

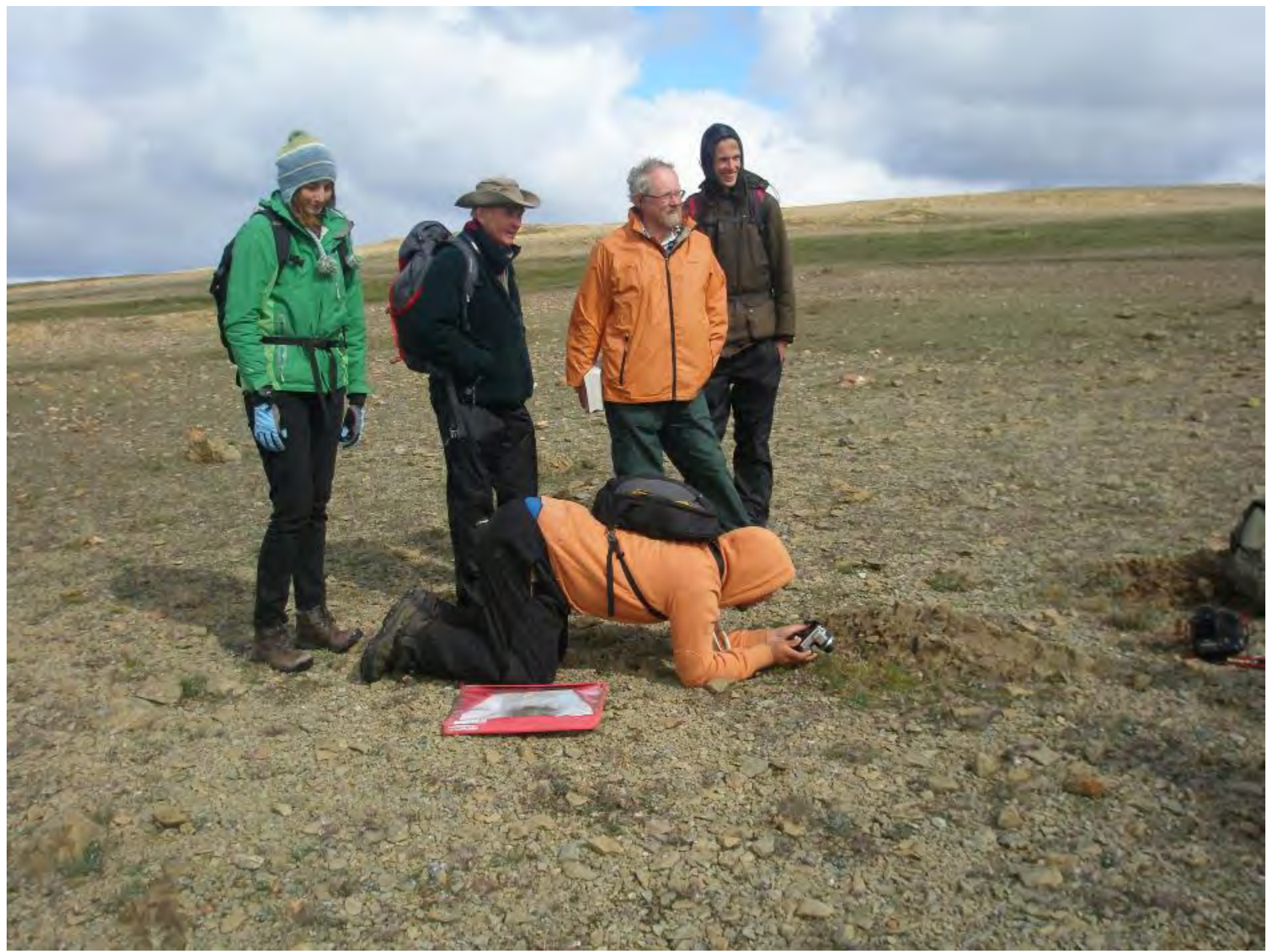
BSBI on Shetland, July 2015



Lynne Farrell & Ian Denholm







Edmondston's chickweed

(*Cerastium nigrescens* ssp. *nigrescens*)

Also known as Shetland mouse-ear, this is one of the rarest plants in the world and is endemic to Unst. Its numbers can vary dramatically from year to year, probably due to varying rates of seedling germination and survival. Mature plants may be not much more than a single shoot with one flower or can be a fist-sized cushion with as many as 40 flowers.

- Grows among serpentine debris (gravelly soil)
- Leaves – round, hairy, dark green, often with a purple tinge
- Flowers white with pale green veins, about 20mm across
- Flowers look disproportionately large compared with the size of the plant
- Flowers late May to early July



































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