

BSBI / BSS Scottish Annual Meeting 2015 – Abstracts

Some notable recent records for Cumbria (v.c.70)

Geoffrey Halliday

The exhibit consists of specimens and photos of *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* x *Coeloglossum viride*, *Allium roseum* (Rosy Garlic), *Lathyrus tuberosus* (Tuberous Pea), *Salix cinerea* x *purpurea* and *Vicia orobus* (Wood Bitter-vetch).

Interesting finds in Dumfriesshire in 2015 & willows from 2014 (v.c.72)

Chris Miles

The exhibit shows two new vc records for the spring annuals *Cardamine corymbosa* Hook.f., (New Zealand Bitter-cress) and *Valerianella carinata* (L.) Pollich, (Keeled-fruited Cornsalad). A second record for *Myosotis* x *bollandica* (*M. secunda* x *stolonifera*) P Jepson. A third vc record for *Veronica catenata* Pennell (Pink Water-speedwell) and the first record for 122 years for the naturalised, and rather elegant *Senecio sarracenicus* L. (*S. fluitans* Wallr.) (Broad-leaved Ragwort). There are also some willow hybrids from 2014.

Peeblesshire (v.c.78)

Luke Gaskell

I am now recording in monads and aim to record a minimum of 15 monads per hectad in Peeblesshire by 2020. I find that concentrating on a small area quite intensively is very productive and recording a monad including travelling time and walking into the site seems to take me about half a day. This fits well within the time I have available. I am exhibiting a selection of natives and aliens which have been found in 2015:

Natives		Location
<i>Equisetum pratense</i> (Shady Horsetail)	2 nd VC record	River bank, Cardrona
<i>Carex diandra</i> (Lesser Tussock-sedge)	2 nd VC record	Loch Burn near Leadburn
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i> (Heath Cudweed)	4 th VC record, last recorded 1988	Forest track, Walkerburn
Arable plants		
<i>Camelina sativa</i> (Gold-of-pleasure)	1 st VC record	Wild bird cover, Holms Water
<i>Stachys arvensis</i> (Field Woundwort)	1 st VC record	Sown grass, Innerleithen
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i> (Corn Chamomile)	4 th VC record	Fodder crop, Shiplaw
<i>Glebionis segetum</i> (syn. <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>) (Corn Marigold)	3 rd VC record, last recorded 1959	Fodder crop, Shiplaw
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	1 st VC record	Fodder crop, Eddleston
Casuals		
<i>Potentilla recta</i> (Sulphur Cinquefoil)	1 st VC record	River embankment, Peebles
<i>Saxifraga cymbalaria</i> (Celandine Saxifrage)	1 st VC record	Church yard, Broughton
<i>Primula</i> x <i>pruhonicensis</i> (Hybrid Primrose (<i>P. vulgaris</i> x <i>juliae</i>))	1 st VC record	The Glen. This cross appears to be more common and variable than assumed
<i>Viola cornuta</i> (Horned Pansy)	2 nd VC record, last recorded 1978	Riverbank, West Linton

**Herbarium sheets of some rare plants in Roxburgh and Selkirkshire 2015 (v.c.80 & 79)
RWM Corner**

Impatiens noli-tangere (Touch-me-not Balsam) v.c. 79. A large colony by the Ettrick near Selkirk first seen in 2001 seemed unchanged. It is almost certainly derived from plants upstream at Bowhill. In contrast with *I. glandulifera* (Himalayan Balsam), it is a poor coloniser.

Imperatoria ostruthium (*Peucedanum ostruthium*) (Masterwort) v.c. 79. It is only known as a single non-flowering patch of 5 square metres by the Ettrick upstream from Selkirk. It has remained unchanged since first found in 1989. It is now thought to be extinct in Roxburghshire.

Carex appropinquata (Fibrous Tussock-sedge) v.c. 80. This Red Data List and Near Threatened sedge is unknown elsewhere in Scotland the nearest site being in Mid-west Yorkshire (v.c. 64). It was first seen at Dunhog Moss in 1967. Its status there remains unchanged with about 50 tussocks. ***Carex aquatilis*** (Water sedge) v.c. 80. This northern sedge was found by Luke Gaskell in 2009 on the Tweed below his farm. This is probably the only extant colony in v.c. 80.

