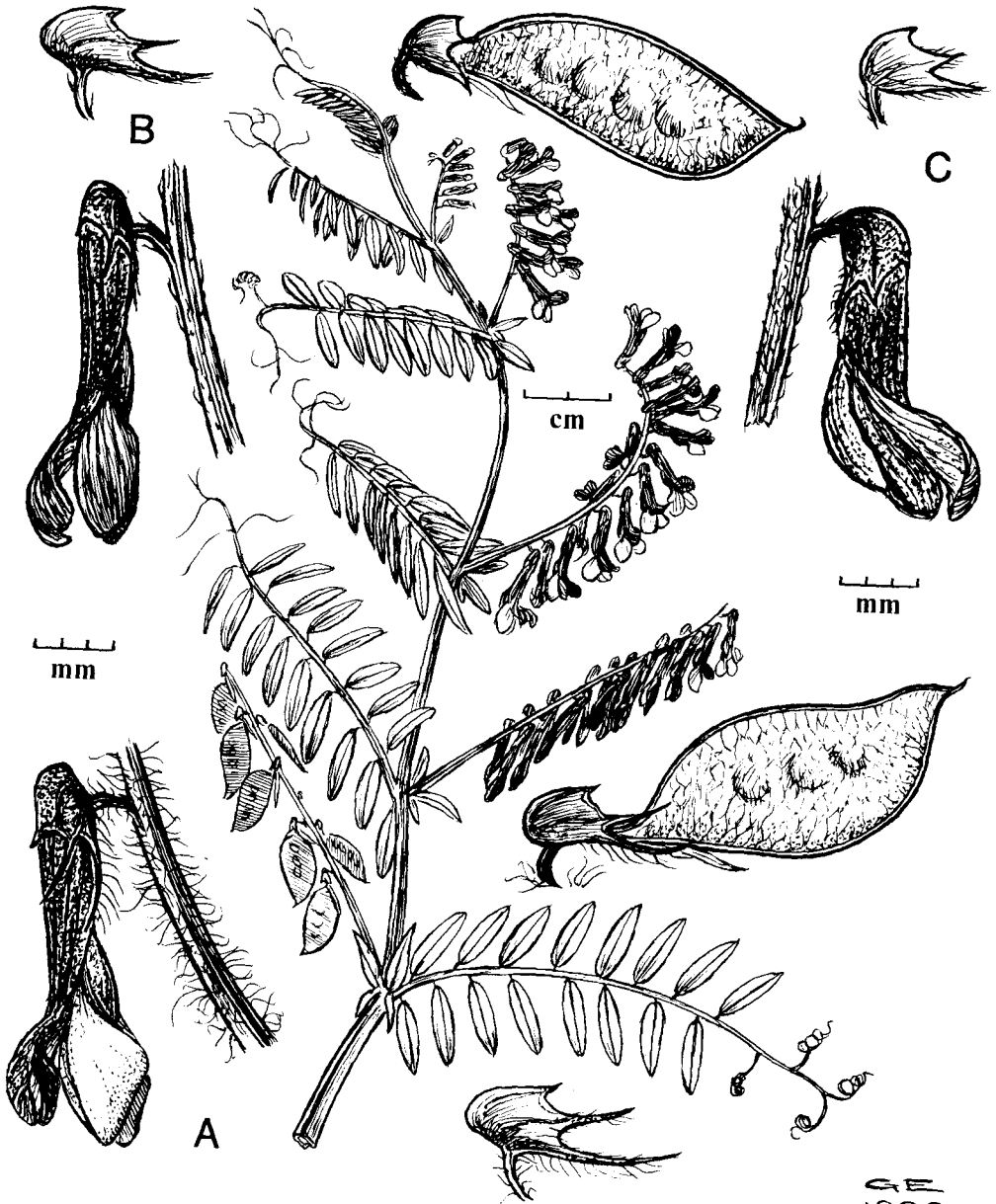
Vicia villosa Roth ssp. **varia** (Host) Corb. (**V. dasycarpa** auct.): Reclaimed ground, Horus Cross, W. Kent (v.c. 16), July 1985; abundant on waste ground below Downs School, Dartford, W. Kent (v.c. 16), July 1985. Both records J.R. Palmer.

V. villosa Roth ssp. **villosa**: Dartford Heath, W. Kent (v.c. 16), Oct. 1985. J.R. Palmer. The striking Fodder Vetch; this and the preceding subspecies are frequently confused. Graham Easy has kindly produced a composite drawing of the two taxa and **V. cracca** L. (see page 31).

Waldsteinia ternata (Steph.) Fritsch: Introduced into shrubby gardens with peat, New Ash Green, W. Kent (v.c. 16), 1985-88. J.R. Palmer, det. E.J. Clement. One of several N. Temperate creeping, rhizomatous, strawberry-like herbs with small yellow flowers.

FERULA COMMUNIS IN SUFFOLK

The appearance of a single plant of the Giant Fennel, **Ferula communis** L., in v.c. 26 last spring caused quite a stir in eastern England - this was something different, an alien worth seeing and a great many members did just that! This extraordinary introduction was found by Mrs G. Crompton, accompanied by Professor H. Art, on May 24th 1988, flowering by Scots Pine on a road-verge of the A11 London-Norwich trunk road just inside Icklingham parish in Suffolk (near the Mildenhall roundabout). The plant was identified by C.J. King at Cambridge Botanic Garden on flowers alone and, later in the season, mature fruits were seen and passed by several botanists especially umbellifer expert M.E. Southam. Our Cambridge artist Graham Easy lost no time in translating the giant to paper and the



- A) *Vicia villosa* Roth ssp. *villosa*
- B) *Vicia villosa* Roth ssp. *varia* (Host) Corb.
- C) *Vicia cracca* L.

del. G.M.S. Easy © 1988

product of his talent adorns our cover (apologies to Graham for the fruits added later by the writer!).

At present I am at a loss for a means of introduction: in a letter Graham Easy suggested that no-one in his right mind would (a) feed wild birds (b) dump garden rubbish or (c) introduce it deliberately on this especially treacherous stretch of road.

F. communis is cultivated in British gardens but not, I am sure, by many gardeners. It is monocarpic but can be quite long-lived: a plant in my garden is at least seven years old and still hasn't flowered although I expect it to increasingly so each year. It is quite likely that the Suffolk plant had been present on this road-verge for several years, its leaves obscured by the accompanying dense growth of coarse grasses. It has occurred before in the wild in Br.; it owes its inclusion in David McClintock's Supplement to Collins Pocket Guide to Wild Flowers (c. 1959) to an occurrence in the 1950s at Oundle, Peterborough where it was considered naturalised. I suspect not naturalised but probably there for some time (any information concerning this record would be most gratefully received).

Ferula is a large genus of over 100 species, with pinnately decomposed leaves, compound umbels of yellow or greenish flowers and flattened ovate fruits, native from the Mediterranean to central Asia. It is strongly represented in the Soviet Union with some 90 species. Some species yield medicinal drugs and gums: **F. communis** itself is found throughout S.Europe and eastwards into Syria and may grow to 12 feet in height.

