

BSBI Vice-county Recorder for Carmarthenshire

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25th August 2010

BSBI Week at Glynhir, Friday 16th – Friday 23rd July 2010

We guess that you must have enjoyed your stay at Glynhir this year judging by the number of letters and emails of appreciation we have received. It was good to see so many familiar faces but equally welcome to be able to meet several newcomers! For our part, we very much thank you all for attending, making so many valuable records from the sites you visited and contributing your knowledge and expertise. As seems to be usual during past Glynhir weeks, the weather was best described as changeable, ranging from hot sunshine to heavy rain – but by West Wales' standards, the rain was relatively infrequent!

The highlight for us as County Recorders was the first v.c. record of *Potamogeton trichoides* (Hair-like Pondweed) (determined by Arthur Chater and John Poland) from the pond constructed less than two years ago in the sand-dunes at Pembrey Burrows Local Nature Reserve (SS4199) recorded by Jeremy Fraser, Graeme Kay, Mary Smith, Martyn Stead and Delyth Williams (Kath and I visited the site later in the month). Furthermore, apart from finding two new populations of *Epipactis palustris* (Marsh Helleborine) in the dune slacks, they also recorded *Thalictrum flavum* (Common Meadow-rue) in the 'Ranunculus lingua Pond' which was the 7th v.c. record but the first in a natural habitat, all others being on road verges or escaped from gardens.

Potentilla (Duchesnea) indica (Yellow-flowered Strawberry) was found by Chris Cheffings, Margot Godfrey, Jean Green and Guy Moss naturalized on both sides of the disused railway line over a length of 100m – 200m near Upper Tumble (SN531111). This was the first v.c. record.

Rorippa islandica (Northern Yellow-cress) was recorded from a new hectad (SN60) on the shingle shoals by the River Loughor at Sychnant Farm, Llanedi, south of Ammanford by Arthur Chater, Stephen & Anne Coker, Graeme Kay, John Poland, Barry Stewart, Bron & Dave Wright, Kath and me. It was in company with *Rorippa austriaca* (Austrian Yellow-cress), *R. sylvestris* (Creeping Yellow-cress) and *R. palustris* (Marsh Yellow-cress) which were often abundant. Barry took the opportunity to record the small areas of Glam. which, due to changes in the river meanders, are now located on the Carms side! The other 'fluvial group' of Martyn Stead, Sarah Stille and Priscilla Tolfree had *Persicaria minor* (Small Waterpepper) and more *Rorippa islandica* on the Tywi at Rwyth, near Nantgeredig (SN4821).



The *Potamogeton trichoides* pond was visited by Kath and me on 29th July. Photo Kath Pryce

The whole of Tuesday was wet but everyone apparently enjoyed the experience of the afternoon's spectacular downpour despite having got a complete soaking. Arthur Chater, Stephen & Anne Coker, Ruth Harding, Neil Matthew, Sarah Stille, Bron & Dave Wright, Kath and I visited two farms north of Llandeilo at the suggestion of CCW. Both were very rich grassland sites where, at Llety-wen (SN6230), it was noticed that the abundant *Carum verticillatum* (Whorled Caraway) plants bent their heads over in the heavy rain whilst the accompanying *Pimpinella saxifraga* (Burnet Saxifrage) remained stiffly upright, providing a quick and easy way of distinguishing them when growing together!



Carum verticillatum bending over in the heavy rain. Llety-wen, Cwmdu. Photo Kath Pryce.

Another group (Jeremy Fraser, John Poland, Sally Rankin and Janet Welsh) visited Carreg Cennen Castle (SN667190) in Tuesday's rain, only seeing two spikes of *Veronica spicata* ssp. *hybrida* (Spiked Speedwell) on the cliff in the poor visibility but making a new discovery at this well-worked botanical hot-spot of *Sedum sexangulare* (Tasteless Stonecrop) which was found scattered over the bare rock, a new hectad record and the ninth v.c. record.

Andy Jones and Martyn Stead unsuccessfully went in search of Mrs Barnes' 1959 record of *Stellaria nemorum* ssp. *montanum* (Wood Stitchwort) near Taliaris (SN621). They were also caught in Tuesday's severe rain but were sheltered to some degree in the densely wooded dingles, principally that of the Nant Thames, where the species could still be most likely to occur.