Crepis biennis (Rough Hawk's-beard) v.c. 80. A large conspicuous colony of this introduction over 25m verge of pathway was reinstated to the flora of Roxburghshire. It is a rare Borders species.

The Railway Flora of Teviotdale revisited (v.c.80)

Michael Braithwaite

A few copies of the above book are available today in exchange for a token donation to BSBI funds to help towards the costs of this meeting. It is also available as a 2MB PDF for free download on the BSBI website.

This is an account of a repeat survey after 40 years of a 20 mile stretch of disused railway in Roxburghshire, v.c. 80, first surveyed in 1975. There have not been many repeat surveys of small areas outwith wildlife reserves, so you may find this report interesting. There has been an amazing amount of change: by no means all along the lines of what was expected. After making adjustments to allow as far as possible for recording differences between the two surveys, the overall species diversity has increased from 477 to 506.

Some Rare Lothian Plants (v.c.83 & 84) and Crataegus

Douglas McKean

One of the plants on show is *Lamium gangeticum* ssp. *laevigatum*, a recent garden escape, not yet in 'Stace', (hairy anthers), another plant is *Carduus acanthoides* L. (Broad-winged Thistle) previously confused with *C. crispus* (Wetted Thistle) in Stace's Census Catalogue and elsewhere. This thistle has larger capitulae and the stem wing-spines are also longer (5mm.) Also shown is *Cotoneaster franchetii* (Franchet's Cotoneaster) another increasing escape.

As *Crataegus* (Hawthorn) referee I exhibited *C. mollis* from Derbyshire (not in Stace but in Poland and Clement); *C. persimilis* x *monogyna* from Derbyshire det. Michael Wilcox, and agreed by me, apparently a First world record. Specimen at E.

Stingless Nettle (v.c.85)

Sandy Edwards

I always thought, until recently, that Stinging Nettles lived up to their name. However, I was told of some specimens of the "Stingless Nettle" or "Fen Nettle", *Urtica dioica* ssp.

galeopsifolia at Morton Lochs, Tentsmuir (vc85) by Ron Youngman who noticed a clump near the car park. They certainly fitted the general description: Flowering late summer (September), flowers at nodes 13 – 22 and long narrow leaves. (cf Plant Crib).

Close inspection showed fine hairs, especially on the leaf underside and very few, if any stinging hairs. It is certainly different from *Urtica dioica* ssp. *dioica*. (See micrographs). There is very little data about how significant these differences are; Stace states the two species do not differ consistently, either morphologically or in chromosome number and there are intermediates. ($2n=48$, 52 in *dioica*, $2n=26$ in *galeopsifolia*).

Since then I have seen a few similar clumps in other locations, some with more stinging hairs than others. Before being made aware of the species I assumed that the variation in nettles was just due to age or habitat conditions. So, is this plant overlooked and just recorded as ssp. *dioica*?

***Corallorhiza trifida* (Coralroot Orchid), Loch Leven NNR 2015 (v.c.85)**

Liz Lavery & Jim McIntosh

One of our target species while monitoring vascular plants at Loch Leven for SNH was *Corallorhiza trifida* (Coralroot Orchid). Lynne Farrell discovered a small population in 2005 when exploring the eastern shoreline by boat. Prior to this 'a few spikes were observed on the south side of the loch in 1908, while it was described as plentiful on the east side in 1920' in the *Wildflowers of Kinross* (Ballantyne, 1985). Liz had failed to re-find it at Lynne's site in 2010, during the second round of vascular plant Site Condition Monitoring.

This year, after battling our way through a dense tangle of willow undergrowth along the water's edge Jim spied a few tiny plants nestling on the inner edge of a tall dense *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed) bed beside an old, spreading *Salix cinerea* (Grey Willow).

Also displayed is another target species, *Ranunculus x levenensis* (*R. flammula x reptans*). An estimate of more than 14,000 plants of this very rare hybrid species were scattered along the upper shoreline at Findatie.

