

- Much of it is available on the BSBI website.
- Most of the contributors are current or former BSBI Referees

Strengths

- 107 referees
- ~175 taxonomic groups
- + non-taxonomic categories
- All are volunteers
- National and international experts

Out of 107 referees

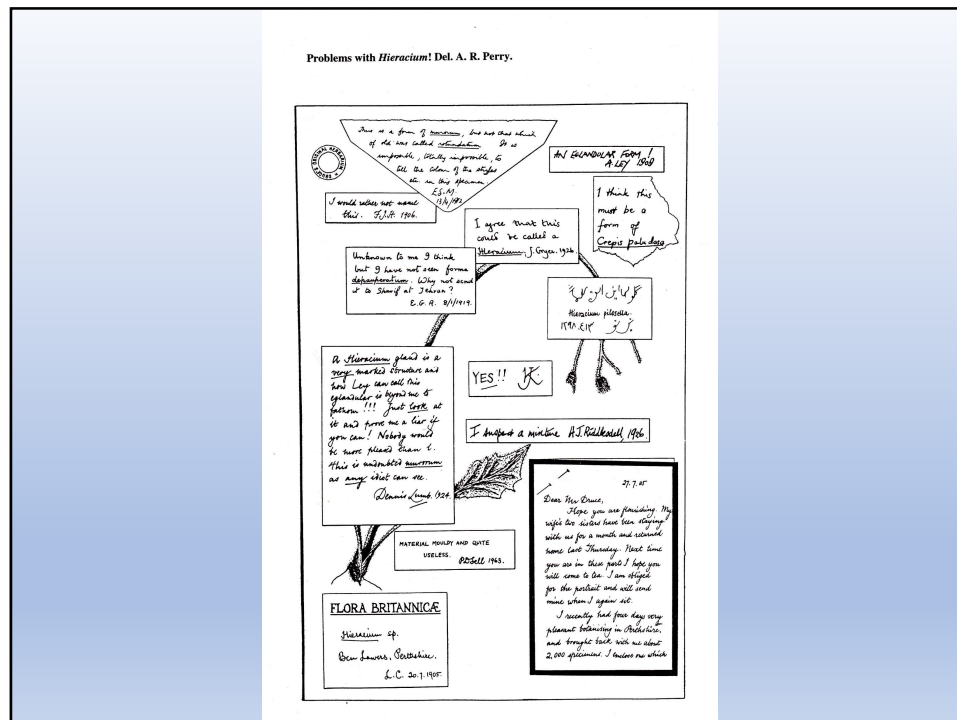
- 20 are non-members
- 27 do not have an email address listed

Some taxonomic groups for which we have referees

Dandelions	Crucifers
Pondweeds	Rushes
Brambles	Sedges
Roses	Grasses
Willows	Orchids
Violets	Fumitories
Ferns and horsetails	Docks and knotweeds

Vacancies: 8

<i>Hieracium</i> (Hawkweeds)
<i>Helianthemum</i> (Rock-roses)
<i>Solidago</i> (Goldenrod)
<i>Hedera</i> (Ivies)
<i>Oenothera</i> (Evening-primroses)
<i>Galium</i> (Bedstraws)
<i>Verbascum</i> (Mulleins)
<i>Polygala</i> (Milkworts)



Challenges

- Skills – academic courses no longer include conventional id skills, but concentrate on e.g. molecular studies
- Continuity – replacement of retiring referees (some have been in post for a long time)
- Division of workload – enquiries are unevenly distributed among referees

Possible solutions

- Regular workshops on difficult groups
- ‘Apprenticeship’/mentoring
- More joint referees
- Subdivide ‘popular’ taxa by region
- Some of these are already being put into practice.



**COULD YOU BE
A REFEREE?**

- Do you have a special interest in a particular group of plants?
- Do you have, or are you prepared to develop, expertise in your chosen group?
- Do you want to share your enthusiasm and knowledge with others?

We need:

- to fill current vacancies,
- to assist existing referees,
- to form or join 'study groups',
- to promote knowledge and understanding of difficult taxa.

Other opportunities (or are they challenges?)

- Digital photography
- Social media
- Citizen science
- On-line recording
- Mobile 'phone apps

Relationship and division of responsibilities between Referees, v-c. Recorders and other recorders

