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Vulpia fasciculata

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and
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The cover illustration shows *Vulpia fasciculata* (Dune Fescue) (taken from Fitch, W.H. (1949). *Illustrations of the British flora*, p. 307. L. Reeve and Co., Ltd, Kent).

All species and common names in *Irish Botanical News* follow those in the database on the BSBI web site <http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/BSBI/> and Stace, C.A. (1997). *New Flora of the British Isles*, 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, except where otherwise stated.

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EDITORIAL

I would like to thank Brian Rushton for all the hard work he must have put in, over the years, editing the *Irish Botanical News*. I had just not realised how much time, effort and dedication it must have taken him. Brian has been a great help and inspiration to me with this issue.

After spending the winter months in Scotland, surveying broad-leaved woodlands in all extremes of weather and trying to put this issue together, it was so good to return to New Ross in late March and see the Wood Anemones turning the woodland white, on the edge of town. The Anemones were only just showing in Scotland.

This is a very much an extreme southern counties issue with a sweep from Limerick around to Wexford and an outlier from Dublin. I wonder which area will be next years 'in' part of the island.

Rita Hemsley asked if her report of the Wild Flower Society field trip to Ireland could be included, as three Irish BSBI members attended it on various days.

John Wallace has given me a helping hand with this issue and will become joint editor with me next year.

Hope you will enjoy reading this 2009 issue of the *Irish Botanical News*.

Paul R. Green, *Irish Botanical News*

PLANTS OF A DISUSED CHURCHYARD, NORTH KERRY (H2)

Michael O'Sullivan, *Knockavota, Milltown, Co. Kerry*

The ancient ruin of Killagha Abbey is situated just short of a mile northwest of Milltown (H2). The abbey was erected in the reign of Henry III which would be sometime after 1216, by Geoffrey de Marisco for the cannons regular of St Augustine and was dedicated to the Mother of the Church. It was destroyed in 1649 by the Cromwellian Army.

The sacred grounds of the abbey consist of less than half an acre and is enclosed by a 3ft high limestone wall. Many of the residents of 'old' Milltown are interred here and there are many tombs and high crosses in evidence dating back to the late 1800s. Local history reveals that on or about 1750 considerable quantities of *Humulus lupulus* (Hop) grew near the abbey probably planted by the monks to flavour household brews. However a botanical survey of the site resulted in the species not being found.

Over 50 species which include flowering plants ferns and grasses have been recorded here occupying every favourable available space. A good example is *Verbascum thapsus* (Great Mullein) which can be seen on top of the 20 ft high ruin wall. Other species present and worthy of mention are *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Thale Cress), *Aquilegia vulgaris* (Columbine), *Vinca minor* (Lesser Periwinkle) and *Malva sylvestris* (Common Mallow). Quite near the entrance gate there is a vibrant stand of *Smyrniolum olusatrum* (Alexanders) a herb used in olden times as a culinary delicacy more than likely by the resident monks.

Ground flora encompasses a wide variety of plants too numerous to mention here but worthy of note is a white form of *Centranthus ruber* (Red Valerian) and *Alchemilla filicaulis* subsp. *vestita* (Hairy Lady's Mantle). The limestone walls are a haven for the likes of *Veronica arvensis* (Wall Speedwell), *Umbilicus rupestris* (Navelwort) and *Geranium lucidum* (Shining Crane's-bill). Diminutive ferns such as *Ceterach officinarum* (Rustyback), *Asplenium ruta-*

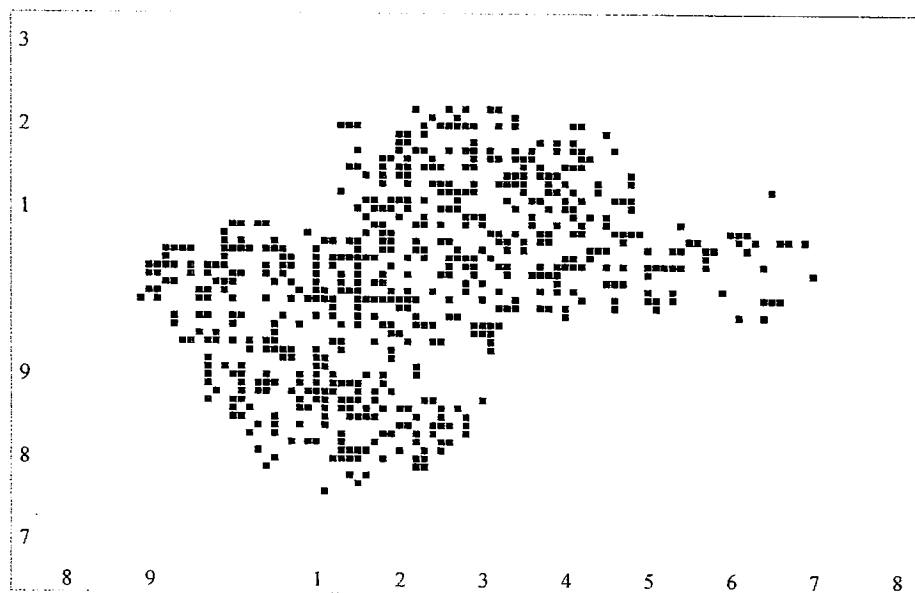
muraria (Wall-rue), *A. trichomanes* (Maidenhair Spleenwort) and *A. adiantum-nigrum* (Black Spleenwort) flourish in this environment.

Crevices in the ruin provide an ideal nesting site for Kestrel's and more importantly the listed Barn Owls.

Though mostly unrecorded and often overlooked, sites like this, numerous throughout the country contribute in a special way to the richness of our biodiversity.

MAP SHOWING THE 1-KM SQUARES IN CO. WATERFORD WITH NO RECORDS

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All the black 1-km squares on the above map have no individual plant records recorded for them. Well over half of the 594 1-km squares on the map I did walk in while recording for the *Flora of Co. Waterford* (Green, 2008), but the records were recorded at a tetrad level. If you would like to take on one or more of the 1-km squares please do contact me. It is hoped that the Waterford and Cork Botany Group will be able to have a few meetings in 2009 to visit some of them. I no longer have the map I drew for the *Flora of Co. Waterford* in Mapmate. The boundary used by Mapmate is not very accurate; all the back squares on the map actually are in Co. Waterford.

REFERENCE

Green, P. (2008). *Flora of County Waterford*. National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Glasnevin, Dublin.

USING *HELLEBORUS FOETIDUS* TO FIND THE CAR AT DUBLIN AIRPORT

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I never took much notice of where I parked my car and which long term car park I had used in February 2007 at Dublin Airport. Just that there was *Helleborus foetidus* (Stinking Hellebore) growing in the gravel in one spot on the edge of the car park (O17.43). A few days into my trip to Portugal the hire car was broken into and along with a number of items taken was my parking ticket.

Returning to Dublin Airport, four weeks later, I had to decide which of the number of long term car parks I had used. Feeling that the ticket had said 'Red Park' I jumped on the bus to that car park. It was just gone midnight by the time I arrived at the car park. These car parks are enormous with thousands of cars parked in them. I told the bus driver I had no idea where the car was in the car park. He said "you were most likely parked in this area". After I had been looking for two hours, the bus driver returned. I hopped on the bus and after a

chat we worked out that because of the type of bus I was on; it must have been the correct car park. He kindly drove me around; I told him I was sure that where I parked had gravel. He replied there is only one area with gravel. We headed for it and then there out of the window was the Stinking Hellebore. Hooray we were now in the correct area. It was not long before the car was found.

Using the car park a year later there was the Stinking Hellebore once again. On my return two weeks later I found the car OK, but this time sadly the Stinking Hellebore had been buried under soil and the area sown to grass.

A REPORT ON THE FLORA OF CORK (H3-H5), 2008

T. O'Mahony, 6 Glenthorn Way, Dublin Hill, Cork City

Due to major work commitments in 2008, my botanical fieldwork was reduced to a bare minimum; the first time that such a restriction has occurred in over twenty years. Nevertheless, *Myosotis ramosissima* (Early Forget-me-not) was added to the Cork flora from West Cork (H3), while two Mid Cork (H4) sites for both *Asplenium onopteris* (Irish Spleenwort) and *Asplenium x ticinense* (Hybrid Irish Spleenwort) were updated, and their determinations corroborated. Moreover, other botanists contributed a range of important new Cork plant records. For example, Jenny Seawright added *Vulpia fasciculata* (Dune Fescue) and *Bromus hordeaceus* subsp. *thominei* (Sand Soft-brome) to the Cork flora from a West Cork (H3) dune habitat, and reinstated *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) to the county flora from this site also. In August, Paul Green noted populations of established *Lactuca serriola* (Prickly Lettuce) and *Conyza bilbaoana* (Hispid Fleabane) growing along the margins and central grassy strip of the N25 (Cork-Youghal Road). In September, Tom Gittings reported finding a suite of nationally or regionally rare adventive species in waste ground habitats in the vicinity of Ringaskiddy village (H4) on the western shore of Cork Harbour, namely: *Mentha pulegium* (Pennyroyal), *Lamium album* (White Dead-nettle) and *Picris echioides* (Bristly Oxtongue). Lastly, in November 2008 I was informed that

a large population of the nationally rare (and legally protected) maritime grass species, *Puccinellia fasciculata* (Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass) had been discovered in East Cork (H5) – a new vice-county record that I was able to personally corroborate on 29 November, when I visited this site.

In March, I rechecked and confirmed the ongoing presence of the Cork City (H4-H5) adventive populations of *Geranium pusillum* (Small-flowered Crane's-bill), all of which I first discovered in the period 2004-2006. Such populations (often accompanied by native *Geranium molle* (Dove's-foot Crane's-bill) and adventive *Erodium moschatum* (Musk Stork's-bill) populations) occur in nine 1-km squares, distributed within the three hectads, W6.6, W7.6, and W7.7. Further adventive populations of Small-flowered Crane's-bill are likely to be discovered in Cork City and its environs in future years.

In March and April, a few short-duration visits to the vicinity of Healy's Bridge (H4, W60.73 and W59.73) on the River Shournach, close to Cork City, allowed a rechecking of its species-rich flora. Upriver of Healy's Bridge, the left bank of the river is visually attractive, base-rich and floriferous. It provides an ideal habitat for a range of calcicolous species of local occurrence in Co. Cork, such as *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort), *Viola reichenbachiana* (Early Dog-violet), *Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade), *Allium ursinum* (Ramsons), *A. vineale* (Wild Onion) and *Ranunculus auricomus* (Goldilocks Buttercup). Associated species here, include: *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell), *Anemone nemorosa* (Wood Anemone), *Primula vulgaris* (Primrose), *Luzula sylvatica* (Great Wood-rush), *Festuca gigantea* (Giant Fescue) and long established *Ribes rubrum* (Red Currant). The nearby steep-banked, linear, deciduous woodland also possesses pockets of base-rich soil which bear a similar calcicole flora to the riverbank. However, this woodland also supports small populations of *Primula veris* (Cowslip), *Galium odoratum* (Woodruff), *Melica uniflora* (Wood Melick), *Rosa arvensis* (Field-rose) and *Rosa stylosa* (Short-styled Field-rose). Naturalised species include: *Veronica crista-galli* (Crested Field-speedwell), a non-flowering Crocus taxon (*Crocus* genus), *Viola odorata* (Sweet Violet) and *Daphne laureola* (Spurge-laurel). A small population of white-flowered *Campanula trachelium*

(Nettle-leaved Bellflower) occurred here in the 1970s, but it has not been seen here in the interim period.

