

The Flora of Staffordshire, 2011.

Update No. 5 (October, 2015).

1. Additional Herbarium Records.

The online project [Herbaria@home](#) involves volunteers digitising the information from the herbarium sheets held by museums and universities. The results to date, relating to Staffordshire specimens, have been examined. Not all specimens were correctly identified by the original recorder. In particular the names applied to some *Rosa* and many *Rubus* specimens conflict with modern taxonomy. However, there are several important early records not included in this or earlier Floras. As a consequence, the previously thought earliest date for some taxa needs to be corrected; and a few significant later records need to be added. The resulting modified species accounts are given below.

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At the bottom left, add to the abbreviations used for herbaria:

BON Bolton Museum

SLBI South London Botanical Institute

Page 109

Equisetum hyemale L.

Rough Horsetail

2 (0) 1796 Native

Streamsides and ditches. It had not been recorded for the vice-county during the 20th Century until 1960, when it was collected by Dr Dobbie from a hedgerow at Bobbington, SO8090 (near to the county border), **BON**. Later seen in 1989, when RM found it on a streambank in Nash Elm Wood, SO7781. It remains at this site, and in 2003 it was reported by IJH to be present along a ditch and in adjacent marshy ground at Moddershall, SJ9237.

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Ranunculus penicillatus (Dumort.) Bab.

Stream Water-crowfoot

19 (2) 1876 Native

In rivers, streams and brooks. All but two of the recent records are mapped as *R. penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans* (Syme) S.D. Webster, which has only capillary leaves and prefers base-rich waters such as provided by the River Dove as it flows through the limestone district. The species was not distinguished from *R. peltatus* until the 1960s, although a specimen in a herbarium has been determined as ssp. *pseudofluitans*, and is the earliest record for the species: in the River Dove, SK15, Purchas, 1876, **BIRM**.

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Amaranthus albus L.

White Pigweed

1 (*1) 1935 Neophyte

Another wool, grain or bird-seen alien first found in the LMS railway goods yard, Burton, SK2523, RCLB, **BIRM**. The only recent record was from the market area, Wolverhampton, SO9098, CBW, 2005.

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The male only *Salix fragilis* var. *decipiens* (Hoffm.) W.D.J. Koch, White Welsh Willow was collected from a hedge near Codsall, SJ80, by Fraser, 1876, **BIRM**. Five other reports cover the period 1986-94. The most recent was for a few by the canal, near Wychnor Hall, SK1715, S. Potter. The year-old twigs are clay-coloured (not brown as with the other varieties).

Page 174

Salix x mollissima Hoffm. ex Elwert

Sharp-stipuled Willow

(*S. triandra* x *S. viminalis*)

1 (0) 1876 Archaeophyte

Copmere, SJ7929, AJL, 2005.

Nothovar. *hippohaifolia* (Thuill.) Wimm is closer to the *S. viminalis* parent. Found by the brook. Bilbrook, SJ8703 (as *S. x trevirani* Sprengl.), Fraser, 1881, **BIRM**; streamside, Mavesyn-Ridware, SK0816, Reader, **STO**, 1922.

Nothovar. *undulata* (Ehrh.) Wimm. is closer to *S. triandra*, with more serrate, more glabrous leaves. Painter (1892) mentions exhibiting this at a North Staffordshire Field Club meeting. In his 1897 list he gives it for Knypersley Pool. Trysull Mill, SO8594, Fraser, c. 1900. There is also a specimen in **MANCH**: Osier Bed, Serpentine Pool, Greenway Bank, c. SJ8955, Painter, 1889.

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Salix x rubra Huds.

Green-leaved Willow

(*S. purpurea* x *S. viminalis*)

3 1874 Native

The first record is a specimen collected by Fraser, from Bilbrook, SJ80, **SLBI**. Fraser was particularly interested in willow hybrids and this and many of his other records are in Bagnall (1901). Recognised twice in 1988: several at the base of a railway bank, Wallbrook, Coseley, SO9492, BRF; a single example on the edge of a pool on a playing field, Wombourne, SO8692, CBW. Confirmed still present at the latter of these sites in 2001. Also identified by CBW in 2001: mature trees in hedge by the towpath, Smestow, SO8691; roadside, Wombourne, SO8592.

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Salix x forbyana Sm.

Fine Osier

(*S. purpurea* x *S. viminalis* x *S. cinerea*)

3 (1) 1873 Native

First recorded from above Osier Bed, Bilbrook, SJ8703, Fraser, **BIRM**. Two on the S bank of Bourne Brook, Fazeley, SK2001, BRF & MAA, 1994; two, pool margin, Alder Moor, Rolleston, SK2226, BRF, 1995; towpath, Trent & Mersey Canal, Burton, SK2425, MES, det. RDM, 2002; Jackson's Marsh, SJ7829, MFG, A. Leak & AJL, 2004.

