

BSBI eNews – January 2019

From Jim McIntosh, Senior Country Officer, jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org

New Year Plant Hunt 2018-9

A reminder that the eighth New Year Plant Hunt starts on Saturday 29th December 2018 and runs until Tuesday 1st January 2019, although Scottish botanists have been granted an extension in view of different holidays north of the border. Everybody will still need to get their data to us by the end of Sunday 6th January so Kevin Walker, BSBI Head of Science, can start work next morning on his analysis of the results.

Instructions on how to take part in the Hunt are [here](#), where you can also follow links to Hunt coverage on the News blog and across social media ([Twitter](#), Facebook for [Britain](#) and for [Ireland](#), and [Instagram](#)); our user-friendly [online recording form](#) is here; results from previous years are here in our [new archive](#) and we also have a [new webpage listing all the group Hunts](#) we know about. If you know of a Hunt that isn't listed, please send details asap!

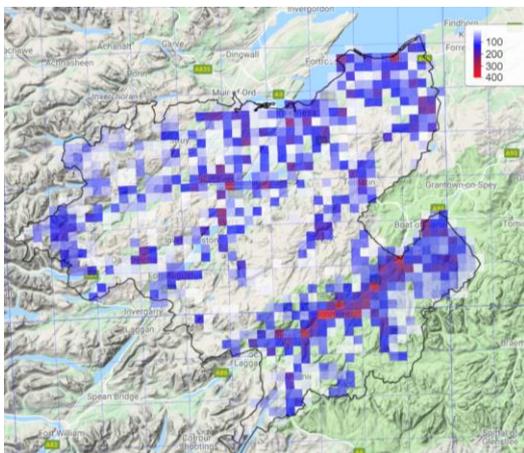
Fingers crossed that you have good weather for your Hunt and see lots of wild or naturalised plants in bloom, but don't forget – nil results are still important so don't forget to [email us](#) if you don't find anything in flower!

[Louise Marsh](#) BSBI Comms Officer/ New Year Plant Hunt Co-ordinator

Atlas 2020 monad and tetrad coverage maps

We included links in last month's BSBI eNews to Atlas 2020 tetrad VC coverage maps. Well a huge number of records have been added to the DDb since those maps were prepared and several recorders have asked if the maps might be updated. I also (incorrectly) said that the monad maps had been refreshed and some recorders said that it would be useful to see these. They will be pleased to learn that Andy plans to update the tetrad coverage maps in the New Year - and might also update the monad coverage maps at the same time. I'll keep you posted.

Remember, you can produce similar maps very easily, directly from the DDb. Because formatting options for DDb maps are more limited they won't look quite so nice, but they do show the same data.



You need to run a query grouping by tetrad or monad; filter to exclude dates before 2000 and exclude records above species level. E.g. like [this](#). Then click "zoomable map". Alternatively, [this](#) option adds a frequency clause to the query, in this case restricting the map to tetrads with more than 25 taxa since 2000 (but you can change to whatever you like.) Personally, I like faded heatmap style of map: (Go to marker styles > heatmap (faded)).

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Policy on Conservation Questionnaire – last call

Thanks to all of you who have already responded to the BSBI Policy on Conservation questionnaire. There is still time if you haven't – but you will have to be quick! We are keen to get as many responses by the deadline of December 31st as possible. See details in the email I sent out to all BSBI *eNews* subscribers on the 20th December and respond *directly* to [Matt Parratt](#).

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Vice-County Annual Reports

We had great feedback from members who enjoyed reading the Vice-County Annual Reports for 2017. Take a look - [England](#), [Wales, Ireland](#) & [Scotland](#). They are a fascinating account of botanical endeavour by BSBI Recorders and members across the UK. Recorders also enjoyed drafting them – and saw it as a chance to take stock. So, let's repeat the exercise for 2018 – for the whole of the UK and Ireland! We will be in touch early in the New Year to ask for them and explain the required format.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

BSBI Photo Competition

Over the years the BSBI Photographic Competition has attracted high quality images of less common species. If they are in your vice-county and you would like full details of the record, please get directly in touch with the photographer.

