

## NOTES ON STAFFORDSHIRE BRAMBLES

By E. S. EDEES

The object of this paper is to record or to criticise the records of certain species of the Staffordshire *Rubus* flora which are now well known to the writer. There are many others, some of them resting on good recent authority, which are not yet understood. We have at least a hundred constant and well marked species. The Bunter Sandstone which is well developed in Staffordshire, especially in the west of the county, yields many species. Others are found on the Keuper marl of central Staffordshire, the carboniferous limestone of the north-east and the millstone grit and peat of the moorlands, though these areas are less rich. There is a remarkable contrast between the *Rubi* of the Bunter Sandstone in the south of the county and the *Rubi* of the same formation in the north. This can be studied in two localities which have a rich concentration of species, *viz.* Whitmore Common in the north (Grid Ref. 795410) and Kinver Edge in the south (Grid Ref. 830830). Other good bramble areas are Hillswood, near Leek (Grid Ref. 985590), Hand Leasow Wood between Uttoxeter and Stafford (Grid Ref. 025305) and Cranmere Wood near Wolverhampton (Grid Ref. 850005). Seckley Wood (Grid Ref. 765785), now in Worcestershire, was once part of Staffordshire and for that reason is included in this survey.

My interest in Staffordshire brambles was inspired by the late F. Rilstone about twelve years ago and my indebtedness to him is very great. More recently the late W. C. R. Watson named several of my gatherings, and in 1950 spent a week with me in the north of the county. In addition to my own herbarium, which contains about 2,000 sheets of *Rubi*, the following collections have been consulted:

1. *The Bailey Herbarium.* The extensive herbarium of C. Bailey in the Manchester University Museum contains thousands of *Rubus* sheets, including the principal British and European sets.

2. *The Bagnall Herbarium.* The plants of J. E. Bagnall are preserved in the Natural History Museum, Birmingham. The collection is particularly rich in *Rubi*, of which there are about 100 Staffordshire specimens, in addition to many from Warwickshire and elsewhere. Unfortunately many of them are incomplete, stem leaves being often missing.

3. *The Daltry Herbarium.* This is in the private possession of Mr. H. W. Daltry. It contains very complete specimens of about twenty Staffordshire species, of which all but one (a sheet

of *R. ulmifolius*) were determined by H. J. Riddelsdell and some also by W. M. Rogers. The specimens were collected between 1914 and 1922 chiefly from Madeley in the north of the county.

4. *The Reader Herbarium*. The Staffordshire specimens of H. P. Reader are in the Hanley Museum, Stoke-on-Trent. They include beautifully preserved specimens of a dozen *Rubus* species illustrating the flora of Rugeley and collected about the same time as Mr. Daltry's.

I am very grateful to Mr. Daltry and to those in charge of the public collections for much generous help.

*RUBUS CAESIUS* L. There are many old records for this species, but the true plant is very local. I have seen it only in the Manifold Valley, a short distance below Thor's Cave.

[*R. NESSENSIS* W. Hall (*R. suberectus* Anders.). There is so far no proof that this species occurs in Staffordshire. Rogers (1900) recorded it within square brackets. There is a specimen in Hb. Bagnall labelled *R. suberectus* ("wild lane by Streetly railway", August 18, 1898), but this can hardly be correct. A Warwickshire specimen from Handsworth Wood (said to be in Staffs. but really in Warwickshire—between West Bromwich and Birmingham) seems to be correctly named. There is a large 7-nate leaf, the petiole is apparently not channelled, the leaf-toothing is nearly simple and the prickles on stem and panicle are small, curved, few and remote. The specimen is dated 1869 and bears the following note: "Abundant in lower part of wood in 1869, but since then has been destroyed, 8/69, J. E. Bagnall. This was considered typical by Rev. Moyle Rogers."]

*R. SCISSUS* W. Wats. (*R. fissus* auct.). This is the commonest suberect bramble in Staffordshire. It is found on sand or peat in exposed or shaded habitats throughout the county, ascending to well over 1,000 ft. near Ramshaw Rocks between Leek and Buxton.

*R. PLICATUS* W. & N. Apparently a rare species in Staffordshire. Sparingly on Whitmore Common, but not quite typical.