Much of the other species monitoring was also disappointing as negative results seemed to be the norm. In particular, one of the BSBI Threatened Plant Project species which we have been asked to monitor this year, *Hordeum marinum* (Sea Barley), was not refound at any of its previously recorded sites. This is in common with past visits to monitor this species and is worrying as all three sites were found to have an abundance of *H. secalinum* (Meadow Barley) growing along the top edge of the saltmarshes, just where *H. marinum* would be expected. It is very tempting to speculate that all previous records are misidentifications.

The group which discovered *Potentilla indica* were unsuccessful in refinding the nearby population of *Drosera intermedia* (Oblong-leaved Sundew) reported in 1988 in *Molinia* moorland at Upper Tumble although the substantial population of *D. rotundifolia* (Round-leaved Sundew) seemed still to be thriving well. But a good consolation was their discovery of a new site for *Rhynchospora alba* (White Beak-sedge) at the edge of the moor (SN541107). Several populations of *R. alba*

were also recorded by Jeremy Fraser, Andy Jones, Sally Rankin, Mary Smith, Janet Welsh and Delyth Williams from the Upper Amman valley near Cwmllynfell (SN7414 and SN7415).

Jeremy Fraser, Mary Smith, Sarah Stille and Delyth Williams combined their visit to record in the limestone grassland and woodland at Garn and Garn-ffrwd (SN50C) with an unsuccessful attempt (not surprisingly) to refind the only localized Carms record of *Hypericum montanum* (Pale St.John's-wort) dating from 1875. *Potamogeton pusillus* (Lesser Pondweed) was, however, a new record from the Garn-ffrwd fishing lake, the 11th v.c. tetrad record.

The whole group, led by Mary Iliff to the Merchon waterfall, near Cilycwm, and beyond (SN7341), failed to refind the only Carms. record of *Crepis paludosa* (Marsh Hawk's-beard) reported by Paul Day in 1980, despite Andy Jones and Barry Stewart scaling the difficult gorge and river-side rocks like mountain goats. It was a pity that time did not allow the party to continue further up the valley to monitor the clubmoss populations.

Whilst one half of the party were at Pembrey discovering *Potamogeton trichoides*, the other half were unsuccessful in refinding *Liparis loeselii* (Fen Orchid) at the MoD Pendine E4 Range (SN3007), where it has not been seen since 2002. This, although a disappointment, was not a surprise but was moderated somewhat by the discovery of a previously unknown and extensive population of *Carex punctata* (Dotted Sedge) at the edge of a quite recently created, wide swathe of open grassland through the alder woodland in the adjacent E3 Range (SN2907).

It was not all doom and gloom and there *were* successes. These included the counting (by almost the whole Glynhir group) of 169 shoots of *Vicia orobus* (Wood Bitter-vetch) at Llys-fedw, near Rhandirmwyn (SN7446) (see aerial photo below) where only about thirty had been previously known to CCW surveyors (but it is not clear whether they were counting shoots or groups of shoots!). Another success was the finding of *Dryopteris aemula* (Hay-scented Buckler-fern) at Woodreefe Wood, east of Amroth (SN186081), by Graeme Kay, Mary Smith, Priscilla Tolfree and Goronwy Wynne, in an extensive area of woodlands where several populations have been seen in the past but this one is at least 250m from any previously known.

There were, of course, several other places that we visited during the week and many more plant records of interest (see photos on last page). We will include these in the report which will appear in *BSBI News* in due course. Barry has sent the moth trap records which are also included below: a smaller number than some previous years due to the less than perfect weather!

We have booked next years' Glynhir week from **Saturday 9th July to Saturday 16th July 2011** and hope that it will take-on a similar format to this year's meeting. This fits in between the National BSBI AGM in Galway around 18th and 19th June and the Welsh AGM at Dale Fort, Pembrokeshire on 12th to 14th August. We hope you will be able to attend. The meeting will be advertised in BSBI publications in due course but please, in the mean time, feel free to let us know

if you wish to make an advanced booking.

