

## NOTES ON THE FLORA OF KENSINGTON GARDENS AND HYDE PARK

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In 1871 a complete and accurate account of the Flora of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park was published (*J. Bot.*, 9, 227-238) by J. B. Leicester Warren, and no less than 190 species were recorded; 25 of these were taken from literature, the rest having actually been seen by Warren. Four years later (*J. Bot.*, 13, 336) he recorded a further 18 plants from Kensington Gardens.

During the three-quarters of a century which have elapsed the area has seen many changes, two great wars have left their mark, army camps and car parks having been constructed and later abandoned, and various small enclosures turned over to the cultivation of crops. It is only to be expected, therefore, that the greatest decline in the flora must occur in native species, and many of Warren's most interesting plants are no doubt extinct. An increase, however, is to be found among the naturalised aliens and weeds of cultivation, American plants being well represented by *Epilobium adenocaulon*, *Erigeron canadensis*, *Matricaria matricarioides* and *Galinsoga parviflora*, and European ones by *Senecio squalidus* and *Veronica persica*.

The aquatic vegetation of the Serpentine appears to have almost surrendered to the combined efforts of anglers, bathers and boaters, but the various ponds still provide a number of interesting plants.

The following lists of plants were observed during the course of about a score of visits made between the Spring of 1947 and the Autumn of 1949 and is by no means a complete account of the wild vegetation of the area. The geographical situation of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park makes them an excellent locality for the propagation of adventive species, and in consequence much of the vegetation is continually fluctuating from year to year.

The following abbreviations have been used:—H.—Hyde Park, and K.—Kensington Gardens.

In conclusion, I should like to offer my grateful thanks to Mr J. E. Dandy for his kindness in identifying a species of *Potamogeton*.

- 6/2. *Ranunculus repens* L. K., on the west side of the Serpentine.
- 6/3. *R. acris* L. K., by allotments north-east of the Round Pond.
- 6/33. *R. Ficaria* L. Rare, near Kensington Palace.
- 35/2. *Rorippa sylvestris* (L.) Besser. H., near the Bowling Green, 1947.
- 35/4. *R. islandica* (Oeder) Borbás. K., on shingle of a drained lily pond at the head of the Serpentine, 1948.
- 39/4. *Cardamine flexuosa* With. K., abundant over a small area of turf close to Kensington Palace, 1949.
- 49/6. *Sisymbrium officinale* (L.) Scop. Common as a flower-bed weed and on disturbed ground.

