



watershed on the Mallerstang ridge before crossing the upper Eden Valley and the southern half of the Howgill Fells. The final stretch runs south along the Lune Valley to the south of Sedbergh and across the south of Dentedale to Crag Hill.

### ***Alchemilla* in Teesdale**

One of Teesdale's many claims to botanical fame are its Lady's-mantles, three of which appear to be confined to the region (*Alchemilla acutiloba*, *A. monticola* and *A. subcrenata*). It also has notable populations of *A. wichurae* and *A. glomerulans*, both of which are very uncommon in Northern England, as well the more widespread species, *A. glabra*, *A. xanthochlora* and *A. filicaulis*. *A. minima* and *A. glaucescens* have yet to be recorded in Teesdale but may well occur in the area (both occur further south in VC65).

Surveys by Margaret Bradshaw in the 1950s and since 2000 have shown worrying declines for the five uncommon species in Teesdale and Weardale, all of which occur in meadows and calcareous grassland on the south side of the River Tees (VC65). It is therefore encouraging to report the results of a survey of meadows near Holwick carried out in May of this year. Despite torrential rain a group led by Margaret recorded healthy populations of *A. subcrenata* in meadows near to Holwick where Margaret first noticed the plant in the 1950s. The meadows also support small populations of *A. glomerulans* and *A. wichurae*, as well as a range of other localized VC65 species including *Crepis mollis*, *Gentianella campestris*, and *Pseudorchis albida* (found by John O'Reilly in June - see below).

### **Boreal outliers on Great Shunner Fell**

In August 2007 Linda Robinson made some spectacular discoveries on Great Shunner Fell. Whilst searching flushes for *Saxifraga hirculus* Linda discovered *Carex vaginata* and *Alopecurus borealis* both of which were new for the county.

Alpine foxtail is an extremely rare species in Britain although it has been recorded in several new sites following reductions in grazing on the high fells since foot and mouth. Outside Britain it only occurs in Svalbard, arctic Russia and the Urals, so the VC65 population is the most southerly site in the world. Like the foxtail, the population of sheathed sedge is also close to the southern edge of its European range in VC65. Until a few years ago it was only known

from Scotland but since foot and mouth several new sites have been found in northern England. The VC65 colonies of both species are very small and were presumably overlooked when the fells were overgrazed. They may be more widespread in the county so please keep a look out for them in base-rich flushes (often in unpromising looking terrain) above 650m.

Other notable boreal species found recently on Shunner Fell include *Epilobium alsinifolium*, *Carex bigelowii* and the hybrid with *C. nigra* (*C. × decolorans*), confirmed by Rod Corner and Linda Robinson during a visit this year. The mountain must therefore be one of the most notable in Britain for its assemblage of boreal species, many of which are at or near their absolute southern limits in the world.

### **A new hybrid willow for England**

Another remarkable find this year was the newly described hybrid willow, *Salix × lochsiensis* (*S. myrsinifolia* × *phylicifolia* × *repens*), discovered by David Tenant amongst basalt rocks on the S bank of the River Tees. This is the first English and only the second British record for this triple hybrid (see *Watsonia* 26: 381, 2007).

### **BSBI Threatened Plant Project**

During this summer a number of recorders undertook surveys of populations of *Blysmus compressus*, *Crepis mollis* and *Gentianella campestris* as part of the BSBI's national Threatened Plant project. This has resulted in many new records as well as confirmations of populations that were either thought to be lost or for which the exact localities were not known. The discovery of three populations of *Crepis mollis* was especially pleasing as this is a very rare species in VC65 and it has not been seen at many old sites for a number of years. This included one site in Wensleydale where it has and two small populations near Holwick where it occurs on species-rich banks in meadows very close to the River Tees. Many thanks to those who helped with fieldwork most notably John & Clare O'Reilly and Jeremy Roberts.

This project will cover a new set of species in 2009. In VC65 this will include the relocation and survey of populations of *Carex ericetorum*, *Coeloglossum viride*, *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* and *Vicia orobus*. Please let us know if you would like to be involved.