*R. BERTRAMII* G. Braun ex Focke. Hand Leasow Wood and Shaw Wood in the parish of Stowe (between Stafford and Uttoxeter) and Craddock's Moss and Black Bank near Newcastle. A specimen from Hand Leasow Wood was named by Watson and appears to match one collected by Ley at Llanwrtyd, Breconshire, in 1902 and distributed through the B.E.C. Ley considered *R. bertramii* commoner than *R. plicatus* in south and central Wales and this may be true of Staffordshire also. Riddelsdell (1948) doubted the occurrence of *R. bertramii* in

England and would probably have called my plants luxuriant forms of *R. plicatus*. They differ from typical *R. plicatus* in having rather broader leaves with finer toothing, shortly stalked basal leaflets, strong falcate prickles on the rachis and long stamens.

*R. SPRENGELII* Weihe. This beautiful bramble, which Focke called "*decus dumetorum*", is widely distributed in moist woods and shady hedgerows, but is particularly common in the hilly parts of north Staffordshire, as about Leek and in the Dane Valley.

*R. ARRHENII* J. Lange var. *POLYADENES* Gravet ap. Focke. In July 1950 Watson found a bramble in a roadside hedge on Bailey's Hill, Biddulph, which he later determined as above. It had a glandular stem and rachis, narrow elliptic leaflets, small rose-pink petals and short stamens only half as long as the styles. There was only one rather weak bush and no flowers were produced in 1951 and 1952 when it was last visited. Apart from the narrow leaflets and the glandular development of the inflorescence, which are marks of the variety, my specimen compares well with one of the typical plant sent to me recently from Holland.

[*R. AXILLARIS* Lejeune. Growing with other brambles opposite Belmont Hall, Ipstones. Discovered and determined by Watson. Few flowers ever opened and no barren stem was seen. In 1951 and 1952 no trace of the plant could be found. The panicle appears to match that of a Scandinavian specimen in my collection, but in view of the fact that no stem leaves were seen the record cannot be accepted without doubt.]

*R. CALVATUS* Ed. Lees ex Blox. Widely distributed in thickets and by roadsides and easily recognised by the erratic toothing of the terminal leaflets which are characteristically oblong and hard to the touch. There are many fine examples in Shaw Wood.

*R. CARPINIFOLIUS* W. & N. A frequent species of sandy heaths throughout Staffordshire. There are six sheets in Hb. Bagnall. One of these was determined by Rogers as "good *R. carpinifolius*". The others are incomplete specimens lacking stem leaves, but seem to be correct. I have collected specimens from a dozen widely separated stations. These plants are uniform and typical, having oval-acuminate terminal leaflets with emarginate base, white petals, spreading sepals and pedicels with crowded subulate yellowish prickles, and compare well with the *R. carpinifolius* of the London commons. But in the north of

Staffordshire we have an abundant bramble which differs from typical *R. carpinifolius* in that the terminal leaflet is plane, cordate, often ovate and only thinly pubescent beneath. The prickles on stem and rhachis are weaker and fewer and the characteristic armature of the pedicels is wanting. Rogers' description of *R. carpinifolius* would cover these plants and several of them have been determined as *R. carpinifolius* by Watson. It may be that growth in the shade or semi-shade of woods and hedgerows is a sufficient explanation, but the plant is not confined to woods. It is an attractive feature of Handchurch Hills (Grid Ref. 840400) where it flowers early and produces good fruit. Rilstone thought it might be *R. plicatus* × *carpinifolius*.

*R. LINDLEIANUS* Ed. Lees. A well marked and widely distributed species, one of the commonest Staffordshire brambles.

*R. NEMORALIS* P. J. Muell. (*R. selmeri* Lindeb.). This is another well defined and common species generally distributed throughout the county.

*R. LACINIATUS* Willd. Occurs here and there, usually near gardens, and is considered an escape from cultivation.

*R. MACROPHYLLUS* W. & N. Betley, Madeley, Muckleston and Whitmore, all in the Newcastle district of north Staffordshire. I have five gatherings which are quite unmistakable. The earliest was determined years ago by Rilstone as "exactly Weihe's plant".

*R. SCHLECHTENDALII* Weihe var. *ANGLICUS* Sudre. Mr. Daltry has an undated specimen collected by himself at Madeley which both Rogers and Riddelsdell determined as *R. schlechtendalii*. A note with the specimen states that the flowers were very large and showy, the petals bright pink, and that the anthers had long hairs.