Once again I thank you for your letters and records. SAE please for a supply of my 5" x 3" record slips which are so invaluable for filing purposes. Wherever possible dried material please, with colour notes, rather than fresh material which often travels badly. Good hunting in 1989!

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

A CHECK-LIST FOR COTONEASTERS NATURALISED IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Introduction

In recent years an increasing number of species of *Cotoneaster* have been found naturalised in the British Isles, especially in the south-east of England and particularly in W. Kent (v.c. 16). This increase is due to:

- a. greater interest in the genus
- b. the realisation that there are many more species at large in the wild than the very few described in the Floras currently in use.
- c. mis-identification in the past because so few species were described or included in keys. For instance, many sightings of *C. franchetii*, *C. dielsianus*, and *C. divaricatus*, in particular, all of which are quite frequently naturalised, will have been recorded as *C. simonsii* (mea culpa also).

It seems appropriate now to publish a check list of those species which have been found naturalised and determined beyond reasonable doubt at the present time. Of course there are others still awaiting analysis or being grown on which cannot be included, but this will always be the case. It is quite possible that a few of those on the present list may be redetermined.

Brief notes on distribution

The number of botanists interested in the genus is still small and this must be recognised in drawing any conclusions about distribution. However, the commonest species in the wild are: *C. horizontalis*, *C. simonsii*, *C. x watereri*, *C. bullatus*, *C. franchetii*, *C. dielsianus*, *C. divaricatus*, *C. microphyllus*, *C. 'Skogholm'*, *C. lacteus* and *C. salicifolius*, very roughly in this order. It is considered that well over 95% of sightings will be accounted for by these eleven species, none of which is black-fruited.

C. microphyllus - although this species is often abundant on calcareous uplands, it is rarely naturalised in lowland areas unless rocks or stone walls are available. It seems to need a well-drained habitat.

True *C. salicifolius* is not quite as frequent as at first supposed as it is approached quite closely by forms of *C. x watereri*.

True *C. frigidus* is quite difficult to find, at any rate in the south-east, and many records of it will be referable to *C. x watereri*.

More comprehensive notes on distribution will, it is hoped, appear in due course, together with a key to at least the eleven species mentioned above.

Notes on the Check List

Compilation of the list is entirely the result of field work and the transmission to me of fresh material by collectors. I have myself seen in situ, or found growing, all the taxa on the list, additions to which will be very welcome. Herbarium specimens have not been examined, partly because it is difficult to determine accurately critical *Cotoneasters* from dried material. The colour and shape of leaves and fruits are of paramount importance and these change markedly in pressed specimens e.g. *C. franchetii* and *C. dielsianus* are virtually impossible to distinguish when pressed.

Certain species have been included in the list which have to date only been observed semi-naturalised, e.g. where seedlings have been found close to bushes planted out on roadsides. Experience leads me to believe that these species will eventually be found more genuinely naturalised after further field work and/or an increase in the number of observers. These species are marked with an asterisk.

Names for the species have been derived from Flinck & Hylmö and from Bean. The numerous named forms of *C. x watereri* have not been included even though many are nameable as escapes, from leaf-shape and fruit characteristics, some even having pink or yellow fruit. In W. Kent (v.c. 16) 'Cornubia', 'Saint Monica', 'Rothschildianus', 'Inchmery', and 'Pink Champagne' are among those which have been noticed as escapes.

CHECK-LIST

Section 1 - *Cotoneaster*

C. adpressus Bois, **C. nanshan* Mottet, *C. horizontalis* Decne, *C. sanguineus* Yü, *C. perpusillus* (C.K. Schneider) Flinck & Hylmö, *C. divaricatus* Rehd. & Wils. **C. nitens* Rehd. & Wils., **C. lucidus* Schlecht., *C. villosulus* (Rehd. & Wils.) Flinck & Hylmö, *C. foveolatus* Rehd. & Wils., *C. integerrimus* Medicus, **C. mucronatus* Franch., *C. simonsii* Baker, *C. bullatus* Bois, *C. rehderi* Pojark., *C. franchetii* Bois, **C. cinerascens* (Rehder) Flinck & Hylmö, *C. sternianus* (Turrill) Boom, *C. dielsianus* Pritz., *C. zabelii* Schneid.

Section 2 - *Chaenopetalum*

C. multiflorus Bunge, *C. calocarpus* (Rehd. & Wils.) Flinck & Hylmö, **C. silvestri* Pampan., *C. insignis* Pojark., *C. hissaricus* Pojark., **C. affinis* Lindl., *C. bacillaris* Wall. ex Lindl., *C. frigidus* Wall., *C. 'Hybridus Pendulus'*, *C. cooperi* Marquand, *C. salicifolius* Franch., *C. x watereri* Exell, *C. rugosus* Pritz., *C. dammeri* Schneid., *C. 'Skogholm'*, *C. lacteus* W.W. Smith, **C. vestitus* (W.W. Smith) Flinck & Hylmö, *C. pannosus* Franch., *C. buxifolius* Wall. ex Lindl., *C. conspicuus* Marquand, **C. marginatus* Lindl. ex Schlecht., *C. congestus* Baker, *C. microphyllus* Wall. ex Lindl., **C. cochleatus* (Franch.) Klotz

I wish to thank all those who have helped me with the supply of material and specimens.

References

- Bean, W.J. (1976). *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*. 8th ed. revised, pp. 729-759.
- Flinck, K.E. & Hylmö, B. (1966). A List of Series and Species in the Genus *Cotoneaster*. *Bot. Notiser*, 119: 445-463.

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

PRUNUS PENNSYLVANICUS L. fil. - A NEW ALIEN RECORD

This North American cherry was first seen by Joyce Smith, James Stevens and Julia Leslie in September 1986 in a neglected area of woodland and on adjacent banks of the Basingstoke Canal at Deepcut, near Frimley, Surrey (SU/897.567). The site was again visited by Ken Page and J.F.L. in May and June 1988 to obtain specimens of flowers and fruit.

Scattered along a distance of 145 yards there are 52 trees which are mostly in clusters and reach a maximum height of 30 feet. At three other sites along the tow path bank at intervals of 60-70 yards there are single (and in one case, two) 30 foot trees. The presumed parent tree of about 40 feet was seen in September 1986 but was subsequently lost in the Great Storm of October 1987.

There is currently no sign of seedlings despite there being plenty of fruit produced by the bigger trees. The smallest suckers are only a few inches high and were at first mistaken for seedlings. Suckering doubtless accounts for the main clusters, but it seems likely that the three separate groups at 60-70 yard intervals are seedlings from the original and now non-existent parent tree.

