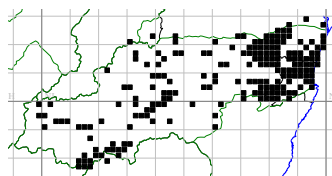


BSBI Botany News

VC92 South Aberdeenshire

Number 3. April 2015



This is the third newsletter for those interested in plants and botanical recording in South Aberdeenshire. They are produced occasionally, to stimulate botanical work and seek help for BSBI recording projects. Please contact me (address below) with queries and especially any plant records!

Plant recording in South Aberdeenshire towards the new atlas

The priority is to gain records for the next **UK plant atlas 2020**, covering the period 2000-2019. Every plant recorder has a part to play! Many areas have not been visited by botanists for a long time, and some places have never been surveyed. Almost anywhere is worth exploration. The maps following show aspects of coverage over the years. There is still a little more data for 2014 to incorporate, but they show some good recent recording progress and more importantly highlight major gaps still to be surveyed.



Spiguel (*Meum athamanticum*). The impressive population near Braemar Castle must be very notable in a Scottish context

Recording strategy

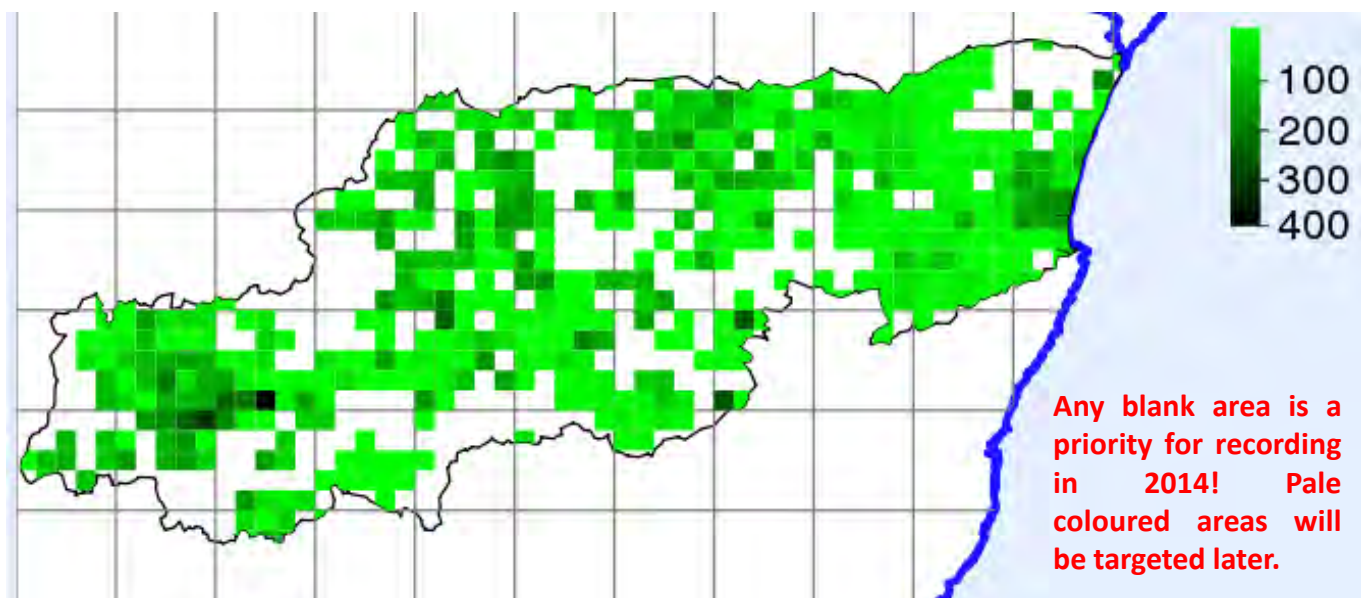
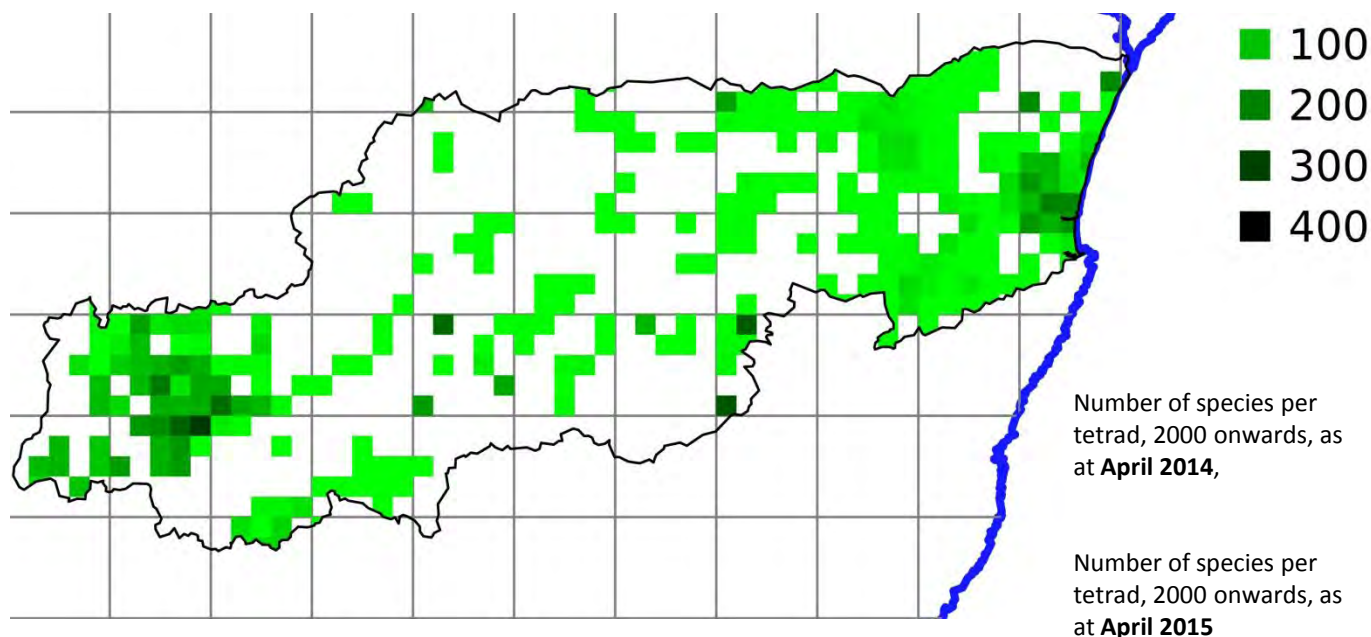
It will not be possible to visit all tetrads in the vice-county before 2020, and certainly not every 1x1km square (monad). The maps show that a few peripheral 10km squares (hectads) have no recent records. These of course are shared with neighbouring vice-counties so at a national hectad mapping scale this may not matter. But it would be very nice to receive records at a detailed level from within every hectad covered by VC92. In addition, we need to ensure a good spread of records across other hectads. So by 2019, I would like to achieve the following:

1. Detailed recording visits to at least five 1x1km squares within every 10km sq. containing more than 20 1x1km squares (there are 36 of them), a total of 175 monads over 6 years to 2019.
2. At least one detailed visit to one monad in each of the peripheral 10km squares with fewer than 20 1x1km squares - a further 14.

That's 30 per year, divided by all the botanists I can find! This is being refined, and may be too ambitious, but your help would be greatly appreciated! (See also further notes on page 3).

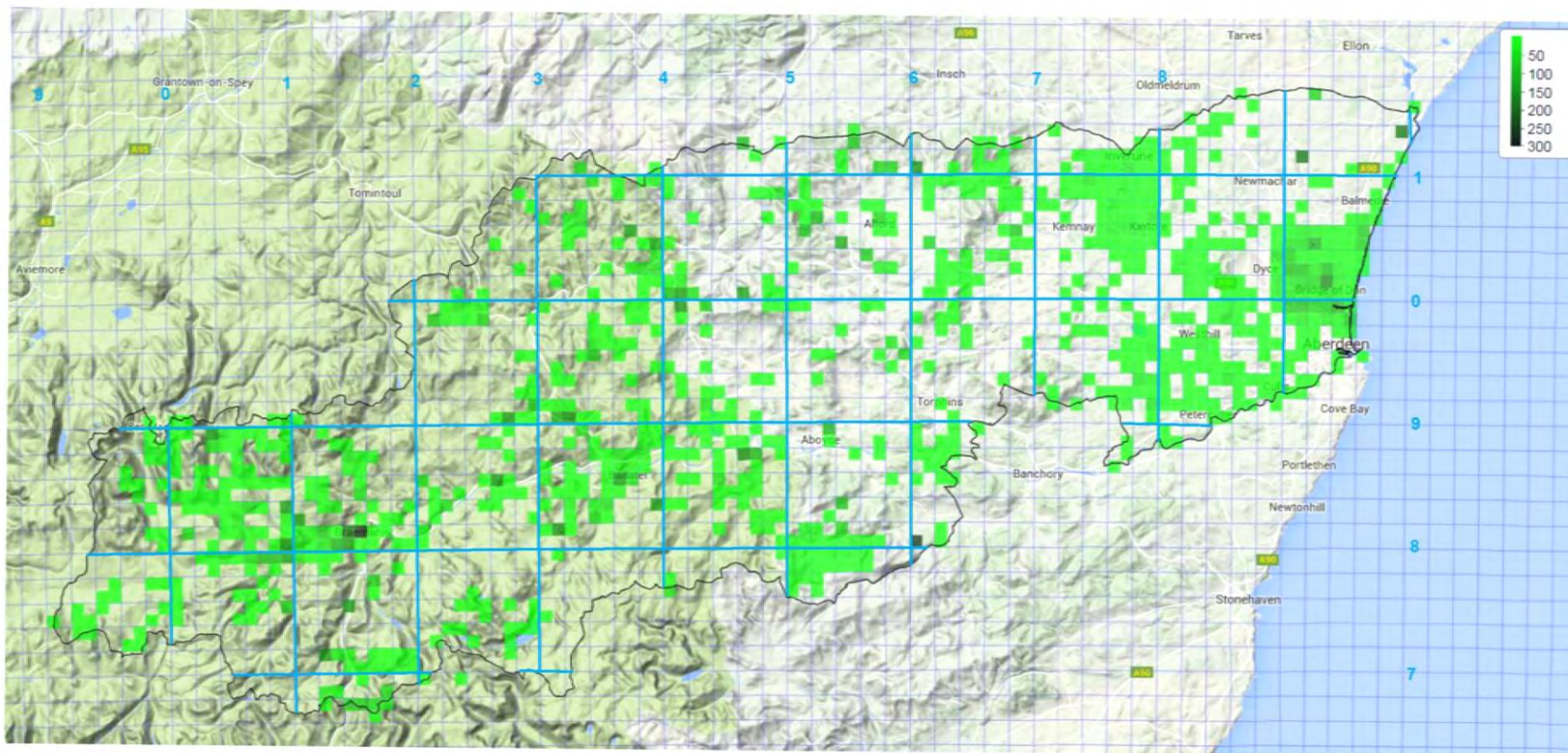


Twinflower, Bunzeach Forest, July 2013



These maps show the approximate numbers of species recorded in each 2x2km tetrad (above) as at one year ago and as at April 2015. Overleaf, a more detailed 1x1km monad map is given. The colour-coded categories give the upper limit of the division mapped – so for example ‘300’ indicates that squares with this colour hold 300 or fewer species, down to the next division below.

The map updated to April 2015 incorporates many records from previous years, not just those made during 2014. Thanks to Andy Amphlett, records in the Cairngorms National Park were prioritised during the year. These maps are now based on around 39,000 records. It is clear that the overall situation in the vice-county is much improved compared to this time last year, but an enormous amount remains to be done! If anyone is particularly interested in focusing their recording on the Cairngorms National Park (ideally within VC92!), please contact me and I will liaise with Andy.



This map shows all records 2000-2014 plotted by 1x1km square (monad). The 10km square boundary lines are also indicated and numbered, so location of well- and poorly-recorded squares should be fairly easy. Please focus your attention on the blank areas as a priority. I would prefer to receive records based on a 1x1km square, rather than a tetrad or higher. Of course, records specifically from a more precise location (e.g. 6-figure grid reference or GPS reference) are very welcome too.

How to submit records in 2015

To help with field recording and submission, a customised recording card is available on the BSBI website at: <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/VC92.pdf>. I am happy to receive these and will enter the data. Another useful way is to send me an Excel spreadsheet (or similar). Please make sure there is one species per row, and the columns include date, location, grid ref and comments as a minimum. Andy Amphlett has developed an Excel spreadsheet which automatically checks species names and formats records accordingly. This can be downloaded from the BSBI website – please contact me for details. Otherwise, any emails with records would be fine. I receive so few that converting these into a more useable format will not be a chore. My main aim is to make sending in records as easy as possible!

The main priority for 2015 continues to be to **visit the blank areas on the maps on pages 2 and 3**. Try adopting a 1x1km square in a poorly-recorded area - pick any you like in 2015 but later we may try to cover some random squares, to balance rich and poorer areas. Spend as much time as you can, one nice day, recording all you can find in the square. Tell me which you would like! Ideally, more than one visit should be made (e.g. early and late), especially in lowland areas.



Greater Tussock Sedge (*Carex paniculata*) at the Peel of Lumphanan.. Recorded from only three localities in VC92, this is the largest population.

Within the square, try and record at points in the vicinity of six-figure grid refs in varying habitats, to help make up a composite list for the square whilst also recording fairly close to known points. If you find interesting species or habitats, please use a GPS to record these accurately and note any details.

Please fill in the results on a spreadsheet or recording card and send back to me as soon as possible afterwards. Many thanks.

Finally - any comments on these recording proposals or procedures would be welcome.



Coralroot Orchid (*Corallorhiza trifida*) near Kemnay

Thanks to the following for their records and help (with sincere apologies for any omissions): Andy Amphlett, Martin Auld, Brian Ballinger, Paul Chapman, Judith Cox, Kathy Dale, Bob Daly, David Elston, Peter Gateley, Ian Green, David Hawker, Eric Jensen, Giles Laverack, Niall Machin, Richard Marriott, Jill Matthews, Jim McIntosh, Eric & Aileen Meek, Gordon Miller, Robert Moss, Robin Payne, Nicky Penford, David Plant, Shaila Rao, Martin Robinson, Andy Scobie, Stewart Taylor, Lydia Thompson, Mark Tulley, David Welch, Michael Wilcox.