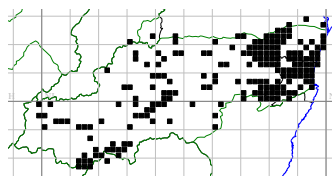


BSBI Botany News

VC92 South Aberdeenshire

Number 5. April 2018



Welcome to the fifth 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, 2018

For this year and next, the priority is still to gain records for the next **UK plant atlas 2020**, covering the period 2000-2019. I would very much appreciate your help in this as there remain numerous areas which require survey. The map overleaf shows where we are with coverage to the end of 2017. There has been some good recent recording progress in the last two years but the remaining gaps are clear and your help in filling them is needed. Please get in touch and help with this during 2018!



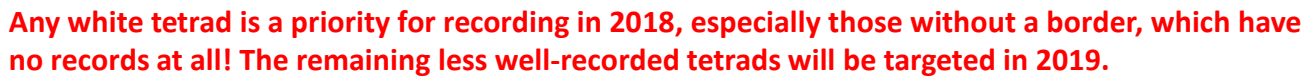
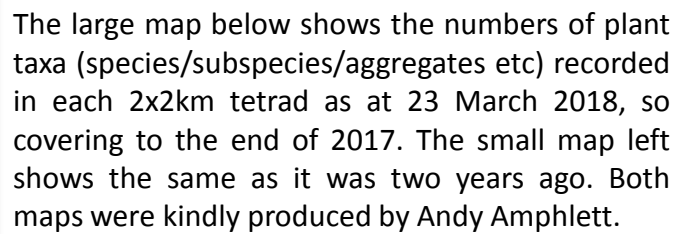
Antennaria dioica, Mountain Everlasting, 2016, Ian Francis

Recording progress to 2017

The main development in 2017 was the import of the very impressive total of 128,000 records from the North-East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC), covering almost the entire current atlas period to date. This was the culmination of discussions about exchanging data between BSBI and NESBReC. NESBReC has been very active since its founding in 2000, and a major project has been surveys of much of eastern Aberdeenshire - often areas likely to be subject to development pressure - and using the 'Integrated Habitat Survey' system with target notes. These surveys were carried out by botanists including several current BSBI vice county recorders, and the data quality is high. Surveys also extended into the adjacent vice counties 91, 93 and 94. These records from NESBReC have made a very significant contribution to the entire total for the atlas nationally. I am very grateful to those who facilitated this - Tom Humphrey, Andy Amphlett and Jim McIntosh, and Glenn Roberts and Konstantinos Sideros at NESBReC. This very good progress has led to the situation where it might be possible to obtain records from all tetrads in the vice-county before 2020 (though certainly not every 1x1km square - monad). I will take stock of this at the end of the year to see which are the priorities for targeting in the last year of the atlas. Target areas for recording this coming season are shown overleaf.



Linnaea borealis, Twinflower, Bunzeach Forest, 2013



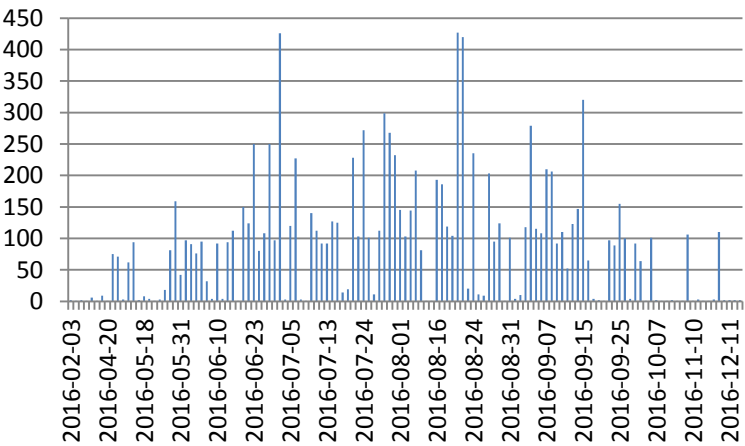
2

2016 and 2017 update

As can be seen from the preceding maps, very good progress has been made to the end of 2017. This was despite the fact that the level of recording effort was substantially reduced following the sad death of Eric Meek, who annually visited many areas in VC92 and submitted many records. Nevertheless, numerous local botanists were active over the past two years, and just under 14,500 records were logged for the two years. These included 41 species of conservation concern (e.g. Nationally Scarce, Vulnerable, Near Threatened and Endangered). The latter category was made up of just one species – *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (Heath Cudweed) – with 10 records, an impressive total. Other species of conservation concern with good totals included *Genista anglica* (Petty Whin, 18 records), *Linnaea borealis* (Twinflower, 8 records), *Lycopodium annotinum* (Interrupted Club-moss, 16 records), *Pyrola media* (Intermediate-leaved Wintergreen, 21 records), *Spergula arvensis* (Corn Spurrey, 27 records), *Viola tricolor* (Wild Pansy, 17 records) and the Scottish scarce species *Juniperus communis* (Juniper, 40 records).

<i>Juncus effusus</i> (Soft-rush)	150
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (Tufted Hair-grass)	134
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> (Heather)	131
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> (Sweet Vernal Grass)	127
<i>Rumex acetosa</i> (Sorrel)	125
<i>Trifolium repens</i> (White Clover)	120
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> (Common Mouse-ear)	119
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> (Rowan)	119
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> (Creeping Buttercup)	118
<i>Poa annua</i> (Annual Meadow-grass)	117

The most frequently recorded species in 2016-17 (top 10) are shown in the box, along with the number of records. In total, 709 different taxa were recorded in VC92 over the two years, with 168 having only one record. Records were submitted from February to December, but as shown in the graph from 2016, most people did not really get going until the end of May and were largely finished by the end of September!



Narthecium ossifragum,
Bog Asphodel,
Banchory, Ian Francis, 2016



Salix phylicifolia, Tea-leaved Willow, Glen Callater, Marion Moir, 2017



Pyrola minor, Common Wintergreen, Dinnet, Ian Francis 2017



Armeria maritima, Thrift, in flushes, Glenkindie, Ian Francis, 2017



Betula nana, Dwarf Birch, Ballochbuie, David Welch, 2017

How to submit records in 2018

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 lists of records would be fine. I receive so few that converting these into a more useable format will not be a chore. I hope in this way to make sending in records as easy as possible!

Many thanks to all below for their records and help in 2016 & 2017 (with sincere apologies for any omissions): Andy Amphlett, R. Amphlett, David Bale, Brian Ballinger, Dave Batty, Pat Batty, Rod Begbie, Susan Bowden, Alister Clunas, Judith Cox, David Elston, Dundee Naturalists' Society, Kathy Fallowfield, Barry Foster, Chris Foster, Don French, Ian Green, Tom Humphrey, Eric Jensen, Glyn Jones, Angus Lewis Smith, Anne Marquiss, Mick Marquiss, Richard Marriott, Jill Matthews, Jay MacKinnon, S McBirnie, Jim McIntosh, Aileen Meek, Eric Meek, Belinda Miller, C. Miller, Ruth Mitchell, Marion Moir, S. O'Kane, Robin Payne, Nicky Penford, David Plant, D.S. Ramsaidh, Shaila Rao, T.C.G. Rich, Glenn Roberts, Helen Rowe, Kostas Sideros, Mike Smedley, Stewart Taylor, Mark Tulley, A. Upton, David Welch, P. Wortham..