There appear to be no previous records of this species as an established alien in the British Isles. Specimens have been confirmed by Nigel Taylor and voucher material is in **Herb. K.W. Page.**

Description of *Prunus pensylvanicus*

The presumed parent was a deciduous tree about 40 feet in height with a trunk approximately 1 foot in diameter. Suckering trees up to 30 feet, all with reddish-brown lustrous bark covered with pale lenticles. Winter buds ovoid 0.1 ins long with acute scales, also shining reddish brown. Leaves ovate, acuminate 3 ins to 5 ins long, those on suckering shoots lanceolate up to 8 ins long and 2 ins wide, bright green, glabrous and turning to shades of pink in the autumn. Margins finely and sharply serrate, the teeth markedly incurved and tipped with a minute pointed gland. Petioles 0.5 ins long, slender, glabrous, often glandular towards the leaf base; stipules linear-lanceolate, acuminate, soon deciduous. Flowers 0.5 ins across, four to six in corymbose clusters on slender glabrous pedicels 1 inch long. Petals obovate to orbicular, contracted with a short claw at the base, minutely downy on the outside lower half, creamy-white; calyx glabrous, the lobes obtuse, reflexed in flower. Fruit ellipsoid, 0.25 ins long, flesh very sparse, skin red. Stone pointed at both ends, slightly flattened

KEN PAGE, 10 Cannonside, Fetcham, LEATHERHEAD, Surrey KT22 9LE
 JULIA LESLIE, Monksilver, 72 Boxgrove Road, GUILDFORD, Surrey GU1 1UD

PRUNUS SEROTINA Ehrh. (RUM CHERRY) IN KENT

BSBI Abstracts 18: 60 contained a report that this North American species had become a pest in certain areas of Holland; it is abundantly established already in parts of the British Isles, e.g. on Shackleford Heath in Surrey. J.E. Lousley in his Flora of Surrey (1976) mentions six other localities and remarks that the species is 'no doubt under-recorded.' This is certainly the case in Kent one feels, where Rum Cherry was recorded only once during the mapping for the Atlas of the British Flora (1962) - from Brasted Chart.

I first noticed it myself, as a seedling in dense natural undergrowth, near the River Shuttle at Blackfen in 1983 (conf. E.J. Clement), and in 1985 there was a seedling in a roadside hedge at Kippington near Sevenoaks. This summer (1988), I observed abundant seedlings of all sizes in Hollows Wood, Knockholt, including forms with acute leaves and with obovate leaves. An interesting feature of the species is that the young leaves have narrow bands of white hairs along each side of the midrib beneath (lens required). Later these hairs change to pale brown or disappear.

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A HYBRID VIBURNUM IN WEST KENT

In 1977 I noticed a shrub (a **Viburnum**) a few feet high growing in brambles in Darenth Wood. It has large, corrugated, always evergreen leaves, and I assumed then, and on subsequent visits, that it was a form of **Viburnum rhytidophyllum** Hemsl. This species is much cultivated in parks and gardens and planted on roadsides, and sometimes seeds itself profusely outside gardens. Closer examination in 1988 however, indicates that the shrub in Darenth Wood, now 10 feet high, is **V. x rhytidophylloides** Suring, the hybrid between the evergreen **V. rhytidophyllum** and our native Wayfaring Tree, **V. lantana** L., which is deciduous.

Flowers (not observed) and fruit occurred for the first time in 1988 (the fruits are few, and smaller even than **V. lantana**). The leaves are much longer than **V. lantana** and wider than **V. rhytidophyllum**. They are more wrinkled than the former, but less than the latter. Similarly the density of the tomentum on the underside of the leaf is midway between the two parents.

Bean (in Trees and Shrubs hardy in the British Isles) states that the hybrid is fairly frequent when the parents are growing together. The Darenth Wood specimen might be planted. It is not far from the edge of the wood in a place where there was a hutted hospital (now demolished). The nearby woodland and a large expanse of chalk grassland contains **V. lantana**. The nearest gardens, which might contain the other parent, are about 100 yards away.

When first seen the hybrid was in dense brambles and quite difficult to reach. The small footpath which now runs past the bush has evolved because existing footpaths became blocked. The balance of opinion must be that it is of natural occurrence.

Viburnum x rhytidophylloides may well occur elsewhere in the wild, especially on the edge of towns and villages on calcareous soils, where its parents are in close proximity.

More recently, in September 1988, I found a completely wild specimen of the hybrid on a railway bank at Eynsford, West Kent. The possibility is also that this hybrid is seeding itself from cultivation; there is for instance a planted bush on the High Elms Estate at Downe.

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

NOTICES (BSBI)

SCOTTISH RECORDING CONFERENCE 1989

A Conference based at Stirling University will be held from Friday evening June 30th until Sunday afternoon July 2nd. There will be talks, workshops and field meetings. While it will be arranged primarily with Scottish v.c. Recorders in mind, the Scottish Committee will be delighted to welcome any BSBI member.

The anticipated cost for the 48 hour span is £46 + VAT. For further information please contact:

PETER MACPHERSON, 15 Lubnaig Road, GLASGOW G43 2RY

NOTICES (OTHERS)

THE OLEG POLUNIN MEMORIAL FUND

The Oleg Polunin Memorial Fund was established by the family and friends of Oleg Polunin, to give assistance to those wishing to undertake botanical or biological fieldwork either abroad or in the U.K., and awards can be made to an individual or a member of an organised expedition.

Applicants should normally have Charterhouse School connections, but other persons with strong botanical or biological interests will also be considered, and awards will normally be for amounts of up to £1000.

Applications should be made in writing to the address below, giving a clear statement

Notices (Others)

about the proposed field studies, where they will be undertaken and when, the extent to which they will be supervised and the amount of grant requested. The closing date for applications for the 1989 award is 1st February 1989

PETER ATTENBOROUGH, Headmaster, Charterhouse, GODALMING, Surrey GU7 2DJ

EXPEDITIONS OVERSEAS

The following overseas tours have been arranged for 1989. All the leaders are members of the BSBI.

Cox & Kings Travel Ltd., St James Court, Buckingham Gate, LONDON SW1E 6AF

COUNTRY	DATE	LEADER
Cyprus	6-15 March	Mary Briggs
Rhodes	18-25 March	Tony Kemp
Crete	22 March - 5 April	Mary Briggs
Majorca	25 March - 1 April	Alan Outen
Gargano	23 April - 2 May	Tony Kemp
Turkey	10-24 May	Mary Briggs
Wengen	16-30 June	Mary Briggs
Dolomites	27 June - 6 July	Marian Short
Formigal	7-19 July	Mary Briggs
Kashmir	1-17 August	Mary Briggs
Seychelles	26 September - 12 October	Mary Briggs

MARY BRIGGS, White Cottage, Slinfold, HORSHAM, West Sussex RH13 7RG

Voyages Jules Verne, 21 Dorset Square, Marylebone, LONDON NW1

COUNTRY	DATE	LEADER
Ronda, S. Spain	20-29 March	Peter Jepson
Crete	22 March - 5 April	John Akeroyd
Majorca	8-15 April	Humphrey Bowen
Peloponnese & Delphi	10-22 April	John Richards
Jaén, Spain	20-30 April	John Mason
Turkish Aegean		
Flower Cruise	21 April - 3 May	Sir Charles Willinck
" "	30 April - 12 May	Sir Charles Willinck
Alpes Maritimes	1-11 June	Maureen Ponting
Olympus, Greece	24 June - 8 July	Humphrey Bowen
Dolomites	26 June - 7 July	Sir Charles Willinck
La Grave, French Alps	3-14 July	John Richards
Dolomites	7-18 July	Peter Jepson
Zermatt	19-31 July	John Mason
Corfu	19-30 September	Sir Charles Willinck

JOHN RICHARDS, Dept. of Biology, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Ridley Building
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 7RU

HIGHLAND FIELD STUDIES

Brian Brookes has again put together an interesting and varied programme of courses for 1989. Some are specifically botanical and several others, though more general, have a high botanical content. All will be run as small, friendly groups in a relaxed, informal and enjoyable atmosphere.

