

# DERBYSHIRE FLORA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

EDITED: ALAN WILLMOT (County Recorder)

Number 25 – WINTER 2015/2016

## 1. EDITORIAL

I have been having problems accessing my MapMate database recently so my records and data here will not be as full, up-to-date or as accurate as I would normally like. It also means I have not been able to enter all records given to me last year so details here will not give a complete picture of where we are with records for the 2020 Atlas. Hopefully I will be able to get back to using my MapMate database soon but in the meantime please be assured that no records have been lost; their entering onto the national database has been merely delayed.

I include in this newsletter the usual round up of interesting recent records, a plea for help in completing recording for the 2020 Atlas and details of the outdoor programme for 2016.

## 2. RECENT PLANT RECORDS vc57

As usual I include here a selection of the more interesting plant records I have received over the last year, mostly new county records or rediscoveries after many years.

***Abies concolor*** (White Fir) Brian Gough found a self-set seedling of this tree growing in a pavement crack in August 2015 at Shipley Common (SK4543). This is a new county record as a casual.

***Anacamptis pyramidalis*** (Pyramidal Orchid) This is generally a plant of limestone grassland but it was found in

2015 at Nutwood Reserve, Darley Abbey (SK3539) in some quantity.



***Anacamptis pyramidalis*** Darley Abbey July 2015 (P. Smith)

***Anthemis arvensis*** (Corn Chamomile) Graeme Coles found this on bare ground created by the re-siting of the southern car park at Poulter Country Park (SK5270) in July 2015. This is only the second site for this rare arable weed since 1987. (See over for picture).

***Atriplex littoralis*** (Grass-leaved Orache) I found this halophyte on the side of the A52 near Brailsford in July 2015. This illustrates the continued spread of seaside plants with the increased use of winter salt on roads.



***Anthemis arvensis*** Poulter Country Park July 2015 (G. Coles)

***Caspicum annum*** (Sweet Pepper) I found this new county record as a casual pavement weed in Bromley Street, Derby (SK3437) in September 2015. It was no doubt the result of vegetable gardening or discarded kitchen waste.

***Cerintho major*** (Honeywort) A second record for this rare garden escape was found between the football Stadium and velodrome at Pride Park, Derby (SK3735) by Roy Smith in 2015.

***Chenopodium glaucum*** (Oak-leaved Goosefoot) I found the third ever local record for this attractive weed in a farmyard at Pools Head (SK2540) near Brailsford in August 2015 whilst square bashing a generally uninspiring piece of countryside.



***Chenopodium glaucum*** Pools Head Aug. 2015 (A. Willmot)

***Clinopodium calamintha*** (Lesser Calamint) Brian Gough found this new county record as a casual garden throwout at West Hallam Cricket Ground (SK4240) in August 2015.

***Euonymus latifolius*** (Large-leaved Spindle) Claire and Mary Smith found this new county record in woodland at the side of St John's Road, Matlock (SK2959). They judged it to be a surviving Victorian planting which was not regenerating.

***Euphorbia exigua*** (Dwarf Spurge) I found this in plentiful quantity in an improved grassland field at Meynell



Langley (SK2940) in July 2015. Attempts had been made to increase the biodiversity of the field by disturbing the sward and sowing seeds of old grassland plants in 2014. Unfortunately none of the sown seeds had produced plants but the Dwarf Spurge had sprung up from buried seeds.

***Fritillaria meleagris*** (Fritillary) Richard Fenn Griffin found four plants of this exotic introduction flowering in Mickleover Meadows, Derby (SK3135) in April 2015. He thought it might be native but unfortunately I am sure it is not.

***Galanthus woronowii*** (Green Snowdrop) After the finding of Pleated Snowdrop last year in Pleasley Park, I started looking more closely at snowdrops. Thus when I found some rather large leaves of a snowdrop growing at Hartington Station Approach (SK1461), I sent a photo to Kew and Aaron Davies confirmed it as a first county record.

***Gymnadenia densiflora*** (Marsh Fragrant-orchid) I have always assumed with any real thought that the majority of our fragrant-orchids would be *Gymnadenia conopsea* (Chalk Fragrant-orchid). However, I recently had a record from a visiting orchid expert that suggested many of our plants will in fact turn out to be this species.

***Hirschfeldia incana*** (Hoary Mustard) We found one or two plants of this very rare casual along the Erewash Canal towpath (SK4839) on one of our Flora Group walks in July last year.

***Kickxia spuria*** (Round-leaved Fluellen) This is a close cousin of *Kickxia elatine* (Sharp-leaved Fluellen) which is a very rare weed of arable fields. One plant of it was found under a bird feeder in his garden (SK4053) by Roy Smith in August 2015. This is another new county record albeit only as a casual. I am sure

Roy will be watching to see if it reappears this year.