- 50/1. *Erysimum cheiranthoides* L. K., on the west bank of the Serpentine, and near the Army Laboratories, 1947.
- 54/14. *Brassica Kaber* (DC.) Wheeler. Common on disturbed ground.
- 54/16. *B. juncea* Coss. H., a few plants in a flower bed near the Ranger's Lodge, 1947.
- 59/1. *Capsella Bursa-pastoris* (L.) Medik. Abundant everywhere.
- 60/1. *Coronopus didymus* (L.) Sm. K., on a cinder heap near the Army Laboratories, 1947.
- 60/2. *C. procumbens* Gilib. K., on turf near the Alexandra Gate.
- 96/2. *Silene Cucubalus* Wibel. K., by allotments north-east of the Round Pond, and on the east bank of the Serpentine.
- 98/3. *Melandrium album* (Mill.) Garcke. K., a few plants on allotments north-east of the Round Pond, 1947.
- 98/4. *M. dioicum* (L.) Coss & Germ. H., a few plants in a flower bed near the Ranger's Lodge.
- 100/5. *Cerastium vulgatum* L. K., on turf south-east of Kensington Palace.
- 101/3. *Stellaria media* Vill. Common as a flower-bed weed, and on disturbed ground.
- 102/1. *Arenaria trinervia* L. H., among tall grass near Prince of Wales Gate, 1947.
- 103/11. *Sagina procumbens* L. K., between the paving stones in front of the Albert Memorial, and in similar situations by the Lily Ponds close to the Bayswater Road.
- 127/9. *Geranium dissectum* L. K., allotments north-east of the Round Pond, 1948.
- 142/1. *Acer pseudo-Platanus* L. Many seedlings in flower beds, among rough grass and on waste ground.
- 153/7. *Medicago lupulina* L. K., a single plant on turf south-east of Kensington Palace, 1947.
- 154/2. *Melilotus alba* Desr. H., a single large plant in an enclosure near Albert Gate, 1947.
- 154/3. *M. arvensis* Wallr. H., a few plants in an enclosure close to Knightsbridge Barracks, 1947.
- 155/2b. *Trifolium pratense* L. var. *sativum* Schreb. Common in enclosures and among rough grass as a relic of cultivation.
- 155/15. *T. hybridum* L. K., on turf close to Palace Gate.
- 155/16. *T. repens* L. Abundant on turf, etc.
- 155/21. *T. dubium* Sibth. H., on turf near Knightsbridge.
- 164/1. *Robinia Pseudo-Acacia* L. K., a solitary large seedling in a flower bed close to Palace Avenue, 1947.
- 176/3. *Vicia Cracca* L. H., in a flower bed close to the Police Station, 1947.
- 176/8. *V. sepium* L. H., in a flower bed near the Ranger's Lodge, 1948.
- 176/13. *V. angustifolia* (L.) Reichard. H., in an enclosure close to Broad Walk and Marble Arch, 1947.
- 178/6. *Lathyrus pratensis* L. H., in an enclosure near Albert Gate, 1948.
- 185/-. *Rubus* sp. K., several small bushes in the enclosure on the east bank of the Serpentine.
- 189/7. *Potentilla reptans* L. Common as a flower-bed weed.
- 191/1. *Agrimonia Eupatoria* L. H., three plants among rough grass between Alexandra and Prince of Wales Gates.
- 194/-. *Rosa* sp. K., several bushes in the enclosure on the east bank of the Serpentine; it is unfortunately not possible to gain admittance to the enclosure in order to ascertain the species, which viewed from a distance appear to be either *R. canina* L. or *R. dumetorum* Thuill.
- 220/1. *Chamaenerion angustifolium* (L.) Scop. Common on disturbed ground.
- 220/3. *Epilobium hirsutum* L. H., east bank of the Serpentine.
- 220/4. *E. parviflorum* Schreb. H., a few plants on disturbed ground near Hyde Park Corner, 1947.