On 6 May, I visited the eastern section of Cannawee Dunes, Barley Cove (H3, V76.25) West Cork. The highlight of this outing was the addition of *Myosotis ramosissima* (Early Forget-me-not) to the Cork flora, from a small section of dune. In June, this same section of dune held cohabiting populations of *Myosotis arvensis* (Field Forget-me-not) and *Myosotis discolor* (Changing Forget-me-not). Early Forget-me-not is predominantly a coastal species in Ireland, its main populations being confined to the east coast (Wexford northwards to Co. Antrim (H39) and thence northwest to Sligo (H28)). Early forget-me-not seems to be of extremely rare occurrence in Munster, and was found for the first time in South Kerry (H1) in 2008 by Jenny Seawright and has yet to be recorded in North Kerry (H2), while the very few old Co. Limerick (H8) records for it (from inland limestone walls and limestone outcrop sites) need updating. Apart from the new West Cork coastal site, Early Forget-me-not is only currently known in Munster from the sand-dunes of Tramore Burrow in Co. Waterford (H6) (a site discovered by R.A. Phillips in 1898) where this species was re-found in small quantity in 2006 (Green, 2008). Although of widespread occurrence inland over the greater part of England, Early Forget-me-not is also a predominantly coastal species in Wales, Scotland and SW England. [Note: *Myosotis arvensis* (Field Forget-me-not) is treated as an *archeophyte* in the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* (Preston *et al.*, 2002). Nevertheless, I would suggest that the sand-dune populations of this species in Britain and Ireland (especially when these cohabit with Early Forget-me-not and Changing Forget-me-not) represent *indigenous* stocks. Moreover, I also feel that the larger-flowered variant of Field Forget-me-not (i.e. *M. arvensis* var. *sylvestris* Schltld.), which is so characteristic of dampish, weakly base-rich woodland habitats in Britain, is also a native taxon there.]

It is a most regrettable fact that, throughout much of coastal West Cork, the ongoing rampant vegetative spread of the three alien adventives, *Petasites fragrans* (Winter Heliotrope), *Allium triquetrum* (Three-cornered Garlic) and *Crocsmia x crocosmiiiflora* (Montbretia) is impacting severely on the native floral diversity of roadsides and wall habitats. All three aliens frequently cohabit, are of

locally abundant occurrence, and thus pose a major threat for many regional or national indigenous plant rarities. For example, in the neighbourhood of Goleen (H3, V8.2) on the Mizen Peninsula of southwest Cork, all three adventives are impinging on the local wall populations of St Patrick's-cabbage (*Saxifraga spathularis*) and Irish Spurge (*Euphorbia hyberna*). Moreover, on nearby Rock Island (H3, V81.26) this trio of aliens now pose a threat to the integrity of the small area of rocky coastal heathland that supports small, discrete populations of a nationally rare suite of species, namely: *Tuberaria guttata* (Spotted Rock-rose), *Lotus subbiflorus* (Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil), *Orchis morio* (Green-winged Orchid), *Erodium maritimum* (Sea Stork's-bill) and *Sagina subulata* (Heath Pearlwort). Elsewhere in Co. Cork, Winter Heliotrope poses a similar threat to populations of such nationally rare plant taxa as *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney Fern), *Asplenium onopteris* (Irish Spleenwort) and *Asplenium x ticinense* (Hybrid Irish Spleenwort). With the exception of aquatic, bogland and montane habitats, Winter Heliotrope is now firmly established in all other types of wildlife habitat in Ireland, both degrading such sites and greatly reducing floral diversity therein. Moreover, Irish county councils' inadvertently greatly assist the dissemination of this pestilential species during their construction or repair of roadway embankments, as on the N20 (Cork-Mallow Road) south of Mallow town (H4-H5, W5.9) and on the N71 (Cork-Bandon Road) south of Bishopstown (H4, W6.6), Cork City. In the latter location, formerly extensive stands of the beautiful (and nationally scarce) white-flowered umbellifer, Greater Burnet-saxifrage (*Pimpinella major*) have been decimated by the rampant spread of this Mediterranean adventive. I regard Winter Heliotrope as an 'ecological cancer' and the single biggest alien plant-threat to terrestrial wildlife habitats in Ireland, given its relentless spread in this country over the past 160 years or so. Although a *dioecious* species (only male plants are known in Britain and Ireland), the all-year-round dynamic vegetative growth of Winter Heliotrope makes it a veritable 'super-weed', capable of colonising vast linear tracts of grassy roadside margins over time. Its establishment on limestone outcrops and in base-rich deciduous woodlands inevitably leads to the degradation of the species-rich flora of such habitats.

On 5 June, I visited Paddy's Point (H4, W79.64) Ringaskiddy, on the western side of Cork Harbour, to hopefully see a population of the nationally rare *Crambe maritima* (Sea-kale) recently reported to me from this site. To my delight, a massive crescent-shaped stand was found, with both flowers and fruits on show. This flourishing colony gives the appearance of being long established at this site. Adjacent populations of *Silene uniflora* (Sea Campion) bore swollen calyces of two, nicely contrasting, colour forms: lime-green and purplish-pink vegetative material of the coastal grass hybrid, *Elytrigia atherica* (Sea Couch) x *Elytrigia juncea* (Sand Couch) (*E. x acuta* nothosubsp. *obtusiuscula*) was also found here – an addition to hectad W7.6. [Note: Jenny Seawright subsequently reported finding *Glaucium flavum* (Yellow Horned-poppy) on the shoreline of Paddy's Point opposite Haulbowline Island and *Kickxia elatine* (Sharp-leaved Fluellen) on rough ground east of the Ringaskiddy Terminal.]

Also on 5 June, I examined the area about Ringnanean Wood (H4, W66.52) bordering the estuary of the River Stick, situated between Belgooly village and Kinsale town. This is a beautifully picturesque sub-maritime location, supporting both a wide range of ecological habitats and of native and naturalised plant species. For example, populations of long naturalised *Euphorbia amygdaloides* subsp. *amygdaloides* (Wood Spurge) occur in two locations here. The first population occurs on the southern margin of Ringnanean Wood and was apparently discovered by R.W. Scully in June 1899 (Scully, 1899). The second stand of Wood Spurge occurs opposite to Ringnanean, in demesne woodland on the right bank of the River Stick estuary, a site which also holds cohabiting populations of *Allium vineale* (Wild Onion) and *Allium scorodoprasum* (Sand Leek), both of which I first found here in 1973. [Note: Apart from these River Stick estuary sites, the main Irish populations of Wood Spurge are confined to a c. 21 km length of the River Bandon stretching from Castlebernard Park (H3, W47.54) near Bandon town, downriver to Bullen's Wood (H3 W59.49) near Kilgobbin Castle, Kinsale. Within this area, the remnant populations of Wood Spurge are highly disjunct, but occur on both banks of the River Bandon (H3-H4) where they have been established since at least 1810.] The immediate environs of the derelict bridge at Ringnanean, produced a few plants of naturalised Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) in addition to cohabiting native populations of *Blackstonia*

perfoliata (Yellow-wort) and *Trifolium campestre* (Hop Trefoil). Yellow-wort (a calcicolous annual, bearing glaucous, perfoliate leaves) is of very localised distribution in Co. Cork, being apparently *totally absent* inland, while its main coastal base is Cork Harbour. In May 1992, Michael Troy and I found the nationally rare (and visually distinctive) *Orobanche rapum-genistae* (Greater Broomrape) in Ringnanean Wood. The Greater Broomrape occurred as two stands – each stand encircling a bush of *Cytisus scoparius* subsp. *scoparius* (Broom). In subsequent years the host shrubs died out here (a consequence of parasitism?), while the last specimens of Greater Broomrape (dead stems) were observed at this site in 2000. Currently, there appear to be no recorded extant sites for Greater Broomrape in Co. Cork – an extremely rare and localised Irish plant species that deserves full legal protection in the Irish Republic.

On June 13, further botanical work was undertaken on the western side of Cork Harbour. Firstly, the remnant limestone outcrops about Waterpark Castle-ruins (H4, W74.62) near Carrigaline town, were examined. Although scrub encroachment is now very evident here, the following interesting species are still of common occurrence: *Linum bienne* (Pale Flax), *Geranium rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Crane's-bill), *Clinopodium ascendens* (Calamint), *Ononis repens* (Rest-harrow), *Galium verum* (Lady's Bedstraw), *Trifolium campestre* (Hop Trefoil) and long established Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), *Smyrniolum olusatrum* (Alexanders), *Sedum album* (White Stonecrop) and *Malva sylvestris* (Common Mallow). The nationally rare annual, *Trifolium striatum* (Knotted Clover) (first discovered in this area in 1900 by R.W. Scully – a record I updated in 1976) was not recorded during this present survey. On the summit of the limestone outcrops, an uncharacteristically *petite* form of *Geranium dissectum* (Cut-leaved Crane's-bill) occurred commonly on the bare-ish limestone slabs. This intriguing taxon mimicked the nationally scarce *Geranium columbinum* (Long-stalked Crane's-bill) in certain vegetative features (e.g. it displayed very thin stems and delicate, fine-cut leaves, both the stems and leaves with subappressed-glandular hairs). However, its inflorescence features were typical of Cut-leaved Crane's-bill, the peduncles being *much shorter* than the subadjacent leaf-petioles, while the dorsal face of the sepals bore a dense clothing of stipitate-glandular hairs. The beautiful Long-stalked Crane's-bill has never been recorded

on the Waterpark limestone outcrops, although the habitat looks eminently suitable for it. At the base of the outcrop occurred a population of *Stachys x ambigua* (Hybrid Woundwort). Unfortunately, the pernicious and ubiquitous *Petasites fragrans* (Winter Heliotrope) is established and spreading here, both degrading this species-rich calcicolous plant habitat and posing a future threat to its floral diversity.

On leaving the Carrigaline limestones, I next visited Currabinny hamlet, at the tidal mouth of the Owenboy River, opposite Crosshaven village. The coastal road-wall near the pier, still supports populations of the native *Linum bienne* (Pale Flax) and naturalised *Sedum rupestre* (Reflexed Stonecrop), *Cotoneaster horizontalis* (Wall Cotoneaster), *Malva sylvestris* (Common Mallow), *Soleirolia soleirolii* (Mind-your-own-business), *Hypericum hircinum* (Stinking Tutsan) and an unidentified *Hieracium* taxon (Hawkweed) – all of which I first recorded here in the early 1970s. On the present visit, *Epilobium tetragonum* (Square-stalked Willowherb) was added to the wall-flora, but the most gratifying discovery of the afternoon proved to be a small stand of flowering *Vicia tetrasperma* (Smooth Tare), a national rarity, growing here in association with its much more frequent ally, *Vicia hirsuta* (Hairy Tare). Both species were originally recorded at Currabinny (on the gravelly shore, close to the pier) by R.W. Scully in 1903 (Scully, 1903).

