

## NOTES AND ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF THE ISLANDS OF S.W. CORK

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In August 1947 and 1948 I spent two periods of one month holidaying and botanising among the islands of S.W. Cork. I visited all the islands of any size, including Sherkin, Clear, Horse, Hare, Calf, etc., for a short period, and made lists of flowering plants as a preliminary to a survey of the island plant communities.

A total of 415\* species of flowering plants and ferns was recorded for the islands compared with a total of 768 recorded for the whole of v.-c. H3, W. Cork, in the Census list of Praeger (1934, *The Botanist in Ireland*). The total for Sherkin Island was 388 and as by far the greater part of the time was spent on this island it may be considered to be fairly complete.

South West Cork as a whole, with the exception of the favoured district round Glengarriff and Bantry Bay, where some of the rarer Irish plants are to be found, has attracted few botanists in recent years. Nearly all records date from T. Allin (1883, *Flowering Plants and Ferns of the County Cork*) and from R. A. Phillips, who botanised in this area between 1891-1902.

A gap of 45 years in the records of the flora may be expected to reveal some interesting changes among the plants of the islands. During this time the human population has decreased steadily and some islands, viz., Castle and the Calf Islands, are no longer inhabited. Also changes in tillage, and the use of grass and cereal seed from further afield may have had a considerable effect on the weeds of cultivation.

There are, unfortunately, no earlier complete lists of plants from any of the islands and the records that exist are scanty. The following plants recorded by Allin, Phillips† and others for the islands were also found by me:—

<i>Ranunculus Baudotii</i> Godr.	<i>Erodium moschatum</i> (L.) Ait.
<i>Glaucium flavum</i> Crantz.	<i>Erodium martimum</i> (L.) Ait.
<i>Cochlearia groenlandica</i> L.	<i>Trifolium arvense</i> L.
<i>Raphanus maritimus</i> Sm.	<i>Rubia peregrinum</i> L.
<i>Melandrium dioicum</i> (L.) Coss & Germ.	<i>Artemisia Abstinthium</i> L.
<i>Althaea officinalis</i> L.	<i>Centunculus minimus</i> L.
<i>Lavatera arborea</i> L.	<i>Linaria Elatine</i> (L.) Mill.
	<i>Scutellaria minor</i> Huds.

\*Further visits to the islands in 1949 and 1950 have increased this number to 441 and the total for Sherkin Island to 413. *Torilis nodosa*, *Salix fragilis* and *Carex muricata* have now been found.

†Mr R. D. Meikle possesses Phillips' own copy of Allin's Flora, which I was able to see. There are a number of records in his own handwriting of island localities (mostly unpublished) which I have included in the lists below.

<i>Lamium hybridum</i> Vill.	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i> (L.) Chevall.
<i>Littorella uniflora</i> (L.) Aschers.	<i>Sparganium minimum</i> (Hartm.) Fr.
<i>Rumex pulcher</i> L.	<i>Desmazeria marina</i> (L.) Druce.
<i>Euphorbia hyberna</i> L.	<i>Agropyron junceum</i> (L.) Beauv.
<i>Humulus Lupulus</i> L.	

I failed to find the following plants which had previously been recorded for these islands:—

<i>Fumaria parviflora</i> Lam.	<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i> (Sw.) E. H. L.
<i>Helianthemum guttatum</i> (L.) Mill.	Krause.
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> (L.) Mill.	<i>Echium vulgare</i> L.
<i>Eryngium campestre</i> L.	<i>Mentha Pulegium</i> L.
<i>Torilis nodosa</i> (L.) Gaertn.	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> L.
<i>Antennaria margaritacea</i> (L.) Gaertn.	<i>Salix fragilis</i> L.
<i>Cichorium Intybus</i> L.	<i>Carex muricata</i> L.
	<i>Asplenium obovatum</i> Viv.

The list of plants that follows is designed primarily to bring Praeger's Census list (1934, *The Botanist in Ireland*) up to date as regards part of v.-c. H3. A few of the rarer and more interesting plants have been added with notes of their occurrence in Kerry, for comparison.

I should like to thank Messrs R. D. Meikle, N. Y. Sandwith and A. J. Wilmott for their help in naming the majority of plants; also Messrs R. A. Graham, C. E. Hubbard, J. E. Lousley, E. Nelmes and S. M. Walters for naming critical species in this list.

\* indicates a new vice-county record.

§ indicates an addition or correction to an annotated copy of the *Comital Flora*, as amended by Praeger's (1934) list [i.e., Praeger's list is used as a basis for all species included in it, *C.F.* for other (mostly alien) species].

† indicates a species introduced in the Islands.

If a plant does not occur in Praeger's list, this is stated.