- 220/7. *E. obscurum* Schreb. Common as a flower-bed weed.
- 220/7(2). *E. adenocaulon* Hausskn. K., a few plants in a flower bed south of Kensington Palace, 1947.
- 220/8. *E. roseum* Schreb. H., a single plant in a flower bed near Albert Gate, 1947.
- 220/10. *E. montanum* L. Frequent as a flower-bed weed.
- 225/1. *Circaea lutetiana* L. Common as a flower-bed weed.
- 261/1. *Anthriscus sylvestris* (L.) Hoffm. H., a few plants in a flower bed near Alexandra Gate.
- 263/1. *Foeniculum vulgare* Mill. H., a solitary large plant in an enclosure near Knightsbridge, 1949.
- 266/1. *Aethusa Cynapium* L. K., in a shrubbery close to Kensington Palace, 1947.
- 277/1. *Heracleum Mantegazzianum* Somm. & Lev. K. and H., originally planted on the banks of the Serpentine, but numerous self sown plants are now apparent.
- 277/2. *H. Sphondylium* L. K., a single plant in the grounds of the Army Laboratories, 1947.
- 296/11. *Gatium Aparine* L. K., in an enclosure south-east of Kensington Palace.
- 306/1. *Dipsacus fullonum* L. K., a colony of about three dozen plants in the enclosure on the east bank of the Serpentine.
- 314/1. *Bellis perennis* L. Abundant on turf, etc.
- 320/3. *Erigeron canadensis* L. Common as a weed of flower beds, and in disturbed ground.
- 354/1. *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav. K., on allotments west of the Broad Way, 1947. H., Rotten Row, 1947.
- 354/2. *G. ciliata* (Raf.) Blake. H., a few plants in an enclosure near Knightsbridge, 1949.
- 365/1. *Achillea Millefolium* L. Common on turf and disturbed ground.
- 370/13. *Chrysanthemum Parthenium* (L.) Bernh. H., on disturbed ground near The Dell, 1947.
- 371/1. *Matricaria inodora* L. Common on disturbed ground.
- 371/2. *M. Chamomilla* L. Common on disturbed ground.
- 371/3. *M. matricarioides* (Less.) Porter. Frequent on disturbed ground.
- 378/3. *Artemisia vulgaris* L. H., a few plants in an enclosure near Marble Arch.
- 379/1. *Tussilago Farfara* L. Common on disturbed ground.
- 383/7. *Senecio squalidus* L. Frequent on disturbed ground.
- 383/7×8. ×*S. londinensis* Lousley. H., Rotten Row, 1949.
- 383/8. *S. viscosus* L. H., Rotten Row.
- 383/10. *S. vulgaris* L. Common on disturbed ground.
- 393/3. *Arctium minus* (Hill) Bernh. K., a single plant close to the Army Laboratories, 1947.
- 396/2. *Cirsium vulgare* (Savi) Ten. K., on the east bank of the Serpentine. H., in an enclosure close to Serpentine Road.
- 396/8. *C. arvense* (L.) Scop. Frequent on broken ground.
- 411/1. *Lapsana communis* L. Common as a flower-bed weed, and in disturbed ground.
- 421/2. *Hypochaeris radicata* L. H., on rough ground near Alexandra Gate, 1947.
- 422/2. *Leontodon autumnalis* L. K., on turf close to the Lido.
- 423/1. *Taraxacum vulgare* Schrank. Common on turf.
- 425/2. *Lactuca Serriola* L. K., a solitary large plant in an enclosure near Kensington Palace, 1948.
- 427/2. *Sonchus arvensis* L. K., a few plants on allotments west of the Broad Way, 1947.
- 427/3. *S. asper* Hill. K., on allotments north-east of the Round Pond, 1947.
- 427/4. *S. oleraceus* L. Very common as a weed of flower beds, and on broken ground.

- 428/2b. *Tragopogon minor* Mill. H., shrubberies near Alexandra Gate.  
 511/2. *Calystegia sylvestris* (Willd.) R. & S. K., climbing railings near Kensington Palace, 1947.  
 517/1. *Solanum Dulcamara* L. K., on allotments north-east of the Round Pond.  
 517/2. *S. nigrum* L. Frequent as a weed of flower beds, also on disturbed ground.  
 517/10. *S. tuberosum* L. K., a single plant under a tree, almost in the centre of the gardens and far from allotments.  
 543/4. *Veronica Chamaedrys* L. H., in an enclosure near Prince of Wales Gate, 1947.  
 543/18. *V. persica* Poir. K., in an enclosure close to Black Lion Gate, 1947.  
 577/3. *Stachys sylvatica* L. K., a large patch on the west bank of the Serpentine, close to the road.  
 588/8. *Plantago lanceolata* L. K., on the east bank of the Serpentine.  
 588/10. *P. major* L. Abundant on the turf.  
 600/1. *Chenopodium rubrum* L. K., by the Lily Ponds at the head of the Serpentine, 1949.  
 600/8. *C. album* L. Common as a weed of flower beds and on disturbed ground.  
 600/12. *C. ficifolium* Sm. K., in a flower bed west of the Round Pond, 1947.  
 606/5. *Atriplex hastata* L. K., on allotments west of the Broad Way.  
 615/2. *Polygonum Convolvulus* L. Common as a weed of flower beds.  
 615/6. *P. lapathifolium* L. H., a few plants in Rotten Row, 1947.  
 615/7. *P. Persicaria* L. Frequent on disturbed ground, and as a flower bed weed.  
 615/14. *P. aviculare* L. (*sensu lato*). Common on the turf, and in disturbed ground.  
 618/1. *Rumex Hydrolapathum* Huds. K., on the west shore of the Serpentine; possibly planted for ornamental purposes.  
 618/3. *R. crispus* L. K., in an enclosure south of the Round Pond.  
 618/6. *R. obtusifolius* L. Common on disturbed ground.  
 618/16. *R. Acetosella* L. H., rare, in an enclosure close to Serpentine Road, 1947.  
 637/1. *Urtica dioica* L. K., under a wall close by Palace Avenue, 1947.  
 637/2. *U. urens* L. K., a few plants in a shrubbery in Peter Pan's Dell, 1947.  
 642/-. *Betula* sp. H., enclosure near Park Lane, 1948, a solitary small seedling.  
 646/1. *Quercus Robur* L. Seedlings are not uncommon in flower beds and disturbed ground.  
 718/4. *Juncus effusus* L. K., close to the allotments north-east of the Round Pond.  
 718/5. *J. inflexus* L. K., on shingle of a drained Lily Pond close to Bayswater Road, 1947.  
 719/6. *Luzula campestris* (L.) DC. K., on turf near the west side of the Serpentine.  
 737/17. *Potamogeton crispus* L. K., floating in the Round Pond, 1947; Lily Ponds at the head of the Serpentine, 1949.  
 737/25. *P. pusillus* L. K., Round Pond, 1947, det. *J. E. Dandy*.  
 737/28. *P. pectinatus* L. K., abundant in Lily Ponds at the head of the Serpentine, 1949.  
 739/1. *Zannichellia palustris* L. K., Lily Ponds at the head of the Serpentine, 1949.  
 753/9. *Carex hirta* L. H., a few plants among rough grass close to Knightsbridge, 1949.  
 753/53. *C. ovalis* Good. K., close to the allotments north-east of the Round Pond, 1947.  
 770/1. *Alopecurus pratensis* L. Common on the turf.  
 777/1g. *Phleum nodosum* L. H., in an enclosure close to Serpentine Road, 1947.