The adjacent Currabinny Forest Park occupies a dome-shaped hill, which latter forms a towering backdrop to the hamlet, and provides spectacular views of this section of Cork Harbour. With its many internal pathways, this woodland is a very popular recreational walk for residents and visitors alike. The woodland substrate is acidic, the herb layer being dominated by just a handful of species, such as *Luzula sylvatica* (Great Wood-rush), *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell) and *Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken), while the main tree species present are *Quercus petraea*, (Sessile Oak) and *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak). The major woodland pathway behind Currabinny hamlet holds drifts of *Carex divulsa* (Grey Sedge) and established plants of *Luma apiculata* (Chilean Myrtle) and a Cotoneaster taxon (*Cotoneaster* genus), while a range of introduced conifers and deciduous shrubs are scattered throughout this habitat. In June 1899, R.W. Scully

discovered three nationally rare native plant species in this woodland and/or its immediate environs, namely: *Orobanche rapum-genistae* (Greater Broomrape), *Trifolium ornithopodioides* (Bird's-foot Clover) and *Trifolium micranthum* (Slender Trefoil) (Scully, 1899). While the Greater Broomrape put in sporadic appearances in this woodland up to the early 1980s at least, the two rare annual clover species have never been re-found here.

Also on 13 June, I examined a section of deciduous woodland overlooking the right bank of the Owenboy River estuary, close to Frenchfurze T-junction (H4, W75.61), bordering the R612 between the villages of Carrigaline and Crosshaven. My objective (ultimately unsuccessful on this occasion) was to hopefully re-find the nationally rare *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid), which was added to the Mid Cork flora from here in June 2002, by Cork County Council Heritage Officer, Sharon Casey. I subsequently visited the small calcareous sand-spit (H4, W77.57) in Ringabella Creek, which possesses a range of regionally rare maritime plant species. As on previous visits, *Raphanus raphanistrum* subsp. *maritimus* (Sea Radish) occurred in abundance, its lemon-yellow, sweet-scented flowers a delight to both the eyes and nose. A colony of *Rosa rugosa* (Japanese Rose) has greatly increased in size since the mid 1980s, and now dominates a section of this sand-spit. New finds for this microhabitat were: *Geranium rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Crane's-bill) and the two naturalised species, *Lavatera arborea* (Tree-mallow) and *Cerastium tomentosum* (Snow-in-summer). The adjacent northern shoreline (i.e. left bank) of Ringabella Creek bears an abundant fringe of *Atriplex portulacoides* (Sea-purslane), *Cochlearia anglica* (English Scurvygrass) and the interspecific maritime grass hybrid, *Elytrigia atherica* (Sea Couch) x *Elytrigia juncea* (Sand Couch), which latter taxon also occurs on the sand-spit, where I first recorded it in the 1980s. *Rubia peregrina* (Wild Madder) is of frequent occurrence in marginal scrub, while the ecotone of sandy ground at the junction of the sand-spit and creek-margin, still holds a small established population of *Picris echioides* (Bristly Oxtongue) which was first recorded from this site by Patrick Beamish in July 1978 (O'Mahony, 1985).

On 19 June, the flora of a section of the Pedestrian Amenity Walkway at Lakeland Strand (H4, W72.69), Blackrock, Cork City (on the western shore of Cork

Harbour) was resurveyed. The low limestone wall fringing the Walkway is species-rich, its flora including: *Rosa stylosa* (Short-styled Field-rose), *Orobanche hederæ* (Ivy Broomrape), *Sedum acre* (Biting Stonecrop) and *Polypodium cambricum* (Southern Polypody). Disturbed ground here, yielded adventive *Epilobium tetragonum* (Square-stalked Willowherb) as well as a population of *Brassica nigra* (Black Mustard), this latter a spectacular species, its stems to 2 m in height, displaying candelabra-like branches that bear tightly-appressed fruit capsules. The status of Black Mustard at Lakeland Strand is uncertain: it may be an alien adventive or, more likely, the population may have arisen from native seed that germinated *in situ* following on disturbance of its habitat. However, the most pleasing rediscovery of the day was that of the delightful *Geranium versicolor* (Pencilled Crane's-bill) that still persists on a remnant section of the Old Ballinure Road (which adjoins a new housing development) where I first recorded it in 1966. Pencilled Crane's-bill is only listed from six Irish hectads for the period 1987-1999 in the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* (Preston *et al.*, 2002). [Note: A large population of Pencilled Crane's-bill is still present on the grassy (western) roadside margin of Brookhill (H5, W73.76) near Sallybrook, where I originally recorded it in the 1980s. All of the other widely scattered East Cork stations for this species need updating.]

On July 13, an abundantly floriferous colony of naturalised *Rosa multiflora* (Many-flowered Rose) was found on a hedgebank close to Longfield's Bridge (H4, W51.97), some 5.5 km west of Mallow town bridge. A subsequent survey of the western branch of Coolnamagh Crossroads (H4, R46.00) re-found the three scattered bushes of the nationally rare rose hybrid cross, *Rosa tomentosa* (Harsh Downy-rose) x *Rosa sherardii* (Sherard's Downy-rose) that I originally recorded here in September 2006. Four further bushes of this hybrid cross were found during the present visit, on both roadside hedgebanks of the northern branch of Coolnamagh Crossroads. This particular rose hybrid cross is currently only known in Co. Cork from one 10-km square: R4.0.

On 19 July, a Saturday afternoon spin produced three new Co. Cork locations for the very attractive pink-flowered alien, *Calystegia pulchra* (Hairy Bindweed). Marie O'Mahony noted this species in a roadside hedgebank (H4,

W45.73) close to Coachford village. The two other, small, roadside hedgebank populations of Hairy Bindweed were seen close to Laney Bridge (H4, W35.72) Macroom, and on the R582 (Macroom-Millstreet Road) a short distance north (H3, W32.74) of Macroom town. Hairy Bindweed appears to be a far less rampant coloniser than either *Calystegia sepium* (Hedge Bindweed) or *C. silvatica* (Large Bindweed), while its flowers often remain closed in dull, damp or rainy weather, in contrast to both of these species.

In late July, Jenny Seawright made some significant additions to the Co. Cork flora from the dunes at Inchydoney Island (H3, W40.38) near Clonakilty town, West Cork. Of these discoveries, *Vulpia fasciculata* (Dune Fescue) is the most notable on phytogeographical grounds, given that the nearest known Irish site for this obligate maritime annual dune grass, is Tramore Burrow (H6, S6.0) in Co. Waterford, where it was originally found in 1973, this record being updated in 2006 (Ferguson, 1974; Green, 2008). On the western section of the Inchydoney Island dunes, Jenny also recorded the visually distinctive annual grass *Bromus hordeaceus* subsp. *thominei* (Dune Soft-brome) growing in association with Dune Fescue! In theory, this taxon is an addition to the Irish Flora, as it is *not* listed for Ireland in the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* (Preston *et al.*, 2002). However, the grass expert, Dr Tom Cope, does not consider this taxon worthy of even subspecific rank, and merely regards it as part of the spectrum of variation exhibited by the highly polymorphic *Bromus hordeaceus* (Soft-brome) (J. Seawright, pers. comm., 2008). Jenny also discovered a population of some 20 flowering plants of *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) at Inchydoney – the first record of this orchid in Co. Cork in perhaps one hundred years!

On 17 August, a Sunday spin in scenic upland terrain (minor roads over the Boggeragh Mountains, south of the Kerryman's Table Crossroads (H4, W32.87) and Millstreet Country Park), revealed the presence of small populations of *Chamaemelum nobile* (Wild Chamomile) on bare-ish, damp, roadside margins under Musheramore (644 m) in hectad W3.8. This is in the general area where Wild Chamomile was first found by Maura Scannell in August 1988 when undertaking work for the BSBI Monitoring Scheme Survey. The overall distribution and frequency of Wild Chamomile in hectad W3.8 and in adjoining

hectads remains to be established. The only other current known Mid Cork locations for this exquisitely-scented plant are from the gravelly shores of the circuitous River Lee Reservoir, between Ashton (H4, W36.71) Macroom, and Farran Wood (H4, W48.71), some 3 km downriver of Rooves Bridge, Coachford.

On 23 August, Paul Green discovered a population of naturalised *Humulus lupulus* (Hop) on the hedgebank of a minor link road (H4, W63.68) of the N71 (Cork-Bandon Road), at Chetwynd, Bishopstown, Cork City. Hop is a widely distributed species in Co. Cork, where it is rare and possibly in decline. This distinctive species is most conspicuous when the female cones are in evidence: however, at other times of the year it can recede into the background, its foliage being masked by that of cohabiting stands of the ubiquitous and abundant *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (Bramble). On the same day, Paul noted naturalised stands of the two adventive species, *Lactuca serriola* (Prickly Lettuce) and *Conyza bilbaoana* (Hispid Fleabane) growing in a number of sites about Cork City (H4-H5) and also along the margins and central grassy strip of the N25 (Cork-Youghal Road) between Little Island (H5, W7.7) and Midleton (H5, W8.7), and also in the vicinity of Ballyvergan (H5, X06.76), near Youghal town.

During the month of August, monitoring of the linear pond habitat at Clogheenmilcon Wildfowl Refuge (H4, W62.75) near Blarney village, revealed that the potentially invasive alien *Azolla filiculoides* (Water Fern) now forms a light-excluding 'carpet' over the greater part of this water-body, in marked contrast to its performance during the period 1995-2007, when it was essentially confined to the western periphery of this habitat. Water Fern is long established in many aquatic sites in Mid Cork and East Cork, where it continues to expand its range (as throughout Ireland generally), there being every indication that it is now a permanent member of the Irish flora.

On 9 September, Jim Wilson emailed me to report his 2008 discovery of an *Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid) population on the southern section of Harper's Island (H5, W78.72) in Cork Harbour. This southern section of Harper's Island is now demarcated from the northern section by the N25 (Cork-Youghal Road), and consists of glacial gravel-and-sand deposits overlying carboniferous limestone

bedrock. Co. Cork populations of Bee Orchid are now virtually restricted to disjunct calcareous coastal habitats (i.e. limestone outcrops and dunes) spanning the distance from Youghal westwards to Inchydoney Island at least, while *no* inland habitats have been reported for this mimic orchid species since the mid 1970s. On 14 September, I submitted relevant Cork botanical data to Cork County Council, for inclusion in their 'Blarney District Habitat-Mapping Survey, 2008'.

Also in September, Tom Gittings informed me of a number of adventive plant species that he had recorded during the period 2006-2008 in the neighbourhood of Ringaskiddy village (H4, W7.6) on the western shore of Cork Harbour. Of these records, the three following are of regional rarities: - 1) *Mentha pulegium* (Pennyroyal): common in a section of waste ground within an industrial site (H4, W76.63) September 2006, August 2008. 2) *Lamium album* (White Dead-nettle): on the edge of an arable field (H4, W77.63) September 2006. [Note: Seemingly the only Co. Cork record for White Dead-nettle in the last 50 years or more.] 3) *Picris echioides* (Bristly Oxtongue): on waste ground within an industrial site (H4, W76.63) September 2006.

