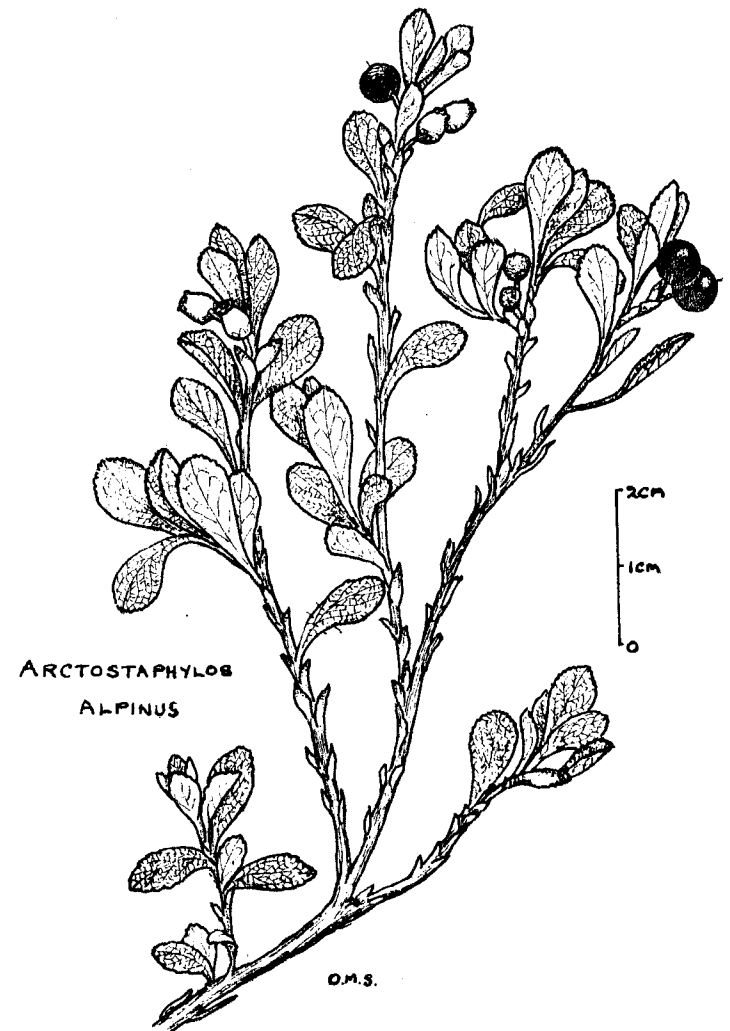


B.S.B.I.

SCOTTISH
NEWSLETTER

NO. 9 1988



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Cover Illustration - Arctostaphylos alpinus

by Olga Stewart

EDITORIAL

The Scottish News Letter was first issued in the Spring of 1979, some 18 months after the formation of the BSBI Committee for Scotland. In an Introductory Message, the then Chairman, Brian Brookes explained why it had come into being and expressed the hope that it would fulfil its intended purposes, the bringing together of those who wished help and those who were able to offer assistance; providing a forum for an exchange of views and information and the publishing of articles of particular interest to Scottish members.

This, therefore, is the tenth issue of the News Letter and as we look over the contents we believe that it is achieving its aim. In recent years there has been no shortage of submitted material and it is also encouraging for us when, as in the present issue, contributions are received from non-Scottish members.

Copies of the News Letter go automatically to BSBI members resident in Scotland. Subscribers outwith Scotland are asked to pay only for the postage, and they can assume that they are still in funds until they are informed to the contrary.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope that as many people as possible participated in the Monitoring Scheme last year. I wonder how many found, like I, that it was amazing what exciting plants turned up when one had to visit tetrads in what one had thought was going to be a pretty boring area. So it's a concentrated effort this year to ensure that each tetrad has had at least one thorough visit over the two years. Anyone who has not yet got involved in the scheme and feels able to help (even an hour or two would be useful) please get in touch with your vicie-county recorder who will be able to tell you which are the targeted squares. On a related subject I was heartened to see how many VC's had acheived or were progressing towards a flora (Watsonia 17, 81 -89. 1988). Any offers of help towards these projects would be very much welcomed by recorders.

I was very sorry to miss seeing so many friends at the Exhibition Meeting in Edinburgh, due to illness. I gather it was a very good meeting, as was the National Recorders Conference which we hosted last year at Jordanhill College, Glasgow.