- 780/2(2)b. *Agrostis gigantea* Roth var. *dispar* (Michx.) Philipson. Common on disturbed ground, 1947.
- 780/3. *A. tenuis* Sibth. Abundant on the turf.
- 780/6. *A. canina* L. K., on turf north-east of the Round Pond.
- 791/1. *Deschampsia caespitosa* (L.) Beauv. K., a single large tussock close to the Army Laboratories, 1949.
- 792/2. *Holcus lanatus* L. H., among rough grass near Hyde Park Corner, 1948.
- 794/7. *Avena sativa* L. K., in an enclosure close to Black Lion Gate, 1947; on allotments north-east of the Round Pond, and allotments west of the Broad Way, 1947.
- 795/1. *Arrhenatherum elatius* (L.) J. & C. Presl. K., close by allotments north-east of the Round Pond.
- 808/2. *Cynosurus cristatus* L. H., on turf near Knightsbridge, 1949.
- 819/1. *Dactylis glomerata* L. Common on disturbed ground, and on the turf.
- 824/2. *Poa pratensis* L. K., on turf near Lancaster Gate, 1947.
- 824/6. *P. trivialis* L. K., near Kensington Palace, 1948.
- 824/7. *P. nemoralis* L. H., a few plants among rough grass close to Knightsbridge, 1947.
- 824/14. *P. annua* L. Common on the turf, and on disturbed ground.
- 827/3. *Bromus sterilis* L. Common on broken ground.
- 827/19. *B. hordeaceus* L. sec. Holmb. Common on disturbed ground.
- 827/19(2). *B. lepidus* Holmb. K., enclosure near Queen's Way, 1948.
- 828/1. *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (Huds.) R. & S. H., in an enclosure close to Serpentine Road, 1947.
- 829/1. *Lotium perenne* L. Abundant on the turf, and in disturbed ground.
- 829/4. *L. multiflorum* Lam. Frequent on broken ground.
- 830/4. *Agropyron repens* (L.) Beauv. Abundant on the turf.
- 831/1. *Secale cereale* L. K., a few plants in an enclosure near Black Lion Gate; a relic of cultivation.
- 835/1. *Hordeum nodosum* L. K., in an enclosure south-east of Kensington Palace, 1947.
- 835/2. *H. murinum* L. Abundant on disturbed ground.