## Recording plans for the future

As new recorders our immediate plans are to deal with the backlog of paper records that we inherited from Deborah and that recorders have sent in to us this year. This is likely to be a big job as there are literally 1000s of records lurking in our files and card indexes. These will be inputted into MapMate over the next few winters and added to the c.40,000 records or so already in the *Vascular Plants Database* at CEH Wallingford (formerly Monks Wood).

Initially we intend to focus our recording efforts on species that are either nationally rare or scarce (i.e. recorded in less than 100 10 × 10 km squares) or classified as threatened in the new Red Data List of the British flora published in 2005. Currently this includes the 126 native and archaeophyte taxa listed below:

<i>Actaea spicata</i>	<i>Hypericum montanum</i>
<i>Alchemilla acutiloba</i>	<i>Juncus alpinoarticulatus</i>
<i>Alchemilla glaucescens</i>	<i>Juncus compressus</i>
<i>Alchemilla glomerulans</i>	<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i>
<i>Alchemilla minima</i>	<i>Limosella aquatica</i>
<i>Alchemilla monticola</i>	<i>Linum perenne</i>
<i>Alchemilla subcrenata</i>	<i>Luronium natans</i>
<i>Alchemilla wichurae</i>	<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>
<i>Allium oleraceum</i>	<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>
<i>Alopecurus borealis</i>	<i>Meum athamanticum</i>
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>
<i>Arabis glabra</i>	<i>Minuartia verna</i>
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> ssp.	<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>
<i>pachyrachis</i>	<i>Myosotis stolonifera</i>
<i>Bartsia alpina</i>	<i>Myosurus minimus</i>
<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>
<i>Bromopsis benekenii</i>	<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>
<i>Carex capillaris</i>	<i>Orchis morio</i>
<i>Carex digitata</i>	<i>Orchis ustulata</i>
<i>Carex ericetorum</i>	<i>Orobanche alba</i>
<i>Carex muricata</i> ssp. <i>muricata</i>	<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>
<i>Carex vaginata</i>	<i>Orobanche reticulata</i>
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	<i>Papaver argemone</i>
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	<i>Persicaria minor</i>
<i>Circaea alpina</i>	<i>Peucedanum ostruthium</i>
<i>Clinopodium calamintha</i>	<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>
<i>Cochlearia micacea</i>	<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>
<i>Cochlearia pyrenaica</i>	<i>Polygala amarella</i>
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>
<i>Crepis mollis</i>	<i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>
<i>Dactylorhiza traunsteineri</i>	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	<i>Potentilla neumanniana</i>
<i>Draba muralis</i>	<i>Primula farinosa</i>

<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	<i>Pseudorchis albida</i>
<i>Dryopteris submontana</i>	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>
<i>Epipactis atrorubens</i>	<i>Ribes alpinum</i>
<i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i>	<i>Ribes spicatum</i>
<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	<i>Rosa agrestis</i>
<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	<i>Rumex pseudoalpinus</i>
<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>
<i>Erophila majuscula</i>	<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>
<i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i> ssp.	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>
<i>montana</i>	<i>Sedum villosum</i>
<i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i> ssp.	<i>Sesleria caerulea</i>
<i>rostkoviana</i>	<i>Silene gallica</i>
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	<i>Silene noctiflora</i>
<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	<i>Sium latifolium</i>
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	<i>Sorbus rupicola</i>
<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>
<i>Genista anglica</i>	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	<i>Stachys arvensis</i>
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	<i>Stellaria palustris</i>
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>
<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	<i>Teucrium scordium</i>
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	<i>Thlaspi caerulescens</i>
<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>
ssp. <i>levigatum</i>	<i>Utricularia australis</i>
<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>	<i>Valerianella dentata</i>
<i>Hornungia petraea</i>	<i>Vicia orobus</i>
<i>Hymenophyllum wilsonii</i>	<i>Viola tricolor</i>
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	<i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>

Some of these species are long extinct (e.g. *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Woodsia ilvensis*) whereas others are relatively common in VC65 (e.g. *Minuartia verna*, *Primula farinosa*, *Sesleria caerulea*). We would welcome any recent records for any of these species or up date their distributions.

A much bigger job is our aim to record the flora of the entire county, at the tetrad scale, over the next 20 years. Initially we intend to focus on hectads for which we have very few records. To this end we have planned a series of field trips to various parts of the county during next summer (see below). Please feel free to come along to these meetings or alternatively if you would like to concentrate on specific areas or hectads closer to your home then please feel free to get in touch to see how we can help. We can supply lists of species for each hectad and recording forms.