On 8 October, the Blarney village (H4, W61.75) termination of the Blarney-Waterloo Amenity Walkway, was seen to hold many flowering plants of *Cichorium intybus* (Chicory) and fruiting heads of *Sanguisorba minor* subsp. *muricata* (Fodder Burnet), the latter apparently a first record for Co. Cork. Both taxa were doubtless components of a commercial wildflower seed-mix that was sprinkled liberally in this unkempt site. Another (long established) very colourful alien here is *Oenothera glazioviana* (Large-flowered Evening-primrose) which has seeded itself freely from an adjacent ornamental flowerbed, while it is also long naturalised on waste ground at the western side of the village, close to Bawnafinny T-junction (H4, W59.75).

On 24 October, a brief stop at Ovens Bridge (H4, W54.69) near Ballincollig town, turned up a small population of *Humulus lupulus* (Hop) on the right bank of the South Bride River adjacent to the N22 (Cork-Macroom Road). I had originally found this female colony in 1971, and it does not appear to have

spread at all in this site in the interim 37 year period. Indeed, all of the highly disjunct Hop populations I have recorded to date have displayed little evidence of rampant spread – a rather surprising finding for such a robust, tenaciously scrambling plant. *Stachys x ambigua* (Hybrid Woundwort) occurs frequently along the right bank of the South Bride River, from Ovens Bridge upriver to the derelict Ovens Church.

In November, ongoing work on the Co. Cork distribution of *Applenium oenopteris* (Irish Spleenwort) and *Asplenium x ticinense* (Hybrid Irish Spleenwort) confirmed the survival of hedgebank populations of both taxa in the Blarney area (H4, W6.7) and in a site to the north of Bandon town (H4, W4.5). The majority of the Irish habitats for both of these beautiful fern taxa are acidic or circumneutral stone-and-earth hedgebanks – a very vulnerable habitat for such (legally unprotected) national rarities. Over the next few years I hope to recheck all of the recorded Co. Cork sites for both of these fern taxa, and, in the process, perhaps turn up new sites for them also.

On 20 November I was informed that a large population of the nationally rare coastal grass *Puccinellia fasciculata* (Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass) had been discovered in East Cork! This excellent discovery was made during work on the 'Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008' for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, undertaken by a private environmental consultancy firm. Consequently, the location of this saltmarsh habitat is not disclosed in my present report. On being given directions, I visited the *Puccinellia* site on 29 November and confirmed that the taxon was indeed Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass. Despite the lateness of the season (and the fact that the first severe winter frosts had occurred over the past few days in this area), I was delighted to find many fresh flowering stems and vegetative shoots in evidence. I intend in 2009, to thoroughly survey this coastal habitat and establish just how widespread and frequent this national rarity is in this site. Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass is protected in the Irish Republic under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999. It now has two extant Co. Cork sites: one in Mid Cork and one in East Cork, of which the latter is among the largest populations of this species in Ireland.

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CO. WATERFORD (H6) – NEW COUNTY RECORDS

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With the *Flora of Co. Waterford* (Green, 2008) written by the end of 2007 and published in August 2008, I could relax each time I visited the county and not think about recording. Every time I did visit the county it was normally to take photos for the *Flora of Co. Waterford* web site hosted and maintained by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford. 2008 was a surprisingly productive year with many new 10-km square and tetrad records added besides the new county records listed below. Below are also new county records made during 2005, 2006 and 2007 not included in the *Flora of Co. Waterford*. **BM** = cited specimens deposited in the British Museum (Natural History) London. **DBN** = cited specimens deposited in the National Herbarium, Glasnevin, Dublin. **TCD** = cited specimens deposited at Trinity College, School of Botany, Dublin. * = non-native species.

NEW COUNTY RECORDS IN 2008

Cardamine x zahlbruckneriana (Wavy x Hairy Bitter-cress). Five plants as weed in garden of Hill Cottage, Ballyquin (S412.178), 17 May, Úna McDermott – det. Paul R. Green. **DBN**. 1st Irish record. All 5 plants were getting on for being 2 ft tall.

**Cassinia leptophylla* (Cottonwood). Bush self-sown on side of path at base of wall, Skehacrine, Dungarvan (X277.936), 13 September, Waterford and Cork Botany Group field meeting. 2nd Irish record.

**Crocus tommasinianus x C. vernus* (Early x Spring Crocus). Scattered and well established over churchyard, Briska Upper (S329.042), 23 March, Ian P. and Paul R. Green. Spring Crocus was the only other species of Crocus in the churchyard, 1st Irish record.

Epilobium x subhirsutum (Great x Hoary Willowherb). Single plant on edge of waste ground, both parents nearby, Skehacrine, Dungarvan (X277.936), 13 September, Waterford and Cork Botany Group field meeting.

Equisetum x trachyodon (*E. hyemale x E. variegatum*) (Mackay's Horsetail). Small patch on bank of River Tay, Stradbally Cove (X369.971), 5 April 2006, Paul R. Green. **DBN**. I re-visited the site in 2008 on a hunch that my original identification of *E. hyemale* (Rough Horsetail) was incorrect and so re-named it. One parent, Variegated Horsetail does not occur in the county.

Dactylorhiza x transiens (Common x Heath Spotted-orchid). Two plants with both parents in superb marshy field, Annestown (X49.88), 27 June, Wild Flower Society field meeting – conf. Ian Denholm.

**Festuca brevipila* (Hard Fescue). Single clump at base of wall on roadside, Annestown (X497.990), 27 June, found by Mike Shaw while on a Wild Flower Society field meeting – conf. Eric J. Clement. 1st Irish record.

Leontodon autumnalis var. *salina*. Single plant in saltmarsh on bank of the Ballycanvan Stream, Ballycanvan (S660.099), 12 September, A.C. Leslie.

**Ulmus x hollandica* (Dutch Elm). Several trees on edge of wood on side of lane; may have been planted and spread, Woodstown (S69.04), 19 October, Waterford and Cork Botany Group field meeting.

**NEW COUNTY RECORDS FOR THE YEARS 2005, 2006 AND 2007 NOT INCLUDED
IN THE FLORA OF CO. WATERFORD**

**Acer cappadocicum* (Cappadocian Maple). Self-sown or spreading by sucking in woods at Curraghmore (S430.146), 1 June 2006, Paul R. Green. Accidentally omitted from the *Flora of Co. Waterford*.

**Cannabis sativa* (Hemp). Four plants on waste ground, Tramore (S594.021), 2 November 2007, Paul R. Green. Found too late to be included in the *Flora of Co. Waterford*.

Chenopodium polyspermum* (Many-seeded Goosefoot). Single plant on heap of soil by tower, Waterford (S606.119), 5 December 2007, Paul R. Green. **DBN. Found too late to be included in the *Flora of Co. Waterford*.

**Echinochloa colona* (Shama Millet). Several plants on waste ground, Tramore (S594.021), 2 November 2007, Paul R. Green. Found too late to be included in the *Flora of Co. Waterford*.

Epilobium x novae-civitatensis (American x Great Willowherb). Two plants on roadside, Kilcreggane (S172.134), 1 September 2006, Daniel L. Kelly – det. G.D. Kitchener. **TCD**.

**Oenothera stricta* (Fragrant Evening-primrose). Over a hundred plants along bank of the River Blackwater, Tinnabinna (X095.813), 7 March 2006, Paul R. Green. Accidentally omitted from the *Flora of Co. Waterford*.

Rubus tamarensis. Large patch in hedge along side track, Knockalisheen Bridge (S21.13), 16 July 2006, BSBI field meeting – det. David Allen. **BM**. Unnamed specimens re-examined and named in 2008.

Rubus warrenii. Amongst coastal cliff top scrub, Islandikane South (X525.985), 26 June 2005, Paul R. Green – det. Alan Newton. **BM**. Unnamed specimens re-examined and named in 2008.

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A REPORT ON FIELDWORK IN CO. LIMERICK (H8), 2008

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Taking advantage of whatever good days there were in a rather dismal summer, the 2008 field season in Limerick was relatively productive. The main aims were to visit some previously unexplored sites (not all done!), to answer specific questions (were there really two subspecies of *Arenaria serpyllifolia* growing on the same wall, but recorded on different dates? No!) and to survey some species for the BSBI Threatened Plants Project. A selection of sites visited and plants found is given below.

Some years ago, in 2001, Mike Wyse Jackson had told me about finding *Cerastium semidecandrum* (Little Mouse-ear) at Limerick railway station (R57.56) and on 8 June I went to look for it. This more usually coastal species was thriving at the edge of a car park, with *C. fontanum* (Common Mouse-ear), *C. glomeratum* (Sticky Mouse-ear) and some *C. diffusum* (Sea Mouse-ear) in the same area. Checking this species led to the discovery of a new alien plant for the county, *Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort), otherwise occurring only in the

north-east of Ireland. There were also scattered plants of *Conyza bilbaoana* (Bilbao's Fleabane), which is becoming established in Limerick City.

Tussock-forming *Puccinellia* (Saltmarsh-grass), distinct from the more usual prostrate *P. maritima* (Common Saltmarsh-grass), has been known in the Shannon Estuary and in some other Irish estuaries for over a century, and its identity has long puzzled botanists (see Reynolds (2006) for the history of this plant in Ireland). Dr Tom Cope of Kew and Mr Bruno Ryves, BSBI grasses' referees, had previously only seen vegetative material of tussock-forming *Puccinellia* from the Shannon Estuary, so on 4 July Julian Reynolds and I rowed to Sturamus Island (R25.53) to collect flowering plants for them. There was a recent suggestion that this form matched French *P. foucaudi*, but Tom Cope and Bruno Ryves are at one and are now quite certain that these tussock-forming plants are also *P. maritima*. Later in the summer, on 30 August, I fulfilled a long-standing ambition and got out to Trummera Big (R29.54), the original location where this growth form was noted in Limerick in 1906, and where it still occurs. This islet, surrounded by mudflats, has saltmarsh, a spit of shell sand and a higher grassy area, and supports over 30 species. *Festuca arenaria* (Rush-leaved Fescue) was also recorded here in 1906 and specimens resembling that species were collected in August.

Following the BSBI field meeting in Co. Derry where we saw many plants of *Milium effusum* (Wood Millet) and *Festuca altissima* (Wood Fescue), I decided to check two old Limerick sites for them again. On 4 July, we went to the western part of Mount Trenchard woods (R21.50) and quickly found a patch of *M. effusum* growing under Beech – last seen here in 1903. Despite an extensive search, no more plants were found. *F. altissima* was recorded from Capperullen Glen (R7.5) in the grounds of Glenstal Abbey in 1905, but has not been reported since. The habitat seems suitable, but *F. altissima* was not seen on 7 July – one of the most conspicuous grasses in the glen was *F. gigantea* (Giant Fescue).