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Potentilla x mixta Nolte ex Rchb.

Hybrid Cinquefoil

(*P. anglica* x *P. reptans*)

and

(*P. erecta* x *P. reptans*)

71 (?) 1887 Native

By roadsides, in short grassland and in bare, grassy places. No attempt has been made, recently, to separate these two taxa. Edees did not keep precise records. A. Ley attached the second alternative citation to the earliest sighting: from a bank near the Izaak Walton hotel, SK1450, **BIRM**. However, there is a second sheet prepared by him from the same site and date that was later determined as having the other parentage.

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Rosa caesia Sm.

The aggregate is found in the usual habitats associated with the genus, but it particularly favours roadsides and disused railways. It has usually been possible to record at subspecific level, but there are nine tetrads in which only *R. caesia* s.l. has been reported. Both segregates are more frequent on the higher ground in the north of the county.

Ssp. caesia

Hairy Dog-rose

91 (?) c. 1863 Native

The first record was determined as a herbarium specimen from Ape's Tor, Alstonfield, SK1058, A. Bloxam, c. 1863, **SLBI**. Known to Edees as *R. coriifolia* Fr., but only recorded by him, as such, from a dozen places, mostly undated. The commoner ssp. on roadsides in the limestone area.

Ssp. vosagiaca (N.H.F. Desp.) D.H. Kent

Glaucous Dog-rose

66 (?) 1928 Native

First record: Blore, SK14, GCD, 1928, **SLBI**. This name is now generally accepted, rather than the ssp. *glauca* of Stace's *Flora*. Noted by Edees, as *R. afzeliana* Fr., at less than 20 sites, most without dates. The commoner ssp. on the highest ground and by roadsides across the moors.

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Lotus glaber Mill.

Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil

3 (0) c. 1872 Casual

First recorded from Hammerwich, SK00, P.B. Mason, **BON**. Eedes found it on waste ground at a power station, Meaford, SJ8836, 1985; IJH saw two plants on waste ground in Stoke, SJ8844, 2002 & 2003; APD & MES in a sandpit, Stourton, SO8684, 2007. Hundreds on open ground, near to site of now-demolished power station, Meaford, SJ8936, with 11 more on an old spoil heap, SJ8836, IJH, 2010.

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Ammi visnaga (L.) Lam.

Toothpick-plant

1 (*1) 1936 Casual

First recorded as a grain alien from waste ground, Burton, SK22, RCLB, **BIRM**.. Otherwise from bird seed in a Newcastle garden, SJ8343, JHT, 1970; and on the Sandwell RSPB Reserve, SK0392, MWP, 1996.

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Falcaria vulgaris Bernh.

Longleaf

(*1) 1937 Casual

A grain alien, Wetmore Road railway sidings, Burton, SK2524, RCLB, **BIRM**.

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Torilis arvensis (Huds.) Link

Spreading Hedge-parsley

1844 Archaeophyte

Said by Garner to be "not uncommon about Stafford and Burton", with reports from five other places. All of these are prior to about 1880. Otherwise, only: Tutbury Castle, SK2029, Painter, 1887, **ABS**. The *New Atlas* refers to this species of arable and waste ground as having shown one the most dramatically accelerating declines shown by any arable weed in Britain.

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Torilis nodosa (L.) Gaertn.

Knotted Hedge-parsley

(1) 1844 Native

A species of dry, open habitats, not seen in Staffordshire since 1938: Wetmore Road railway sidings, Burton, SK2524, RCLB, **BIRM**. It has declined, or been lost, from other inland counties, but it continues to do well in some coastal areas.

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Gilia achilleifolia Benth.

California Gilia

(*0) 1926 Casual

A rare taxon found at Burton, by GCD, det. A. Thellung. Waste ground, Burton, SK22, RCLB, 1936, **BIRM**.

Page 287

Scutellaria minor Huds.

Lesser Skullcap

2 (1) 1791 Native

Always rare in the county: much commoner in the south and west of Britain. Collected by Rev. Leicester Darwall, Walsall Wood, SK00, 1832, **K**. In the period 1970-1994 it was recorded from Stubbers Green, Walsall, SK0402, H.G. Owens, 1972; Nib Green, Arley, SO7579, SRP, 1984; the canal at Brownhills, SK0405, JPM, 1990; and Penn Common, SO8994 (where it was first seen in 1967), BRF, 1990. This is a plant of wet heaths and, in the absence of voucher material, some doubt must exist as to the true identity of the first and third of these records. Locally common in an acid woodland flush, N of Pound Green Common, SO7579, WAT and J. Bingham, 1999; and a small patch in a flush, by a ride on the common itself, SO7578, in the same year, WAT. The size of the latter colony had increased to more than 50, scattered along the edge of the ride for 90m, JEH, in 2006. There were dozens of plants in muddy ditches along the side of a forestry track, Seckley Wood, SO7678. IJH, 2009. Plants said to have occurred occasionally on the canal at Fradley Junction, SK1513, 1995 were probably *S. galericulata*.