*R. PYRAMIDALIS* Kalt. Hand Leasow Wood. This seems to be the true plant. It has pinkish petals, short stamens, long-tipped loosely reflexed sepals, a glandular rhachis and felted leaflets, though the tothing of the leaflets is somewhat finer than usual.

*R. INCURVATUS* Bab. Typical *R. incurvatus* is rare in Staffordshire, if indeed it occurs at all. There are specimens in Hb. Bagnall from Hopton and Fradley which were approved by Rogers. In the same part of Staffordshire I have seen a plant on the edge of Hand Leasow Wood which is nearly identical with

a specimen from Bangor except for its looser panicle. The floral organs are deep rose, the carpels densely pilose, the sepals loosely reflexed and the leaflets strongly incurved and in shape and texture quite characteristic of true *R. incurvatus*. Near Lichfield there is a flourishing and uniform colony of bushes which suggest *R. incurvatus* with a strain of *R. vestitus*. Rilstone and Watson both agreed with this judgment. In the north of the county we have a bramble widespread and constant over a large area (I have gatherings from Ashley, Bradnop, Cheddleton, Endon, Heathylee, Hollinsclough, Ipstones, Maer and Whitmore), which has obvious affinities with *R. incurvatus*, but which is probably an unnamed species. Some of these bushes were called *R. incurvatus* by Watson and they all agree with the typical species from North Wales in possessing thick lobate terminal leaflets and strong triangular-based prickles on the barren stem. But the leaflets, though sometimes slightly incurved at the edge, are usually quite plane, the petals are nearly always pure white and the panicle is markedly pyramidal without the compact cylindrical upper part of *R. incurvatus*. There is an identical specimen in Hb. Bailey, gathered by Bailey in 1896 between Hawes Water and Bampton in Westmorland, which Rogers determined as *R. pyramidalis* Kalt. and which was recorded by Wilson (1938) under that name.

*R. POLYANTHEMOS* Lindeb. In hedgerows, disused gravel pits and on heaths throughout the county. Living bushes are easily determined. The dull green foliage with here and there a 6-nate or 7-nate leaf, convex leaflets, long panicle and pink flowers are characteristic features.

*R. CARDIOPHYLLUS* L. & M. Rather thinly distributed, rare in the north, more frequent in the south of the county. Ashley; Church Eaton; Hatherton; Kinver; Maer; Newcastle; Norbury; Penkridge; Trysull and Seisdon; Whitmore. These plants differ from many I have seen in the south of England in that the terminal leaflet has a truncate instead of a cordate base.

*R. LINDEBERGII* P. J. Muell. Locally common in north Staffordshire, especially in the Manifold Valley, but rare in the south. A specimen in Hb. Bagnall (Lane from Blockley, Trysull, 1897, J. E. Bagnall), though labelled *R. lindebergii*, has a glan-dular rhachis and is *R. polyanthemos*.

*R. ULMIFOLIUS* Schott. f. A lowland species abundant on the Keuper marl of central and southern Staffordshire, less common on sandstone and apparently quite absent from large areas of north Staffordshire, though it occurs on limestone in the Manifold Valley.

R. PROCERUS P. J. Muell. Whitmore Common. Said to be an escape from cultivation.

R. SCIOCHARIS (Sud.) W. Wats. Watson gave this name to a bramble which occurs in local abundance at Codsall, on Kinver Edge and near Stourbridge, Worcestershire, along a sandy lane which is only a few yards from the Staffordshire boundary. It has yellowish green foliage with a cordate terminal leaflet, rather small prickles, spreading sepals, white petals and hairy anthers. There are many sessile and subsessile glands in the upper part of the inflorescence, but few stalked glands.

R. EIFELIENSIS Wirtg. Watson has so named bushes at Meerbrook near Leek and Black Bank near Newcastle, which he saw in the field in 1950. I have other specimens of the same species from Rushton (coll. W. D. Graddon), Biddulph Grange and High Shutt, Cheadle. Mr. B. T. Ward sent me a specimen, collected by W. H. Painter from Norton-in-the-Moors in 1890, which was originally labelled *R. danicus* Focke, but which had been corrected to *R. macrothyrsus* Lange by Watson in 1950. In my judgment it is *R. eifeliensis*. *R. macrothyrsus* has not yet been found in Staffordshire, but *R. eifeliensis* is widespread in the north of the county. Two specimens in Hb. Bailey, collected by Painter from Biddulph in 1889 and 1890 and named *R. pyramidalis* with Focke's approval, are also in my opinion *R. eifeliensis*.