All the images from the 2018 and the previous [BSBI Photographic Competitions](#) are available to view on the [BSBI's Flickr photograph collection](#). There are albums for each of the competition categories such as "Plants & People" and "Plants & Pollinator" in 2018. Click on the album you'd like to look at. You can see them in a timed slide show, big or small photograph tiles, depending on which of the three options you select at the top right.



Digger wasp on a fly orchid at Noar Hill, Hampshire, Nigel Johnson

If you hover the cursor over the tiled photographs you can see the titles with the species, location (often vice county) and photographer's name. Click on any image to see the photo full screen and full details of the title. The photographers are all BSBI members and their details should be in the Membership List on the [Members](#) page. The 2019 categories are 1) Natives and 2) Aliens. [More...](#)

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

BSBI Annual Exhibition Meeting

The 2018 Annual Exhibition Meeting was held on 17th November at Edge Hill University in Lancashire. As promised, all but one of the speakers' presentations can now be downloaded from the [Annual Exhibition Meeting](#) page and we hope to upload electronic versions of more of the exhibits shortly.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

BSBI Scottish Botanists' Conference

We have just created a [virtual exhibition](#) of the 2018 Scottish Botanists' Conference exhibits & posters. Click on the link and on the first file the folder and then scroll through, zooming, panning and scrolling up and down as required. The presentations and collated abstracts are already on the [Scottish Botanists' Conference](#) webpage.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Irish VCR Day of Validation

The Irish VCR day this year was fully focused on validation. Twenty-three VCRs piled into the excellent Teagasc computer room at the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin on Sat 8th of December. They spent all day working through the validation of their own data. They worked in small groups, and the facilitator for the day, the Irish Officer, elicited issues and themes as the day progressed, showing live on-screen demos, if/when useful, to the whole group. The day was purposefully unstructured (i.e. no set tasks to achieve), but worked well due to the enthusiasm of the VCRs who just dived on in and worked at whatever was most appropriate/needed for their own VC. Thanks to all who came, and especially those who played a strong role in helping others on the day. Thanks to Tom Humphrey for being on call at the end of email - it was great to be able to get instant answers to queries!

[Maria Long](#), BSBI Irish Officer

Field Meetings

The 2019 Field Meeting programme will be published in the forthcoming BSBI Yearbook as usual. Meantime you can see full details on the [Meetings](#) webpage and a summary on the [Meetings Diary](#). If you are leading a meeting, you might like to double check that everything is correct and let me know if you see anything amiss. A big thank you to all those who are offering to lead field meetings in 2019.

[Jonathan Shanklin](#), Hon. Field Meetings Secretary

New Flora of the British Isles – last call

The pre-publication offer for the fourth edition of the New Flora (saving £8) will expire at the end of January. Would-be purchasers who have lost the flyer which accompanied the September BSBI News should visit the website www.clivestace.com or contact me at [Clive Stace](#).

In answer to several queries:

I would be glad to sign copies if requested, but please note that it would entail removing the protective shrink-wrap in which the book will be delivered to me.

After January 31st the price will be £53 plus postage, and for a period, the book will continue to be available only from C & M Floristics via the www.clivestace.com website.

[Clive Stace](#)

New Recording App

[Chris Dixon](#), the Recorder for East Gloucestershire, has developed an Android app to help record individual species at high resolution - full census counts at 10-m scale (i.e. 8-digit grid reference). It's called 'Pulsatilla', after one of the taxa that he plans to survey using it in his vice-county in 2019. It automatically converts the user's GPS co-ordinates into grid references (British, Irish and Channel Islands grids) with altitudes, infers the vice-county from the location, and produces output ready for import into MapMate. Chris would be happy to make it available to any recorder who would like to test it out, and would welcome suggestions for additional features.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Grants from BSBI and others

A reminder that applications for BSBI grants open on 1st January and get snapped up very quickly, so do get your application in as soon as possible. BSBI offers Training Grants, Plant Study Grants, Conference Bursaries and grants from the BSBI Science & Research Committee. As of 1st January you will be able to read about the criteria for applying, and download an application form, from the [BSBI Training page](#), where you can already see details of a few other funding sources we are aware of: the Botanical Research Fund and four different kinds of grants from the Wild Flower Society. Please spread the word about all these funding sources!