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Mentha x smithiana R.A. Graham

Tall Mint

(*M. arvensis* x *M. aquatica* x *M. spicata*)

8 1878 Neophyte

First recorded by Fraser on the Bank of the River Severn below Arley Castle, SO78, **K**. Not seen again until it was found as a garden throw-out on waste ground, Smethwick, SP0189, by MWP. Thereafter seen by the sides of streams, canals and rivers; and, once, on the margin of allotments.

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Callitriche stagnalis Scop.

Common Water-starwort

323 (7) 1898 Native

The first record is as a herbarium specimen from Hawkesyard, Rugeley, SK0616, Reader, **K**. Not otherwise reported from the field until 1948. In shallow pools, at the edge of ditches, ponds, slow-moving streams and rivers; also, in rutted mud by such water bodies and in tracks, especially those in woodland. Recently, relatively well recorded as its habitats tend to be more accessible than some of those of the other species. However, it has probably been over-recorded where individuals may have occasionally recorded this taxon by default when encountering indeterminate or unidentified material. In particular, it may have been logged in error for the next taxon. There are nine reported instances where it was acknowledged not possible to distinguish between *C. stagnalis* and *C. platycarpa*.

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Callitriche platycarpa Kütz.

Various-leaved Water-starwort

26 (5) 1872 Native

First recorded from a pool near Alstonfield, SK15, A. Ley, **BIRM**. Not reported again until the 1950s. In similar places to the previous species, but possibly relatively more frequent in deeper water and less so in muddy habitats. It has probably been under-recorded when specimens were mis-identified as *C. stagnalis*.

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Callitriche hamulata Kütz. ex W.D.J. Koch

Intermediate Water-starwort

9 (6) 1879 Native

The earliest record is a herbarium specimen from near Warslow, SK05, Purchas, **K**. All other sightings commenced in 1944. In ponds and ditches. Probably relatively infrequent in central Britain.

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Plantago major ssp. *intermedia* (Gias frlib.) Lange, with differently shaped leaves and capsules containing more and smaller seeds has been seldom reported. The first record was from Knypersley Reservoir, SJ8955, Painter, 1888, **BIRM**. Recently, it was again seen on its margins; and also those of Rudyard, Tittesworth & Blithfield Reservoirs, SJ9361, SJ9959 & SK0623, IWB det. J.R. Akeroyd, all 1989. Additionally: brickyard ruins, Birchenwood Country Park, SJ8554, SB, 1999; low-lying track between spoil heap and woodland, Fauld, SK1828, BSBI Meeting, P.R. Green, 2003; on mud around shallow pool, N of Black Lake, SJ8539, IJH, 2005.

Page 295

Verbascum phlomoides L.

Orange Mullein

3 1944 Casual

First recorded from waste ground, Handsworth Park, SP05202, RCLB, **BIRM**. The only other records are from waste ground, West Bromwich, SK0091, BRF & MWP, 1991; in a disused border of the Swan Inn Car Park, Church Eaton, SK8417, 1995, BRF; field edge near sub-station, NW of Weston Jones, SJ7524, JEH, 2008; several in rough, waste ground, Gas Street, Uttoxeter, SK0934, RDMar, 2008.

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Erinus alpinus L.

Fairy Foxglove

1908 Neophyte

On a wall, Broughton Hall, SJ92, Philip Gay, **K**. On a tall, west-facing wall, Wolseley Hall, Colwich, SK0220, BRF, 1990.

Page 301

Sibthorpia europaea L.

Cornish Moneywort

1 2000 Neophyte

Established and frequent in a dozen lawns and on the edge of a few flower beds, Biddulph Grange Gardens, SJ8959, CBW. Still there in 2009, SRH. There is a specimen at **BIRM** from Alstonfield, SK15, A. Ley, 1884, but it was probably cultivated there from material collected from Devon or Cornwall.

Page 322

Lactuca serriola L.

Prickly Lettuce

436 (2) 1936 Archaeophyte

First recorded at Wetmore Road railway sidings, Burton, SK2524, J.E. Lousley, **SLBI**. Now on roadsides and waste ground and spreading rapidly northwards through the county. Apparently unrecorded between 1961 and 1984; seven appearances in the period 1984-1988; 14 from 1989-1993; 18 from 1994-1998; 226 from 1999-2003. Stems are usually whitish; rarely faintly reddish-tinged. It starts to flower two or three weeks after *L. virosa*.