Some other searches for old records were unsuccessful too. The first record for *Spergularia rupicola* (Rock Sea-spurrey) was at Ringmoylan (R40.57) in the late 19th century, but I cannot help wondering whether it ever occurred so far

up the Shannon Estuary. In recent times it has only been found at one place further down the Co. Limerick part of the estuary. Could robust *S. media* (Greater Sea-spurrey) have been mistaken for it? On the other hand, a good new find was *Rumex x pratensis*, the hybrid between *R. crispus* subsp. *uliginosus* (Curled Dock) and *R. obtusifolius* (Broad-leaved Dock), on the bank of the tidal River Maigue just north of Adare (R45.46) on 15 August.

Also on 15 August, while reconnoitring for the Limerick BSBI field meeting, scattered plants of alien *Juncus tenuis* (Slender Rush) were found along an overgrown track, part of the Ballyhoura Way, above the car park at Glensheen (R64.18, R65.18). This is the second record for *J. tenuis* in the county, which is now widespread in the south-west of Ireland. The following day, field meeting participants recorded the flora of conglomerate tors on Black Rock at the east end of the Ballyhoura Mountains (R64.18), including *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* (Tunbridge Filmy-fern), *H. wilsonii* (Wilson's Filmy-fern), *Cystopteris fragilis* (Brittle Bladder-fern), *Dryopteris aemula* (Hay-scented Buckler-fern) and *Huperzia selago* (Fir Clubmoss). The next day, 17 August, a slightly larger group botanized in Pigeonrock Glen (R84.20, R85.20) on the south side of the Galty Mountains, where the best finds were *Meconopsis cambrica* (Welsh Poppy) by the river and *Saxifraga hypnoides* (Mossy Saxifrage) on steep north-facing bluffs.

One of the species listed for surveying in the Threatened Plants Project was *Gentianella campestris* (Field Gentian), currently only known at one site in Limerick. Thousands of plants were found on 22 August with *G. amarella* (Autumn Gentian) in species-rich, grazed calcareous grassland beside the Shannon Estuary east of Aughinish Island and Poulaweala Creek (R29.52, R29.53). *G. amarella* seems to grow in shallower soil than *G. campestris*, e.g. around limestone outcrop, and numerous plants of it were also found on a gravelly track on Aughinish Island (R28.52) on 15 August.

Searching for *Gentianella campestris* at Mullagh (R28.47) on 22 August led to finding *Trifolium medium* (Zigzag Clover), first found in this area by Tony O'Mahony in 2005. After much heavy rain, the patch of *T. medium* was growing in standing water. The associated species were rather an odd assortment,

including *Agrostis stolonifera* (Creeping Bent), *Daucus carota* (Wild Carrot), *Euphrasia officinalis* s.l. (Eyebright), *Mentha x verticillata* (Whorled Mint) (abundant in this area), *Potentilla anserina* (Silverweed) as well as *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (Scentless Mayweed) and chenopods, indicating disturbance.

Our wedding anniversary, 28 August, was spent in a swamp at Corbally on the north side of Limerick City (R58.58) where we wanted to survey *Stellaria palustris* (Marsh Stitchwort) for the BSBI. The swamp, still in quite good condition, is bordered on one side by dense Willows and the Abbey River and on the other side by infill. There were many plants of *S. palustris*, some still in flower, and *Lysimachia nummularia* (Creeping-Jenny) is common here too. Part of the adjacent infill had been sown with a wild flower mixture in 2007 and most of the same species were self-sown in 2008, e.g. *Anthemis austriaca* (Austrian Chamomile) and *Chrysanthemum segetum* (Corn Marigold). There were also many clumps of *Lolium x boucheanum* (*L. perenne* x *L. multiflorum*, a hybrid Ryegrass) on open ground. New to Ireland, alien *Agrostis castellana* (Highland Bent) was found near the wild flower mixture in 2007, but was not looked for in 2008 – this species can be a component in grass mixtures.

Thickets of Willows growing on the wide banks of the Abbey River and outside the embankment on the stony and muddy edge of the tidal (but freshwater) upper Shannon Estuary west of Shannon Bridge in Limerick City (R5.5) were checked to see what was planted and what had arrived or was regenerating independently. The main species are *Salix alba* (White Willow), *S. fragilis* (Crack-willow), *S. viminalis* (Osier), also *S. purpurea* (Purple Willow), *S. triandra* (Almond Willow), some hybrids and native *S. cinerea* (Grey Willow). It now seems clear that most have not been planted in this area, including some very large trees at the edge of the estuary.

The third survey for the BSBI was of saprophytic *Monotropa hypopitys* (Yellow Bird's-nest) at Curragh Chase Forest Park (R41.49) on 31 August. *M. hypopitys* was recorded there in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, then not again until 2004 when a small clump was noticed in a hollow at the base of a

Beech tree. This time five spikes were seen beside the same Beech tree at the bottom of a substantial rocky limestone knoll. One of the threats at the site is trampling by the public, well illustrated by a small boy just after we finished surveying the plants!

To get better overall cover for Co. Limerick, three 10km squares shared with neighbouring counties and with low species' numbers were revisited and good habitats targeted. For example, a swamp and shaded lane north of Hospital in R73 on 12 September yielded many species not previously recorded, as well as *Sambucus ebulus* (Dwarf Elder) on a roadside bank east of Cromwell Hill (c. R74.39) and *Artemisia vulgaris* (Mugwort) by a farm track (R70.37), surprisingly rare in Limerick. A shallow ditch along a lovely open forestry track south-west of Broadford (R31.19) on 1 September contained scattered patches of *Hypericum elodes* (Marsh St John's-wort), new to the Limerick flora. In R11, the peat-stained River Feale forms the boundary with Kerry and on 21 September we found *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* (Alternate Water-milfoil) south-south-east of Mountcollins (R16.16). Plants were clinging to rocks in the river not only by roots at the base of the stems, but also by roots coming off at many points along the stems. This is the only reliable record for the county.

The final search of the season proved successful. There was an early 1900s record at Loghill for *Seriphidium maritimum* (Sea Wormwood), which is otherwise locally abundant by the Shannon Estuary east of Foynes. Two promontories at Loghill (R1.4, R1.5) were not easily accessible, but on 22 September we managed to walk around them on the stony shores and by making a detour around an extensive reed bed of *Phragmites*. We found four patches of *S. maritimum*. Three years before I had been almost sure about one of them which I had seen using binoculars from the main road, about 250m away across a large field and bay!

Some 25 days were spent in the field between March and September, and I would like to thank Julian Reynolds who botanized with me on most occasions – with some diversions to collect water beetles. There will always be more to do in Limerick and we already have plans for 2009, including more

exploring in the Galty Mountains and more boating to remote islands in the Shannon Estuary. Meanwhile, it was lovely to find a link with the past. When looking for a *Cochlearia* specimen previously deposited in DBN, I found it in a folder labelled "Awaiting Dr Praeger".

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RECORDING IN CO. WEXFORD (H12), 2008

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With the writing of the *Flora of Waterford* (Green, 2008) finished it gave me time to start thinking about recording in Co. Wexford. Ro FitzGerald had given me all the records she had made for the *New Atlas* (Preston *et al.*, 2002) on a CD in 2006 and later that year John Wallace kindly put them into a format compatible with Mapmate. This gave me 26,352 records and since 2006 I have added 17,611 records.

Each time I went out recording in 2008 I either recorded a 1-km square or went to look for one of the rarer species Ro FitzGerald had recorded in the county. 44 1-km squares were visited, a total of 7084 records collected. A high success rate was had finding the rarer species, seeing the data I had from Ro was either at a 10-km square or at 1-km square level only.

In the following account I have included all the trips where a new county record was made.

DBN = cited specimens deposited in the National Herbarium, Glasnevin, Dublin.

Walking around New Ross during the year added 5 new county records. Popping down to the local shop on March 10 to satisfy my addiction to milk chocolate, I noticed *Pisum sativum* (Garden Pea) coming up in a pavement crack in Bewley Street (S72.27) and later in the year another plant in North Street. In the same 1-km square on 16 March I was down looking at the River Barrow when I noticed a white clump on the vertical rock face above the road, this turned out to be *Iberis sempervirens* (Perennial Candytuft); likely to be self-sown from the garden above. The next two records were made on August 30 on the edge of the wood above the River Barrow (S72.28); the first being *Cotoneaster atropurpureus* (Purple-flowered Cotoneaster) self-sown on a dilapidated wall and further along the road on the woodland edge directly opposite a cottage was *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia-creeper). On 30 November at last I gave a name to the *Saxifraga* I had known since 2006 on the edge of town on a road bank of a lane, where it must have been dumped and spread as it had formed a metre round cushion. I identified it as being *S. x arendsii* (Arend's Saxifrage) which looks very much like our native *S. hypnoides* (Mossy Saxifrage) but has red flowers.

Away from New Ross the first new county record, but not very exciting was *Tulipa gesneriana* (Garden Tulip) from waste ground at Jamestown (S94.39) on 8 March. Also on the waste ground and the reason for stopping were several clumps of *Galanthus nivalis* (Snowdrop) and *Ranunculus ficaria* subsp. *bulbilifer* (Bulbiliferous Celandine).

The next new county record and again a garden throw out was a patch of *Leucanthemum x superbum* (Shasta Daisy) from a roadside at Ballyfarnoge (T08.31) on 24 April.

The best new county record was made on 23 May by Roy Watson at The Tan, Ballyteige (S94.05) in a superb damp meadow: 5 spikes of *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri* (Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid). Two days later I joined Roy and he showed me his orchids. Photos were sent via email to Ian Denholm who

confirmed Roy's identification. The meadow also had *Dactylorhiza majalis* (Western Marsh-orchid), including 2 pure white flowering plants and many spikes of *D. purpurella* (Northern Marsh-orchid). Roy gave me good tips on how to identify these three Marsh-orchids, which has certainly helped since.

Driving back from visiting friends in Co. Wicklow on 3 August, I noticed a white flower in a field gateway on the side of the road at Corragh (S93.58). I had to turn around and take a look; this was *Galega officinalis* (Goat's-rue) a new county record. Also growing here was *Isolepis setacea* (Bristle Club-rush) and *Hypericum tetrapterum* (Square-stalked St John's-wort).

On the 15 August I visited Johnstown Castle Gardens with Olivier Martin for a walk; it was not long before I was side tracked by the plants. *Acer cappadocicum* (Cappadocian Maple) was self-sown on walls around the lake; a new county record. The walls were a pinkish-purple in places with clumps of *Erinus alpinus* (Fairy Foxglove) and the lawns were covered in *Selaginella kraussiana* (Krauss's Clubmoss). On the margin of a pond were *Montia fontana* subsp. *variabilis* (Blinks) and a single plant of *Ranunculus sceleratus* (Celery-leaved Buttercup). As weeds in the flower borders of the walled garden were *Gnaphalium uliginosum* (Marsh Cudweed), *Mercurialis annua* (Annual Mercury) and *Veronica polita* (Grey Field-speedwell).

The 19 August saw me recording in a rather boring 1-km square at Griffin's Cross Roads (S71.19); 175 species were recorded. A metre high single flowering stem of *Verbena bonariensis* (Argentinian Vervain) on a road verge was a new county record; escaped from the garden up the road. A damp road verge had many clumps of *Juncus tenuis* (Slender Rush) which I had seen while driving past a few days earlier and was my reason for choosing this square. Also cohabiting with the *Juncus* was *Carex ovalis* (Oval Sedge) and *Odontites vernus* (Red Bartsia). A disturbed road verge had *Fumaria purpurea* (Purple Ramping-fumitory) and where I parked the car were 2 plants of *Barbarea verna* (American Winter-cress).