***Kickxia spuria*** Swanwick Aug. 2015 (R. Smith)

***Minuartia hybrida*** (Fine-leaved Sandwort) This is almost a mythical plant to me as I have written about this very rare annual of limestone dales but have never seen it or knowingly met anyone who has. However, Gareth Hirons found three plants of it in Dove Dale (SK1451) in May 2015, only the third record since 1987.

***Misopates orontium*** (Weasel's-snout) On the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust visit to Weleda (SK4246) in Heanor last August, I found this diminutive antirrhinum growing as a weed in their demonstration garden. It was also to be seen flowering in the nearby area

(SK4444) where they grow many of the plants and herbs they use in their beauty preparations. This was the first record since 1976 when it was discovered as a garden weed in Ashbourne.



**Misopates orontium** from the internet.

**Ophrys apifera** (Bee Orchid) This was found last summer growing almost abundantly on roadside grass verges at Pride Park, Derby (SK3735) opposite the football stadium. It was growing in rather short open grassland where competition was slight. I doubt it will survive long if the grass becomes more established and gets regularly mown.

**Sisymbrium loeselii** (False London-rocket) This was another very rare introduction found on our Flora Group meeting last July to the Erewash Canal towpath (SK4838) led by Brian Gough.

**Smyrniololus atrum** (Alexanders) This is a plant that I generally associate with the seaside so am always surprised to hear of records of it in Derbyshire. Ken Balkow found two plants of it flowering in Lathkill Dale close to

Conksbury Bridge (SK2165) in April 2015. More recently in December I found a plant of it growing under a bird feeder in the Peter Fidler Reserve in Carr Vale (SK4670).

**Sutera cordata** (Bacopa) I like many people grow this garden plant as a ground cover plant in pots and containers. I was not therefore surprised to find it growing in pavement cracks under hanging baskets outside the White Swan (SK3334) in Littleover in November 2015 with *Lobelia erinus* (Garden Lobelia).



**Sutera cordata** from the internet.

**Tradescantia virginiana** (Spiderwort) I think of Tradescantias as indoor plants but this one I now know is commonly grown outside. It was found by Graeme Coles in July 2015 growing in dumped soil on Green Lane, Hodthorpe (SK5476). This is another first for the county.

**Vicia tenuifolia** (Fine-leaved Vetch) This was previously only recorded from Breadsall Cutting where it was known



from 1979 until at least 1997 but it then disappeared. Last September it turned up in some considerable quantity growing over a large area of waste ground near Godkin Ponds (SK4347). I originally overlooked it for *Vicia cracca* (Tufted Vetch). However, its larger more colourful flowers eventually made me look more closely at it and I realised what it was.



*Vicia tenuifolia* from the internet.

### 3. PROGRESS WITH OUR FLORA PROJECT

The Flora project can be now said to be finished with the publication and launch of the book in May 2015. Thanks are due again to all those who helped in the production of the work and the University of Derby for hosting the launch. Around 650 copies of the book have been sold which leaves 350 copies. If anyone wants a copy of the Flora, I still have a few at the pre-publication price if you collect it from me otherwise you will have to buy at the full price from the publishers. Nick and I have given no thought to where the project might go from here, if anywhere. We will be discussing this in the New Year.

### 4. BSBI ATLAS 2022 PROJECT

	SE00	SE10				
SJ99 37	DM SK09 248	SK19 242				
SJ98 109	DB SK08 420	CMS SK18 601	SK28 387	SK38 336	SK48 80	
SJ97 37	CMS SK07 608	SK17 584	SK27 624	KB SK37 698	SK47 548	GC SK57 636
	SK06 249	CMS SK16 477	SK26 549	IW SK36 569	SK46 612	SK56 254
		GH SK15 362	CMS SK25 654	MH SK35 512	RS SK45 587	
		SK14 329	AW SK24 496	KH SK34 529	BG SK44 669	
	SK03	SK13 338	CH SK23 503	AW SK33 615	MS SK43 642	SK53 204
		SK12	SK22 378	SK32 531	SK42 163	
		SK11	NL SK21 372	SK31 176		

#### Number of Taxa Recorded in 2010 to 2019 for Each Hectad

Note that where a hectad has initials in it that square is being recorded by that person. 05.12.2015

Despite my recent hiccup with the entering of records into MapMate, the collection and processing of records has progressed well over the year and we

now have over 189,000 plant records on our current MapMate database. The vast majority of these are for the time period 2010 – 2019 which is data class 5 on the BSBI online national maps. How these relate to the number plants recorded per hectad in Derbyshire for the period 2010 – 2019 is shown on the associated diagram. Hectads that have been greyed in are those which are wholly or mainly in Derbyshire (vc57) and which are in some ways therefore our responsibilities. Discounting those hectads which people have agreed to record and taking 500 plants as a reasonable list for a hectad, this leaves only four hectads where I think we need to make an extra effort. These are:

**SK13** – Sudbury & Doveridge

**SK14** – Ashbourne, Norbury, Thorpe & parts of the Tissington Trail

**SK19** – Hope Forest & Howden Moors and

**SK22** – Egginton, Willington & Burton-on-Trent (East of Trent)

There is still scope for recording in all other hectads, particularly for the plants mentioned below, but it would be useful if people could make an effort to record in any of these four hectads.