R. VESTITUS W. & N. One of the most frequent Staffordshire brambles, recorded from every part of the county on limestone, sandstone and Keuper marl. On the limestone of the Manifold Valley, where it is probably the commonest bramble, its flowers seem to be always white. Elsewhere forms with large showy red flowers are frequent, sometimes, as at Ashley, growing side by side with white-flowered plants. Staffordshire specimens gathered by earlier botanists and labelled *R. leucostachys* are all referable to this species. The hybrid *R. ulmifolius* × *vestitus* occurs with both parents on the road to Abbot's Castle Hill in the parish of Trysull & Seisdon. It is a handsome plant with broad deep red petals, red styles and filaments and hairy anthers. The leaflets show on their undersurface the white indumentum of *R. ulmifolius*, but they are flat and much broader than is usual in that species. The pubescent pruinose stem is armed with the long straight prickles characteristic of *R. vestitus*. There is little sign of developing fruit.

R. CRINIGER (E. F. Linton) Rog. Widely distributed and easily recognised. My plants exactly resemble W. R. Linton's gathering from Yeldersley Lane, near Shirley, Derbyshire, which was distributed through the B.E.C. in 1904. The plant is still

quite common at Yeldersley and also in Bradley Wood near Ashbourne. A good diagnostic character, not mentioned by Rogers, but pointed out to me by Watson, is furnished by the hairy anthers. I have examined 26 Staffordshire *exsiccata* and in 23 of these the anthers are conspicuously hairy. Great Barr, 1904, J. E. Bagnall in Hb. Bailey, det. W. M. Rogers ("exactly *R. criniger* Linton, as I understand it"). A specimen of the same gathering in Hb. Wedgwood was confirmed by Watson. Roadside between Weston-on-Trent and Uttoxeter, J. E. Woodhead, det. W. Watson. Camp Hills, Maer, 1920, H. W. Daltry in Hb. Daltry, det. H. J. Riddelsdell. Bank of lake, Hawkesyard, Rugeley, 1916, H. P. Reader in Hb. Reader. This gathering was named *R. villicaulis* Koehl. var. *calvatus* Blox., but is quite certainly *R. criniger*. In Hb. Bagnall there are nine gatherings, all made by J. E. Bagnall and all correctly named, though some sheets are without stem leaves.

*R. MUCRONIFER* Sudre (*R. mucronatus* Blox.). Very local. Abundant on the edge of Hand Leasow Wood. My sheets are a perfect match for a specimen in Hb. Bagnall from Twycross, Leicester, 1870, J. E. Bagnall, "gathered in company with Rev. A. Bloxam". A Staffordshire specimen in the same collection, gathered by Bagnall from Chartley Moss (which is in the same parish as Hand Leasow Wood) in 1896, is doubtless correct, but the panicle is poor and the anthers are not obviously hairy.

*R. RADULA* Weihe. I have not yet seen the true plant in Staffordshire, but the small form, var. *microphyllus* Lindeb., occurs in some quantity between Seisdon and Abbot's Castle Hill in the parish of Trysull & Seisdon.

*R. DISCERPTUS* P. J. Muell. (*R. echinatus* Lindl.). Widely distributed, but at present known chiefly from the south of the county. Audley; Eccleshall; Fisherwick; Kinver; Lichfield; Lower Penn; Saredon; Swindon; Trysull & Seisdon. Mr. Daltry has a specimen collected at Seighford in 1922 which Riddelsdell determined as "strong *R. echinatus*".

*R. ECHINATOIDES* (Rog.) Druce. A rather frequent species in north Staffordshire, easily distinguished from *R. radula* by the dark glabrous stem and white notched petals. There are good examples in the lanes at the foot of Hanchurch Hills and by the lake in the grounds of Biddulph Grange.

*R. FLEXUOSUS* Muell. & Lef. Shady roadside near the aqueduct at the southern end of Shelmore Wood, Norbury. An attractive species with a zig-zag rhachis and small flowers with elliptic pink petals.