A visit to Solsborough (S99.43) on 21 August in search of the only county site for *Elymus caninus* (Bearded Couch) was made easy as I parked on the roadside opposite it. The only patch I could find was the one I could see from the car on the bank of the railway by a stile. A self-sown *Abies grandis* (Giant Fir) a metre high on the side of the railway was a new county record.

On the 22 August I had a walk about Harristown (S92.22); this 1-km square was most productive yielding 226 species, the third highest scoring 1-km square at the present time in the county. There were many habitat types from marshy areas becoming overgrown with trees to waste ground and a disused quarry. A single plant of the hybrid *Cardamine x zahlbruckneriana* (Wavy x Hairy Bitter-cress) (DBN) was seen in the disused quarry growing with both parents, this being a new county record and the second Irish record. As with the plants found in Co. Waterford earlier in the year, the plant was a distinctive purple colour and very tall compared with any other Bitter-cress in the area. Also you could see that all the capsules were empty. John Wallace kindly examined the pollen grains of this plant and the ones from Co. Waterford under a very high powered microscope and sent me photos of the empty pollen grains. Another surprising new county record was a patch of *Calamagrostis epigejos* (Wood Small-reed) (DBN) on waste ground. I surmise that it must have been dumped and spread, but the seed could have blown in. I have only ever seen it grown as a garden plant once in Ireland; that was at Tramore in Co. Waterford. There were no other garden species on the site.

The Dunbrody 1-km square S71.15 was my choice to record on the 29 August, luckily for me as it was free entry into Dunbrody Abbey that day. It proved to be the highest square so far in the county; 257 species were seen on this visit. This square has a very diverse mixture of habitats from the walls of the abbey to saltmarshes along the Campile River. The first good find and a new county record was a patch of *Elytrigia x drucei* (Common x Sea Couch), nicely placed between a stand of each parent on the bank of the Campile River. It was not long before I found another good grass; this time *Hordeum secalinum* (Meadow Barley). It covered an area of the river bank 6 m x 12 m with several

hundred heads. Along the road bank was a very large stand of *Equisetum x litorale* (Shore Horsetail).

The last day of August took me to Rathphaudin (S83.35) for a pre - breakfast walk for what I had supposed by looking at the map to be a boring square. This soon proved to be the total opposite. It was not long before I found several bushes of *Rosa rubiginosa* (Sweet-briar) looking superb as they were covered in deep pink flowers. The adjoining stubble field had a good selection of weeds, the best 3 being: a single large plant of *Euphorbia exigua* (Dwarf Spurge); hundreds of *Kickxia elatine* (Sharp-leaved Fluellen) and a scattering of *Galeopsis bifida* (Bifid Hemp-nettle). The hedges were full of *Rosa sherardii* (Sherard's Downy-rose) and the roadsides had a good selection of Willowherbs. After some searching a single plant of *Epilobium x aggregatum* (Short-fruit x Broad-leaved Willowherb) was found, a new county record. After 2 hours and 4 minutes of recording I returned home for breakfast at 10 a.m. with a list of 176 species.

The next day took me over to Ballyshannon (S85.24). A filter bed had been built in the valley. Even though still good for damp loving plants it must have destroyed what was once a superb marshy valley, judging by the plants growing there. *Veronica scutellata* (Marsh Speedwell) was in good numbers and there was a patch of *Hypericum elodes* (Marsh St John Wort). The best finds being *Epilobium x schmidtianum* (Marsh x Short-fruited Willowherb) and *Juncus x surrejanus* (Jointed x Sharp-flowered Rush) as both were new county records. In another part of the square was a newly dug pond, this had *Chenopodium rubrum* (Red Goosefoot) and *Barbarea verna* (American Winter-cress) around the margins.

After talking to my brother about *Epilobium roseum* (Pale Willowherb) on the phone, on 3 September I popped out for a stroll to see what Old Ross (S79.27) had to offer. A single bush of *Cotoneaster rehderi* (Bullate Cotoneaster) was added to the county list; in addition found in two other 1-km squares later in the year. The strangest find was a large population of Pale Willowherb along the roadside, another new species to the county. Also on the roadside was a single plant of *Chaenorhinum minus* (Small Toadflax). 193 species were recorded.

Wanting some exercise, I popped out to the Knockmullin 1-km square S72.25 for an evening stroll on 4 September; 173 species were added to my recording card. I thought this would be one of those squares that would not turn anything up of interest. A new county record was found in the form of two fruiting patches of *Polygonatum multiflorum* (Solomon's-seal) in a roadside hedge. *Geranium rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Crane's-bill) was abundant along the base of a road bank and a habitat I had not seen *Conyza bilbaoana* (Bilbao's Fleabane) in before was as a weed of an arable field.

Alan Leslie joined me for a 3 days botanizing in September. While I attended a hospital appointment in Wexford on 9 September Alan had a walk along the road behind the hospital in the 1-km square T03.22. He added 3 new county records of non-native shrubs. *Berberis darwinii* (Darwin's Barberry) was a bush self-sown on a wall. A *Cotoneaster* found at the base of a wall was collected and a specimen was sent to J. Fryer, this was named as *C. Hjelmqvistii* (Hjelmqvist's Cotoneaster), a new alien species for Ireland. *Hypericum hircinum* (Stinking Tutsan) was abundantly self-sown along the road side and on walls of the railway bridge. We finished the day off by a walk along the River Slaney. Here we found a shrub naturalised on the river bank. It had obviously seeded from the garden on the other side of the road. Neither of us had any idea what it was. Even though both of us tried we had no luck working out what it was. It took me until 15 October before I was able to identify it even though I had seen it in gardens in the east from New Ross to Newry. The next day was rather wet at times. On one of our stops we added *Rosa x scabriuscula* (Dog-rose x Harsh Downy-rose) to the county list: at Mullaunnasmear (S88.52) in a roadside hedge. The following day we went looking for *Sarcocornia perennis* (Perennial Glasswort) at Taulaght (S82.10). At the first site we looked we could not find it, much dumping of soil had taken place and I fear it had been buried. A new county record was found in the scrub along the top of the strand, a single bush of a hybrid rose: *Rosa x rothschildii* (Dog-rose x Sherard's Downy-rose). Moving around to another part of the shore of the square we found 4 patches of the Glasswort. Here another rose was added to the county list, this time a bush of *Rosa rugosa* (Japanese Rose) just above the strand line.

Given up trying looking through my gardening books, on the internet and showing specimens to a number of gardening friends to identify the shrub found on the 9 September, I went on a garden centre crawl around the county on 15 October. At Fig Tree Garden Centre, Ballymartin (T06.28) *Veronica peregrina* (American Speedwell) was an abundant weed around the car park; a new county record. At last the mystery shrub was found in Springmount Nursery and Garden Centre, Barnadown Lower (T14.54). It being *Aristotelia chilensis* (Chilean Wineberry), a species I have never heard of before. It is an evergreen shrub, which also grows as a tree. The leaves are glossy, dark green and oval to lanceolately shaped. The young shoots and leaf stalks tend to have a reddish colour. It bears clusters of small star-shaped yellow greenish flowers and has small dark purple to black berries. Chilean Wineberry is a native of South America, Chile and Argentina. There were three clumps of *Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent) on the edge of the car park.

The 16 October saw me trying, without any success, to find some of the rare plants Ro had found at Killurin (S97.26). Yet another *Cotoneaster* was added new to the county and Ireland: *Cotoneaster cochleatus* (Yunnan Cotoneaster), a large patch on a wall of the railway bridge. Again a specimen was sent to J. Fryer for confirmation. Damp rock faces of the railway gave rise to *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern) and *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel).

I rounded my year off recording in the county by looking for *Carex strigosa* (Thin-spiked Wood-sedge) on 18 November without success. The last new county record of the year was a stand of *Spiraea x billardii* (Billard's Bridewort) along the side of a track next to the Boro River by Meara's Bridge (S84.37). *Leycesteria formosa* (Himalayan Honeysuckle) was common along the track and *Carpinus betulus* (Hornbeam) was in the hedge on the roadside.

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BSBI FIELD MEETINGS – 2008

ARDMORE and Templemichael, Co. WATERFORD

Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 May

Paul R. Green

The wind was blowing a gale, the waves were coming over the sea-wall and there was gentle rain in the air. Even so six members turned out to join me for a walk around Ardmore Head.

All wrapped up well we headed off for what we expected to be a windy walk. It was not long before we were looking at the flora and forgetting about the wind. *Allium triquetrum* (Three-cornered Leek) was abundant about the town. I had expected to find *Primula veris* (Cowslip) and *Dactylorhiza majalis* (Western Marsh-Orchid) on a grassy slope where I had first noticed them in 1997 but it was now covered in bracken. Eventually we found one Western Marsh-orchid on the side of the path. By this time the wind had dropped and the sun was shining on us. There were several rosettes of *Centaurea scabiosa* (Greater Knapweed) on the cliff top; a rare species in the county.

We sat in a sheltered dip for our lunch and enjoyed views out to sea and I pointed out some of the headlands along the coast to the east. The coastal path rounded round to the west and now we could see parts of the Cork coast past the ruins of a lookout. We were soon distracted by the very large numbers of *Orobanche minor* (Common Broomrape) scattered throughout the grassland. Many were getting on for 50 cm tall and varied in colour from pale brown to deep purple.

The path headed inland where White Mustard was a weed along the arable fields, a common species in this corner of the county. The graveyard and the round tower was our next stop. Sea Spleenwort grew on the tower and in the graveyard hedge was *Humulus lupulus* (Hop) which Úna McDermott had known for several years. The only record I had in my database for the Ardmore area dated back to before 1866.

Several interesting gardens were admired as we walked through the lanes of the town before finishing the day off with a visit to the pub.

The following day we met in a small car park by the ruins of Templemichael Castle. *Verbascum thapsus* (Great Mullein) was on top of the wall and *Polypodium cambricum* (Southern Polypody) grew on the side of the wall in large patches. The track took us down past the ruins of the church to the banks of the River Blackwater. *Daphne laureola* (Spurge-laurel) and *Moehringia trinervia* (Three-nerved Sandwort) were photographed under the trees. A small area of saltmarsh was inspected; here *Limonium humile* (Lax-flowered Sea-lavender) was widespread.

We retraced our steps and took the road a short way; here *Orchis mascula* (Early Purple Orchid) and *Orobanche hederæ* (Ivy Broomrape) were common on the roadside wall. Taking the track to Molana Abbey we stopped and looked at the glands on the underside of the leaves of *Rosa micrantha* (Small-flowered Sweet-briar). The track has a large reed bed on one side and the River Blackwater on the other. A clump of *Carex distans* (Distant Sedge) was seen on the verge of the track; a new species for the 10-km square X08. By the ruins of the abbey was a large patch of *Ruscus aculeatus* (Butcher's-broom). We had our lunch sitting on a large tree trunk.