Once again, thank you very much for your contribution and we look forward to another successful week next year.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Lunch by the Merchon lower waterfall. Photo Bron Wright

Richard and Kath

Glynhir moths 21-22 July 2010

Taxon	Vernacular	no.	Taxon	Vernacular	no.
<i>Yponomeuta padella/malinellus</i>		1	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	Buff-tip	1
<i>Ypsolopha parenthesesella</i>		1	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	Pebble Prominent	6
<i>Carcina quercana</i>		2	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	Coxcomb Prominent	1
<i>Bryotropha politella</i>		1	<i>Mittochrista miniata</i>	Rosy Footman	2
<i>Pandernis cerasana</i>	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	2	<i>Eilema griseola</i>	Dingy Footman	2
<i>Ancylis badiana</i>		1	<i>Eilema depressa</i>	Buff Footman	6
<i>Rhopobota naevana</i>	Holly Tortrix	2	<i>Arctia caja</i>	Garden Tiger	1
<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	Garden Grass-veneer	1	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart and Dart	3
<i>Crambus pascuella</i>		1	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword-grass	6
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		8	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	4
<i>Catoptria margaritella</i>	Pearl-band Grass Veneer	2	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	40
<i>Dipleurina lacustrata</i>		10	<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	Purple Clay	3
<i>Eudonia delunella</i>		2	<i>Xestia ditrapezium</i>	Triple-spotted Clay	7
<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>		4	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	Double Square-spot	2
<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i>		2	<i>Xestia baja</i>	Dotted Clay	4
<i>Eurrhynx hortulata</i>	Small Magpie	1	<i>Anaplectoides prasina</i>	Green Arches	1
<i>Udea prunalis</i>		1	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	Dot Moth	1
<i>Udea olivalis</i>		2	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	Bright-line Brown-eye	1
<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Rush Veneer	1	<i>Mythimna turca</i>	Double Line	1
<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	Drinker	3	<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>	Clay	1
<i>Habrosyne pyritoides</i>	Buff Arches	2	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	40
<i>Idaea aversata</i>	Riband Wave	5	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	Small Angle Shades	1
<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	Flame Carpet	1	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>	Dun-bar	25
<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	July Highflyer	40	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	9
<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>	Small Rivulet	1	<i>Apamea crenata</i>	Clouded-bordered Brindle	2
<i>Eupithecia virgaureata</i>	Golden-rod Pug	1	<i>Apamea scolopacina</i>	Slender Brindle	5
<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	V-Pug	2	<i>Oligia strigilis agg.</i>	Marbled Minor agg.	3
<i>Acasis viretata</i>	Yellow-barred Brindle	1	<i>Mesapamea secalis agg.</i>	Common Rustic agg.	12
<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	Clouded Border	5	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Rosy Rustic	1
<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	3	<i>Hoplodrina alsines</i>	Uncertain	3
<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>	Scalloped Oak	10	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Rustic	25
<i>Biston betularia</i>	Peppered Moth	2	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	4
<i>Cleorodes lichenaria</i>	Brussels Lace	1	<i>Autographa jota</i>	Plain Golden Y	1
<i>Ectopis crepuscularia</i>	Small Engrailed	4	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	Straw Dot	5
<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	Common Wave	1	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Snout	5
<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	Light Emerald	2	<i>Herminia grisealis</i>	Small Fan-foot	1
<i>Laothoe populi</i>	Poplar Hawk-moth	7			



Examining *Hordeum secalinum* (Meadow Barley) in an attempt to refine *Hordeum marinum* (Sea Barley) for the BSBI Threatened Plants Project, Mwche, Llanybri (SN3211). Photo Richard Pryce



Above Left: Nant-y-Mwyn leadmine, Rhandirmwyn (SN7844), last worked in the 1930s, Photo Bron Wright.
 Above Right: *Dryopteris carthusiana* (Narrow Buckler-fern), Photo Kath Pryce; Below Left: *Silene uniflora* (Sea Campion), Photo Kath Pryce; Below Right *Huperzia selago* (Fir Clubmoss), Photo Richard Pryce; all on the lead-mining spoil at Nant-y-mwyn.



Examining *Carex spicata* (Spiked Sedge) during the walk from Glynhir on Friday afternoon. Photo Bron Wright