The BSBI have carried a more detailed analysis of records based on tetrads not hectads and covering the full time period of the 2020 Atlas which is 2000 – 2019. This has indicated a few extra areas where a little more recording effort would be appreciated for vc57. These are mostly what I consider are minor hectads for us, which are ones not greyed out in the diagram. These are:

**SJ99** Tom Wood & Ludworth Moor

**SK06** Axe Edge, Earl Sterndale, Hollinhill & Chrome Hill

**SK11** Croxall

**SK26** Carlton Lees

**SK31** Smisby

and

**SK36** Ogston

Again it would be useful if people could make the effort to record the odd card in any of the areas indicated.

## 5. DIFFICULT & UNDER-RECORDED TAXA

The BSBI has recently published a booklet entitled “Notes on Identification Works and Some Difficult and Under-recorded Taxa”. This can be viewed on the BSBI website in the section concerning the 2020 Atlas. I find it a rather daunting work as it encourages all of us working for Atlas 2020 to record many subspecies and hybrids which I, and many others I am sure, have studiously ignored even if they knew of their existence. As county recorder I feel I ought to make some effort to start work on at least a few of these plants. I am therefore going to make an effort to record the ferns mentioned in the work more carefully plus subspecies of some of the more common species mentioned including:

*Cardamine pratensis*

*Potentilla erecta*

*Sonchus asper*

*Urtica dioica*

and

*Valeriana officinalis*.

Please continue to record these just as species if you do not feel up to tackling their subspecies. However, if you think you can begin to separate the subspecies here, I should be pleased to receive the records and pass them on.

## 6. OUTDOOR MEETINGS 2016

I have organised a series of outdoor meetings in Derbyshire on the same basis as previous years that is I have included some suggestions from others, some areas that need recording for BSBI schemes and some areas just to see interesting plants. I will circulate the details with this newsletter, though note that are the same as circulated earlier in my second corrected e-mail.

## 7. ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries concerning the Flora or the recording of higher plants in Derbyshire can be made to me at my address below. Enquiries about plant identifications should also be sent to me but please always include details of where and when specimens were found. I find photographs generally a better means of identification these days as they can be e-mailed to me and do not rot if specimens arrive when I am away.

Distribution maps and draft species accounts produced some years ago can still be viewed on the website of Derby City Council at [www.derby.gov.uk/flora](http://www.derby.gov.uk/flora) . Please note however that these are now many years out-of-date for many species. If you require more recent information, you can refer to our Flora of Derbyshire which was published last year by Pisces Publications.

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A. Willmot 18.01.2016.

**DERBYSHIRE FLORA GROUP****OUTDOOR  
MEETINGS****2016**

All meetings are held on Saturdays and start at 10.30 am. They generally last till around 4.30 pm. Carry lunch.

DATE	VENUE	MEETING PLACE	AIM OF MEETING	LEADER
April 9th	Lees Moor Wood	Meet Carlton Lees car park (SK259685) at south end of Chatsworth Park	To record SK26N & environs	A.Willmot
April 23rd	Woolley	Meet Ogston Reservoir car park (SK374604)	To record SK36Q & environs	A.Willmot
May 14th	Sudbury	Car park in Sudbury village (SK161321) N.B. Not National Trust car park	To record SK13K & Q	A.Willmot
June 18th	Mercston Marsh SSSI	Lay-bye on Mercaston Lane at (SK267434)	To visit probably the floristically richest lowland marsh in Derbyshire	T.Taylor
July 9th	Parsley Hey	Car park on High Peak Trail at SK146637	General limestone flora	Claire & Mary Smith
July 30th	Longdendale	Car park off A628 at head of Woodhead Reservoir (SK115998)	To record SK19E & environs	A.Willmot
August 20th	Thorpe	Car park on Tissington Trail at SK165503	To record SK14U & environs	A.Willmot
September 10th	Axe Edge	Old road off A53 at SK034697	To record SK06J & P	A.Willmot

Meetings organiser

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Any one interested in botany is welcome to come on these meetings but please contact the organiser if you have not attended one of the events before.

A.Willmot

Floravc57/Meets2016

18.01.2016