Returning to the cars we moved down to a lay-by by Youghal Bridge. The rock face opposite the lay-by had large patches of *Erigeron karvinskianus* (Mexican Fleabane) on it. A steep wooded path was taken to the ruins of Rincrew Abbey. We had hoped to see and survey *Orobanche rapum-genistæ* (Greater Broomrape). Unfortunately the field had been ploughed and the broom bushes the Broomrape once grew on had been cut down. Hopefully this is only temporarily extinct to the county. We took the same path back through the wood to the lay-by where we enjoyed a welcome cup of tea in the mobile café.

BSBI AGM FIELD MEETING: TRAMORE BURROWS
SUNDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER
Jenny Seawright

Following the BSBI AGM at the Biodiversity Data Centre in Waterford Paul Green led a walk to show members the flora of the nearby Tramore Burrows, an important coastal site containing several Annex 1 habitats (EU Habitats Directive).

We met in the car park at Tramore on Sunday morning, whistled to the accompanying dogs and set off to see what interesting species Paul had to show us Ahead lay the prospect of strandline flora, marram and stable fixed dunes, saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats.

We saw *Polygonum oxyspermum* subsp. *raii* (Ray's Knotgrass) sprawling across the path just after leaving the car park and hoped we might be fortunate enough to also refind the very rare *Polygonum maritimum* (Sea Knotgrass) which had been recorded here in 1973 and 1974.

Saltmarsh came first with species including *Atriplex portulacoides* (Sea-purslane), *Suaeda maritima* (Annual Sea-blite), *Puccinellia maritima* (Common Saltmarsh-grass), *Aster tripolium* (Sea Aster) and *Spartina anglica* (Common Cord-grass).

Then the *Salicornia* debates beganall six species found in Ireland have been recorded by Paul at this location and after much peering and comparison of specimens *S. europaea* (Common Glasswort), *S. ramosissima* (Purple Glasswort) and *S. pusilla* (One-flowered Glasswort) were successfully identified and their distinguishing characteristics noted or photographed.

I was surprised to see *Inula crithmoides* (Golden Samphire) flowering beside Sea-purslane as I have only seen it before at a very rocky Co. Cork location. It is a beautiful plant and rarely found on Irish saltmarshes.

Trifolium fragiferum (Strawberry Clover) was a new plant for me, growing alongside the path between the saltmarsh and the fixed dunes. Then time for tea and (slightly sandy) sandwiches whilst we sat in the dunes enjoying the warmth of the September sunshine.

We made our way down to the beach, pausing to admire and photograph a clump of *Asparagus officinalis* subsp. *prostratus* (Wild Asparagus) growing amongst the dunes. It is a protected species confined to the southeast coast in Ireland and Tramore Burrows is its only Co. Waterford location.

Both *Euphorbia paralias* (Sea Spurge) and *E. portlandica* (Portland Spurge) were growing along the shoreline which gave a good opportunity for comparison. One way of distinguishing between the two is that the leaves of Portland Spurge have a prominent mid-rib – a useful characteristic when the flowers are absent, though I usually manage to forget which species it applies to!

More comparison was necessary in order to distinguish between *Atriplex glabriuscula* (Babington's Orache) and *A. prostrata* (Spear-leaved Orache). Some plants seemed to be rather intermediate in appearance and eventually I applied my well practiced *Chenopodiaceae* coping-mechanism and hurried on with eyes averted.....

There are pre-1970 records for *Cuscuta epithymum* (Dodder) from the dunes so we spread out to see if we might have the extreme good fortune to find it but sadly there was no sign.

After rounding the headland the terrain changed and we were among a shrubbier flora with *Rubus caesius* (Dewberry) and *Ligustrum vulgare* (Wild Privet).

As we made our way back to the car park we passed many flowering clumps of the coastal *Senecio jacobaea* subsp. *dunensis* (Rayless Ragwort).

I wandered off at a tangent to see what else might be of interest and eventually re-appeared to be greeted by a rather anxious Paul who'd started to wonder if he might have to send out a search party for me..... He identified the odd-looking *Senecio* I'd found as likely being *S. jacobaea* x *S. jacobaea* subsp. *dunensis*. It is a really attractive coastal hybrid and it's a pity it doesn't qualify for a proper name!

The waste ground beside the car park looked like it might be worth investigating so off I headed again but was firmly shepherded back by Paul – enough was enough and it was time for a well-earned cup of tea sitting outside the café in the evening sunshine.

An enjoyable day spent in good company botanising in County Waterford!

WILD FLOWER SOCIETY FIELD MEETING REPORT – 2008

COS KILKENNY AND WATERFORD, 26 TO 29 JUNE – Rita Hemsley

8 WFS members met Paul Green and two of his Irish friends on a rainy morning for a walk around Mount Congreve Gardens to look at garden weeds which included quantities of *Rorippa sylvestris* (Creeping Yellow-cress), *Trifolium micrantha* (Slender Trefoil) on the lawns (rare in Ireland) and a large thriving area of *Selaginella kraussiana* (Krauss's Clubmoss). Clinging to the walls and self-sown was *Hydrangea sargentiana* (Sargent's Hydrangea) and *Trachelium caeruleum* (Throatwort) new plants for most of us. With increasingly heavier rain we ate our lunch in the cars and crossed the River Suir into Co. Kilkenny on to the Waterford City road works (which we were to see quite a lot of during our visit!) to a bank of well established aliens which Paul had previously visited as a Bank Holiday treat for himself. We went through the footpath closed sign and climbed up on to the bank where we were seen by an observant motorist who duly informed the authorities. We enjoyed ourselves seeing such interesting plants as *Secale cereale* (Rye), *Ornithopus sativus* (Serradella), *Vicia villosa* (Fodder Vetch) and

Trifolium pannonicum, *T. incarnatum* subsp. *incarnatum* and *T. resupinatum* (Hungarian, Crimson and Reversed Clovers) and *Bromus commutatus* (Meadow Brome) also rare in Ireland. As we descended the bank clutching various soggy specimens a road works supervisor came in response to the phone call but was perfectly happy with our wet expedition if not a trifle bemused.

We then moved to Snowhill also in Co. Kilkenny in the unrelenting rain and walked a very slippery path up steep inclines which necessitated the use of a conveniently placed rope and over stone walls under barbed wire, through herds of cattle plus bull, to see *Asplenium onopteris* (Irish Spleenwort). This was first found in Co. Kilkenny on 11 August 1899 by Robert Praeger and recently refound by Paul and Megan Morris and he had checked the site again before showing us taking him less than an hour. We took well over two hours and had to abseil down a rope on the way back but also saw *Hypericum humifusum* (Trailing St. John's-wort), *Potentilla erecta* subsp. *strictissima* (Tormentil) and *Rubus sprengelli*, and the rain managed to get even heavier as we arrived back at the cars.

We met near Waterford airport on the second day which started with rain but actually left off later. This time we drove through a road closed sign and as Paul was wearing his hi viz jacket we walked unchallenged over the road works to see *Rosa x verticillacantha* (*R. arvensis* x *R. canina*) and today only needed the ability to limbo dance under a barrier for a gentle walk on the airport firebreak. Here we saw the Heath Wood-rush *Luzula multiflora* subsp. *hibernica* (Heath Wood-rush) after seeing *L.* subsp. *congesta* and *L.* subsp. *multiflora* the day before and Paul carefully pointed out the difference between *Plantago major* subsp. *intermedia* and subsp. *major* (Greater Plantain). We also saw *Rubus longus* and about fifteen sedges including *Carex hostiana* and *C. pulicaris* (Tawny and Flea Sedge). We made stops at Tramore to look at *Sorbus devoniensis* (Devon Whitebeam) in a roadside hedge also seeing *Rubus norvicensis* and *Equisetum hyemale* (Rough Horsetail) originally used by butchers and people for scrubbing pots and work surfaces because it contained silica and in the absence of butcher's broom, not found in Ireland.

We had lunch on Tramore Burrows and walked on the dunes to see a large number of maritime flowers including *Senecio jacobaea* subsp. *dunensis* (Rayless Ragwort), *Trifolium fragiferum* (Strawberry Clover) at its now only extant site in the county, striking patches of *Glaux maritima* (Sea Milkwort) up to eight inches tall amongst the grass, *Viola tricolor* subsp. *curtisii*, (Wild Pansy) both purple and yellow forms, and *Rumex acetosa* subsp. *hibernicus* (Irish Sorrel). We also saw the spiny form of *Ononis repens* (Rest-harrow) var. *horrida*, the lovely blue flowers of *Limonium humile* (Lax-flowered Sea-lavender) and *Asparagus officinalis* subsp. *prostratus* (Wild Asparagus) at its most westerly site, this being one of the oldest plant records for Co. Waterford made by Charles Smith in 1746 and now a protected species.

A quick stop for *Cordyline australis* (Cabbage-palm) firmly established for several years by a wall and on to Annestown to the best marshland in the area reached via a no trespassing sign and under an electric fence to see several marsh orchids including *Dactylorhiza x transiens* found on this meeting and now confirmed; a new hybrid for Co. Waterford. On a wall nearby was *Anthemis punctata* subsp. *cupaniana* (Sicilian Chamomile) established since 1997 opposite the garden of the owner of the marshland who had seen us in the marshes (Paul still had his hi-viz jacket on) who came to talk to us and was pleased that we were interested in her marshy field. Then on to Stradbally on the Copper Coast designated a European Geopark in 2002 to see *Equisetum x trachyodon* (*E. hyemale x variegatum*) (Mackay's Horsetail) a thin spiky horsetail hidden amongst the vegetation but nevertheless found by Paul in 2006, a new native plant and the only site in the county. Here also was *Crepis paludosa* (Marsh Hawk's-beard) and *Rubus botryeros*. End of second day and an impressive list of new finds for WFS members already accumulating.

Saturday was warm and fine – just right for a long, steep climb up the Comeragh Mountains to 1630 ft to see *Minuartia recurva* (Recurved Sandwort) not yet known in Britain and found by Paul in 2001. Paul has counted 67 clumps clinging to the rock faces but we settled for just two or three, undoubtedly the highlight of the meeting. With it we saw *Saxifraga spathularis* (St. Patrick's-cabbage) and *Jasione montana* var. *latifolia* (Sheep's-bit). Also on the rocks were

Hymenophyllum tunbrigense and *H. wilsonii* (Tunbridge and Wilson's Filmy-ferns). Paul showed us the hairy *Pedicularis sylvestris* subsp. *hibernica* (Irish Lousewort) only described in the 1960's by David Webb. On the way we saw *Rubus dentatifolius*, with its bronze pointed leaves, the second most common bramble in Co. Waterford.

Then it was time to visit Úna McDermott's garden for tea. Úna is a botanical friend of Paul's who has *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's-tongue) growing in her garden and had just found in May big bushy plants of *Cardamine x zahlbruckneriana* (*C. flexuosa* x *C. hirsuta*) (Hybrid Bitter-cress), an exciting first record for Ireland. When we saw the delicious spread provided for us and the lovely mugs of tea after the long hike this morning, eaten outside in warm sunshine, it was difficult to decide which we found more exciting!

