

**A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FLORA OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

By J. G. DONY.

Huntingdonshire has been much neglected by botanists. The nearest approach to a published County Flora is the list given by G. C. Druce, (1926A, *Victoria County History of Huntingdonshire*, 1). In the same year Druce (1926B) published in the *B.E.C. 1925 Report*, 949, a list of the plants of the county not included in *Topographical Botany* and (1926C) included a list of comparative records in the *Flora of Buckinghamshire*.\* It is perhaps fortunate that these accounts preceded by a very short time the *Comital Flora* (Druce, 1932) and one may presume that the Huntingdonshire records given in this work were to the best of Druce's knowledge complete.

Druce made very few visits to the county and, with the exception of W. W. Newbould, A. Fryer, W. R. Linton and E. W. Hunnybun, few competent botanists have paid more than "flying visits."

A search of the *B.E.C. Reports* since 1926 has revealed no records of note for the county, except that of a number of *Epilobia* recorded from Monks' Wood by S. A. Taylor in 1939-40.

In making comparative lists for my proposed Bedfordshire Flora it was evident to me that there were a number of species awaiting record in Huntingdonshire and it was for this purpose that an excursion was organised by the Botanical Society during 1948 (see *Year Book*, 1950). I made three preliminary visits to explore the ground to be covered during the excursion. The first, on 9th of May, was with D. A. Davies and H. B. Souster, when a number of gravel pits in the neighbourhood of Hartford and Buckden were visited. On 5th June, again with Davies and Souster, the country between Holme and Wood Walton Fen was explored and a return made to Holme by crossing Connington Dump. The third visit was made on 14th of August with Souster when we visited Ramsey and a number of streams and drains in the north-east of the county. We returned again to Connington Dump where we were joined by J. E. H. Blackie. In the meantime a very fruitful visit was made to Holme Fen by R. A. Boniface and F. Rose on 22nd May, which was later visited by the Cambridge Natural History Society on 6th June, when a full list of plants was made. R. C. L. Burges, J. E. Lousley and D. McClintock visited several Huntingdonshire localities on 27th June. A number of records have also been sent to me by C. D. Pigott, J. E. H. Blackie and J. L. Gilbert. After the excursion I made only one visit to the county; this was on 9th October, when a Huntingdonshire Flora and Fauna Society was formed—one would like to feel that the interest shown by our society contributed to the desire to form

\*By an unfortunate misprint the Huntingdonshire records are attributed to "Hants." in the comparative county lists in this work.

a local society. On this occasion Davies and I paid a short but productive visit to the railway sidings at Huntingdon.

These visits have confirmed the general impression that, apart from Wood Walton and Holme Fens and Monks' Wood, already well known and worked by naturalists, the county is of no special botanical interest. It has little variety of soils; boulder clay deposits, reclaimed fen lands, river gravels and alluvial deposits account for almost all. The aquatic flora is interesting but affords little variety. At the same time it is obvious that a great deal of botanical work needs to be done in the county even in localities apparently well worked. It is fortunate that S. M. Walters, Botany School, Cambridge, is not only the recorder for Huntingdonshire for our own society but that he has consented to become recorder for botany for the newly-formed local society. He will be pleased to receive any records and to know of any members who may find time to visit this much neglected county.

During 1948 a list of species found in the county was made. Copies of this list have been sent to the Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History) and S. M. Walters. The list given here contains new county records, species which had not been recorded for upwards of 60 years and species previously recorded for only one or two stations. I have been in doubt as to what to exclude from the last category as it would have considerably lengthened the list to include all.

\* New County Records of species listed in *Comital Flora*.

† Not native in Huntingdonshire.

|| The first record of a species not in *Comital Flora*.

§ An addition to an annotated copy of *Comital Flora*.

Exc. after a record indicates that it was made during the period of the Society's Excursion.

All records refer to 1948 unless otherwise stated.

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| 6/10    | RANUNCULUS SARDOUS Crantz; gravel pit, St Ives, R. P. LIBBEY, Exc.   |
| §*+13/3 | DELPHINIUM GAYANUM Wilmott; gravel pit, St Ives, B. WELCH, Exc.; Hartford, Exc.  |
| +21/1   | PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM L.; gravel pit, Connington Dump, J. E. WOODHEAD, and A. H. G. ALSTON, Exc.                                    |
| 35/1(2) | NASTURTIUM MICROPHYLLUM (Boenn.) Rehb.; Hartford, A. H. G. ALSTON and A. J. WILMOTT, Exc.  |
| +35/5   | RORIPPA AUSTRIACA (Cr.) Bess; Stibbington, J. L. GILBERT, det. A. J. WILMOTT.  |
| 54/14b  | SINAPIS ARVENSIS L. var. ORIENTALIS L.; near Holme Fen; Monks' Wood, A. J. WILMOTT, Exc.; Connington Dump, A. H. G. ALSTON, Exc. |
| §*+55/1 | DIPLOTAXIS TENUIFOLIA (L.) DC.; Connington Dump, D. A. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER.                                     |
| +60/1   | CORONOPUS DIDYMUS (L.) Sm.; Connington Dump, L. W. FROST, Exc.   |