***Oxytropis halleri* (Purple Oxytropis): A New Site in Mid-Perths (v.c.88) Alistair Godfrey**

During the summer of 2015, a number of tetrads were recorded in Mid-Perthshire which had no or very few records. The object was to improve coverage and provide records for the Atlas 2020 project being run by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. Two tetrads were visited to the south-west of Pitlochry, in an area called Duntanlich (pronounced Dunchanlich) bounded at their south-west corners by NN 86 56 and NN 88 56. These tetrads are situated where the higher ground rises from 500m to just over 600m above ordnance datum.

The first tetrad visited provided records for a small number of calcicolous species in rocks and flushes with a montane distribution. The second visit provided more records from this group, including a small population of *Oxytropis halleri* ssp. *halleri* Bunge ex W. D. J. Koch. An account of the new site is provided with information on the species from a number of sources examining its European distribution.

New Site Location: Meall a' Choire, Duntanlich, NN 8808 5677, 6km south-west of Pitlochry.
Population: 12 plants in total, 6 in flower, within two recesses on west facing crag.
Date of find: 3rd July, 2015. Recorder: Alistair Godfrey.

Two Rare Coastal Sedges in Angus

Theo Loizou

Carex maritima (Curved sedge) and *Carex serotina* (Small-fruited Yellow sedge) are Angus' rarest coastal sedges. *Carex maritima* was re-confirmed at a site near the Mains of Usan. It had been reported there in 2011 during a saltmarsh survey by Thomas Haynes of the Nature Bureau. This is currently the only known site in Angus but it has previously also been recorded at Barry Buddon. However its status there is currently unknown. *Carex serotina* was also recorded in 2015 by the author and by Michael Morphy at Scurdie Ness, just 2.5 km north of Mains of Usan. According to Hogarth (2012) this is the only known site for the sedge in Angus. Like *C. maritima* it is associated with the *Juncetum gerardi* saltmarsh (SM16). Several dozen fruiting clumps were noted in two separate areas less than 40m apart.

Status of Orchid Species in Angus (v.c.90)

Theo Loizou

At least 17 species of orchid are known to occur in Angus - excluding hybrids and sub-species. A preliminary assessment of population status (their number, size and distribution) and trends (i.e. whether increasing, stable or decreasing) of each orchid species is presented, based on an understanding of the local flora gathered during fieldwork over the past 20 years, including >30 days recording for Atlas 2020 in 2015. It is also informed by Barbara Hogarth's *The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Angus* (2012).

Generally the population trends of Angus' orchid species are unclear. While several may possibly be stable, at least one species *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid) is clearly declining and four other species are probably declining in at least at some of their sites.

Further information is required particularly on the highlighted orchid species. If you can help, please email me: loizou958@btinternet.com.

New Vice County Records for Angus

Theo Loizou

Thalictrum lucidum (Shining Meadow-rue) was encountered above Ethie Haven in tall *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland (NVC, MG1) on 29th June 2015. Its origin is unknown, but the most probable explanation is that it has come via bird seed dispersal. There is only one other Scottish record of this species in the BSBI Database (In Berwickshire).

In June of 2015, Martin Robinson, the BSBI recorder for East Perthshire (vc89), found *Carum verticillatum* (Whorled Caraway) in a damp meadow in Angus. The site, near Kirriemuir, is known as Woodside also contains *Platanthera bifolia* (Lesser Butterfly orchid). This is clearly a western species in Britain and its appearance in Angus could be the result of animal (cattle) seed dispersal. If this is the case, this species may not be truly native in the county.

Ranunculus x levenensis Druce ex Gornall: new to Angus (v.c.90)

John Edgington

This hybrid between *Ranunculus flammula* (Lesser Spearwort) and *R. reptans* (Creeping Spearwort) is named for the type locality, Loch Leven (v.c. 85). There are post-2000 records from six Scottish sites: Loch Leven itself, Loch of Strathbeg (v.c. 93), Loch Vaa (v.c. 95), Loch Awe (v.c. 98), Coir' a'Gallaich, Ben Hope (v.c. 108), and a recent (2013) record by Andy Amphlett from the River Spey (v.c. 95).

Plants with the appearance of the hybrid were found in July 2012 in silty ground beside a shallow permanent pool in upper Glen Esk, Angus (v.c. 90) and shown to Geoffrey Halliday who thought the identification was correct. Plants have appeared in quite large quantity each

year since. A further collection was made this year (2015) and shown to Fred Rumsey (NHM) and Richard Gornall, the BSBI referee, both of whom confirmed them as the hybrid. This is the first vice-county record for the taxon. Voucher specimens from 2012 and 2015 will be exhibited, and their habitat described.

***Moneses uniflora* at Glen Strathfarrar SSSI (v.c.96)**

Sarah Smyth & Ian Strachan

Glen Strathfarrar is a stunning glen in v.c.96, Easternness. It is a designated site for, amongst other features, its vascular plant assemblage, monitored by the BSBI on behalf of SNH over the last two cycles in 2009 and again in 2014/15. Management in recent years has reduced the impact of grazing, which is resulting in improvements in condition of the pine woodland. One of most important plants is the Nationally Rare pinewood specialist *Moneses uniflora* (One-flowered Wintergreen). In 2009 four populations were found with 79, mainly sterile, rosettes, but with some evidence of sexual regeneration. In 2014 despite careful searching no plants could be found. The site was revisited in 2015 with grim determination, suspecting timing / conditions had not been great in 2014 resulting in a poor year for *Moneses*, however once again no plants were recorded.

Moneses populations do seem to fluctuate significantly from year to year and rosettes without flowers may be difficult to spot in dense vegetation. Can we say that *Moneses* has disappeared from Glen Strathfarrar? If so, is the management unsuitable/vegetation too lush? Records are sought for post-2012 records for *Moneses* within Glen Strathfarrar SSSI, or for experience of declines elsewhere. If you can help, please contact sarah.smyth@snh.gov.uk tel. 01349 860654 or Ian Strachan (imstrachan55@gmail.com).

Westernness, some highlights from 2015 (v.c.97)

Ian Strachan

Another busy year of recording, with some surprises. Monitoring plots for *Diapensia lapponica* (Diapensia) above Glenfinnan were relocated, though the 'new' site further west again proved elusive. In August the second year of the North Face project turned up interesting finds on Ben Nevis including more than 100 spikes of *Carex lachenalii* (Hare's-foot Sedge) on Tower Ridge, and several new UK altitudinal records. Other finds of note included the first montane record in the vice-county for *C. aquatilis* (Water Sedge) on Sgurr Choinnich Mor, and *Dryas octopetala* (Mountain Avens) in Ardgour. The biggest surprise was *Epipactis helleborine* (Broad-leaved Helleborine), a rare species in the Highlands, which appeared in several places around the carpark at Nevis Range! Where has it come from?

Some brambles from Bute (v.c.100)

Angus Hannah

I began looking at brambles in 2014, encouraged by Tony Church, who has a good knowledge of Arran brambles. With his help, and that of Scottish referee, George Ballantyne, I have become familiar with the common species of Bute. There are about eight of these, along with a similar number that are less common. Specimens and photos are displayed to illustrate some of the variety in the *R. fruticosus* aggregate, and to demonstrate that distinguishing between species is not always difficult (though I am also hoping for help with some particular problems).

The purpose of the exhibit is to encourage other recorders to look at the brambles in their home patch. This is rewarding, as it adds interest to recording particularly in urban and agricultural areas. It is also useful: recording the aggregate is of limited value, as it is present in nearly every lowland square, but recording any microspecies at monad or tetrad scale significantly increases our knowledge of their distribution. I am happy to send copies of my

photos to anyone who might find them helpful, though with the warning that photos are never enough on their own!

Three Nationally Uncommon Orchid Hybrids Found on Skye: (*Dactylorhiza x jensis*, *Dactylorhiza x dufftii*, and *Dactylodenia x evansii*) (v.c.104) Terry Swainbank

It can be notoriously difficult to determine the parents with any certainty of hybrids of *Dactylorhiza* species and with species of closely related genera. Several examples of some nationally uncommon hybrids, found on Skye are described. Even though the examples showed variability certain characteristics of the putative parents were common factors allowing potential identification.

Summer is too short – is Winter recording worthwhile? (v.c.106) Brian Ballinger

Two short 30-60 minute visits were made to 10 varied lowland sites in East Ross (VC106) following a standard route of approximately 500 metres. The first was made in January or February and the second in June or July 2014.

During the summer visits, 529 taxa were recorded of which 315 had not been noted in January or February. During the winter visits a total of 339 taxa were recorded. 95 of which were not found again in summer. Species may have been overlooked in summer because of dense vegetation. A longer summer visit would be likely to have reduced this discrepancy.

Many of the VC106 *Pyrola media* (Intermediate Wintergreen) and all three *Linnaea borealis* (Twinflower) sites were found outwith the flowering season. Winter recording may be useful, particularly for certain wintergreen species if time is limited in summer, but it can usually only supplement summer fieldwork.

West Sutherland, 2015 (v.c.108) Ian Evans

A late season delayed the start of fieldwork, but 15 areas were surveyed, mainly remote tetrads. Five were on the Cape Wrath peninsula, accessed by ferry and minibus. Some interesting finds were, as ever, accidental.

- *Silene vulgaris* (Bladder Champion) was noted, new to Assynt, at Culkein Stoer.
- *Centaureum erythraea* (Common Centaury), is thriving in an old quarry at Little Assynt, and also turned up at Keoldale and Inshore.
- *Rumex longifolius* (Northern Dock) occurred beside a remote loch near Rhiconich.
- *Diphasiastrum alpinum* (Alpine Clubmoss) was found at 80m a.s.l. on the southern slopes of Quinag.
- An odd form of *Bellis perennis* (Daisy), with sterile heads, appeared on a garden wall at Nedd.

Many thanks for their help to: Gwen Richards; Bill Badger (Cam Loch islands); James Mather (Cape Wrath); Dr Jean Balfour (Calbha Beag).

Some Revisions in Taxonomy of *Salix* (Willows)

Leslie Tucker & Irina Belyaeva

Paraphrasing excerpts from Meikle's Handbook (1984): "*Salix cinerea* Linnaeus, 1753, (Grey Sallow) populates fenlands of south-eastern Britain as on the Continent, extending from Scandinavia eastwards to Siberia." Later, a western European type (Rusty Sallow) was distinguished: unfortunately, *S. oleifolia* Smith, 1804, was found to be an illegitimate, antedated, homonym, so "never wholeheartedly approved by British colleagues;" however, *S. atrocinerea* Brotero, 1804 also, gained acceptance on the continent, and occasional usage here, e.g. Buchanan White, 1891, and John Fraser, 1933.

Discussing appropriate Latin descriptives, Meikle agreed that: "some difference between pubescent-leaved 'ashy' cinerea and lustrous 'oily-leaved' *oleifolia* (rusty-haired 'dark' *atrocinerea*) cannot be denied;" however, following consideration of "the fact that the two have distinct geographical distributions and ecological preferences", his "conclusion that they are most satisfactorily ranked as subspecies" is unconvincing.

We advocate that they are confirmed at species rank and NOT demoted to subspecies.

Consequently, in naming their hybrids, not only such components but also some compound ×nothospecies epithets must be revised; e.g. *S. caprea* × *cinerea* = *S. ×reichardtii* A. Kerner, 1860, should mostly be refined to *S. atrocinerea* × *caprea* = *S. ×quercifolia* Sennen ex Goerz, 1927, as in neighbouring countries. The exhibit included additional examples, supporting specimens and texts.

Two Clubmosses to look out for (British Pteridological Society)

John Edgington

Huperzia selago (Fir Clubmoss) and *Lycopodium clavatum* (Stag's-horn Clubmoss) are familiar and fairly common plants of heathy hill country in Scotland. Atypical forms on arctic tundra in Scandinavia have been segregated as sub-species (*H. selago* ssp. *arctica*, *L. clavatum* ssp. *monostachyon*) or as a distinct species (*L. lagopus*). Plants with a morphology approaching these taxa have been found in the central highlands and elsewhere in Scotland, though their precise status is unresolved. Specimens will illustrate features that help to distinguish these from the types.