After tea a few of us continued on a lovely evening to the River Suir opposite Clonmel to see *Potamogeton x zizii* (*P. lucens* x *P. gramineus*) (Long-leaved Pond-weed) and *Rorippa x anceps* (*R. sylvestris* x *R. amphibian*), (Hybrid Yellow-cress) accompanied by grey wagtails and swallows.

Sunday saw us silently concentrating on where to put our feet to avoid slipping on the mossy, wet rocks, as we walked through the long, deep, hidden gully to the site of *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney Fern) of course amazingly found by Paul; how does he do it? This find of Paul's cost the Irish taxpayers €10,000 because a proposed road through the site cannot now be built.

We then walked along the roadside at Tournore and saw *Sinapis alba* (White Mustard) profusely seeded with pods densely covered in white hairs and the woolly heads of *Arctium nemorosum* (Wood Burdock) which in Co. Waterford is the only *Arctium*. We stopped to look at a brick-walled lay-by originally used by men to sit and dress stones for the roads, unique to Co. Waterford and now all the remaining ones are being preserved.

Then up a path last walked by Paul in 2006 who seemed surprised that it had become overgrown and under water to see *Rosa x scrabuscula* (*R. canina* x

tomentosa) and *Carex x boeninghausiana* (*C. remota* x *C. paniculata*) and thence to a peaceful sunny lunch by the Colligan River. A flat woodland walk gave us *Euphorbia hyberna* (Irish Spurge) and a new site for Co. Waterford for *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid).

We then made several roadside stops to see many more interesting plants including *Sorbus hibernica* (Irish Whitebeam), only found in Ireland and *Hypericum forrestii* (Forrest's Tutsan) growing on a bridge. While the many photographs were being taken some of us saw a kingfisher land on a branch complete with fish. We were then shown *Euphorbia mellifera* (Canary spurge) and the seeds of *Veronica crista-galli* (Crested Field-speedwell) before finishing at Dungarvan. Here we saw *Calystegia silvatica* subsp. *silvatica* (Large Bindweed) growing with the smaller subsp. *disjuncta*; the hybrid horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* x *arvense* (*E. x litorale*) (Shore Horsetail); the yellow form of *Scrophularia nodosa* (Common Figwort) var. *babartii*, and *Rubus caesarius* every specimen and difference carefully and patiently described by Paul.

We must thank the indefatigable Paul for his unfailing enthusiasm and willingness to share all his finds and knowledge with others. Many, many thanks for an adventurous and very enjoyable four day meeting.

FLORA OF COUNTY WATERFORD

ERRATA

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Goodwilie should read Goodwillie

REQUESTS

Mike Wilcox , 32 Shawbridge St. Clitheroe, BB7 1LZ
Email: michaelpw22@hotmail.com

Juncus specimens required. The hybrid *J. x kern-reichgeltii* has been studied and an article will be published in 2009 on its identification. Requests were made in BSBI News but very little material was received and only two plants from Ireland. I would be grateful for any specimens (individuals or populations) for determination in order to build up a picture of distribution. This would also apply to the rush *J. x surrejanus* and *J. acutiflorus* (but not before end of July i.e. plants at the fruiting stage only). Also grateful for any *J. planifolius* and other species; *J. tenuis* might be worth collecting to check for *J. dudleyi* and *J. anthelatus*.

Also any *Epilobium* species required particularly in **flower** (with a few fruits to make sure it is not a hybrid, though will be acceptable). Smaller plants from the base, though *E. hirsutum* can be just the top part with flowers and a few fruits. The alpine species are particularly welcome and any in the *E. tetragonum* group. Fresh if possible or pressed – if pressing the plants, they can be saved up and sent at a later date in one envelope.

Additionally, I would be interested in receiving *Elytrigia repens* with none or very short awns and those with the very long awns up to 18mm (var. *aristata*)

in flower/fruited stage. Pressed or semi-pressed or even fresh would be useful. Any other *Elytrigia* would be welcome.

BOOK REVIEW

Flora of County Waterford. Paul Green. 401 pp. National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Glasnevin, Dublin. 2008. €45 hard back, €20 soft back. ISBN 0-7557-7607-0.

Paul Green first visited Ireland in 1988 to help with the BSBI Monitoring Scheme though it was another nine years before his second visit. He fell in love with Ireland and finally moved to New Ross in Co. Wexford in 2006, just three years ago. It is therefore quite remarkable that he has been able to produce such a fine Flora in such a short period of time; it is a testament to his enthusiasm and energy and he has provided us with probably the largest vice-county Flora in Ireland.

The Flora follows a traditional route, introductory chapters and maps that cover solid geology, soils, terrain, freshwater systems, urbanisation, etc. followed by the species catalogue. This latter section covers over three hundred pages and for many species includes small, but very detailed, tetrad distribution maps. These maps have symbols representing different time periods, the earliest being records from 1746-1899 whilst the most recent time class is 2000-2007 and represents, largely, Green's own recording effort. The species accounts (1530 species are covered) list significant records and, for some of the more interesting species, a more detailed account of their history. The introductory chapters include an interesting view of the compilation of the Flora. The Introduction itself is a very personal account of how the recording and other associated work was 'fitted-in'. It's a real insight into Paul's 'journey'. Another personal section is a list of 33 of his favourite places to botanise – this will prove to be an indispensable guide for botanical newcomers to the county. An extensive bibliography and combined scientific and common names index (I thoroughly approve) end the text.

But, the book doesn't end there. It is fully supported by a website (The Web Flora of County Waterford, <http://flora-waterford.biodiversityireland.ie/>) with interactive maps, photographs of the species and their descriptions and much more besides. This could be the future of Flora publishing – putting the detailed records on line in permanent repositories such as CEDaR (Centre for Environmental data and Recording) at the Ulster Museum, Belfast or the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford and supplementing these with more modest publications that cover the botany of the county

in a more synoptic way. This approach might encourage more recorders to embark on preparing a Flora for their own vice-counties. That is really the only 'down-side' of Paul Green's Flora – the volume of work might actually put others off!

An absolute necessity for any botanist visiting or thinking of visiting Waterford.

B.S. RUSHTON

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BSBI IRISH REGIONAL
BRANCH 2008 HELD AT THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE,
WATERFORD, ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2008 (unapproved)**

ATTENDANCE

21 members attended the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from; Ralph Sheppard, Ian McNeill, David McNeill, Mary Willis, Fiona Devery, David Nash, Brian Rushton, Michelene Sheehy Skeffington.

MINUTES OF AGM 2007

Meeting held at National Botanic Gardens on Saturday 13th October 2007.

Minutes were read and approved.

MATTER'S ARISING

Paul Hackney pointed out that the minutes incorrectly named Raymond Piper as David Piper.

CHAIRS REPORT

Caroline Mhic Dheid welcomed the attendance and in particular Michael Braithwaite the President of the BSBI and Mrs Paddy Braithwaite.

The Committee were delighted to be able to avail of the facilities at the National Biodiversity Data Centre as a meeting place and a base for the planned weekend activities.

Caroline expressed on behalf of the committee to Liam Lysaght and Úna Fitzpatrick for their hospitality and assistance.

There had already been a most informative presentation the previous day by Bob Ellis on the use of Mapmate.

The committee has also arranged for an impressive list of speakers to address the meeting in the afternoon session and hope for a lively discussion on the subject of "Recording Matters". Caroline thanked Matthew Jebb, Liam Lysaght, Declan Doogue and Damian McFerran for their agreement to participate and also expressed her thanks to the members of the committee and vice county recorders for their help and support during the year.

Other major matters which were discussed and business transmitted during the year is summarised in the hon. secretary's report, below.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

See below.

REPORT FROM VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS

Sylvia Reynolds, Co. Limerick (H8) gave a comprehensive and informative summary of activities in her county during the past year.

FIELD MEETINGS

John Faulkner, Field Meetings Secretary reported on the meetings throughout the year, expressing regret that many of them were disrupted by severe weather conditions.

As usual he is looking for Vice-county Recorders to volunteer to arrange meetings for next year and would appreciate confirmation of dates, as soon as possible.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were three vacancies to be filled. Nominations were received for Paul Green, John Wallace, and Michael Archer.

As these were the only three candidates proposed, they were deemed to be elected.

VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS – VACANCIES

The chair advised the meeting that the committee had received resignations from two County Recorders, namely Alan Hill, Co. Monahan (H32) and Paddy Reilly, Co. Cavan

(H30). Caroline expressed the thanks of the committee to both Alan and Paddy for their contribution over a long number of years.

The BSBI wishes both of them well into the future.

AGM 2009

There was a discussion about the format of future AGM's and the incoming committee were charged with the task of investigating suitable venues and a program so as to make a weekend of the AGM as had been done this year.

The committee should also consider organising the AGM for earlier in the year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The presentation to Brian Rushton to mark his retirement from his 18 years editorship of Irish Botanical News was made "telephonically" as Brian Rushton could not attend the meeting.

MEETING END

The chair invited all present to attend the afternoon presentations and formally closed the meeting.

Michael Archer, *Honorary Secretary, BSBI Committee for Ireland*

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2007-2008

The Committee met on the 13 October 2007, 16 February 2008, 5 April 2008 and 19 July 2008.

A. FIELD MEETINGS

John Faulkner arranged 6 meetings throughout the season, some of which were seriously disrupted by the atrocious weather conditions which we have had to contend with this year.

B. VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS - RESIGNATIONS

Alan Hill, Co. Monaghan and Paddy O'Reilly Co. Cavan have submitted their resignations as VCR'S and the committee is hopeful of filling both vacant positions in the near future.

C. ORCHID IRELAND PROJECT

There have been some unavoidable delays in progressing this project as far as we had hoped during the past year but the committee is looking forward to a more productive season in 2009.

In the meantime it is noted that an Irish Wild Orchid Field Guide is being prepared by Brendan Sayers and that this will be published in early 2009.

D. REVISION OF IRISH COMMITTEE RULES

Two meetings have already been held to discuss same, but some more work will have to be done during the coming year in order to finalize a revised set of rules.

E. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE

The centre at Waterford is now up and running and at a recent 2 day 'Recorders Event', three BSBI committee members – Caroline MhicDaeid, Declan Doogue and Paul Green were contributors to the addresses and workshops.

The occasion was also marked by the launch of the "*Flora of Co. Waterford*" a much acclaimed county flora, prepared by Paul Green.

The venue for the Annual General Meeting will be at the new centre and a programme of topics and discussion has been arranged, to take place during the two days. It is hoped that BSBI chairman Mr. Michael Braithwaite will also attend.

F. IRISH BOTANICAL NEWS

The Committee arranged for a presentation to Brian Rushton to mark the occasion of his retirement from the Editorship of Irish Botanical News after a period of 18 years.

H. COUNTY RARE PLANT REGISTERS

The committee will continue to encourage and assist the preparations and publication of such County registers, where possible.

There are at least two in an advanced stage of completion at the present time.

I. INCOMING COMMITTEE

There will be three vacancies to be filled at the A.G.M, due to the retiring of Declan Doogue, John Faulkner and Alan Hill.

Michael Archer, *Honorary Secretary, BSBI Committee for Ireland*

