

BSBI CHESHIRE RECORDING NEWSLETTER – 2014

After a nice lunch in Audlem, the party set off recording through the town and down to the canal adding 25 to SJ64L including *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Erophila glabrescens*, *Ficaria verna* and *Polystichum setiferum*. Further south we explored some ancient woodland in SK64R where 17 were added. *Adoxa moschatellina*, *Allium ursinum*, more *Anemone nemorosa*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* ssp *montanum* and *Primula vulgaris* were noted. A splendid fungus was later named as Scarlet Elf Cup (*Sarcocypha austriaca*).

SJ99T at Matley proved more interesting than expected, given its built-up nature, but a wet valley which had escaped development would be worthy of a return visit. 120 new included *Hedera colchica*, *Symphytum* ‘Hidcote Blue’, *Taraxacum nordstedtii*, a characteristic species of undisturbed wet pasture, *Prunus padus*, and five *Equisetums*.

An all day trek in Bridgemere in June, added 175 to SJ74C with a nice shady lane welcome in the hot weather (hard to believe!). *Euonymus europaeus* was smothered in caterpillar web, and we saw *Tellima grandiflora*, and *Aphanes australis*. Three hares enlivened the day. The choice of a parking spot for SJ64Y, proved fortuitous as the lay-by sheltered several plants of *Anthriscus caucalis*, usually a plant of coastal sand. We added 181 including *Malva neglecta*, a fine specimen of *Tilia platyphyllos*, though planted, and *Potamogeton pusillus*.

The August visit to Delamere Forest for SJ57F, on another hot day, proved very entertaining. Of 156 records, 61 were new with Black Lake and surrounds yielding *Carex canescens*, *Myosotis secunda*, *Drosera rotundifolia* and *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, but no *Carex lasiocarpa*, as previously reported. We failed to find *Carex laevigata* at an old site, now rather overgrown, but Martyn spotted it in a new site. Here was also a curious slime-mould looking like miniature sea anemones on a fallen tree. It was named by Arthur Chater as *Stemonitis fusca* or *axifera*. On our way back to the cars, we were hailed by Forest officials, curious about what we were doing and they somehow managed to get seven bodies into a small van and took us to see what proved to be *Cirsium heterophyllum* in a new and unexpected site. As a final treat, Roy Bowden took us to *Matteuccia struthiopteris*, well enough naturalised to be a new county record.

Another trip to the north-east took us to SJ99X where 168 new records were made. It was nice to see *Pimpinella saxifraga* which is hard to find these days and *Spiraea douglasii* was naturalised. *Epilobium roseum* is an increasing species, as it would seem is *Pilosella caespitosa*, a large colony

being found by a pool where was also *Ranunculus omiophyllus*. *Oreopteris limbosperma* was another nice find.

The visit to SJ56C proved to be a day for alien grasses. 69 new records included *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Panicum miliaceum* and another *Panicum* which eventually proved to be *P. capillare*. This later turned up in thousands in several maize fields along with *Setaria pumila*, *viridis* and *verticillata*. Perhaps the wet followed by warm weather aided germination. They seem to be spread by touring agricultural machinery. The much-branched *Equisetum palustre* var *polystachyum* was an odd find by an electricity sub-station. Back in the north-east, in SD90W we added 11 in passing into SD90Q which gained 147 including *Epilobium x erroneum*, *Lobularia maritima*, *Silene vulgaris*, and *Symphoricarpos orbicularis*. Venturing into SD90R added 130. Of note were *Epilobium montanum x ciliatum*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*, *Polypodium interjectum*, *Salix elaeagnos* and *viminalis*, *Calluna vulgaris* and *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Elsewhere, it was a surprise to find that the lime-beds at Clifton not only had *Centaurium erythraea* and the only site for *C. litorale* but also plenty of *C. pulchellum*. Further colonies of *Impatiens noli-tangere* were spotted in Lower Peover. Could it possibly be native? Ian Boote found a nice colony of *Luronium natans* at Hollingworth, perhaps the only site left in VC58. New species included *Anemone ranunculoides* found by Stewart Hinsley at Burton, and *Picris hieracioides* doing well in Partington. The late highlight of the year was the gametophyte stage of *Trichomanes speciosum* found near Marple by the county bryophyte recorder, Dr Des Callaghan, while looking for mosses. It is a taxon I had been hoping was somewhere, so it is excellent to locate it at last.

CHESHIRE PLANT RECORDING MEETINGS FOR 2014

Meetings begin at 2pm unless otherwise stated and last until about 5pm. It is usually a gentle stroll and all are invited but these days it is at your own risk.

Saturday 29th March 2pm Bickerton Hill
Park in car park at SJ503531 to check on *Asplenium trichomanes* ssp *pachyrachis* and see if Mad Allan's Hole holds any surprises.

Saturday 19th April 2pm Hough Common
Park in car park at SJ714506.

Saturday 10th May 2pm Haslington
Park on verge at SJ735551 for a circuit to the north.

Sunday 15th June 11am Chorley. Bring packed lunch.
Park on verge at SJ581504 to explore footpaths to the east.

Sunday 13th July 11am Wettenhall. Bring packed lunch.
Park on verge at SJ615610 for SJ66A and SJ65E.

Saturday 2nd August 2pm Longside Edge
Park in layby at SK132997 to search for *Rubus chamaemorus*.

Saturday 13th September 2pm East of Woodhead
Park in layby at SK114999 next to bridge (2nd layby going east) to look at the moors for *Wahlenbergia*.

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Matteuccia struthopteris at Hatchmere



Lathraea squamaria in Woodbank Park



Lathraea clandestina on the Middlewood Way, Torkington.



Luronium natans at Hollingworth



Impatiens noli-tangere at Over Peover.



Stremonotis fusca in Delamere Forest.



Trichomanes speciosum gametophyte form, Marple.