Scottish Snowbed Vegetation Monitoring Network

David Genney (Scottish Natural Heritage, Inverness, UK)

Gordon Rothero - Presenting

John Birks (University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway)

Chris Ellis (Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK)

Climate change scenarios for Scotland have estimated a decline in the mean snowfall rate of 65-80 % over montane areas generally by the 2080s (UKCP09). This poses a significant risk to Scotland's specialist snowbed vegetation. A multi-institutional partnership, funded by SNH, is delivering a Scottish Snowbed Vegetation Monitoring Network. The Network represents a commitment to the repeat monitoring of snowbed sites across Scotland's mountains, which includes training for a new generation of specialist field biologists. Resurvey data for a period spanning the late-1980s through to 2007/8 has demonstrated (i) a shift in the vegetation structure of Scotland's snowbeds, as well as (ii) a decline of key snowbed indicators, such as a statistically significant 13% fall in the frequency of the specialist liverwort *Moerckia blytii*. The snowbed data have been adopted as a biodiversity risk indicator for Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme, and inform our response to the vexed question, how does national conservation policy respond to a biodiversity threat and impact over which we have little direct control, such as global climate change?

Correlating hydro-mechanical properties of vegetated soil with leaf functional traits of UK native shrubs

D. Boldrin¹, A. K. Leung¹ and A. G. Bengough¹

¹*School of Science and Engineering, University of Dundee, Dundee, UK*

Vegetation has an important influence on slope hydrology and hence slope stability via plant transpiration. There is, however, little understanding of the hydro-mechanical properties of vegetated soil and their correlation with plant functional traits. This study aims to quantify the soil-plant-water relations of nine species and to identify relevant above-ground traits that correlate with hydro-mechanical properties of vegetated soil.

Nine UK native shrubs were chosen as experimental species. For each species, five replicates were planted in separated pots of sandy loam soil. Each planted pot was irrigated until the soil was saturated and then was left to transpire for 13 days. Induced suction, leaf conductance to water vapour and soil penetration resistance were recorded. After testing, some key leaf traits were determined.

Our study found substantial differences between native species water demand and hence a distinctive effect on soil hydrological reinforcement. Both suction and soil penetration resistance are revealed to be strongly correlated with the product of different leaf parameters.

Seed quality in large-scale production: The *Rhinanthus minor* L. case study

Maria Marin^{1,2}, Cándido Gálvez Ramirez³ and Giles Laverack¹

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Agricultural propagation of seed collected from wild populations is becoming a critical need to ensure our ability to re-vegetate with native seed in the future. Despite the increase in commercial production, in the EU, the trade of native seed remains largely unregulated. Most seed is not certified and is generally traded without germination or purity test results being available.

Germination tests of 22 commercially available seed lots of *Rhinanthus minor* (Yellow Rattle) revealed quality problems in a high proportion of the seed lots being sold in the EU market, with some lots being clearly unsuitable for sowing because of very low (or no) germination. Tetrazolium staining was positively correlated with seedling emergence and germination, providing a more convenient way of identifying low quality lots of *R. minor* in just 2 days. The final emergence of the lots was significantly correlated with the rates of germination in the laboratory tests and therefore differences in the mean germination time between seed lots of *R. minor* is the crucial factor determining emergence performance.

Plant Families Workshops 2015

Faith Anstey

Although four workshops were planned for 2015, we could only hold two in the end, owing to illness plus BSBI admin problems. Nevertheless, we had 41 participants at the workshops in Inverness and St Andrews, and had to turn away a number of applicants for Inverness. More students than in previous years were already BSBI members and one was a Norwegian associate professor of botany on sabbatical!

As before, the day's programme covered theoretical and practical classroom work and a short fieldwork session. A new feature was a half-day field meeting nearby immediately following

the workshop, which turned out to be a very popular addition. Apart from problems with the acoustics at the Inverness venue, the evaluations were again very enthusiastic about both the course itself and the expert help of the tutors.