Last year saw several initiatives progressing on the conservation front. CABS (Conservation Association of Botanical Societies), and particularly their Conservation Officer Nick Stewart, did a lot of hard work including producing Plant Press which you should all have received. Our Committee has also been active in the conservation field, notably in connection with the proposed development of chalets on Islay and a golf course at Portsoy, Banffshire. We have also been invited to join Scottish Wildlife Link, a liason group of Scottish based voluntary conservation bodies which aims to co-ordinate reaction to various issues such as afforestation and planning matters. Mike Scott is our representative on Scottish Wildlife Link.

Let's hope this year will be an improvement on last, weather-wise, giving us all the chance to do lots of recording. I wish everyone an enjoyable and productive field season.

ROSALIND SMITH

SKYE WASN'T THE LIMIT

TIM RICH

After the Glasgow Recorders Conference a party set off to help with Monitoring Scheme recording in the more remote parts of north-west Scotland. However the first stop was on Loch Lomond-side to pay respects to Rumex aquaticus.

On the first Monday, Larch Garrad and Allan Stirling worked Loch Arkaig shore while Trevor Evans, Vera Gordon Henry Noltie, Alf Slack, Agnes Walker and I ascended Glen Cia-aig to bash tetrad W. Alf, Vera and Agnes covered the east side of the valley, turning up Tofieldia and other 'goodies' in what appeared to be unpromising country. Having found Rubus saxatilis and Melica nutans I predicted the presence of Populus tremula (you either get one alone or all three together in Lake District gullies) which Henry duly spotted at the top close to a couple of patches of Arctostaphylos.

We would not have been an hour late returning to the

cars if a shady gully with Asplenium viride had not side-streamed us on the way down. While waiting, Allan had found Festuca altissima by the waterfall beside the car park.

Tuesday's original programme being abandoned due to deer stalking, Rorippa islandica (the real thing) was on the menu at 'Alf's Pond' at Port Appin. Two additional delicacies there were Polygonum minus and Juncus foliosus. In the afternoon we scaled some crags in Glen Nevis which produced among others Luzula spicata, Coeloglossum and Carex pulicaris doing a very good impression of C. rupestris.

Wednesday morning saw the departure of Trevor and Vera to Ardnamurchan to record in another square. Larch and I were greeted in tetrad A of the Loch Alsh square by weather practising for winter. The conditions were pretty desperate, as was the botanising Poa annua, Bellis perennis, Festuca rubra suddenly there was an improvement in both. Larch found Zostera marina washed up on the beach, then Atriplex praecox on the shingle. Soon we had Saxifraga oppositifolia on a dripping cliff. Given the local climate, the 20m altitude was irrelevant. Carex laevigata and Arabis hirsuta were nice extras. Inspired, we went on to the Letterfearn tetrad W until dusk, but the best find of the evening was the Robin's nest at Dornie.

Thursday morning was bright and clear so we recorded in tetrad J above Balmacara. Larch did the lochs and I did the cliffs above. A waterfall produced Melica nutans and Rubus saxatilis without aspen! The most peculiar find (miles from the nearest record) was Ulex gallii; we double checked it next morning! The afternoon was spent on Skye. We found Cardaminopsis in flower, Saxifraga oppositifolia and Silene acaulis on shingle at only 5m altitude. If anyone can explain why we got Triglochin maritima beside the stream and T. palustris on the shingle I'd like to know! My lasting impression of Skye however was that all the selected tetrads seem vertical.

On Friday we went to upper Loch Torridon and were joined by Peter Clough, Stewart Keenan and Bess. Larch did the coast and found Ruppia and Saxifraga x urbium. The rest of the party assaulted the north face of Bèinn Damh. The acidic Torridonian sandstone yielded Vaccinium uliginosum, Lycopodium annotinum and Salix x cernua, but with under 40

species for tetrad W on the way up, the waterfall was a 'must' on the way down however steep it looked. We found a patch of Orthilia (someone is going to have fun re-finding that in ten years time!). The gorge produced enough extras, including Populus without Rubus or Melica, for us to declare at 150.

The weather on Saturday morning matched the countryside around Achnasheen - bleak and uninviting. I regretted having promised Archie Kenneth I'd do the bits of Moruisg he'd not done in July. During a gap in the rain I dashed up. As I ate lunch sitting next to Gnaphalium supinum under a blue sky and having also seen Saussurea I was really glad I had kept my promise. Unfortunately the weather did not hold and we got wet again doing tetrad J in the afternoon.

On Sunday we went off to Strathpeffer for a day recording with Sandra and James Hogg, and on the Monday, Larch now having headed for home, I was joined again at Inverewe by Peter and Stuart, James Fenton and Neale Taylor. Aided by their local knowledge we quickly found Utricularias and Pinguicula lusitanica. Cyperaceae abounded, with Cladium, Eriophorum latifolium and, best of the lot, Rhychospora fusca.

The following morning Neale and I swept Loch Broom-side for plants. Tetrad W produced a pleasing 225 in the morning. Later we went to do the boring looking blanket bog tetrad J. We were however delighted with Arctostaphylos alpinus mixed with Salix herbacea on the summit heaths.

On Wednesday we stopped for Arenaria norvegica at Inchnadamph before going on to Scourie. The weather looked perfect for a trip to Handa - the highlight of the tour. I was really excited about this, having looked forward to it for months, however as we bog-trotted in tetrad W (three Utricularias) the weather began to deteriorate once again.

Next morning we did not need to look outside - we could hear the weather. We sat disappointed on the slipway watching the waves - Handa, sadly, was out of reach!

LOTHIANS FLORA CHECKLISTS

DOUGLAS MCKEAN

The last Flora of the Lothians was written by Martin in

1934 and included East, Mid and West Lothian. The new checklists of Jackson and Silverside, McKean, and Muscott are therefore overdue and will be published shortly. Those of East and Midlothian by Jackson and Silverside and McKean respectively will appear in 1988 and Miss Muscott's West Lothian Checklist is at present being compiled. The East and Midlothian lists are fairly similar in presentation, size and content with habitat, frequency, latin and common names being given as well as a selection of localities. The nomenclature and sequence follow C.T.W's Excursion Flora of the British Isles, 3rd ed.(1981). The E. Lothian Checklist has slightly less than 60 pages and that of Midlothian has 64 pages. The slight difference in size is due to a small appendix of the once important, but now largely extinct, aliens of Midlothian. The three checklists together, when complete, should form a good basis for the Botany of the Lothians which is scheduled for the 1990's. They are based substantially on the BSBI records of Miss E.P. Beattie but were initiated by the BSE as a precursor to its Botany of the Lothians. The BSE will publish these checklists at a cost of £2.50 each (plus 50p postage & packing) with a reduced price for Lothians recorders. Contact Miss J. Muscott, 69 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh EH9 1ES around end of April 1988.

ABERDEENSHIRE BRAMBLES

DAVID WELCH

Aberdeenshire has relatively few species of bramble compared to areas of similar size further south in Britain. However the decline northwards along the east coast of Scotland is not so clear-cut as George Ballantyne implies in his interesting article in Newsletter No.9; indeed, 13 bramble species are currently known in Buchan (the NE part of Aberdeenshire), and it is in South Aberdeen (VC 92) that the brambles seem least diverse. Here R. mucronulatus achieves its most definite monopoly.

In North Aberdeen (VC 93) furvicolor and septentrionalis are probably the most common species, often forming extensive stands in woodland. R. mucronulatus is dominant around Inverurie and Old Meldrum, but much less frequent further north. The delicate and even tooting of the leaves aids identification of furvicolor, septentrionalis being more coarsely toothed and having stronger stem prickles. The combination of leaf shape (see cover of Newsletter No.9)

and hairy anthers distinguishes mucronulatus.

The bramble flora of North Aberdeen appears to have changed little over the past 90 years. Trail, in his 1904 Flora of Buchan, lists nine species and, although we cannot be sure of the modern equivalents of some of them, melanoxylon (= furvicolor) is reported as being 'one of the commonest brambles in Buchan', and radula is said to occur in ravines at Aberdour and Gamrie. This species is still well established in the Tore of Troup. Trail states that mucronatus (= mucronulatus) 'is common in most parishes near Aberdeen in marked contrast to its scarcity in Buchan'.

It is fascinating to speculate on what controls the distribution of brambles. Exposure is certainly important but does not seem to be the sole factor. Thus in the five-mile strip of low ground along the coast from Fraserburgh to Peterhead echinatoides, furvicolor, latifolius, mucronulatus, raduloides and septentrionalis all thrive despite the lack of topographic shelter. The rarity of brambles above 200m altitude further inland irrespective of position suggests some effect of temperature or frost.

