

Plant Records, 2013.

The *Flora of Staffordshire* dealt with records made up until the end of 2011. This short account is the second annual report listing some of the more interesting results of later fieldwork.

New records for VC39

Dates are 2013, unless stated otherwise.

Althaea officinalis: S.R. Hinsley spotted what appeared to be a first year seedling in a fenced-off area at the smaller of the Westport Lakes, SJ8549, in 2012. It matured during 2013.

Betula populifolia: no doubt planted; adjacent to footpath leading to River Trent, Stoke, SJ8744, I.J. Hopkins.

Cardamine corymbosa: on wet ground, on bare ground and in grass, Biddulph Grange Gardens, SJ8959, SRH.

Catapodium marinum: fifty or more plants in gateways and terraced house frontages (but not at the kerbside) scattered along Collis Street, Amblecote, SO9085, A.P. Daly, 2012. [Subsequently, a herbarium specimen from the furnace sand spoil tips E of Coneygre Industrial Estate, Burnt Tree Island (SO9591), M.W. Poulton, 2006, was confirmed as this species.]

Crocus x stellaris (*C. angustifolius* x *flavus*): planted but spreading on amenity grassland, SJ80V & SJ80W, P. Newton. [Material previously recorded as *C. flavus* may have been this taxon.]

Dryopteris x critica (*D. filix-mas* x *borreri*): Greatwood Farm, nr Croxton, SJ7731; E of Consall, SJ9948; Caldon Canal, SK0048; all M.F. Godfrey.

Fraxinus excelsior '*Diversifolia*': several, The Highlows, nr Yarnfield, SJ8633, IJH.

Geranium nodosum: a patch in rough grassland adjacent to a mown area bordering a shale path. Yarnfield, SJ8633, IJH.

Gleditsia triacanthos: one, by boundary of derelict property, NW Stourbridge, SO8959, APD.

Hypericum '*Hidcote*': thriving (apparently as a throw-out) on an earth spoil mound, Trentham, SJ8740, IJH [but an earlier record has recently come to light from the grounds of Beacon View, SK0600, S.M. Phipps, 2010].

Nemophila maculata: one, sandy bank off Dunsley Road, E of Kinver, SO8584, APD.

Sedum kamtschaticum: one, on pavement by fence of waste ground, Leys Road, Brierley Hill, SJ7547, APD.

Species seen again after a gap of several years

Carex elata: several fine tussocks in flower amongst wet carr vegetation, Loynton Moss, SJ7824, IJH. Last seen there in 1989.

Fumaria densiflora: many plants, disturbed earth bank, SJ8800, PN. The first VC record since 1971.

X Dactyloдения st-quintinii (*Gymnadenia borealis* x *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*): several, Ipstones Edge, SK0450, MFG. First VC record since 1993, **STO**.

New tetrads for rarer taxa

The following have been seen in a total of less than about seven tetrads, since 1994.

Amsinckia micrantha: seen independently at two places by footpaths near Aqualate Mere, SJ7820, R. Dawes & IJH.

Anacamptis morio (= *Orchis morio*): three plants, Derrington Meadow, SJ82W; from seed collected from the Kitchen Lane site three years earlier, S. Millett.

Brachyglottis x *jubar* (*Brachyglottis* '*Sunshine*'): one self-set, on bank, in car park, Ruskin Centre, NW Stourbridge, SO8985; well-established along several yards of canal bank, Brierley Hill, SO9086, 2012; both APD.

Brassica juncea: several over one m high, on disturbed ground at edge of a wheat field where two footpaths join, possibly originating from a previous year's fodder or green manure crop, Apeton, SJ8418, IJH.

Carex divulsa* ssp. *divulsa: two small plants at foot of low bank on E margin of Pound Green Coppice, Buttonoak, SO7578; a clump on a wooded bank above footpath, nr river, SO7679; both IJH.

Cynoglossum officinale: half a dozen flowering (with hundreds of seedlings), garden weed for three or four year, presumed originating as seed on clothing, E Stafford, SJ9323, J. Gale.

Dipsacus laciniatus: Cudmore Fishery, N of Whitmore, SJ8042, SRH.

***Dryopteris* x *complexa* (*D. affinis* x *filix-mas*)**: Dovedale Wood, SK1453, MFG.

Eleocharis quinqueflora: Drumble Meadow, nr Copmere, SJ8029, D. Cadman, conf. J.E. Hawksford.

Eranthis hyemalis: one, verge of track, under hedge, nr The Hyde, Kinver, SO8584, APD.

Euphorbia exigua: a dozen plants about the semi-bare margin of mown grass and a concreted area by a road, Woodseaves, SJ7925, IJH.

***Euphorbia stricta* (*E. serrulata*)**: four in sparse grass nr an earth spoil mound, Trentham, SJ8640; about a dozen smaller plants in gravel in nearby overspill car park, SJ8740, IJH.

Helianthus* x *laetiflorus: on a bank adjacent to a disturbed area where garden rubbish was previously dumped, off Grub Street, Woodseaves, SJ7825, IJH.