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Comms Officer

British & Irish Botany

The first issue of [British & Irish Botany](#), BSBI's new scientific journal, is imminent – we have five papers at proof stage and are hopeful of publishing before the end of the year or, failing that, early in 2019. We would encourage you to register as readers [here](#) and then you will receive an alert every time an issue is published. The registration process is proving very quick and painless for the majority of you, although some browsers seem to be causing problems for a small minority. If you hit any problems, please don't waste time struggling, just email bib@bsbi.org as it only takes us seconds to register you.

One other thing to note is that the verification email you need to click on in order to activate your reader account may go to your spam folder. Trying to sort that out has proved fruitless, time-consuming and would be expensive to correct. So please just check your spam folder a couple of minutes after you register and click on the 'Verify Account' link.

[Louise Marsh](#), Editorial Assistant, *British & Irish Botany*

New on the website in December

- The [Scottish Botanists' Conference webpage](#) has been updated to create a virtual exhibition – take a look!
- The [BSBI Photographic Competition 2019](#) has been launched. Visit the webpage to see next year's subjects and the updated rules – and to find out about 2018 winners.
- The [Exhibition Meeting webpage](#) now features pdfs of the various talks.
- The new [Herbaria webpage](#) has been updated with new resources and the spreadsheet with contact details has undergone extensive revision.
- The [Welsh AGM page](#) has been updated and you can now book to attend the 2019 Welsh AGM.

- A pdf of Tim Rich's talk about new Gentianaceae names can now be downloaded from the [Recorders' Conference](#) webpage.
- County pages for Leicestershire, Norfolk, Co. Durham, Kirkcudbrightshire, Kincardineshire, Aberdeenshire, Anglesey and Co. Antrim have been updated with progress reports on local recording and/ or summaries of this year's field meetings, as well as new contact details for County Recorders. Head over to the [Local Botany page](#) to find links to all county webpages.
- Wildflower spotter sheets for every month of the year can now be downloaded free of charge from the [Herbology Hunt webpage](#).
- The [Field Meetings](#), [Meetings Diary](#), [Twig Key](#) and [New Year Plant Hunt pages](#) have all been updated (see above).
- The latest issue of the BSBI Irish Newsletter can now be downloaded from the [BSBI Ireland page](#). It's a bumper issue with 12 pages of articles, notes and links – well worth a read, whether you are based in Ireland or further afield.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

On the News & Views blog in December

We invited everybody to [take part in the 2018-9 New Year Plant Hunt](#) and in [Tomos Jones' survey](#) about 'Garden plants: a threat to the environment due to climate change?'; we told you how [a BSBI Training Grant helped botanist Fern take part in Identiplant](#); we brought you an [interview with John Poland](#) about his *Field Key to Winter Twigs* which has now been published; there was a blogpost [by Prof Richard Bateman about bee orchids](#), deception and sex; Clive Lovatt shared a spooky [ghost story about a West Country botanist](#) for Christmas Eve; there was a [Christmas Day message from the BSBI President](#), focused on herbaria; Ellen from the New Year Plant Hunt Support Team told us about [volunteering opportunities with BSBI](#); a post about Byron's Gin and BSBI's Training programme follows and then from 29th December onwards we offer daily blogposts about the New Year Plant Hunt.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

BSBI eNews

BSBI eNews is aimed at all BSBI recorders, referees and members involved with recording. 275 BSBI members have now opted in to receive this monthly news email. Remember you can update your contact details or unsubscribe at any time.

If you are reading this online, or perhaps because it was forwarded to you, and are one of the County Recorders or Referees who did not sign up - you can do so via a link on the [BSBI Publications](#) page at any time. I'd welcome short contributions from anyone on topics of interest to fellow readers. BSBI eNews is generally published on the 1st of each month so contributions should reach me by the 21st of the preceding month. I'd also be pleased to have feedback on any of the articles in BSBI eNews.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer