



Welsh Bulletin

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Editors: Richard Pryce, Sally Whyman & Katherine Slade



1: On Llangorse Lake at 2016 AGM.
© J.R. Crellin (see page 16)



2: Tim Rich with *Hieracium attenboroughianum* on Cribyn, Brecon Beacons © P. Spencer-Vellacott (see page 17)



3: *Dryopteris aemula* at Cwm Silyn. © W. McCarthy (page 32)



4: *Ranunculus cf sardous* at Dingestow, v.c.35 in 2016. © S.D.S. Bosanquet (see page 45)

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Items for inclusion in the next Welsh Bulletin should be sent to Richard Pryce by **1st May 2017**: Pryceeco@aol.co.uk

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Botanical highlights in 2016 in Monmouthshire

STEPH TYLER & ELSA WOOD, *vice-county recorders for Monmouthshire*,
v.c.35

Another field season is almost over – where did the year go? We have been active surveying poorly covered tetrads and with some exciting records from other botanists, we have entered over 19,000 records this year within vice-county 35.

Species new for the vice-county included Chaffweed (*Anagallis minima*), seen by Julian Woodman in gateways on private land above the Usk Valley near Llanlowell [SO4100] (see article on page 22). The hybrid between Pale Toadflax (*Linaria repens*) and Yellow Toadflax (*L. vulgaris*) was noted by Heather Colls in August at Rogiet Countryside Park [ST48T]. In addition, Upland Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea x intermedia*), the hybrid between *C. lutetiana* and *C. alpina*, was found by Elsa Wood and Adrian Wood near Crumlin [ST2099] and at Cwmcarn [ST2295]. Then in a barley and adjacent maize field [SO5108] at Penallt, Steph Tyler found Lesser Red-knotgrass (*Polygonum arenarium*), apparently new for the vice-county but probably previously overlooked. Maize and barley fields can be rewarding especially for alien grasses. Cockspur (*Echinochloa crus-gallii*) and Rough Bristle Grass (*Setaria verticillata*) were both found, the former at several sites and the latter near Talycoed [SO4115] and Llantilio Crossenny [SO3915], whilst another alien grass, Water Bent (*Polypogon viridis*), is turning up everywhere along roadsides and edges of gardens even in towns as at Underwood [ST3688]. Another grass, Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia distans*) is also turning up along the A48 as a result of all the road salting and was found in Monmouth [SO51B] in September by the road.

The first record for *Euphrasia tetraquetra* (Western Eyebright) was found in a limestone quarry near Upper Ochirwyth [ST2389], its identification confirmed by the national referee.

After attending stonewort workshops, we have tried to find these plants but have been unsuccessful finding any in reens on the Gwent Levels. However, *Tolypella glomerata* (Clustered Stonewort) and *Chara contraria* (Opposite Stonewort) were found in some shallow pools in Penhow quarry [ST4291].

The sight of great swathes of Cow Wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) under oak trees near Penmaen [ST19Y and 19Z] was memorable. Not a rare species but such abundance was remarkable. Oakdale and Penmaen also rewarded us with species-rich damp pastures full of sedges, Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*), Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*), Pale Lady's-mantle (*Alchemilla xanthochlora*), Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*), Heath Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*) and many other 'goodies'.

In an abandoned sandy field off Offa's Dyke near Monmouth [SO4813] two plants of Lesser Centaury (*Centaureum pulchellum*) were found among many Common Centaury (*C. erythraea*) plants and several Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*).

The alien Shaggy-soldier (*Galinsoga quadriradiata*) was identified in Monmouth [SO5012] by Heather Colls and probably this species at Rassau [SO1411] by Roger James as well as a long-established patch in Trevor Evans' vegetable garden in Chepstow [ST5293] in the late autumn. On a roundabout at Abergavenny [SO2814] Sam Bosanquet alerted us to a *Galinsoga* which we recently collected and it proved to be *Galinsoga parviflora* (Gallant-soldier).

Finding Heath Groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*) in November on the Little Skirrid [SO3113] near Abergavenny made us realise just how scarce this species has become. Apart from a handful of records on heathland on the Trellech Plateau there are just two post 2000 records further west.