The Pocket Guide to Wildflower Families – our field-friendly ringbound and weatherproof A6 booklet – was further improved, using only photos kindly offered by BSBI members and other well-wishers. Again our extra supply was soon exhausted by people outside the workshops, so next year we plan to publish the Guide officially and put it on the open market, providing copies for all who want them.

A Folk Flora: Appeal for Scottish Information

Roy Vickery

Work progresses on a *Folk Flora* which will cover the folklore and traditional uses of native, naturalised and cultivated plants in the British Isles, and will be the culmination of some 40 years of collecting. Information is sought on plants used in children's games, local plant-names, superstitions concerning plants, herbal remedies, wild plants collected for food, and any other topics which contributors think relevant. As it is planned to try and map the distribution of beliefs and practices in both time and space, all records are useful, regardless of how common these beliefs and practices are considered to be. See [Plant-Lore](#) for details. At present material dating from the early 1960s to the present is under represented, so memories relating to the past 50 years are particularly welcome. Please record your memories now, or send them to roy@plant-lore.com.

Royal Botanic Garden (RBGE) Herbarium

Elsbeth Haston

The Herbarium at RBGE holds an estimated 500,000 specimens from Britain and Ireland. These specimens include Algae, Fungi, Lichens, Bryophytes, Ferns, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms. Currently, about 80,000 of these have now been databased to some level and are available on our website <http://data.rbge.org.uk/herb/>. In addition, all our type specimens and over 18,000 specimens have also been imaged and these are available to download.

Recent projects involving the British and Irish collections have included:

- the reuration of the British Basidiomycetes
- the databasing and incorporating of a large number of Alan Fryday's important British montane lichen collections
- the databasing of a globally significant collection of all specimens of the lichen genus *Micarea*
- the digitisation of all British and Irish red algae
- the digitisation of a significant proportion of *Carex*
- the ongoing incorporation of Andrew Currie's herbarium
- the ongoing digitisation of the monocots
- the databasing, georeferencing and phenological scoring of specimens for a number of Scottish species

We are actively working with Herbaria@Home (<http://herbariaunited.org/atHome/>), submitting specimens that have been imaged but not yet fully databased. With the help of volunteers, the data on these specimens are being transcribed and made available.

Other Displays

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI)

Jim McIntosh

The BSBI is the leading organisation for amateur and professional botanists in Britain and Ireland.

- We promote the study of, and interest in, the British and Irish vascular plant flora
- We support and encourage, carry out and participate in research into the taxonomy, ecology, biogeography and conservation of our flora.

If you are not already a member of the BSBI - and would like to support our work – please join us! Pick up our membership leaflet and ask me, Jim McIntosh if you have any queries about joining. A range of leaflets, including the most recent BSBI Annual Review and BSBI News are available to take away; and recent issues of the New Journal of Botany and other recent BSBI publications can be perused. I would be pleased to supply promotional material to anyone who plans to go to events, such as conferences or workshops, this winter that potential new members might attend.

Check out the BSBI Scottish webpages on www.bsbi.org.uk

Botanical Society of Scotland (BSS)

Trudi Dorr

British Pteridological Society (BPS)

Bridget Laue

Plantlife Scotland

Jill Williams

Plant Identification Table

Douglas McKean & Angus Hannah

Two specimens were brought and identified: *Sorbaria sorbifolia*, determined by Douglas McKean & M. Braithwaite and *Carex muricata*. However another two specimens defeated the experts that were present: a Cotoneaster (brought by Alison Rutherford) and a possible Japanese grass brought by Ian Strachan. Also, experts could not agree on the identity of a *Fumaria* specimen. All three specimens will be sent to BSBI Referees.

Scottish Natural Heritage

Iain Macdonald

Reports and leaflets for interest: including “Beavers in Scotland - A Report to the Scottish Government”, “The Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations”, newsletters, and Species Action Framework chapters on both *Pyrola media* (Intermediate Wintergreen) and *Melampyrum sylvaticum* (Small cow-wheat).