*R. RUBRISTYLUS* W. Wats. (*R. newbouldii* Rog.). A frequent bramble of sandy soil all down the west side of Staffordshire from north to extreme south. An unlocalised specimen collected by Druce from the county was determined by Watson (1930) as *R. newbouldii*. Mr. Daltry has a specimen from Chebsey which Riddelsdell thought was probably a weak shade-grown form of the species. Riddelsdell's note contains the comment: "*R. newbouldii* occurs over a wide extent of Staffs.". There are three Staffordshire specimens labelled *R. newbouldii* in Hb. Bagnall, though two are without stem leaves. One of these was collected from Trysull Dingle by J. Fraser, the other two from Swindon and Hatherton by Bagnall himself. Bagnall states that near Hatherton *R. newbouldii* is the prevailing bramble. Rilstone had a specimen (now in my herbarium) collected by Bagnall from Gailey, which is not far from Hatherton, but he did not consider it quite the same as the Cheshire plant from Edge Green (Set No. 66) referred to in Rogers' *Handbook*. I have numerous specimens of my own gathering from these and other stations which seem to me to correspond quite well with Rogers' Set No. 66 and to answer Watson's description (1937) of *R. rubristylus*. A visit to Malpas and Edge Green in 1953, where *R. rubristylus* is a common bramble, has confirmed this opinion. The deep red styles, which are very conspicuous when the flower bud begins to open, are an attractive feature.

*R. BLOXAMII* Ed. Lees. Abundant in many places in south Staffordshire, less common in the north.

*R. PALLIDUS* Weihe. Near Gnosall, 1897, J. E. Bagnall in Hb. Bagnall, conf. Rogers ("I agree with you good *R. pallidus*"). A note with the specimen states that the petals were pale pink and the filaments longer than the pinkish-based styles. In the same year Bagnall collected another specimen "near Oulton very abundant" which was also confirmed by Rogers. There is no doubt that Bagnall understood *R. pallidus* very well. It is one of the commonest brambles in the Gnosall and Norbury district, being abundant in Shelmore Wood, Mill Haft, Coneygreave Haft and elsewhere. Mr. Daltry has a specimen collected near the reservoir on Hanchurch Hills in 1920 which was determined by Riddelsdell. Watson and I found it in the same locality in 1950. I have other gatherings from Ashley, Consall, Maer, Stowe (Hand Leasow Wood) and Tyrley (Burnt Wood). All agree in possessing diffuse rather pyramidal panicles, white petals, red styles and ± erect sepals.

*R. EURYANTHEMUS* W. Wats. (*R. pallidus* var. *leptopetalus* Frid. ex Rog.). Widely distributed and locally very common. It is seen at its best in damp woods, being abundant in the shade



of trees round Betley Mere in north Staffordshire and Gailey Pools in the centre of the county. Mr. Daltry has a specimen from Madeley which Riddelsdell passed as "characteristic *R. leptopetalus*" and Rilstone made the same comment on some of my early gatherings. The short broad panicle, small, narrow, greenish-white petals and the "horrid" array of glands on the stem are remarkable features.

*R. INSECTIFOLIUS* L. & M. (*R. fuscus* var. *nutans* (Rog.). As *R. nuticeps* Bart. & Ridd. this is recorded for Staffordshire by W. C. Barton and H. J. Riddelsdell (1932). I have a specimen, labelled *R. fuscus* var. *nutans*, which was collected by Bagnall at Drayton Bassett in 1897 and distributed through the Watson Exchange Club. In north Staffordshire it grows in several places near Mucklestone. Watson pointed it out to me in a disused gravel pit near Loggerheads and I have since found some fine bushes in a wood at Napely Heath.

*R. LINTONI* Focke ex Bab. In several places about Whitmore. First discovered by Watson near Whitmore Hall.

*R. SCABER* Weihe. A local species of south Staffordshire. Kingswood Common near Codsall.

*R. RUFESCENS* L. & M. (*R. rosaceus* subsp. *infecundus* Rog.). This is another bramble which is known at present only from the south of the county. It is abundant in parts of Seckley Wood and occurs also on Kingswood Common. Specimens from these localities are quite typical and answer Rogers' description of *R. rosaceus* subsp. *infecundus* in every detail. They have also discoid flower buds and red styles, which are additional characters, not mentioned in the *Handbook*. A third locality is Baggeridge Wood near Wolverhampton. My specimen is inconclusive, but a much earlier gathering in Hb. Bagnall (Sept. 1878) is probably correct, though it lacks a stem leaf.