These notes could not have been written without the expertise and diligence of Alan Newton, the BSBI Rubus referee, in naming my specimens. Hopefully more people will take up the study of brambles in Scotland - we have enough species for batology to be interesting, not so many that it is daunting.

FESTUCA ARUNDINACEA var. STRICTIOR

P.J.O. TRIST

Can I enlist the help of readers of the Scottish Newsletter? I am interested in the above grass variety which may be an overlooked taxon.

The var. arundinacea is a tall strong grass of lowland road verges, wet pastures and loch shores. I suspect that var. strictior may be found at similar altitude around loch shores and roadside ditches.

Var. strictior (Hack.) K.Richt is almost half the height of var. arundinacea and smaller in all its parts. It is erect, as its name implies. The following are some measurements and comparison of arundinacea (values for the latter in brackets)

Height cm. 90 - 110 (- 180); length of culm blades cm. 3 - 16 (10 - 60); width of blades mm 2.5 - 6 (3 - 12); length of panicles cm. 16 - 22 (10 - 50); lemma mm 5.5 - 7 (6 - 9) and spikelet mm 7 - 12 (10 - 18).

I have only seen a dozen plants of this variety from which I have taken these measurements. So far I have only been able to trace one set of records, in McCallum Webster's Flora of Moray, Nairn & East Inverness (1978). In her excellent flora she has two sites, 'on the banks of the River Spey at Dandaleith' and on 'newly sown verges at the Cluanie Dam in Glen Moriston', both 1974 in Herb. (E). My own single field record is from the margin of Loch Watston, near Doune, West Perthshire (1987), where it appeared that the roots would be frequently submerged in winter.

I enquire, have any readers any observations on var. strictior, particularly as to habitat and location? Perhaps someone may have seen a small specimen of Festuca arundinacea in a herbarium folder. Any information to:-

P.J.O. Trist, Glovers, 28 Balsham, Cambridge CB1 6DJ

MONITORING SCHEME - PRIORITIES FOR 1988 H.J. NOLTIE

The accompanying map shows the 10 km squares and tetrads from which no records have been received for 1987. Some are marginal squares (e.g. Flannan Isles) and others have been recorded but the records not yet submitted (e.g. Angus).

As a result of detailed analysis of the 1987 data Tim Rich has told me that the following Scottish VC's are 'relatively underrecorded' :-

74 Wigtown	102 Islay & Jura
75 Ayr	105 Wester Ross
77 Lanark	106 Easter Ross
83 Midlothian	107 E. Sutherland
85 Fife & Kinross	108 W. Sutherland
86 Stirling	109 Caithness
91 Kincardine	110 Outer Hebrides
92 S. Aberdeen	111 Orkney
95 Moray	112 Shetland

Please bear this information in mind when you are planning trips or holidays this coming summer - you may be able to give valuable help to recorders in difficult areas. Remember, this is the last field season for the monitoring scheme and we want to show the southerners that there is botanical activity north of the Border! Thanks, and good recording.

AGROSTIS SCABRA IN GLASGOW

P. MACPHERSON &
A.McG. STIRLING

Agrostis scabra (Rough Bent-grass) is a native of North America. The specific name relates to the scabridity of the leaves, though this can only be seen at x 100 magnification. It is perennial but in Britain often behaves as an annual.

The earliest British records are from Fersit, Westernness in 1896; Finchley, Middlesex in 1910 and Avonmouth Docks, W. Gloucester in 1928. (Phillipson, 1937).

Our first Glasgow record was in 1973 from the roadside beside the Meadowside Dock (VC 77). Since then the plant has been seen regularly by us, and we have records also from J.H. Dickson, A.J. Silverside and C. Tavendale. In all, the grass has occurred in nine 1 km squares both north and south of the river. The sites have all been close, or fairly close to the river, the furthest off being just over a mile away. Habitats have included river wall, dock land, waste ground, roadside and along railway tracks.

Colonies have ranged from one plant to at least a hundred. As examples, in 1987 a single plant was seen at a roadside, three on waste ground, 50 between railway lines and over 100 on the river wall in an area which will be a car park for the 1988 National Garden Festival.

Phillipson, W.R. 1937. Journ. Linn. Soc. (Botany), 51, 103.

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT - ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF VERY RARE PLANTS

The following rare Scottish species have been recommended by the NCC for addition to Schedule 8 as meriting special protection :-

Arabis alpina	Erigeron borealis
Ononis reclinata	Crassula aquatica
Homogyne alpina	

No species have been recommended for removal from the Schedule.

TETRAD TRIBULATIONS

G.H. BALLANTYNE

Last July 31st I thought that for me monitoring in 1987 was going to be virtually a complete write-off. By that date I'd been suffering from a debilitating illness (the post-viral fatigue syndrome or M.E.) for nine months, and visits to my main square NO 30, luckily only ten miles away, could be counted on one hand. However, three weeks holiday brought a slight improvement and during August, September and October I managed to potter about in two of the tetrads (and in odd parts of the square) on sufficient occasions to do them justice. This meant however that the other tetrad in that square plus my other two in VC 85 (Fife and Kinross) were blank.

Some interesting points emerged from concentrating on a tetrad (2 x 2 km) rather than a quadrant (5 x 5 km). Seemingly unpromising nooks and corners proved surprisingly rewarding and I was taken aback by the number of new records I got from both quadrants and square. Prior to 1987 I had chalked up nearly 500 taxa (as against half of that figure in the Atlas). By November I had reached 475 - but as about 75 of these were new I am still missing some 100. The number of new taxa was certainly swollen by paying more attention to micro-species and hybrids. The three commonest Rumex in Fife are obtusifolius, crispus and longifolius, and the three hybrids involving these species usually occur where they grow together, as I found on an old dump. As a bonus I found at last, nearby, satisfactory plants of obtusifolius x sanguineus (an NCR). A few Salix and Epilobium hybrids were also detected. It was Rubus which surprised me most however. Of the 30 VC 85 species six had previously been seen in NO 30, but I ended up with 15 (there was another less than 100 yards from the square boundary!), plus R. spectabilis which abounded in an old estate. This area also yielded an

unexpected find - Mimulus moschatus which I'd known previously only as a fairly obviously (and rare) planting, but here it was quite at home on and by a damp forest track. Another rare escape was Rosa arvensis. Hawkweeds were few and, unlike brambles, I can't make much of dandelions, so 'Taraxacum agg.' had to suffice.

On the question of introductions I confess not to have looked closely at the new blue field card until I came to fill it in (I prefer the old SWT version outdoors), so it was not until the end of October that I realised there are now 14 more conifers listed, and I must say I am puzzled by the inclusion of some of these. In my experience few are found self-sown, or if so, only in the immediate vicinity of the parent. The same applies to the two chestnuts, the poplars, hornbeam and lime. They certainly seem to come into the category of 'obviously cultivated' and therefore excluded according to the Instructions. However, as they are on the card I went to one of the few former private grounds within the square, which happened to be in tetrad W, and duly added half a dozen; but I also found a cedar, the two sequoias and some frequently occurring hardwoods such as cherry laurel and turkey oak - why are they not on the card? To my mind they are equally deserving of inclusion (or exclusion). If exotic conifers are to be included, would they not be better in a separate list, like the ferns?

Owing to the fact that my visits were limited to an hour or so at a time, I did not fill in the route taken or habitat details, but even if I'd been fit enough to do longer spells I think I would have been rather irked by the extra work involved, especially the habitats. Not that I don't believe outlining one's route to be a good thing, for I delight in refinding a plant where it was seen a century or more ago. On the other hand it can be fun to be involved in a bit of detective work where the exact station has not been given in the old literature or herbaria. I've spent quite a few happy hours (and some frustrating ones, it must be admitted) pondering over imprecise localities.

Health permitting, I hope this year to tackle my other three tetrads and also do a bit in their parent squares, but, having little help to call upon, it may turn out to be something of a tribulation. As I advocated at the 1986 Exhibition Meeting - long before I realised how long my

illness was going to last - three years to complete the field work would have been ideal.

PLANTAGO MAJOR SUBSP. INTERMEDIA

OLGA STEWART

In 1986 a specimen of Plantago major was collected in a Phragmites marsh on the shore at Port Mary, VC 73. It was yellowish green in colour, softly hairy, with only three veins per leaf. The seed capsules had between 10 and 13 seeds each.

Flora Europaea gives the following key for the three sub-species - subsp. major, subsp. winteri and subsp. intermedia.

1 Leaves 5- to 9-veined, ± cordate at base, thick, dark green, glabrescent; spikes narrowed above; (4-)6-10(-13) subsp. major

1 Leaves 3- to 5-veined, gradually narrowed into petiole, usually thin, yellowish green, usually puberulent; spikes cylindrical; seeds 8 - 34

2 Seeds 8 - 11 subsp. winteri

2 Seeds 14 - 34 subsp. intermedia

Judging from seed numbers, this would place my plant within the range of subsp. winteri rather than subsp. intermedia, but winteri is a taxon of saline habitats in Central and N.E. Europe, while intermedia is found in damp, especially saline habitats in most of Europe.

In 1987 I collected a Plantago in the same 10 km square; it was by a coastal track and was very similar in appearance to the Port Mary plant. There were 11 - 13 seeds per capsule.

Have other members found similar plants in this kind of habitat?

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Professor D.M. Henderson (Recorder VC 105)
now Inverewe House, POOLEWE, Ross & Cromarty IV22 2LQ

Mr P.S. Lusby (Recorder VC 106)
now Coreen, Stichill, KELSO, Roxburghshire TD5 7TA

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ONE

Alison Rutherford's article under the above title (in Newsletter No.9) has produced the following comment from the wife of a Scottish member :-

" It still wouldn't work! I've got one - a Study, Desk, Shelves, Cabinet, Drawers.

And in another part of the house He's got one - A Library, Desk, Lotsa Shelves, Boxes, Cupboards, Drawers Etc, Etc.

Chaos can happen! mainly because fings get dumped and just deposited in the 'kitchen' - and why not?

SCOTTISH EXHIBITION MEETING 1986

This was held in the Department of Botany, University of Glasgow on 1 November 1986. As usual, the standard of the exhibits was extremely high.

Hybrid Orchids at Dumbrock Loch, W. Stirlingshire

Mrs C. Dickson & T.N. Tait. Seven wild orchid species occur at this site, also the following hybrids :-

Dactylorhiza fuchsii x Gymnadenia conopsea, D. purpurella x D. maculata subsp. ericitorum and D. fuchsii x D. maculata subsp. ericitorum.

A further discovery of Elatine hydropiper in Scotland - G. Steven. The species has now been found at Bardowie Loch, W. Stirlingshire, bringing the number of known sites in Scotland to nine.

Unusual plants of disused railways - K. Watson

A display of plants including Trisetum flavescens, Atropa belladonna, Potentilla norvegica and Saponaria officinalis.

Flora of Glasgow Project - Plants of the Carmyle area - Dr A. Walker. A display providing information on plants recorded from the area in older floras, many having been refound during the project. Species on display included Elodea nuttallii and Allium paradoxum.

Some Scottish Willows - Dr A. Walker.

A selection of willows was on display, including Salix alba, S. phyllicifolia, S. aurita, S. myrsinites, S. repens and

S. daphnoides, the latter showing the typical white bloom.

Limosella aquatica on the banks of the Clyde - J.R. Lyth
This species, found during the Flora of Glasgow Project, is new for VC 77 and only the third record for the Clyde area.

Juncus subulatus at Grangemouth - Olga Stewart
Reporting the doubling in size of the colony of this Mediterranean plant since it was first found in 1983 (see also Scottish Newsletter No.9, 12 (1987)).

The spread of Artemisia stelleriana on the Solway - Olga Stewart.
Reporting the spread of this plant on the Solway. Two new discoveries have been made in Kirkcudbrightshire VC 73, and two in Cumbria.

New Records from Kirkcudbrightshire - Olga Stewart
A selection of new records from VC 73 including second VC records for Pilularia and Dryopteris expansa, and a first record of Plantago major subsp. intermedia. Paintings of plants seen in 1986 were also on display.

Aquatic Hyphomycete Flora of some Lothian burns
C. McIntosh, A. Browne & A.E. Cautton
A study comparing the microfungi which decompose submerged vegetation in the Rivers North Esk and South Esk.

Hawkweeds in Sutherland 1985 and Galloway 1986 - The Hieracium Study Group.
A selection of the best finds from these two field meetings.

Diphasiastrum x issleri in West Sutherland - A.McG. Stirling
Specimens were displayed from Canisp, W. Sutherland, first found there by A.G. Kenneth. Attention was also drawn to other Scottish records.