Page 356

Eriophorum latifolium Hoppe

Broad-leaved Cottongrass

(0) 1844 Native

There have been no reports of this species of base-rich mires and wet meadows since the 19th Century. One of these is from Cannock Chase. SK01, P.B. Mason, c. 1872, **KEW**, but further checking of its identity is necessary. Records for Willoughbridge, and Chartley Moss, given by Garner, are uncertain in the absence of voucher material, but herbarium specimens exist from Penn Common, where Fraser found it in 1883 and 1884.

Page 359

Carex divulsa Stokes

Grey Sedge

7 (2) 1872 Native

Shaded hedge banks, scrubby slopes and roadsides. Although a frequent plant in southern England, Staffordshire lies on the north-western edge of the native range of this species and it probably has always been scarce here. The first report was from Beeston Tor, W.C. Barton, SK1054, **BM**. With the exception of this, a 2010 observation from the same Carboniferous limestone site at the foot of the Tor and a report from a roadside at Waterhouses dating back to 1954, all reliable records past and present are from the area of the former Needwood Forest in the east of the county. Our plants all seem to belong to **ssp. divulsa**, the more widespread of the two subspecies nationally.

Page 376

Bromus racemosus L.

Smooth Brome

3 (1) 1945 Casual

It is just possible that one or both of the recent records, by CBW, are the remnants of native populations: edges of brook, Longlands Park, Wombourne, SO8792, 1999 (where it was present in 1984); a good stand, unseeded corner of a wheat field, E. of Wombourne, SO8893, 2002. Also seen in the corner of a grassy area, Alrewas Hayes Farm, SK1314, MES & DW, 2004. There are some doubts as to the identity of a specimen from Astonfield, SK15, A. Ley, c. 1887, **BIRM**.

Page 383

Sparganium erectum ssp. *microcarpum* (Neuman) Domin

This has been recorded once during the present survey from the river at Burton-on-Trent, SK2524, JEH, 2003. The only other record was from Rudyard, SJ95, Painter, 1890, **SLBI**.

2. Addenda & Corrigenda.

Page 136

Fumaria capreolata In the 4th Update (page 2) it is incorrectly stated that the page number for this sp. is "135".

Page 165

Hypericum 'Hidcote' is given as a new record in the **4th Update**. Consequently, an account is required:

Hypericum 'Hidcote'

1 2010 Neophyte

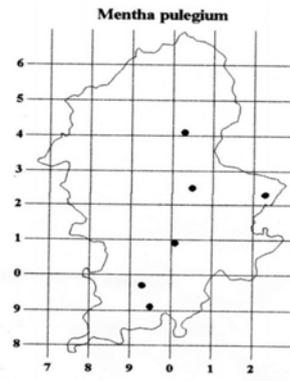
A sterile, shrubby cultivar of uncertain parentage. Only recorded from the grounds of Beacon View, Aldridge, SK0600, S. Phipps.

Page 198

Sedum telephium ssp. telephium The record for SK0165 is not included on the species map: it should be added.

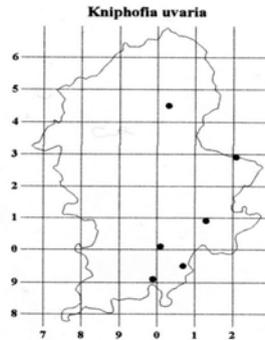
Page 290

Mentha pulegium A 6th record is given in the **4th Update**: Consequently a map is required:



Page 384

Kniphofia uvaria A 6th record is given in the **4th Update**. Consequently a map is required:



Page 412

Pinguicula vulgaris The index entry should be in bold type.

3. An Additional Note.

Page 384

Colchicum autumnale Ian Hopkins writes of a second-hand report of c. early- to mid-2000s that may perhaps relate to the Beaudesert Old Park record. A former student once saw him with flowers of *Crocus nudiflorus* in the Staffordshire University Ecology laboratory and told him that his mother, when out pony trekking, supposedly saw *Colchicum* in flower, once, at the margin of a wood in the Longdon area. He was quite certain she had said the flowers were pink and had checked the identity in a field guide, and that it definitely wasn't *Cyclamen hederifolium* as Ian initially suggested. Georges Hayes/Piggots Bottom borders a road used regularly by horse riders. Perhaps this was the place meant. Incidentally, though undoubtedly once a Staffordshire native, Ian has always wondered about that 1969 record. Did it represent an introduction too? (See *Symphytum tuberosum*, which is surely an introduction at both its sites in this vicinity.)