Helleborus foetidus: grass verge, NW of Burntwood, SK0311, D. Wall.

Hypericum hircinum: nr the restaurant, Cudmore Fishery, N of Whitmore, SJ8142, SRH.

Hypochaeris glabra: one robust plant, ground laid to plastic mesh with sandy (possibly imported) soil, W of main entrance, Russell's Hall Hospital, SO9289, M.E. Smith.

Impatiens parviflora: more than twenty on wooded bank above footpath nr river, SE of Upper Arley, SO7679, IJH.

Juncus gerardii: three large patches, each containing several hundreds of spikes, in "historical" saltmarsh, Tixall, SJ9823, V.R. Brooks, conf. JEH.

Kickxia elatine: a dozen or more, good surface of parking bay, Woodhouse Farm, E of Pound Green, SO7578, IJH.

Leucanthemella serotina: several shoots, some over one m high, road verge by a hedge, between Apeton & Allimore Green, SJ8519, IJH.

***Lotus tenuis* (= *L. glaber*)**: grassland, side of path by a pool, Silverdale, SJ8146, IJH; abundant, both in Dunsley Bank quarry, Stourton and nearby meadow, SO8684, APD.

Mauranthemum paludosum: bird-seed alien or garden escape, SW corner of Rudyard Reservoir, SJ9598, SRH.

Mentha pulegium: pool, Newpool Meadows, SJ8756, SRH, det. T.C.G. Rich.

***Narcissus* x *incomparabilis* (*N. poeticus* x *pseudonarcissus*)**: Wetley Moor, SJ94J, SRH.

Nemesia strumosa: pavement weed (probably from previous year's hanging baskets), Basford, SJ8546, SRH.

Persicaria minor: lowered margins of Rudyard Reservoir, SJ9459, SRH; SJ9360 & SJ9460, IJH.

Persicaria mitis: damp semi-clearing under trees, W of Rudyard Reservoir, SJ9360, SRH.

Petroselinum crispum: one by drain, Ruskin Art Centre grounds, Stourbridge NW, SO8985, APD.

Picea breweriana: planted by the River Stour at The Hyde, Kinver, SO8484, APD.

Pilosella flagellaris* ssp. *flagellaris: eastern slope of Whitfield Chatterley Country Park, SJ8852, SRH.

Pilosella praealta* ssp. *praealta: eastern slope of Whitfield Chatterley Country Park, SJ8852, SRH.

***Potentilla indica* (= *Duchesnea indica*)**: disturbed ground along a lane, Stoke, SJ8744, IJH.

***Prunus* x *fruticans* (*P. domestica* x *spinosa*)**: an overlooked taxon of hedges and scrub. Gunstone, SJ8604, S.R. Moore. Biddulph Grange Country Park, SJ8959; NW Leek, SJ9756; Hulme End, SK1058: all JEH. Dunstall, SJ9100, PN.

Prunus serrulata: several scattered planted street trees, SJ80V, PN.

Rosa virginiana: Sandwell Valley Country Park, SP0292, PN.

Salvia verbenaca: SE corner of grounds of Fradley Crematorium, SK1612, DW.

Securigera varia: Sandwell Valley Country Park, SP09G, PN.

Smyrniium olusatrum: along the base of an urban hedgebank, Wrinehill, SJ7547, SRH.

Tilia tomentosa: one mature, planted tree, Tettenhall Green, SJ8800, PN.

Weigela florida: shrub, by canal towpath, Kinver, SO8584, APD.

A selection of other observations concerning rarer taxa

SRH noticed that the water level at Rudyard Reservoir was lowered for several weeks, to permit repairs, during the autumn. He made a number of visits and he and others were able to record *Alopecurus aequalis*, *Limosella aquatica*, *Littorella uniflora* and *Lythrum portula* on the margins. All four are typical of such reservoir habitats in Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire. Where both *Limosella* and *Littorella* occurred, it was quite noticeable that the latter species was usually to be found at a higher position above the water level. *Rumex maritimus* and *Polygonum minus* were also present.

N. Aspey reported that he could trace very little *Potamogeton compressus* in the ornamental arm of the River Sow, in Shugborough Park, where thousands of plants were seen in 2000. IJH suspects, that for one reason, or another, aquatic species can decline as drastically as terrestrial ones: he couldn't find any *Hottonia palustris* in the wet ditches near Aqualate Meir, where it was present in some quantity in 2002. Ian also notes that there was no sign of *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* at The Million and that *Cirsium dissectum* has declined both at Poleworth and at Doley Common, although it continues to thrive at Allimore Green Common. He has other good news in that *Serratula tinctoria* appears to be flourishing at Poleworth.

JEH observed that *Minuartia verna* had a very good year in the Manifold Valley, where both *Rubus saxatile* and *Sagina nodosa* are still holding their own. *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* has increased in Biddulph Grange Country Park, particularly on the east side of the fishing lake.