Notices (Others)

Specially recommended to BSBI members are the courses on **Sedges & Rushes** led by Clive Jermy (July 8-15) and **Wildflowers of Tayside** led by Brian Brookes (July 15-22), both courses based at Dunkeld, Perthshire.

The programme also includes:

Mosses & Liverworts	Dunkeld, Perthshire	Apr 25-29
Spring Flowers	Dunkeld, Perthshire	Apr 29-6 May
Beginning Botany	Dunkeld, Perthshire	May 26-28
Exploring Morvern	Ardtornish, Argyll	Jun 3-10
Botany in Morvern	Ardtornish, Argyll	June 10-17
Mountain Flowers	Dunkeld, Perthshire	June 24-1 July
Field Botany	Dunkeld, Perthshire	July 22-29
Bryophytes	Dunkeld, Perthshire	Aug 26-2 Sep
Natural History of Coll	Coll Hotel	Sept 18-23
Natural History of Skye	Harlosh, Dunvegan, Skye	Sept 30-7 Oct
Autumn in Tayside	Dunkeld, Perthshire	Oct 14-21

The full programme and details of any particular course are available from Brian at the address below. All enquiries are welcomed (sae appreciated).

BRIAN BROOKES, Borelick, TROCHRY, Perthshire PH8 0BX (tel. 03503-222)

PLANT-LORE NOTES & NEWS

In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in the folklore and traditional uses of plants, but plant-lore studies suffer because there is no means by which people sharing this interest can easily communicate with each other. Plant-lore Notes & News is intended as an informal newsletter for the dissemination of information on British and Irish plant-lore, and it is hoped that it will act as a stimulus to the many people who are interested in the subject.

Matter suitable for inclusion will include: notes on recent publications, events and exhibitions; requests for information; recently collected material; notes on current interests/research, etc., etc. Anyone interested should contact:

ROY VICKERY, 12 Eastwood Street, LONDON SW16 6PX

WATCH THIS URBAN SPACE

Urban Spaces Scheme, the agency for environmental education, is familiar to BSBI members through occasional articles in BSBI News and regular displays at our Annual Exhibition Meeting. Centred at the Polytechnic of North London, it has for six years provided both literature and on-the-spot guidance for a wide range of school nature projects. It has also produced site guides for local ecological parks, and is currently completing a detailed directory of city community gardens.

Despite concentrating its resources on North London, Urban Spaces has long attracted interest and requests for help from all parts of the U.K. Now, under new management, the Scheme is officially going national, as a full-time consultancy, adding habitat surveys, wider ecological and conservation information, and plant identification services, not just for schools but for any landowners, authorities, and other organisations who have need of such expertise.

All enquiries should be addressed to DAVID SOLMAN, Urban Spaces Environmental Consultants, Faculty of Environment, The Polytechnic of North London, Holloway Road, London N7 8BD, or phone 01-607-2789 ext. 2118

BRIAN WURZELL (Consultant ecologist) 47 Rostrevor Avenue, Tottenham, LONDON N15 6LA

PAINTINGS OF BRITISH VASCULAR PLANTS
 by **MISS D.A. CADBURY**
 (co-author of Computer Mapped Flora of Warwickshire)

Over a period of 60 years, Miss Dorothy A. Cadbury of Birmingham produced, as her recreation, around 400 botanical illustrations of specimens collected both locally and nationwide. The Warwickshire Museum received these paintings as a bequest in October 1987. Subsequently, they have been computer catalogued and re-filed alphabetically into their original covers.

All the paintings, except 30 of foreign or unknown origin, have date, location and vice-county information available. Among the rarities illustrated are *Veronica spicata* subsp. *spicata* (v.c. 27) and subsp. *hybrida* (v.c. 49), *Dianthus gratianopolitanus* (v.c. 6), *Arabis turrita* (v.c. 27), *Draba aizoides* (v.c. 41), *Gentiana verna* (v.c. 62) and *Bupleurum baldense* (v.c. 3).

Species lists are available for the following vice-counties:

1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 52, 56, 59, 60, 61, 62, 66, 88, 95, 96, 97, 103, 104, H1, H3, H4, H9, H14, H17, H19.

(Underlining indicates 5 or more specimens from that vice-county.)

If you are interested in a list of the specimens found in your vice-county or in any other aspect of this most attractive new collection, please contact:

Mrs P.J. COPSON, Keeper of Biology, Warwickshire Museum, Market Place, WARWICK CV34 4SA
 (tel. 0926-410410 ext. 2481)

REQUESTS

FLORA OF MALLORCA: PHOTOS REQUIRED

For some years now, I have been working on the illustrations for a complete Flora of Mallorca. Good colour photographs, preferably close up, to paint from are still required of the following taxa, some of which are rather obscure. I have herbarium specimens of many, but find it difficult to paint from them. Any help that BSBI members can give will be much appreciated.

List of taxa

Adonis microcarpa, *Agrostis pourretii*, *Allium chamaemoly*, *A. commutatum*, *Althenia filiformis*, *Amaranthus graecizans*, *Artemisia arborescens*, *Arthrocnemum fruticosum*, *A. glaucum*, *Atriplex rosea*, *A. tatarica*, *Bassia hyssopifolia*, *Beta macrocarpa*, *B. patellaris*, *Biscutella auriculata*, *Bunium bulbocastanum*, *B. pachypodium*, *Capsella rubella*, *Carduncellus pinnatus*, *Carex distachya*, *C. distans*, *C. hallerana*, *Cerastium pumilum*, *C. semidecandrum*, *C. siculum*, *Chaenorhinum origanifolium*, *C. rubrifolium*, *Chamaemelum mixtum*, *Cheirolophus intybaceus*, *Chenopodium opulifolium*, *Convolvulus pentapetaloides*, *C. sculus*, *Crepis* species (not *C. triasil*, which I have : I propose only to do a sample of one or two. *Cressa cretica* (fls close-up), *Cuscuta approximata*, *C. campestris*, *C. planifolia*, *Cymbalaria hepaticifolia*, *Cyperus laevigatus*, *C. longus*, *Epipactis microphylla*, *Erinus alpinus* (local subsp.?), *Euphorbia maresii*, *E. medicaginea*, *E. nutans*, *E. pithyusa*, *E. pterococca*, *Filago congesta*, *F. vulgaris*, *Fumana procumbens*, *Fumaria agraria*, *F. densiflora*, *Galium balearicum*, *G. cinereum*, *G. crespianum* *Gladiolus communis*, *G. italicus*, *Gymnostyles stolonifera*, *Heteropogon contortus*, *Hieracium* species, (any **DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED** : I propose only to do a sample of one or two. *Hippocrepis ciliata* (pod), *H. multisiliquosa*, *Ipomoea sagittata*, *Isoetes durieui*, *Juncus hybridus*, *J. subnodulosus*, *Kickxia commutata*, *Lathyrus articulatus*, *L. saxatilis*, *L. sphaericus*, *Limonium duriusculum*, *Linaria chalepensis*, *L. micrantha*, *L. pelisseriana*, *Lippia canescens*, *Logfia gallica*, *Magydaris panacifolia*, *Mantisalca salmantica*, *Marsilea strigosa*, *Medicago murex*, *Moehringia pentandra*, *Muscari parviflorum*, *Najas marina*, *Nonea vesicaria*, *Oenanthe globulosa*, *Ophioglossum lusitanicum*, *Ophrys fusca* subsp. *omegaifera*. *Paspalum vaginatum*, *Phillyrea latifolia* (fls), *Pimpinella tragium*, *Polygonum patulum*, *Potamogeton* species, *P. coloratus*, *P. crispus*, *P. pectinatus*, *Ranunculus bullatus*,