## Notable records for 2008

- Alchemilla acutiloba*, Wynch Bridge, NW of, NY90.28, 31 May 2008, M.E. Bradshaw et al. First record for VC65.
- Alchemilla glomerulans*, Holwick Bridge, Ettersgill, NY98.24, 31 May 2008, M.E. Bradshaw et al.
- Alchemilla glomerulans*, Holwick, NY90.27, 1 June 2008, M.E. Bradshaw et al.
- Alchemilla monticola*, Hayberries, Romalldkirk, NY99.22, 31 May 2008, M.E. Bradshaw et al.
- Alchemilla subcrenata*, Holwick, NY909271, NY90.27, NY907271, 1 June 2008, M.E. Bradshaw et al.
- Alchemilla wichurae*, Holwick Bridge, Ettersgill, NY98.24, 31 May 2008, M.E. Bradshaw et al.
- Alchemilla wichurae*, Holwick, NY90.27, 1 June 2008, M.E. Bradshaw et al.
- Carex* × *decolorans* (*C. nigra* × *C. bigelowii*), Great Shunner Fell, SD84.97, 21 August 2008, R.W.M. Corner & L. Robinson. First record for VC65.
- Carex* × *fulva* (*C. viridula* subsp. *oedocarpa* × *C. hostiana*), Locker Tarn, SE00.91, 24 July 2008, K.J. Walker & C.E. Pinches, det. M. Porter. First confirmed record for VC65 for many years.
- Crepis mollis*, Worton Scar, Wensleydale, field below, SD96.89, 3 July 2008, K.J. Walker. First confirmed record for VC65 for many years. Last recorded at this site in 1976.
- Crepis mollis*, Wynch Bridge, E of, NY90.27, 14 July 2008, K.J. Walker & L. Robinson.
- Crepis mollis*, Holwick, NY90.27, 14 July 2008, K.J. Walker & L. Robinson.
- Eriophorum latifolium*, Locker Tarn, above, SE00.91, 24 July 2008, K.J. Walker & C.E. Pinches.
- Pseudorchis albida*, Holwick, NY909273, 13 June 2008, John O'Reilly.
- Pseudorchis albida*, Marsett Rigg SSSI, SD89.86, 9 July 2008, K.J. Walker.
- Salix* × *lochsiensis* (*S. phyllicifolia* × *S. myrsinifolia* × *S. repens*), Tees-bank above Middleton, NY92, 5 June 2008, D.J. Tenant, det. D.J. Tenant & R.D. Meikle. Riverside rocks on basalt, at least one bush. First English and only second British record.

## Field meetings 2008

- All meetings and courses begin at 10.00am.
- Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> - *Gagea/Galanthus* day. Meet at Croft-on-Tees Cemetery gates, NZ285094.
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April - *Gagea/Galanthus* day. Meet at Bowlees Visitor Centre Car Park, NY907282.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April - *Gagea/Galanthus* day. Meet at Car Park on Tom Croft Hill, SD694913.
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Spring Flora. Meet at beginning of Tees Railway Walk just outside Romalldkirk, NY994216.
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Sedge course with Mike Porter (BSBI Referee). Bainbridge Village Hall. Please book in advance (Linda - 01768 881714). £10. Bring packed lunch.
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June - *Hutchinsia* hunt. Meet near the phone box in Snape village, SE266844.
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June - Muker Meadows. Meet in the car park in Muker, SD911977.
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Meadows and possible *Crepis mollis* hunt. Meet at the cattle grid on Pott Moor High Road, SE143779.
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July - joint VC64/65 BSBI Field Meeting
- Saturday 11 July - Bowes & Barningham area. Meet Greta Bridge near the Morrit Arms, NZ085132.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July - Bowes Moor - Pennine Way. Meet near Gilmonby Bridge just outside Bowes, NY996132.
- Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> - Stonesdale Moor. Meet roadside near Stonesdale Bridge, NY884044.
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August - Hackforth/Crakehall area. Meet Beside the Pub in Little Crakehall, SE242901.
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September - Arkengarthdale. Meet at Whaw Bridge, NY982044.

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