

COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF THE SCOTTISH FLORA

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT TO 31st DECEMBER 1957

The Committee has met three times (Glasgow in April, Aberdeen in July and Perth in October) and has arranged spring and autumn Exhibition Meetings over both of which the Chairman, Mr. B. L. Burtt, presided, and also a number of Field Meetings.

The Field Meetings have been held at Callander (17th-20th May), led by Miss E. P. Beattie and attended by 5 others; Hunter's Quay (24th-27th May), led by Mr. R. Mackechnie and attended by 8 others; Oban (21st-24th June), led by Miss U. K. Duncan and attended by 25 others; Fort William (28th June-5th July), led by Miss M. McC. Webster and attended by 10 others; Aberdeen 12, Moffat (3rd-10th August), led by Dr. F. H. Perring and attended by 14 others. A one-day Junior Meeting led by Mr. P. S. Green, attended by 29, was held at Linlithgow on Saturday, 1st June. Reports of these Meetings will appear in the *Proceedings of the B.S.B.I.* (Vol. 3, part 2).

The Spring Exhibition Meeting took place in the Oban High School (by kind permission of the Rector) on Saturday, 9th March 1957 when some 70 people were present. Mr. A. H. Davidson, Principal Teacher of Science in the High School, kindly made the local arrangements.

A selection of the exhibits shown in Glasgow in the autumn (see *Proc. B.S.B.I.*, 2, 314-315) was displayed and Mr. Ribbons showed colour transparencies of *Phylodoce coerulea* on the Sow of Atholl, and of Scottish coastal plants. The pictures were commented upon by himself and Mr. Mackechnie. Mr. Burtt spoke about the Distribution Maps Scheme and the forthcoming field meeting to be held in Oban. Tea was provided through the kindness of Mr. Davidson and his helpers.

The Autumn Exhibition was held in the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh on Saturday, 9th November 1957, and about 80 visitors were present. The following exhibits were shown: original drawings of British plants by Miss S. Ross-Craig: specimens of *Calamagrostis epigejos*, a very local grass in Scotland occurring chiefly in damp woods, gathered from a well-established colony in what is probably the highest station for the species in the British Isles (J. G. Roger): *Luzula* species in Britain (Miss J. Buchanan): *Alchemilla* species (Miss U. K. Duncan): *Hieracia* and *Euphrasiae* from the Moffat Field Meeting (1957) (F. H. Perring): *Chara* species (Mr. Horsman): arctic-alpine plants to be sought in Britain (see *Watsonia*, 3, 34-35) (P. S. Green): specimens of some of the new records for the Island of Foula which, together with other unpublished records, some made by Mr. K. J. Messinger in 1956, will eventually add some 30 species to the list published in 1929 (J. G.

Urquhart): specimens from Fair Isle of records additional to the list published by Pritchard in 1957 (A. Currie): A sheet of *Puccinellia rupestris*, a southern species presumably introduced into the station in Kincardineshire; is it still there? specimens collected on the recent Edinburgh University Biological Society's expedition to the Island of Jura (R. B. Knox): specimen of *Calamagrostis canescens* from Penicuik—an old record of this local plant which has not been confirmed in recent years. It should be sought in damp open woodland in the area: *Puccinellia* species by Dr. W. J. Eggeling from the Isle of May and by Mr. A. Currie from Fair Isle. The material is at present under investigation at Kew; *Carum verticillatum*—which is generally restricted in Scotland to the western parts—from a new station in Kincardineshire and S. Aberdeenshire (Mrs. A. Somerville).

Immediately before tea a meeting was held in the Lecture Room at which the Chairman drew attention to the requirements of the Distribution Maps Scheme in Scotland next year. Afterwards coloured slides were shown by the Chairman of certain Scottish plants taken by Mr. H. P. Tomlinson, Professor J. Heslop Harrison and Mr. J. Grant Roger, by Miss Beattie of plants seen on field meetings, by Mr. J. Anthony of plants of N.W. Sutherland, by Mr. A. Slack of plants of Ben Sgulaire, and by Mr. Ribbons of plants of the Inchnadamph district including a series of *Artemisia norvegica*.

Plants from the Herbarium of the University of Aberdeen Botany Department were exhibited on the first evening of the Field Meeting in Aberdeen, Friday, 12th July. These included (1) plants of the area to be covered by the Field Meeting (*Lycopodium inundatum*, etc.); (2) rare plants of N.E. Scotland (*Cystopteris dickieana*, etc.); (3) past and present records (*Trichophorum alpinum* from Forfar, *Phyllodoce coerulea* from Aviemore, *Carex buxbaumii* from Lough Neagh, Arisaig, and E. Inverness-shire, *Teucrium scordium* from Methven, *Erica ciliaris* from Galway, *Carum verticillatum* from Kincardineshire and S. Aberdeenshire, and *Asplenium septentrionale* from Braemar).

Miss M. S. Campbell left the Committee upon becoming resident abroad. Her services during the past two years have been much appreciated and it was decided to invite her to attend any meetings of the Committee held when she is in Britain.

The Accounts showed a deficit of 10s 6d. over the two years 1955 and 1956 and this amount has been refunded in equal sums by the two sponsoring Societies. The two Societies have been asked to supply semi-permanent exhibits for use at the Committee's Exhibition Meetings and the B.S.E. Exhibit was displayed at the November Meeting.

The Secretary once again has pleasure in expressing the Committee's thanks to the officers of the sponsoring Societies, the leaders of the field meetings and the other members and friends, all of whom have helped to organise the activities of 1957.

B. W. RIBBONS.