

## PROFESSOR DAVID MORESBY MOORE PhD (1933 – 2013)

David Moore, best known to members as the M in CTM and as our helpful *Viola* referee, died on 29 June 2013. He was born at Barnard Castle on 26 July 1933, was educated at the school there and always retained a great fondness for Teesdale. He went to Durham University College in 1951, where he stayed on to do a PhD on the taxonomy of *Viola lactea* under David Valentine. His first job was with CSIRO at Canberra in Australia, where he spent two years, and then he went to the University of California at Los Angeles as a research fellow, working in particular on the genetics of *Clarkia* and other genera in the Onagraceae and making valuable friendships among American taxonomists and geneticists. In 1961 he moved to Leicester University as a lecturer in botany under Tom Tutin, and stayed there until 1968 when he moved to Reading University as Reader in Plant Taxonomy under Vernon Heywood, where he remained for the rest of his career, rising to a professorship in 1976. He taught influential courses on biosystematics and phytogeography, and ran the MSc course for many years. Among his PhD students were David Goyder, Nicholas Hind and Mark Watson. He and his wife Ida, whom he married in 1957, had two sons.

While at Leicester David took up the study of the South Atlantic flora, publishing *The Vascular Flora of the Falkland Islands* in 1968. (This was one of the chief inspirations for Cockburn's Law, formulated by his colleague Bill Cockburn, that "plant taxonomists tend to work on groups of plants or areas as far as possible from their normal place of employment".) Further work in this area enabled him to publish *The Vascular Flora of*

*Tierra del Fuego* in 1983, and he was heavily involved in the ambitious *La Transecta Botánica de la Patagonia Austral*, an east-west vegetation survey published in 1985. He joined the *Flora Europaea* editorial committee, and published the separate *Flora Europaea: Check-list and Chromosome Index* in 1982. He made several collecting trips to Spain with others. After the death of E. F. Warburg in 1966, Tutin co-opted him as the third author for ed. 3 of the *Flora of the British Isles* which appeared in 1987. Other major publications included *Plant Cytogenetics* in 1976, and *Current Concepts in Plant Taxonomy*, with V. H. Heywood, in 1984. He edited *Green Planet*, 1982, and *Plant Life and Garden Earth* in 1991.

David's publications concerning the British flora, apart from CTM, were on *Viola*: The experimental taxonomy of *Viola lactea* Sm. PhD thesis, University of Durham (1957); Population studies on *Viola lactea* Sm. and its wild hybrids, *Evolution* **13**: 318-332 (1959); Cytogenetic relationships of *Viola lactea* Sm. and other west European arosulate violets (with M. J. Harvey), *New Phytologist* **60**: 85-95 (1961); *Biological Flora of the British Isles. Viola lactea* Sm. (*V. lancifolia* Thore), *Journal of Ecology* **46**: 527-535 (1958); and *Viola lactea/V. canina* and *Viola lactea/V. riviniana* in Rich, T. C. G. & Jermy, A. C. (ed.), *Plant Crib 1998*: 115 (1998). His wide travels in Britain in connection with his PhD enabled him often to make especially enlightening and helpful first-hand comments on material he was sent for identification.

ARTHUR CHATER