

Lanarkshire Botany

New Year update, January 2019



Happy New Year to all our botanical contacts!

2018 summary

2018 was an excellent year for field botany in Lanarkshire. The main task was to increase data coverage in advance of the new Atlas 2020 - the updated botanical distribution atlas to be published by the BSBI.

We had two specific aims: (a) to continue to hunt for species which had been previously recorded in the county, but not seen since 2000, and (b) to record plants in areas never before covered.

The first of these aims, hunting for refinds, has enjoyed great success - particularly in urban areas. And the second is always a delight, visiting unfamiliar places to see what can be found. We present some of the year's statistics at the end of this newsletter, as we did at the same point last year.

A full survey of the wild plants of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens was carried out across two different dates, 20 years on from the previous full list. There was also a big recording exercise in the grounds of Glasgow University, both in the main Gilmorehill Campus and out at the Garscube Estate.

Single-species surveys were conducted to gain an understanding of the extent in Lanarkshire of *Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue-leaved Saxifrage) and *Cochlearia danica* (Early Scurvy-grass)



Saxifraga tridactylites

(dense populations were found in urban Glasgow and at the Ravenscraig site in Motherwell)



Cochlearia danica

(this species favours salted roadsides and is very fond of the central reservation of the M74!)

We brought 11 more hectads up to Atlas 2020 data thresholds, so 69% of Lanarkshire now meets that standard. (This leaves 12 hectads to complete in 2019 - including several which are close to their targets and need only some well-aimed fieldwork to ensure success.)

And visits were made to some of the most remote and inaccessible little corners of our territory in order to satisfy the demands of the BSBI computer!

Team 77

'Team 77' has become an energetic network of botany enthusiasts, many of whom have been active in fieldwork or contributing photographs or information.

There was a potentially difficult moment back in May, when new Data Protection guidance made it necessary to gain a fresh mandate from everyone for their personal details to be retained. Would the Team all respond, or would we lose lots of people through being 'timed out'? Happily the vast majority did respond, quickly and positively, so the number of individuals in the Team is almost the same as a year ago. And two more have been in touch already since New Year, wanting to be involved.

2019 is going to be a busy year for us and it will take everyone's best efforts if we are to meet the objectives set before us, especially in relation to Atlas 2020 data gathering. There is a role for you to play, so please get your boots ready, study your flower books, practise your photography and keep in touch!



A 'Team 77' outing near Abington in the height of summer

2018 End-of-Term Get-Together

On Sunday 28th October, we had what is our only annual indoor meeting. On this occasion we were delighted to have the opportunity to thank John Hawell in person for his fieldwork and for the significant body of data he sent us earlier in the year. He told us some of the stories of his data-gathering, and of his current work in Skye. His long journey to be with us was very much appreciated.

We were also joined, for the second year in a row, by the BSBI Scottish Officer, Jim McIntosh, who was clearly encouraged by the year's recording in Lanarkshire: not only has there been a lot of activity - the year's highlights included many unusual finds.

Photo Project

As most of you will know, Peter Wiggins is co-ordinating an ambitious web project celebrating the flora of Lanarkshire and providing valuable identification aids. The key element of this project is gathering the best photographs of wild plants that members of the Team can contribute. Our aim is to ensure not only botanical accuracy but also aesthetic impact. (There has been a great deal of progress on this front recently and we're looking forward to the day when it is ready to be launched on the public!)

Peter has put together a list of plant species for which we don't yet have good photos. This list includes some very common plants and we'd be delighted if you can assist by contributing pictures of any of them.

The requirements are:

- a) that the photos are of good quality, preferably showing some characteristic features
- b) that the photos are all taken within our vice-county
- c) that each picture is accompanied by the map reference (grid square), the date, and the photographer's initials

The latter information is best incorporated in the filename, e.g.

Huperzia selago NS8761 13May2018 PW.jpg

(This is the filename of the photo on the right:
Fir Clubmoss, pictured at Shotts Bing.)

Peter himself will be glad to provide you with details of the best ways to submit your photos.

His email address is: pswiggins@gmail.com



Here's the list - but good-quality photos of any wild plant species are always welcome anyway:

Intermediate Lady's-mantle - *Alchemilla xanthochlora*
Common Bent - *Agrostis capillaris*
Brown Bent - *Agrostis vinealis*
Silver Hair-grass - *Aira caryophyllea*
Hairy Lady's-mantle - *Alchemilla filicaulis*
Smooth Lady's-mantle - *Alchemilla glabra*
Garden Lady's-mantle - *Alchemilla mollis*
Lady's-mantle - *Alchemilla vulgaris*
Slender Parsley-piert - *Aphanes australis*
Lesser Thyme-leaved Sandwort - *Arenaria leptoclados*
False Oat-grass - *Arrhenatherum elatius*
Lady-fern - *Athyrium filix-femina*
False Brome - *Brachypodium sylvaticum*
Turnip - *Brassica rapa*
Soft-brome - *Bromus hordeaceus*
Hairy Bindweed - *Calystegia pulchra*
Water Sedge - *Carex aquatilis*
Spring-sedge - *Carex caryophyllea*
Lesser Tussock-sedge - *Carex diandra*
Dioecious Sedge - *Carex dioica*

Star Sedge - *Carex echinata*
Long-stalked Yellow-sedge - *Carex lepidocarpa*
Wood-sedge - *Carex sylvatica*
Yellow-sedge - *Carex viridula*
Sticky Mouse-ear - *Cerastium glomeratum*
Sea Mouse-ear - *Cerastium diffusum*
Snow-in-summer - *Cerastium tomentosum*
Wetted Thistle - *Carduus crispus*
Dogwood - *Cornus sanguinea*
Hybrid Hawthorn - *Crataegus x media*
Heath Spotted-orchid - *Dactylorhiza maculata*
Broad Buckler-fern - *Dryopteris dilatata*
Male-fern - *Dryopteris filix-mas*
Few-flowered Spike-rush - *Eleocharis quinqueflora*
Bearded Couch - *Elymus caninus*
Common Couch - *Elytrigia repens*
Hoary Willowherb - *Epilobium parviflorum*
Broad-leaved Willowherb - *Epilobium montanum*
Bohemian Knotweed - *Fallopia x bohemica*
Red Fescue - *Festuca rubra*

Hedge Bedstraw - *Galium album*
 Heath Bedstraw - *Galium saxatile*
 Cut-leaved Crane's-bill - *Geranium dissectum*
 Wood Crane's-bill - *Geranium sylvaticum*
 Small Sweet-grass - *Glyceria declinata*
 Marsh Cudweed - *Gnaphalium uliginosum*
 Oak Fern - *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*

Crab apple - *Malus sylvestris*
 Monkeyflower - *Mimulus guttatus*
 Creeping Forget-me-not - *Myosotis secunda*
 Daffodil - *Narcissus agg.*
Nasturtium officinale x microphyllum = *N. x sterile*
 Long-headed Poppy - *Papaver dubium*
 Opium Poppy - *Papaver somniferum*
 Redshank - *Persicaria maculosa*
 Beech Fern - *Phegopteris connectilis*
 Timothy - *Phleum pratense*
 Smaller Cat's-tail - *Phleum bertolonii*
 Common Reed - *Phragmites australis*
 Norway Spruce - *Picea abies*
 Sitka Spruce - *Picea sitchensis*
 Spreading Meadow-grass - *Poa humilis*
 Smooth Meadow-grass - *Poa pratensis*
 Common Milkwort - *Polygala vulgaris*
 Grey Poplar - *Populus alba x tremula* = *P. x canescens*
 Red Pondweed - *Potamogeton alpinus*



Allium scorodoprasum (Sand Leek)



Aster novi-belgii agg. (Michaelmas Daisy)

Yorkshire-fog - *Holcus lanatus*
 Creeping Soft-grass - *Holcus mollis*
 Two-rowed Barley (broad sense) - *Hordeum distichon*
 Hairy St John's-wort - *Hypericum hirsutum*
 Trailing St John's-wort - *Hypericum humifusum*
 Imperforate St John's-wort - *Hypericum maculatum*
 Square-stalked St John's-wort - *Hypericum tetrapterum*
 Yellow Iris - *Iris pseudacorus*
 Bristle Club-rush - *Isolepis setacea*
 Bulbous Rush - *Juncus bulbosus*
 Compact Rush - *Juncus conglomeratus*
 European Larch - *Larix decidua*
 Fat Duckweed - *Lemna gibba*
 Common Duckweed - *Lemna minor*
 Rough Hawkbit - *Leontodon hispidus*
 Perennial Rye-grass - *Lolium perenne*
 Great Wood-rush - *Luzula sylvatica*
 Dotted Loosestrife - *Lysimachia punctata*
 Yellow Loosestrife - *Lysimachia vulgaris*
 Water-purslane - *Lythrum portula*
 Apple - *Malus pumila*

Small Pondweed - *Potamogeton berchtoldii*
 Various-leaved Pondweed - *Potamogeton gramineus*
 Perfoliate Pondweed - *Potamogeton perfoliatus*
 Fennel Pondweed - *Potamogeton pectinatus*
 Wild Plum - *Prunus domestica*
 Cherry Laurel - *Prunus laurocerasus*
 Creeping Buttercup - *Ranunculus repens*
 Meadow Buttercup - *Ranunculus acris*
 Goldilocks Buttercup - *Ranunculus auricomus*

Round-leaved Crowfoot - *Ranunculus omiophyllus*
 Pond Water-crowfoot - *Ranunculus peltatus*
 Wild Mignonette - *Reseda lutea*
 Rhubarb - *Rheum x rhabarbarum*
 Rhododendron - *Rhododendron ponticum*
 Black Currant - *Ribes nigrum*
 Flowering Currant - *Ribes sanguineum*
 Raspberry - *Rubus idaeus*
 Stone Bramble - *Rubus saxatilis*
 Annual Pearlwort - *Sagina apetala*
 Slender Pearlwort - *Sagina filicaulis*
 Knotted Pearlwort - *Sagina nodosa*
 Arrowhead - *Sagittaria sagittifolia*
 Eared Willow - *Salix aurita*
 Bay Willow - *Salix pentandra*
 Osier - *Salix viminalis*
 Hybrid Willow - *Salix x multinervis*
 Hybrid Willow - *Salix x reichardtii*
 Meadow Fescue - *Schedonorus pratensis*
 Tall Fescue - *Schedonorus arundinaceus*
 Common Figwort - *Scrophularia nodosa*

Green Figwort - *Scrophularia umbrosa*
 Orpine - *Sedum telephium*
 Hairy Stonecrop - *Sedum villosum*
 Hybrid Ragwort - *Senecio x ostenfeldii*
 Bladder Campion - *Silene vulgaris*
 Potato - *Solanum tuberosum*
 Goldenrod - *Solidago virgaurea*
 Common Whitebeam - *Sorbus aria*
 Hybrid Woundwort - *Stachys x ambigua*
 Common Comfrey - *Symphytum officinale*
 Feverfew - *Tanacetum parthenium*
 Rayed Tansy - *Tanacetum macrophyllum*
 Yew - *Taxus baccata*
 Wood Sage - *Teucrium scorodonia*
 Common Lime - *Tilia x europaea*
 Marsh Arrowgrass - *Triglochin palustris*
 Bulrush - *Typha latifolia*
 Great Mullein - *Verbascum thapsus*
 Slender Speedwell - *Veronica filiformis*
 Guelder-rose - *Viburnum opulus*
 Narrow-leaved Vetch - *Vicia sativa subsp. nigra*

Now that you know what we need, you might like to go out during this year specifically to take photos of some of these plants.

Over 600 species are already included in our bank of images.

Fieldwork outings programme for 2019

As usual, we will publish the programme month by month several weeks in advance. This 'phased' method allows the programme to evolve through the season, responding to opportunities and to the inflow of data by targetting the optimal map squares. We're already beginning to set out plans and you will receive details in due course. Do let us know of any locations you would recommend, near or far.

- We will be focussing an enormous effort on plant-hunting for 'refinds' in Glasgow;
- we will be prioritising some recording in aquatic habitats;
- we will be visiting some tracts of country where no field botany has ever been carried out;
- and we have already pledged a minimum of two full-day recording outings to assist data-gathering in Renfrewshire.

The first instalment of the programme (for April and May) will be emailed out in early March.

You will be made very welcome on any outings you can join. We can promise good fun and lots of learning!



"Yes, but what IS it?"

2018 summary

For those who like facts and figures, here is a flavour of the past year's field botany in Lanarkshire.

- 53** the total number of people in the Team 77 network
- 33** the number of outings organised
- 11,668** the number of Lanarkshire records added to the national database (we also added **6,910** previously unreported records made in past years)
- 949** the number of different species seen in the year
- 81** the number of species never before recorded in Lanarkshire
- 515** the number of map squares (monads) with fresh records added
- 352** the number of new hectad records (species not previously recorded within that 100 sq. km.)
- 69%** the proportion of Lanarkshire which so far meets criteria for the Atlas 2020 project (we're hoping to reach 100% by the end of 2019!)



Rubus chamaemorus (Cloudberry)

Keep in touch

Your emails on any botanical matters are always welcome. I may not be able to answer everything myself, but this is a network so there will be an answer!

Also, if you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the programme of events and occasional newsletters, please ask them to get in touch: Team 77 is itself a growing organism!



I look forward to seeing you in the field whenever you can join us - you'll be made most welcome. The first outing is likely to be around the Easter weekend.

Michael Philip (BSBI recorder, VC77)

email: botany@opus44.co.uk

Picture credits:

<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Peter Wiggins, at Port Dundas (Glasgow), 17th February 2018
<i>Cochlearia danica</i>	Peter Wiggins, at East Kilbride, 1st May, 2016
Team 77 Outing	Peter Wiggins, at Forside Hill (near Abington), 30th June 2018
<i>Huperzia selago</i>	Peter Wiggins, at Shotts Bing, 13th May 2018
<i>Allium scorodoprasum</i>	Peter Wiggins, at Bothwell Castle, 3rd July 2013
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i> agg.	Peter Wiggins, at Clydeside (Glasgow), 22nd September 2017
"Yes, but what IS it?"	Peter Wiggins, near Shotts Bing, 13th May 2018
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	John Hawell, at Coomb Dod (date not given)
Michael-in-the-Marsh	Chris Jeffree, at Baillieston, 5th August 2018