

FifeandkinrossPlants Newsletter

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We had a successful visit to Morton Lochs on the 8th. Primarily with Stephe Longster to look at water plants.

We dredged up two Charophytes, *Nitella flexilis* and *Chara vulgaris*. There was also *Potamogeton natans*, *P. berchtoldii*, *P. crispus* and *P. polygongonifolius*.

The long established *Ranunculus lingua* (Greater Spearwort) was still in flower and the *Carex riparia* (Great Pond-sedge) still doing well, though a bit swamped by *Phragmites* (Common Reed). Also the patch of *Poa Chaixii* (Broad-leaved Meadow-grass) and a clump of *Urtica dioica* ssp *glaeopsifolia* (Stingless Nettle) still there.

The exciting find was a patch of *Bidens cernua* (Nodding Bur-marigold). This is not on the BSBI Database and is thus a new record for vc85. However, in George Ballantyne's Fife flora it is said to have been found at Vane Farm in 2001.



We then went off to Kinshaldy to look at the process of dune succession, one of the best places to see this.

The *Centaureum littorale* (Seaside Centaury) was still flowering, but the *Parnassia* (Grass of Parnassus) was in full flower and in huge carpets, unlike its usual scattering. The *Phragmites* is spreading (see photo of a runner!) rather a lot and hiding the *Rumex hydrolapathum* (Water Dock). Plenty of plants in flower even though very dry.

On different topic, it is often worth looking in car parks for anything "odd", seeds are often brought in on car wheels.

At the Ferrytoll park and ride at Inverkeithing there has appeared a patch of *Conyza canadensis* (Canadian Fleabane). Probably from one of the bits of wildflower plantings on road verges? This is a new record for vc85 (Fife and Kinross).

Interestingly, I had seen this a week before in a pavement edge in Dundee, certainly rare in Scotland and northern UK.



A long time ago George Ballantyne found *Senecio iniquidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort) in the same place and was a new record and rarity at the time. It is now the dominant plant in the waste ground in Inverkeithing and crops up more and more. Perhaps the Fleabane will do the same!



Sandy.