*R. TAENIARUM* Lindeb. (*R. spurius* Neum.). Haughton; Maer; Mucklestone; Swynnerton. This is a remarkable bramble with attractive cup-shaped flowers, pink or pinkish petals, pink filaments, which only slightly exceed the styles, and pilose carpels. On my specimens the armature of the barren stem varies in strength, being sometimes almost hystrian. Focke (1914) equates *R. taeniarum* Lindeb. with *R. infestus* Weihe, but Watson considers them to be distinct species. There are several old Staffordshire records of *R. infestus* and four old specimens. These should probably be ascribed to *R. taeniarum*.

*R. DALTRII* Eedes & Rilstone. This bramble, which was first described in 1945, is abundant about Whitmore Common and in many other localities in the Newcastle district of north Staffordshire, but I have never seen it anywhere else. It has large, showy, pure white flowers with long spreading stamens and is very distinct from any other species known to me.

*R. PASCUORUM* W. Wats. (*R. borrieri* Bell Salt. var. *virgultorum* Ley). Probably a frequent, if not common, species in the south west corner of Staffordshire. Specimens from Kinver Edge and from the parish of Trysull & Seisdon, which are clearly identical, were determined, the one by Rilstone, the other by Watson. They seem to compare well with a specimen of *R. borrieri* var. *virgultorum* collected by Ley from the Wyre Forest, Shropshire, in 1904.

*R. DIVERSUS* W. Wats. Farewell & Chorley (below the mill on the road to Lichfield). Det. F. Rilstone, conf. W. Watson.

*R. LEIGHTONI* Ed. Lees ex Leight. (*R. radula* Weihe var. *anglicanus* Rog.). This is a handsome bramble with showy pink flowers, long stamens and exceptionally long stalks to the terminal leaflets. It is a widely distributed and frequent species in Staffordshire. I have specimens of my own gathering from 16 scattered localities.

*R. HYSTRIX* Weihe. Cheddleton, on a piece of heathy ground not far from the station. Determined by Watson as "quite unambiguous".

*R. HYLOCHARIS* W. Wats. A frequent species of woods and hedgerows throughout Staffordshire, a very prickly bramble with handsome pink flowers and erect sepals. This is the plant which used to be called *R. rosaceus* in Staffordshire. Mr. Daltry has specimens so named by Riddelsdell.

*R. DASYPHYLLUS* Rog. One of our commonest glandular brambles, to be found in most parts of the county and abundant in the north.

*R. MURRAYI* Sudre. Rare. Discovered by Watson on Dab Green near Whitmore Common. As far as I know there is only one bush here, but it is quite unmistakable. More recently I have found the same species in the south of the county, between Swindon and Highgate Common, but again in small quantity. It also grows on the northern edge of Sutton Park in Warwickshire, just beyond the Staffordshire boundary. These are all typical plants with white petals, red styles, strongly deflexed panicle prickles and rather small ovate terminal leaflets.

*R. BELLARDII* Weihe. There are two Staffordshire specimens in Hb. Bagnall, one from the south of the county (Codsall, first railway bridge, 1887, J. E. Bagnall) and one from the north (Dimminsdale, Alton Towers, 1896, J. E. Bagnall, conf. W. M. Rogers). The plant still grows at the Codsall railway bridge and is quite common in parts of Dimminsdale. It also grows in Hawksmoor Wood, Oakamoor, and in Mud-dale Wood, Checkley. A specimen in Hb. Bailey (Biddulph, 1886, W. H. Painter), labelled *R. glandulosus* var. *bellardii*, is not *R. bellardii*. It matches exactly a plant gathered from Bailey's Hill, Biddulph, which has not yet been satisfactorily determined.

*R. SUBLISTRIS* Ed. Lees. Generally distributed, though there are seldom many bushes in any one locality. A well defined species.

*R. MYRIACANTHUS* Focke. This species has large white flowers and strong uneven armature. It is common in north Staffordshire and probably common throughout the county.

*R. SCABROSUS* P. J. Muell. Rilstone (1935) states that every district seems to have its own special forms of *R. dumetorum*. The Staffordshire forms are complex and require much further study. Apart from *R. myriacanthus*, we have another widespread and constant species, easily recognised but not easily named. Watson examined several bushes and agreed to the name *R. scabrosus*, though not without hesitation.

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