Galeobdolon argentatum and other Yellow Archangels in Scotland - A. Rutherford & A.McG. Stirling.
Herbarium and living material of G. argentatum and G. luteum subsp. montanum was shown. G. argentatum Smejkal is a recently described introduced species frequently confused with variegated forms of the native plant. Maps showing the known Scottish distribution of both taxa were displayed.

Studies in Arable Weeds in the Borders - M. Braithwaite
This exhibit resulted from work in connection with the Arable Weed Project. Species located included Lamium hybridum, L. molucellifolium and L. amplexicaule also the Fumarias micrantha and purpurea. Dot maps showed distribution in the Borders area.

Recent Introductions to Lanarkshire - P. Macpherson
Specimens on display included Montia parviflora, Barbarea stricta, Carex vulpinoidea and Bunias orientalis. Also shown was a Rumex thought to be palustris or maritima, with a request for comments on its identity.

New Checklist for Selkirk and Roxburgh - Dr R.W.M. Corner
This new publication 'Flowering Plants of Selkirkshire & Roxburghshire' was available for purchase by BSBI members.

Plant Records for Selkirk and Roxburgh - Dr R.W.M. Corner
The exhibit included new county records for Montia fontana subsp. chondrosperma, Agrostis gigantea and Viola canina x riviniana and second records for Callitriche hermaphroditica and Carex riparia. Cardamine impatiens had also been found.

Plant Records from Northern Scotland - J.K. Butler
A number of specimens were shown including Veronica montana, Cicerbita macrophylla and Lycopodium annotinum.

Original Wild Flower Paintings and Botanical Studies
- Sally Jones
A number of beautiful and finely detailed water colours were displayed. Sally Jones working from Burnbank House, Penpont, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, takes commissions for these works of art.

BSBI Monitoring Scheme - Tim Rich
A display explaining the Scheme and inviting all BSBI members to participate.

Botanical Society of Edinburgh
A display celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the BSE, and illustrating the founding and progress of the Society.

Recording the Flora of Glasgow - Dr J.H. Dickson
An exhibit showing the number of plant records collected for each of the tetrad squares of the recording area covered by the project.

This display included a number of very large living specimens of Canary Island endemics and advertised a tour of Gran Canaria.

SCOTTISH EXHIBITION MEETING - 1987

This meeting was held at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh on 7 November 1987. A meeting of Scottish recorders was held in the morning, when the main topic was the Monitoring Scheme. It was reassuring to know that Scottish tetrads are being visited despite difficulties.

The AGM was held in the afternoon, followed by a short Committee meeting. In the absence of the Chairman, who was indisposed, the Vice-Chairman, Allan Stirling, presided. Members were informed that insurance for field meetings had been negotiated, but that this did not preclude the necessity for personal accident insurance for instances where no-one was to blame. The 1988 Scottish field meetings would all be associated with the Monitoring Scheme.

The afternoon talk was given by David Mardon, warden at Ben Lawers, whose interesting comparison between the flora of the Norwegian mountains and that of our Scottish Hills was skillfully illustrated by colour slides.

The day's programme was concluded with a buffet supper followed by the showing of members' slides.

Exhibits

Computer demonstration : Random access programs for identifying Sedges and Hawkweeds. J. Bevan & C.J. Legg.

Display : BSBI Monitoring Scheme in Berwickshire, showing new sites of interest. M. Braithwaite.

Pollen spectra of the faeces of selected herbivores.
E. Caulton

Plant records from Roxburgh and Selkirk. Dr R.W.M. Corner

Epipactis youngiana (?) in Scotland (on a Glasgow bing).
Dr J.H. Dickson

Flora of Glasgow discoveries. Dr J.H. Dickson.

Photographs of plants of Blair Atholl. J. Ford.

Some Cumbrian hawkweeds and other finds. Dr G. Halliday.

Scottish Dandelions. C.C. Haworth.

Flower paintings and cards. S. Jones

A giant Ivy from South Uist. Dr H.A. McAllister &
A. Rutherford.

New records for Midlothian. D. McKean

Valerianella carinata. Dr P. Macpherson.

Photographs : Mountain plant communities in Norway.
D. Mardon.

Automatic slide projection : Bud development in conifers.
Dr C.N. Page & R. Parks.

Display : BSBI Monitoring Scheme. T. Rich.

Calamagrostis from VC 72, Dumfries. Plant records from
Kirkcudbrightshire. Flower paintings. O.M. Stewart.

Some Ayrshire brambles. A.McG. Stirling

Flower paintings. H. Thom.