- 89/1      *POLYGALA SERPYLLIFOLIA* Hose; Wood Walton Fen, J. G. DONY, Exc.; the only previous record is from Holme Fen, 1884, A. Fryer (Druce, 1926A).
- +95/1      *SAPONARIA OFFICINALIS* L.; Connington Dump, R. P. LIBBEY, Exc.
- ||+96/16      *SILENE DICHOTOMA* Ehrh.; Connington Dump, L. W. FROST and R. P. LIBBEY, Exc.
- ||103/7(2)      *SAGINA FILICAULIS* Jord.; St Ives, R. P. LIBBEY, Exc.; Huntingdon, J. G. DONY.
- §+108/2      *CLAYTONIA PERFOLIATA* Willd.; Stangate Hill, J. E. H. BLACKIE. Recorded in Druce (1926A) from Yaxley on the authority of Mrs Bird.
- §\*127/8      *GERANIUM COLUMBINUM* L.; Stibbington, 1939, J. L. GILBERT.
- §\*+133/2      *IMPATIENS CAPENSIS* Meerburgh; Huntingdon, A. H. G. ALSTON, Exc.; seen at a number of places on the Ouse and apparently spreading as it has in Bedfordshire in recent years.
- §\*+136/1      *ILEX AQUIFOLIUM* L.; two bushes in a hedge on Alconbury Hill, probably planted, J. E. H. BLACKIE.
- 138/1      *RHAMNUS FRANGULA* L.; Holme Fen, J. G. DONY, Exc.; last recorded c. 1846 by W. W. Newbould (Druce, 1926A).
- §\*151/2      *ONONIS REPENS* L.; Stibbington, 1939, J. L. GILBERT; Connington Dump, J. E. H. BLACKIE, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER.
- §\*+153/5      *MEDICAGO ARABICA* (L.) Huds.; railway siding, Huntingdon, D. A. DAVIES and J. G. DONY.
- §\*+153/6      *M. MINIMA* (L.) Bartal. var. *RECTA* (Desf.) Burnat; railway siding, Huntingdon, D. A. DAVIES and J. G. DONY.
- ||+153/26      *M. PRAECOX* DC.; railway siding, Huntingdon, D. A. DAVIES and J. G. DONY.
- §+154/4      *MELILOTUS INDICA* (L.) All.; railway siding, Huntingdon, D. A. DAVIES and J. G. DONY. Previously recorded from Buckden by E. W. Hunnybun, 1902 (Druce, 1926A).
- §\*155/11      *TRIFOLIUM STRIATUM* L.; Stibbington, 1938, J. L. GILBERT.
- 155/22      *TRIFOLIUM FILIFORME* L.; outside Monks' Wood, B. C. M. MORGAN and A. J. WILMOTT, Exc.; previously recorded from Holme Fen in 1884 by A. Fryer, a record which Druce (1926A) thought needed confirmation.
- 160/4b      *LOTUS ULIGINOSUS* Schkuhr var. *GLABER* Bréb.; near Monks' Wood; Hartford, A. J. WILMOTT, Exc.
- ||+165/1      *COLUTEA ARBORESCENS* L.; Connington Dump, D. A. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER.

- §\*+178/1 LATHYRUS LATIFOLIUS L.; railway embankment between Buckden and Huntingdon, J. G. DONY, Exc.
- §\*+178/9 L. APHACA L.; roadside, Great Gransden, C. D. PIGOTT.
- 189/8 POTENTILLA PROCUMBENS Sibth.; Holme Fen, R. A. BONIFACE and F. ROSE.
- 220/5 EPILOBIUM TETRAGONUM L.; gravel-pit, St Ives; Warboy's Wood, J. G. DONY, Exc., det. G. M. ASH.
- 220/7 E. OBSCURUM Schreb.; Holme Fen; Wood Walton Fen, J. G. DONY, Exc., det. G. M. ASH. There appears to be some doubt as to the validity of previous records for this and *E. tetragonum*.
- +220/7(2) E. ADENOCALON Hausskn.; Monks' Wood, A. J. WILMOTT, Exc.; Wood Walton Fen, J. G. DONY and D. P. YOUNG, Exc., det. G. M. ASH. Previously recorded from Monks' Wood, S. A. Taylor, *B.F.C. 1939-40 Rep.*, 279.
- §+223/1 OENOTHERA BIENNIS L.; Connington Dump, L. W. FROST and R. P. LIBBEY, Exc.; previously recorded from Yaxley by R. J. Dix (Druce, 1926A).
- §\*+223/2 O. LAMARCKIANA Ser.; Connington Dump, A. H. G. ALSTON and B. WELCH, Exc.
- ||+279/1 CORIANDRUM SATIVUM L.; Connington Dump, R. P. LIBBEY, Exc.
- ||+289/1 SYMPHORICARPOS RIVULARIS Suksd.; Bevill's Wood, R. C. L. BURGESS, J. E. LOUSLEY and D. McCLINTOCK. Reported from Stibbington, etc., by J. L. GILBERT and Monks' Wood by J. E. H. BLACKIE.
- §\*+302/1 KENTRANTHUS RUBER (L.) DC.; Connington Dump; Ramsey, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER; Buckden, C. L. COLLENETTE, Exc.
- §\*333/4 INULA CONYZA DC.; Stibbington, 1942, J. L. Gilbert.
- ||+354/1 GALINSOGA PARVIFLORA Cav.; Connington Dump; L. W. FROST, Exc.
- §\*+383/7 SENECIO SQUALIDUS L.; Woodston, 1947, J. L. GILBERT. Hartford, D. A. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER; seen also at Connington, St Ives and Buckden.
- §\*+383/8 S. VISCOSUS L.; Stibbington, 1947, J. L. GILBERT; Connington Dump, D. A. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER; Hartford, B. WELCH, Exc.
- §\*+395/3(2) CARDUUS TENUIFLORUS Curt.; Connington Dump, D. A. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER.
- ||+395/8 C. LEIOPHYLLUS Petrov.; Connington Dump, W. H. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER.
- §\*+425/1 LACTUCA VIROSA L.; Stibbington, 1947, J. L. GILBERT.
- §\*+425/2 L. SERRIOLA L.; Huntingdon, D. A. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER; seen at a number of places.

- §\*425/4 *L. MURALIS* (L.) Fresen.; Huntingdon, J. E. H. BLACKIE.
- 428/2 *TRACOPOGON PRATENSIS* L.; Stibbington, J. L. GILBERT;  
Connington Dump, J. E. H. BLACKIE, J. G. DONY  
and H. B. SOUSTER. As in Bedfordshire, *T. minor*  
Mill. is the common Goatsbeard.
- 478/4 *CENTAURIUM PULCHELLUM* (Sw.) E. H. L. Krause; Monks'  
Wood, B. C. M. MORGAN, Exc.
- 506/9 *MYOSOTIS COLLINA* Hoffm.; railway embankment, north  
of Huntingdon, D. A. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B.  
SOUSTER. Only one previous record, Bluntisham, W.  
W. Newbould (Druce, 1926A).
- +509/1 *ECHIU M VULGARE* L.; Connington Dump, Exc.
- ||+511/2 *CALYSTEGIA SYLVESTRIS* (Willd.) Roem. & Schult.; Con-  
nington Dump, A. H. G. ALSTON, Exc.
- §+521/1 *ATROPA BELLA-DONNA* L.; stream under railway bank near  
Connington Dump, L. W. FROST, Exc. Previously  
recorded from Elton Churchyard, J. F. Pierce and  
Farcet, Mrs Bird (Druce, 1926A).
- 527/8 *VERBASCUM NIGRUM* L.; Connington Dump, B. WELCH,  
Exc. Only one previous record, Stibbington, 1925,  
G. C. Druce (1926A).
- 532/3 *LINARIA REPENS* (L.) Mill.; Connington Dump, J. E. H.  
BLACKIE, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER; previously  
recorded from St Neots, 1908 (Druce, 1926A).
- 532/3×1 *L. REPENS* × *VULGARIS*; Connington Dump, A. H. G.  
ALSTON and J. E. WOODHEAD, Exc.
- §541/1 *DIGITALIS PURPUREA* L.; Holme Fen, Cambridge Nat.  
Hist. Soc. Excursion; Monks' Wood, G. H. DAY,  
Exc.; gravel-pit, Hartford, B. WELCH, Exc. The  
only previous record from Washingley Wood, Mrs  
Bird, was doubted by Druce (1926A).
- 543/5 *VERONICA MONTANA* L.; Monks' Wood, Mrs FJELLSTEDT,  
Exc. The only previous record of this species is an  
unlocalised one by W. W. Newbould (Druce 1926A).
- 569/1 *NEPETA CATARIA* L.; near Huntingdon, J. G. DONY, Exc.;  
near Holme Fen, Exc.; last record, Brampton, 1901,  
E. W. Hunnybun (Druce, 1926A).
- 581/4 *LAMIUM HYBRIDUM* Vill.; Stibbington, J. L. GILBERT, det.  
A. J. WILMOTT.
- ||+588/11 *PLANTAGO PSYLLIUM* L.; Connington Dump, J. E. H.  
BLACKIE, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER.
- ||+596/1 *AMARANTHUS CAUDATUS* L.; cart-track near Wood Walton,  
J. G. DONY, Exc.
- +600/4 *CHENOPODIUM HYBRIDUM* L.; Stibbington, J. L. GILBERT;  
gravel-pit, St Ives, B. WELCH, Exc. The only pre-  
vious record for the county was from St Ives by A.  
Fryer in 1884 (Druce, 1926A).

- +600/14 C. VULVARIA L.; Connington Dump, A. H. G. ALSTON, J. E. WOODHEAD and B. WELCH, Exc.
- ||+615/32 POLYGONUM CUSPIDATUM Sieb. & Zucc.; Connington Dump, D. A. DAVIES, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER.
- §+632/2 MERCURIALIS ANNUA L.; Connington Dump, B. WELCH, Exc.; previously recorded from Yaxley by Mrs Bird (Druce, 1926A).
- 719/5 LUZULA PALLESCENS (Wahlenb.) Bess.; Holme Fen, Cambridge Nat. Hist. Soc. Excursion, confirming a record made by Dr A. S. WATT from withered fruiting material in December 1947; Denton Fen, R. A. BONTFACE and F. ROSE; an interesting extension of the range of this species which was previously known only from Wood Walton Fen.
- 722/1 SPARGANIUM NEGLECTUM Beeby; Monks' Wood, A. J. WILMOTT, Exc.; Hartford, B. WELCH, Exc.
- \*737/23 POTAMOGETON BERCHTOLDII Fieb.; Hartford, J. G. DONY, Exc., det. J. E. DANDY and G. TAYLOR. The first record for the county; previous specimens seen by Dandy and Taylor were *P. pusillus* L.
- ||824/2b POA ANGUSTIFOLIA L.; railway embankment between Buckden and Huntingdon, J. G. DONY, Exc., det. C. E. HUBBARD.
- 825/2×3 GLYCERIA FLUITANS (L.) R. Br. × G. PPLICATA Fr.; Warboys, C. D. PIGOTT; previously recorded from Oakley Dyke, Druce (1926A).
- +826/18 VULPIA MYUROS (L.) Gmel.; Connington Dump, J. E. H. BLACKIE, J. G. DONY and H. B. SOUSTER; not recorded since 1883.
- ||+828/3 BRACHYPODIUM DISTACHYON (L.) Beauv.; railway siding, Huntingdon, D. A. DAVIES and J. G. DONY, det. C. E. HUBBARD.
- 849/1 BLECHNUM SPICANT (L.) Roth; Holme Fen, J. G. DONY, Exc.; last seen at Holme Fen in 1883 by A. Fryer, only other record Whittlesey Mere, 1860, F. Paley (Druce, 1926A).
- 850/1 PHYLITIS SCOLOPENDRIUM (L.) Newm.; Stibbington, 1938, J. L. GILBERT; railway bridge, between Buckden and Huntingdon, J. G. DONY, Exc.; previous records, Somersham, W. W. Newbould; Elton, G. C. Druce (1926A).
- §\*+851/5 ASPLENIUM ADIANTUM-NIGRUM L.; old wall, St Ives, J. G. DONY, Exc.; found also on church wall, St Ives, C. D. PIGOTT.
- §\*853/1 ATHYRIUM FILIX-FEMINA (L.) Roth; Holme Fen, Cambridge Nat. Hist. Soc. Excursion.

- §854/3 *POLYSTICHUM ACULEATUM* (L.) Roth; Stibbington Church wall, ? native, J. L. GILBERT; recorded from Whitteley Mere, 1860, J. Paley (Druce, 1926A).
- ||856/1(2) *DRYOPTERIS BORRERI* Newm.; Holme Fen, R. A. BONIFACE and F. ROSE.
- 856/3 *DRYOPTERIS SPINULOSA* (Müll.) Watt; Holme Fen, R. A. BONIFACE and F. ROSE, Soc. Excursion. Last seen at Holme Fen in 1886 by A. Fryer (Druce, 1926A).