R. paludosus, *R. weyleri*, *Romulea columnae* (blue, not the diminutive white 'assumptionis'), *Ruppia maritima*, *Salsola vermiculata*, *Scirpus litoralis*, *Sesleria insularis*, *Setaria italica*, *Silene apetala*, *S. disticha*, *Sisymbrium erysimoides*, *S. polyceratium*, *Solenopsis laurentia*, *Sparganium erectum* subsp. *neglectum*, *Spergularia heldreichii*, *Stenotaphrum secundatum*, *Suaeda splendens*, *Tamarix boveana*, *Taraxacum* species (any DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED except *T. obovatum*: I propose only to do a sample of one or two. *Teucrium campanulatum*, *Thesium divaricatum*, *Thlaspi perfoliatum*, *Thymelaea passerina*, *Thymus richardii*, *Trifolium micranthum*, *T. suffocatum*, *Trigonella monspeliaca*, *Tyrimnus leucographus*, *Verbascum creticum*, *Veronica anagalloides*, *V. polita*, *V. verna*, *Vicia bifoliolata*, *V. ervilla*, *V. hybrida*, *V. monantha*, *V. peregrina*, *V. villosa*, *Vulpia membranacea*, *V. muralis*, *Withania somnifera*.

If you are able to help, please send your slides or prints to the address below.

ELSPETH BECKETT, 3 Henley St., OXFORD OX4 1ER

OFFERS

CAMPANULA PATULA SEED

Some years ago, I collected some seed from a local colony of *Campanula patula*. From the two original plants that resulted, it has now seeded and spread itself all over my garden and this year I had a very spectacular plant amongst my parsley!

I have saved a quantity of seed and would be delighted to send some to anyone on receipt of a s.a.e. Please contact:

ANN POWELL, Corner Cottage, Great Oak, EARDISLEY, Hereford HR3 6LU

BOOK NOTES

NEWS FROM OUNDLE BOOKS

September brought the inevitable price increases in postage - delayed by the postal strike. I always try to forestall their changes when I prepare my new list in June, but it is difficult to estimate when publishers will increase their prices. Cambridge University Press book prices always rise in the New Year (e.g. the new Flora, CTM). Immediately the new list goes to the printer there are changes. These I now record on a supplementary list together with any new and out of print titles. The current edition of the supplement contains the East and Mid Lothian check lists, Brambles of the British Isles, The BM Fern Crib and the New Naturalist Guide to Ferns.

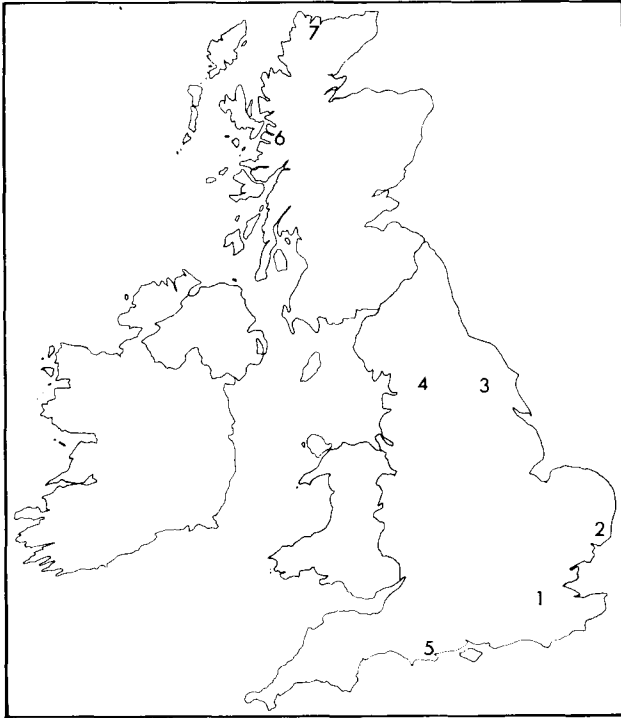
If you would like an up-to-date supplementary list (and another copy of the yellow 1988 list) please send a s.a.e. to:

MARGARET PERRING, BSBI Publications, 24 Glaphorn Road, OUNDLE, Peterborough PE8 4JQ

REPORTS OF FIELD MEETINGS

Reports of Field Meetings are edited by, and should be sent to, Dr B.S. Rushton, Biology Department, The University of Ulster, COLERAINE, Co. Londonderry, N. Ireland BT52 1SA.

The map shows the approximate locations of the field meetings reported below



BULGARIA, 30th MAY - 11th JUNE

The BSBI's trip to Bulgaria was much enjoyed by all the participants, many of whom are pictured here. The photo was taken by T.G. Evans on the steps of the Botanical Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia after a meeting with the Director, Professor Velcho Velchev. Unfortunately Prof. Velchev is not in the picture but some of his staff are.

Key to photo: 1) Derek Steeden, 2) Mrs Juliet Hoare, 3) Mrs Shirley Hornsey, 4) Mrs Phyl Abbott, 5) Mrs Joan Foster, 6) Peter Eden, 7) Mrs Margaret Silcocks, 8) Mrs Marjorie Sergeant, 9) Mrs Margaret Lindop, 10) Mrs Danny Rotseva, 11) Mrs Sylvia Kemp, 12) Jeremy Steeden, 13) Mrs Mary Briggs, 14) Mrs Olive Chamberlin, 15) Botanist from Institute, 16) Dr Paul Bartlett, 17) John Ounsted, 18) Mrs Frances le Sueur, 19) Mrs Peg Perrins, 20) Dr Stephanie Ivancheva, 21) Dr Kuzarov, 22) Roger Cotes, 23) Ron Payne, 24) Mrs Muriel Newton, 25) Mrs Vera Gordon, 26) Philip Crees, 27) Alan Newton, 28) Prof. Ted Shellard, 29) Dr Brian Attock, 30) Tony Kemp.

I am grateful to Trevor Evans for the loan of the photograph and to Mary Briggs for naming the people involved.

EDITOR



ENGLAND

1. PERIVALE WOOD, MIDDLESEX (v.c. 21). 8th MAY

28 members attended this meeting, held by kind permission of The Selborne Society.

