

Recording in 2013

Monthly field meetings were organised in support of the proposed flora of Co. Down and to make records under the new date-class. Thanks go to Daphne Donnelly, John Kirk, Roger Field, Margaret Marshall, David McNeill, David McCormick and Mark Wright who sent records to me.

Visits were made along the western shore of Strangford Lough and mid-Down coast in April and early May to record *Cochlearia* spp. In mid-May a visit to Rowallane garden produced an extremely large colony of *Equisetum sylvaticum*.

Mark Wright sent a number of detailed recording sheets from north Down in May and June. Most notably, he visited Cregagh Glen in east Belfast, where he recorded *Galium odoratum* and *Meconopsis cambrica*. In June, Daphne Donnelly sent record of *Ophrys apifera* from the Belfast Harbour Estate. Unfortunately, shortly afterward she sent word that mowers had cut the plants down.

In early July, *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* was found abundantly at Glastry Clay Pits. At this known station *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, *Crassula helmsii*, *Lemna minuta*, *Azolla filiculoides* and *Typha angustifolia* were re-found. Also in early July, Paul Hackney, John Kirk, Julia Nunn and I re-found *Vicia sylvatica*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Asplenium marinum*, *Glaucium flavum* and *Mertensia maritima* on the Bloody Bridge coastal path south of Newcastle.

Rostrevor was visited in early July. *Scrophularia auriculata* and single specimens of *Barbarea verna* and *Heracleum mantegazzianum* were found in the Fairy Glen. A meeting with Belfast Naturalist's Field Club in the Oak Wood produced *Dryopteris borrieri*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Sanicula europaea*, *Galium odoratum* and by the forestry buildings, *Crepis biennis*.

C. biennis and *D. borrieri* were also recorded with *Bidens tripartita* by Shane's Lough near Killyleagh at the end of July. In early August *Dryopteris cambrensis* and *Daphne laureola* were seen at Farranfadh near Clough.

In mid-August, Newcastle was visited and recording made around Donard Park and the south of the town centre. A thorough search along the Glen River produced four large *Arbutus unedo* trees, but no young plants were seen; presumably those seen previously by Paul Hackney and I in 2004 were killed by hard winters. *Hypericum humifusum* was found on a gravelly road verge in a housing development. Ian McNeill's find of *Diplotaxis tenuifolia* behind the Tourist Information office was searched for, but not re-found, probably because of extensive herbicide spraying. Also in mid-August, *Myrrhis odorata*, *Sedum rupestre*, *S. spurium* and a single mature *Pyrus communis* were noted by roadsides south of Castlewellan.

In the Mournes, David McNeill recorded *Juniperus communis*, *Salix herbacea* and *Rhynchospora alba* on and close by Slieve Commedagh in late August.

In early September, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *Equisetum palustre*, *Dryopteris cambrensis* and *Veronica scutellata* were found by Slievenamuck.

Diplotaxis muralis (the second county record, and first since Praeger in 1934) was found growing on waste ground by the promenade in Millisle in late October. In November,

fourteen colonies of *Mertensia maritima* (flowering!) and an extensive area of *Glaucium flavum* were recorded from the shingle beach at Kearney, but *Crambe maritima* (previously recorded in the area) was not seen.

Bird-seed introductions in my garden vegetable patch have been recorded annually and this year, *Amaranthus retroflexus*, *Ammi majus*, *Datura stramonium*, *Nicandra physalodes*, *Digitaria sanguinalis*, *Echinochloa crus-galli* and *Setaria pumila* have appeared.