Plants from the Island of Coll. A poster for the Flora
of Glasgow. Dr A. Walker.

Scottish botanists will be disappointed to note the obvious lack of attention paid in this recent publication to the advances in knowledge of plant distribution north of the Border which have come to notice in recent years. These have been well publicised in Watsonia - 'Plant Records' and elsewhere, and it would not have entailed a great deal of research to include at least the more important changes in the distributional information.

Douglas Kent has admirably reviewed this new edition (Watsonia, January 1988) and draws attention to two obvious omissions - Elatine hydropiper and Eleocharis autriaca but numerous other examples could be quoted. The occurrences of Potentilla rupestris in East Sutherland, of Cirsium dissectum in Islay and Kintyre, and of Carex rupestris in Argyll and Skye are overlooked, while no mention is made of the presence of Hierochloa odorata and Calamagrostis stricta in the Borders.

The vice-counties of Wigtown and Kintyre have suffered particularly badly in this respect, recent discoveries in the former of Orobanche hederæ (new to Scotland) and Oxytropis halleri (thought extinct) being overlooked, while in the latter Lathyrus palustris, Oxytropis campestris and Orobanche alba receive no mention.

Considerable reliance has obviously been placed on the information in the 'Atlas', now 25 years out of date, and many comments have been taken unaltered from C.T.W. Ed.2 (e.g. Homogyne alpina, re-found by Alfred Slack 37 years ago, is still referred to as 'recently rediscovered'! It is regrettable that such a definitive work on the British flora has not reflected more accurately our current knowledge of plant distribution in Scotland.

Request for information

Accurate information on the presence of Thalictrum spp. in the vicinity of the River Shin, East Sutherland, VC 107, is requested in order to help lepidopterists to make a methodical search both associated with

that plant genus.

In May 1853, E.C. Buxton, a keen fisherman and moth collector, caught the only British specimen of Ethmia pyrausta (Palls) on the banks of the River Shin 'between the two well-known salmon-casts on that river, viz., the Upper and Lower Claragh'. The black moth with a wingspan of about 20 mm has a conspicuous yellow tip to its abdomen. According to observations on the continent the short flight period of the moths lasts only about ten days to a fortnight, but varies between late April and early June depending on the season, and normally is over by the time the birch leaves unfold. The males are diurnal and fly in sunshine about the middle of the day while the more sluggish females stay on the vegetation.

Information to :- Klaus Sattler, Department of Entomology, British Museum (Nat.Hist.), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD (Tel. 01-938-9347)

BSBI COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND

The following is the composition of the Committee from November 1987 to November 1988 :-

Chairman - Dr R.A.H. Smith; Vice-Chairman - H.J. Noltie; Secretary/Treasurer - Dr P. Macpherson; Field Meetings Secretary - ; Minutes Secretary - Mrs M. Barron; Meetings Secretary - Miss J. Muscott; Members of Committee - Dr J.H. Dickson; Dr H.A. Lang; S. Payne; M.M. Scott; Miss H. Stace; A.McG. Stirling; B.H. Thompson.

Representing the NCC - Miss R. Scott; representing the Botanical Society of Edinburgh - D.R. McKean.

At the AGM on 5th November 1988 three members will be elected to the Committee. The retiring members will be Miss J. Muscott, Messrs H.J. Noltie and A.McG. Stirling, all being eligible for re-election.

Nominations, signed by two members of the Society normally resident in Scotland, or who are Recorders for a vice-county in Scotland although not resident there, and with

the written consent of the candidate, who must also qualify as above, should reach the undersigned at 15 Lubnaig Road, Glasgow G43 2RY by 30th September 1988.

Peter Macpherson, Hon. Secretary, Committee for Scotland.

SCOTTISH FIELD MEETINGS - 1988

June 18-19	Mull of Kintyre
July 4-8	Knoydart
8-10	Isle of Mull
9-10	West Perthshire
16-17	Ben Hope
23-24	Strathpeffer
30-31	Brora
August 6-7	Wester Ross/Sutherland
13	Kinross
Aug 27 - Sept 3	Kindrogan Field Centre, Course - 'Sedges & Rushes'

Scottish A.G.M. & Exhibition Meeting

November 5 Glasgow

NOTE

The 'Ulex gallii' mentioned in Tim Rich's article (page 3) has subsequently been re-determined as U. gallii x europaeus by Michael Proctor.