The 11ha nature reserve of mixed oak woodland, meadows and ponds contains part of the ancient Broad Hedge that marked the parish boundary between Perivale and Greenford. A fine example of a British Bluebell wood, it is rich in wildlife and over 1,000 species, including over 300 flowering plants have been recorded there. This is remarkable considering its urban situation, flanked by factories, a housing estate, and with the Grand Union Canal forming its northern boundary. Established as a nature reserve in 1902, it was purchased by the Selborne Society in 1922 as a permanent memorial to the 18th century naturalist Gilbert White.

The party assembled in the hut where old photographs of the reserve were displayed for our benefit. After coffee and an introductory talk, the party divided into three, and led by members of the Selborne Society each group went its separate way around the reserve.

The bluebells were in splendid form and other plants seen included: *Euonymus europaeus*, *Sorbus torminalis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Montia fontana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Carex pendula*, *C. flacca*, *C. otrubae* and *C. spicata*, the latter being a new record for the reserve.

It was unfortunate that the day was marred by heavy rain, with nearby Northolt declared by the Meteorological Office the wettest place (5.4mm) in the British Isles!

By mid afternoon the rain had abated and the sun did show itself with the promise of a fine evening. This was not to be, and by early evening the rain returned causing severe flooding to the reserve. By this time all BSBI members had left, but according to an eye witness, the Grand Union Canal, swollen by rain water rushing down from nearby Horsenden Hill flowed over the towpath and into the reserve bringing roach and sticklebacks with it!

A full account of the 'Great Flood' by Peter Edwards appears in The Selborne Society Newsletter No. 52 Summer 1988.

Thanks are due to Roy Hall, Ms Rae Thorpe, Peter Edwards, Nic Ferriday, John Alden and Pauline Sitwell of the Selborne Society for their kind hospitality to BSBI members.

ELIZABETH J. RICH

2. SNAPE, SUFFOLK (v.c. 25). 11th JUNE

The morning was spent at Gromford Meadow, a Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve; Mrs Fry, the owner, was very helpful and generously provided coffee for our refreshment. The meadow has a diverse tall-herb community, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and *Rhinanthus minor* were in colourful abundance. Also plentiful were *Valeriana dioica*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Galium cruciata* and *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*. A few plants of Twayblade (*Listera ovata*) and Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) were found and, in one of the ditches, *Carex rostrata*.

Lunch was taken at Snape Maltings with good views over the Alde estuary. Here we found *Sonchus palustris*, *Althaea officinalis*, *Parapholis strigosa* and *Puccinellia fasciculata*.

We then moved on to Blaxhall Heath, another SWT reserve. It is typical of the Suffolk Sandlings, being mainly open heath with birch; invasive Bracken has been a problem. Initially plants were hard to come by but members of the party were soon on hands and knees to find the tiny plants characteristic of this habitat. *Trifolium striatum*,

T. dubium, *T. suffocatum* and *T. glomeratum* were all found in the short turf together with *Aira praecox*, *Crassula tillaea*, *Spergularia rubra* and *Vicia lathyroides*. *Carex arenaria* was very abundant as were *Galium saxatile* and *Festuca tenuifolia*.

On their way home several members stopped off at Staverton Thicks, an ancient deer park with impressive 'stag-headed' oaks and some of the largest hollies in Britain.

The meeting was both enjoyable and productive, Chris Preston ably compiled tick cards for the Monitoring Scheme.

M. SANFORD

3. S.E. YORKS. (v.c. 61). 18th - 19th JUNE

The aim of this meeting was to record two 10km squares for the BSBI Monitoring Scheme.

The first square, 44/8.6, was situated on the chalk of the Yorkshire Wolds. Twelve members met on the Saturday at North Grimston in glorious sunshine. In the morning the selected A, J and W tetrads were recorded and the finds discussed over lunch. *Campanula glomerata* caused problems until we realized that though the racemes were stalked, the flowers were sessile. After lunch, all that could be found of *Orobanche reticulata* was one of last year's spikes. Further sites were recorded in the afternoon adding many valuable records to an underworked square.

Later, the party visited Allertorpe Common guided by Mr E.H. Wear, whose knowledge of the site proved to be very precise. The *Maianthemum bifolium* (offered as bait to tempt botanists along to the meeting!) unfortunately seems to have died out. However, *Pyrola minor*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Hypericum elodes* and many other heathland plants were adequate compensation and the different habit was an interesting contrast to the chalk visited earlier in the day.

On the Sunday, 16 members (including Miss F.E. Crackles, the v.c. recorder) met at North Cave to record 44/8.3 and, again, split up to record the A, J and W tetrads. The flora of the sandy ground again proved a great contrast, and *Amsinckia micrantha* was widespread. Other interesting finds were *Astragalus glycyphyllos* and *Typha x glauca* (*T. angustifolia* x *T. latifolia*). At lunchtime, *Puccinellia distans* was found on the road verge. In the afternoon various sites were visited and further records made including *Smyrnium olusatrum* and *Lamium moluccellifolium*. It started to rain not long after we had finished for the day!

My thanks to all those who helped with the recording and to Miss F.E. Crackles and Mr E.H. Wear for their invaluable local knowledge and advice.

T.C.G. RICH

4. MALHAM, MID-W. YORKS. (v.c. 64). 23rd - 24th JULY

On Saturday morning 13 participants assembled in the meeting room of the Yorkshire Dales National Park visitor centre in Malham village to be divided into small groups, each of which was asked to visit a tetrad to record for the Monitoring Scheme. During the weekend ten tetrads were very successfully "bashed", in spite of the unkind weather. On Saturday it was a case of endeavouring to enjoy the drizzle between the showers and, on Sunday, it was difficult to avoid being blown off clints or into potholes; but, at least, the superb scenery was visible.

Plants typical of the upland limestone of northern England were seen by all the groups. *Primula farinosa* was abundant around wet flushes and in north-facing grassland. In the wet areas it was often accompanied by *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Carex viridula* subsp. *brachyrhyncha* (*C. lepidocarpa*), *C. hostiana*, *Blysmus compressus*, *Cochlearia pyrenaica* or *Sagina nodosa*. On the flatter areas which were leached or overlain by peat, the *Sesleria*-grassland gave way to *Nardus stricta* and *Trichophorum cespitosum*, interspersed with a few remaining flowers of *Viola lutea*, which are entirely yellow in this area.

Ledges on the limestone scars were enhanced by *Geranium sanguineum* along with *Cystopteris fragilis* and, occasionally, *Draba incana* and *D. muralis*. There was plenty of *Thalictrum minus* but *T. alpinum* was, unfortunately, not found in spite of the encouragement to search given in recent reports in *BSBI News*. Herbarium specimens of *T. alpinum* were collected in this area in the nineteenth century.

Grikes in the limestone pavements yielded a wealth of ferns and other woodland species, including *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *A. trichomanes*, *A. viride*, *Polystichum aculeatum* and *Phyllitis scolopendrium*. *Gymnocarpium robertianum* was seen here and on screes.

Roadsides were colourful with *Cirsium helenioides*, *Campanula latifolia* and *Gymnadenia conopsea*. *Rosa mollis* is in fruit.

We were much indebted to Alister Clunas, the National Trust warden, who had obtained permission from the tenant farmer for us to visit the Great Close area. He accompanied the D team on Saturday and they succeeded in finding one ungrazed clump of *Bartsia alpina* on a rocky hummock, and quantities of *Catabrosa aquatica* and *Equisetum variegatum*. Meanwhile, the B team found x *Festulium loliaceum* near Gordale bridge and the C team were delighted

with *Dryopteris villarii* and *Actaea spicata* in grikes above Gordale Scar. *Taxus baccata* grows naturally in clefts in the scars hereabouts. The star plant of the day for the E team was *Polystichum lonchitis*, again in a grike.

At the end of the afternoon, we reported back at the YDNP centre to compare notes, and tetrads were allocated for Sunday.

The K team visited Winterburn reservoir, a compensation reservoir for the Leeds-Liverpool canal. There was little of interest in the water, but the muddy margins held *Juncus filiformis* and *Callitriche platycarpa*.

The G team enjoyed a hay meadow and a wooded ravine and, in the wet areas, came up with *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Isolepis setacea* and *Narthecium ossifragum*.

The H team also had a superb meadow with *Festulolium loliaceum*, *Cirsium helenioides* and *Geranium sylvaticum*.

The T team, up from Leeds for the day, found *Geranium sanguineum* on a scar and *Epipactis palustris*, *Serratula tinctoria* and *Schoenus nigricans* in a marshy field.

The remaining group, with a super abundance of energy, tackled two tetrads, finding *Galium boreale* and *Sorbus rupicola* on a scar, a putative *Salix myrsinifolia*, *Minuartia verna* in two places on the plateau above Littondale and *Melica nutans* and *Convallaria majalis* in grikes. Having then found one non-flowering plant of *Epipactis atrorubens* in a grike in the next tetrad, they felt this was too heady and made for lower ground, where their best finds were *Cirsium helenioides* on the roadside, *Paris quadrifolia* in the shade of a tree on the riverbank and *Menyanthes trifoliata* in a marsh.

Only the common species of *Alchemilla* were found: *A. glabra*, *A. xanthochlora* and *A. filicaulis* subsp. *vestita*. There was an abundance of *Euphrasia confusa* but probably no others. The *Hieracium* most commonly seen was believed to be *H. anglicum* and several *Salix* twigs await christening or confirmation.

P.P. ABBOTT

5. WAREHAM, DORSET (v.c. 9). 17th - 18th SEPTEMBER

About 25 members attended this meeting which was favoured by dry weather. On Saturday attention was concentrated on four of the large grid squares for which mapping records were needed, as well as their associated tetrads.

In the Weymouth square (30/6.7) good new records from the very rich Smallmouth area were the grasses *Alopecurus aequalis*, *Hordeum jubatum* and *Puccinellia distans*. The nearby Fleet lagoon still contains vast stands of *Ruppia cirrhosa*, *Zostera angustifolia* and *Z. noltii*, while the low cliffs here and by Portland harbour were sites for scarce legumes such as *Lathyrus aphaca*, *L. tuberosus*, *Trifolium squamosum*, *Vicia bithynica* and *V. lutea*, as well as the hybrid grass *Elymus pycnanthus* x *repens*. The latter has glumes with asymmetrically twisted keels, and appears to be a new record. Some rare weeds in this square included *Fumaria densiflora*, *Euphorbia platyphyllos*, *Petroselinum segetum* and *Rapistrum rugosum*. Although this square is mostly sea and lacks any sort of woodland, 585 species have been recorded in it during the last two years.

The Purbeck square (30/9.7) was carefully searched by one party who were able to find an acid patch in this limestone area, so adding *Danthonia decumbens*, *Erica cinerea* and *Galium saxatile* to the list. Among other novel records one should single out a bush of *Berberis vulgaris* and *Umbilicus rupestris*, which are both scarce in east Dorset.

The Corfe square (31/6.0) has been intensively searched by David Pearman earlier this year. For example he has found or refound *Carex strigosa*, *Colchicum autumnale* and *Inula helenium* here. Still more species were added during this meeting, including *Danthonia decumbens* and the hybrid *Epilobium ciliatum* x *montanum*. Near Cattistock the form of *Mentha* x *villosa* (*M. spicata* x *suaveolens*) with coarsely toothed and serrate leaves was collected; it was once known as *M. cordifolia* and is quite distinct from the common var. *alopecuroides* (Apple Mint). The 1987-88 total for this square is now 522 species.

In the Witchampton square (31/9.0), a few plants of *Orobanche elatior* and over a thousand clumps of *Carex humilis* were detected by John Ounsted, growing in old chalk turf inside Blandford Camp, where access is strictly by permit. *Cyclamen hederifolium* was flowering abundantly at Tarrant Crawford, mostly in old gardens but also by the roadside. Some excellent finds were made by Rosemary FitzGerald's party near Pamphill on the Kingston Lacy estate, including *Alopecurus aequalis*, *Chamaemelum nobile*, *Fumaria bastardii* and *Polygonum mite*. The invasive *Crassula helmsii* has arrived here. The square has about

540 species recorded and would have more if an acid patch could be located somewhere in it.

Square bashing was abandoned on Sunday morning in order to look at the cliffs between Chapmans Pool and St Aldhelms Head. Many unusual plants were found in cliff and fen habitats, but the arable fields above were disappointing. Some time was lost discovering that most paths through the blackthorn/privet maquis on the undercliff soon become impenetrable. Good finds were *Epipactis palustris*, *Brassica oleracea*, *Hyoscyamus niger*, *Marrubium vulgare* (in some plenty), *Orobanche hederæ* and *Silybum marianum*.

After lunch the party reassembled at Slepe to look at the acid habitats here and at Hartland Moor, where more than one Wellington boot was submerged while its owner was photographing *Utricularia intermedia* or the Large Marsh Grasshopper. Among the plants in good flower were *Cicendia filiformis*, all three *Drosera* spp., *Erica ciliaris*, *Gentiana pneumonanthe* and *Pinguicula lusitanica*. David Pearman showed us *Eleocharis quinqueflora* and *Scorzonera humilis*, but both were too far gone over to be memorable.

I would like to thank all members taking part and especially Anne Horsfall for help with local planning and tea in her lovely garden; the Head of Purbeck School for allowing parking; and Jim White of NCC and numerous landowners for giving permission to visit their estates.

H.J.M. BOWEN

SCOTLAND

6. KNOYDART, WESTERNESS (v.c. 97). 4th - 11th JULY

Day 1. We arrived by ferry at 11am and by the time we had settled down in our quarters it was well past noon. We, therefore, devoted the afternoon to the nearest part of the target square, tetrad E of 17/8.9. Two parties searched the area north of the Meadail burn and another two parties searched the south area. In addition two members who arrived on the afternoon ferry followed us, so there were 13 deployed in the area. As a result tetrad E was well covered. We found the variety of plant life rather limited though those who went high enough found a few arctic-alpines and those who stayed near the river found a few rather western lowland types such as *Pinguicula lusitanica*, *Rhynchospora alba*, etc.

Day 2. The beginning of weather deterioration was noticeable with mists on the summits. Our purpose was to go to the next group of tetrads, viz. J, D and I, so parties of three or so set off. A few more energetic penetrated as far as tetrad P (Meall Buidhe, 946m). As a result of the wider coverage more variety was found including the four common saxifrages, *Saussurea alpina*, *Silene acaulis*, *Polygonum viviparum*, *Dryopteris oreades* and *Loiseleuria procumbens* (the last not found elsewhere during the week).

Day 3. Attention was paid to areas outside the target square. The shore to the west of Inverie produced a considerable variety and a dash to Ladhar Bheinn added one or two taxa to our knowledge of that rough hill. A remarkable ravine very close to the target square was known to be interesting, and, in fact, much exceeded expectations by disclosing a few ledges with good colonies of *Dryas octopetala*. Other plants seen in this ravine included *Botrychium lunaria*, *Anthyllis vulneraria*, *Polygala vulgaris*, etc. The *Hieracium* group was also interesting. The most outstanding performance of the day, however, was a long walk undertaken by our fittest member over a 600m bealach down to a sea-level wood (Coille Chaolais) and back over the bealach again. The wood was regarded as possibly the best in the target square and he brought back slightly encouraging information.

Day 4. Seven of us decided to reach Coille Chaolais by hired boat so we landed there at 11am, spent an hour or two in the wood and returned over the bealach (three returned instead by the slightly complicated shore route). It was said that a few liverworts showed characteristics of the west of Scotland, but the flowering plants and ferns not particularly so. We found *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Schoenus nigricans* and a few others. The weather had been getting cooler over the last few days and the return over the bealach was marred by rain. Those who did not visit Coille Chaolais explored an area of rather better schist in tetrads I (Beinn Buidhe) and N (Meall Bhasiter). The *Hieracium* collection was growing.

Day 5. The rain continued throughout the night and into the morning. Some departed on the morning ferry, others waited hoping for a break, but in vain, and we completed our

departure from Inverie on the afternoon ferry. However, three members got off the ferry at Tarbet and set up a camp. By this means we were able to enter tetrad A which was otherwise inaccessible. Even though our tents were less than 1km from tetrad A, we had a little difficulty in finding a way into it. During the late afternoon we penetrated a wood, finding an old Victorian track rising and finally emerging from the wood into tetrad A. By that time it was evening and we could only stand on the edge of tetrad A and record all we saw on the steep slope ahead. We then made a hasty return.

Day 6. We were lucky enough to meet a local lady who showed us another easier path into tetrad A which we penetrated by more than a km until the way ahead was barred by the vertical cliffs of Sron Mhor. *Scutellaria minor* was known to grow in this area and we found it just coming into flower. The only *Platanthera chlorantha* of the week was also seen but *P. bifolia* had been a quite frequent sight elsewhere. To avoid Sron Mhor we went uphill and eventually decided to go right over the ridge into tetrad B. Just before we left tetrad A we passed through Coire Dubh, an interesting area of pools and some quaking bog. We added *Carex limosa* to the week's list, then descended in deteriorating weather by a rocky burn, the Allt Buidhe, into tetrad B and so along a track back to camp.

Day 7. This was devoted to tetrad B which proved to be one of the most fruitful areas of the whole week. We approached along our track of the previous evening and traversed cliff, saltmarsh, boulder beach and even some farmland, rare in this square. We were able to record *Anagallis minima*, *Carex extensa*, *Ranunculus hederaceus* and *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*, the last displayed as a fine colony before our eyes as we lunched. Though showers assailed us this was, on the whole, a pleasant day.

Day 8. During the night the wind rose and the rain fell. We had thought of a short walk in the morning but that idea quickly evaporated and we were glad to pack up and catch the afternoon ferry.

The achievement of the week was to build up, in this complicated square, records from eleven tetrads, only four of which had been briefly visited in 1987 or early 1988. With another five visited, albeit rapidly, in 1987 or early 1988 that leaves only five tetrads unvisited during this monitoring period out of the whole 25 in the 10km square. These five are all in the Loch Morar group F, G, K, Q and V.

A.A. SLACK

7. BEN HOPE, WEST SUTHERLAND (v.c. 108). 16th - 17th JULY

Sixteen people participated in this joint meeting between the Alpine Section of the BSE and the BSBL. The aim was to spend one day exploring on Ben Hope and one day visiting three remote tetrads for the BSBI Monitoring Scheme.

As the weather forecast appeared reasonable for the Saturday we made our goal for that day Ben Hope. We ascended from the road on the south west side, where we soon reached the massive wall of west facing cliffs. Most of the party spent the day slowly heading north along the base of the cliffs, scrambling up and down the many gullies when the opportunity arose. A good percentage of the rocks are base rich and soon a comprehensive list of plants were noted. In some abundance were *Selaginella selaginoides*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Trollius europaeus*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Silene acaulis*, *Anthyllis vulneraria*, *Rubus saxatilis*, *Potentilla crantzii*, *Sedum rosea*, *Saxifraga aizoides*, *S. oppositifolia*, *Plantago maritima*, *Galium boreale*, and *Antennaria dioica*. Not quite so common or plentiful were *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*, *A. viride*, *Polystichum lonchitis*, *Botrychium lunaria*, *Cardaminopsis petraea*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Sanicula europaea*, *Galium sternerii*, *Saussurea alpina*, *Juncus triglumis*, *Listera cordata*, *Coeloglossum viride*, *Pseudorchis albida*, *Orchis mascula* and *Carex capillaris*. Only one plant of *Salix reticulata* and no species of *Pyrola* were found. During the afternoon a small party scrambled above the cliffs and headed for the summit which they reached just before the cloud closed in and the rain started. Notable were the large mats of *Arctostaphylos alpina* in fruit and some very attractive *Salix herbacea*. Other plants noted were *Diphasiastrum alpinum*, *Minuartia sedoides*, *Rubus chamaemorus*, *Cornus suecicum*, *Loiseleuria procumbens*, *Armeria maritima* and *Luzula spicata*.

The weather was again fine on the Sunday morning and the group, now reduced to eight participants, split into three, to explore the survey tetrads. One group visited the hills to the SW of Gubernisgach Lodge. The rocks were not particularly rich and the most notable plants recorded were probably *Polystichum lonchitis*, *Trollius europaeus*, *Cornus suecicum*, *Salix lapponum*, *Loiseleuria procumbens*, *Arctostaphylos alpina* and *Listera*

cordata, **Hymenophyllum wilsonii** had grown into extensive mats on rocks and trees in one sheltered and very wet river gorge.

The second group were confronted with the problem of crossing the Strathmore River to reach the tetrad. This problem was easily overcome by Ken Butler who brought along a canoe. (Is a canoe an essential piece of equipment for field botanists in Sutherland?) They were rewarded with **Alchemilla alpina** growing around a lochan and **Loiseleuria procumbens** and **Arctostaphylos alpina** on the exposed summit of a hill.

The third group had a most uninteresting looking tetrad on the Meadie Ridge to the SSE of Ben Hope, but they did find some 78 species.

Most participants stayed in the Bettyhill area and in short evening excursions along the coast **Primula scotica** was found in flower and **Oxytropis halleri** and **Dryas octopetala** in fruit.

R.J.D. McBEATH

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'BSBI NEWS' (ISSN 0309-930X) is published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles.

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LONDON SW7 5BD.

Camera-ready copy produced by Gwynn Ellis and printed by J & P Davison, 3 James Place,
Treforest, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 2BT

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