- §\*†21/3. *PAPAVER DUBIUM* L. (*sensu stricto*); sparingly, cornfield weed, Sherkin Island. In Kerry this species is more widespread than *P. Lecoqii* Lamotte. The latter was not collected in the islands. Det. R.D.M. and N.Y.S.
- §\*†32/5. *FUMARIA BORAEI* Jord.; ? rare, weed of cultivated ground, Sherkin Island. Has no doubt been overlooked in the past. Det. A.J.W.
- §\*†45/1. *COCHLEARIA ARMORACIA* L.; one plant in vicinity of old ruined castle; no longer cultivated in the islands. Not listed in Praeger (1934).
- 103/2. *SAGINA SUBULATA* (Sw.) Presl; rare, Sherkin Island. Det. A.J.W.

- §\*+127/7. *GERANIUM PYRENAICUM* Burm. f.; rare, West Calf Island.  
This island has not been inhabited for about 40 years, but cattle from the mainland are regularly grazed on it. It occurs in E. Cork, but not in Kerry. Det. N.Y.S.
- 128/1. *ERODIUM MARITIMUM* (L.) Ait.; Clare Island, occasional; absent in Kerry. Det. N.Y.S.
- 128/2. *ERODIUM MOSCHATUM* (L.) Ait.; rare, Sherkin, Clear and Hare Islands. Det. R.D.M. and N.Y.S.
- §\*155/22. *TRIFOLIUM FILIFORME* L.; rare, growing in close turf near sea with *T. dubium* Sibth., Tragminetu Bay, Sherkin Island. Very rare in Kerry. Det. R.D.M. and N.Y.S.
- +176/12. *VICIA SATIVA* L.; frequent, growing in corn and potato fields but also well established along grass verges, lanes and waste places. On all inhabited islands. Not listed in Praeger (1934). Det. R.D.M. and N.Y.S.
- 189/9. *POTENTILLA ERECTA* L. × *PROCUMBENS* Sibth.; one plant, laneside in close proximity to parents, Sherkin Island. Occasional in Kerry. This hybrid not before recorded for v.-c. H3. Det. N.Y.S.
- §+239/1. <*ERYNGIUM CAMPESTRE* L.; careful search revealed no trace of this plant on Sherkin Island in 1947-1948. (See 1901, *Irish Nat.*, 10, 172.) Therefore presumably extinct in its only Irish station.>
- 295/1. *RUBIA PEREGRINA* L.; rare, Sherkin and Clear Island.
- §\*+370/13. *CHRYSANTHEMUM PARTHENIUM* (L.) Bern.; laneside, Sherkin Island. As in Kerry most certainly an escape from gardens. Not listed in Praeger (1934).
- §\*+371/2. *MATRICARIA CHAMOMILLA* L.; rare, arable week, Clear Island. Not listed in Praeger (1934). Det. A.J.W.
- 476/1. *CICENDIA FILIFORMIS* (L.) Delarb.; locally abundant in damp and boggy ground on Sherkin and Hare Islands. Occurs only in West Cork and Kerry. Det. R.D.M. and N.Y.S.
- 480/9. *GENTIANA CAMPESTRIS* L.; rare, Horse Island. Some specimens are annuals with cotyledons present. Det. N.Y.S.
- 545/3. *EUPHRASIA BREVIPILO* Burnat & Gremli; locally abundant, all islands; addition to Praeger (1934), but see Pugsley (1940, *J. Bot.*, 7, 13) for earlier record. Det. A.J.W.
- §\*545/10. *EUPHRASIA OCCIDENTALIS* Wettst.; ? rare, Sherkin, West Calf Islands. Det. A.J.W.
- 546/4. *BARTSIA VISCOSA* L.; frequent to locally abundant in poor pastures on all islands.

- §\*552/2. *UTRICULARIA NEGLECTA* Lehm.; often abundant in small pools and tarns, Sherkin and Clear Islands. Recorded for neighbouring v.-c.'s. Identification from flowering state. Det. R.D.M. and N.Y.S.
- §\*†558/4. *MENTHA VIRIDIS* L.; rare, grassy field, Sherkin Island. Det. R.A.G.
- 558/9b. ×*MENTHA VERTICILLATA* L. var. *PALUDOSA* (Sole) Druce; grassy field, Sherkin Island. Det. R.A.G.
- 588/5i. *PLANTAGO MARITIMA* L. var. *BRACTEATA* Blytt; one large plant of this striking form on rocky bank at edge of small salty pool at cliff-edge, Sherkin Point, Sherkin Island. See Druce (1918, *B.E.C. 1917 Rep.*, 49), Pilger (1937, Engler, *Pflanzenreich*, IV, 269, 175) treats it as "monstr." *bracteata* (Blytt) Pilger of var. *communis* Williams f. *dentata* (Roth) Pers. ex Williams. Det. N.Y.S.
- §\*600/1. *CHENOPODIUM RUBRUM* L.; rare, Sherkin and West Calf Islands. Growing on dried-up boggy pools near sea. Very rare and uncertain in Kerry, and absent in East Cork. Det. A.J.W.
- §\*606/8. *ATRIPLEX LACINIATA* L.; one station on sandy shore, Tra-bawn Bay, Sherkin Island; previously only recorded on the East Coast of Ireland. Det. R.D.M. and N.Y.S.
- 606/7×5. *ATRIPLEX GLABRIUSCULA* Edmondst. × *HASTATA* L.
- 606/7×3. *ATRIPLEX GLABRIUSCULA* Edmondst. × *PATULA* L.  
Both on gravelly shores, Sherkin Island. Det. A.J.W.
- 618/3×6. *RUMEX CRISPUS* L. × *OBTUSIFOLIUS* L.; on exposed rocky coast; "lowest plant on spray-covered rock"; Horse Island. Recorded once for Kerry. Not previously recorded for v.-c. H.3. Det. J.E.L.
- 628/1. *EUPHORBIA HYBERNA* L.; common along sheltered lanes and walls; probably on all islands.
- †650/3×2. *SALIX ALBA* L. × *FRAGILIS* L. (*SALIX RUSSELLIANA* Sm.); Hare Island. There is an old record from Carrigaline in Power (1845, *The Botanist's Guide for the County of Cork*), but it is not included in Praeger's Census List. Det. R.D.M.
- †650/6(2). ×*SALIX DASYCLADOS* Wimm. (*S. ACUMINATA* Sm.); Hare Island, *P. J. Newbold*. Recorded as common near Cork (as *S. acuminata*) in Power (1845, *l.c.*) but regarded as a doubtful Irish plant by Colgan and Scully (1898, *Cybele Hibernica*, ed. 2, 509) and not mentioned by Praeger (1934). Det. R.D.M. (as *S. calodendron* Wimm.).
- §\*722/1. *SPARGANIUM NEGLECTUM* Beeby; ? frequent on Sherkin Island. Det. A.J.W. and N.Y.S.

- 722/5. SPARGANIUM MINIMUM Fries; rare, marsh west of Clear Island; rather rare in Kerry. Det. A.J.W.
- §\*745/2. HELEOCHARIS UNIGLUMIS (Link) Schult.; ? rare, muddy pool, Sherkin Point, Sherkin Island. Recorded in Kerry but not E. Cork. Det. S.M.W. (as ? Western type).
- §\*753/1. CAREX PSEUDO-CYPERUS L.; two localities, swampy ground on edge of tarn, Sherkin Island. Does not occur in Kerry. Det. E.N.
- 753/18. CAREX PUNCTATA Gaud.; sparingly, heathy country, Horse Island. Det. E.N.
- §\*†780/3(2). AGROSTIS GIGANTEA Roth; Horse Island. Not listed in Praeger (1934). Det. C.E.H.
- §\*809/1. KOELERIA GRACILIS Pers.; frequent, close turf by the sea, Sherkin, Clear, Horse and Hare Islands. Rather common and locally abundant by the sea in Kerry. Det. C.E.H.
- 814/1b. CATABROSA AQUATICA L. var. LITTORALIS Parn.; one locality on fine but firm sand, Trabawn Bay, Sherkin Island. The first coloniser of sandy strand. No specimens of the typical species were collected on the islands; it is rather rare in Kerry. Det. C.E.H.
- §\*824/4. POA IRRIGATA Lindm.; Sherkin Island. Not listed in Praeger (1934). Det. C.E.H.
- 824/14d. POA ANNUA L. var. REPTANS Hausskn.; occasional, sandy and shingle shores, Sherkin Island. Det. C.E.H.
- §\*825/3. GLYCERIA DECLINATA Bréb.; marsh, Sherkin Island; the marsh is separated from the sea by a sand-bar. Long Island. Not listed in Praeger (1934). Det. C.E.H.
- 826/7c. FESTUCA RUBRA L. var. BARBATA (Schrank) Richt.; exposed cliffs, Hare Island. Recorded for Kerry. Det. C.E.H.
- §\*†827/17. BROMUS COMMUTATUS Schrad.; rare, cornfield, Sherkin Island. It occurs in Kerry and East Cork. Det. C.E.H.
- †829/4. LOLIUM MULTIFLORUM Lam.; occasional, cultivated ground, Sherkin and Hare Island. Not given in Praeger (1934) nor in *Comital Flora*. Det. C.E.H.
- 830/1×4. AGROPYRON JUNCEUM (L.) Beauv. × REPENS (L.) Beauv.; Hare Island. Det. C.E.H.