

# DERBYSHIRE FLORA GROUP NEWSLETTER

EDITED: Dr ALAN WILLMOT (BSBI County Recorder)

Number 34 – WINTER 2020/2021

## 1. EDITORIAL

I trust members of the group are all well during this terrible time of covid. I hope we will be able to get back to meeting up outdoors sometime, in the meantime here are some details of interesting plant finds from last year. I hope they may inspire you to look around your local area and find others. However, remember to obey all covid regulations in force at the time you go out.

## 2. NEW COUNTY RECORDS vc57 in 2020

These were all first county records for Derbyshire in 2020 when they were made but note I have omitted some new county records made last year as I have included them in previous covid newsletters.

### 2.1 *Allium trifoliatum* (Hirsute Garlic)

This was first seen in Boythorpe churchyard (SK3770) in February by Mick Lacey who returned in May to photograph it.



*Allium trifoliatum* Boythorpe, M Lacey.

### 2.2 *Anemanthele lessoniana* (Pheasant's-tail)

This ornamental grass was found in May by Claire and Mary Smith in a wood (SK3548) by the road above Belper Cemetery. It had probably arrived on the site in dumped garden rubbish and had been established there since at least 2019.

### 2.3 *Avena barbata* (Slender Oat)

This grain-alien was found widely naturalised along Broombank Road (SK3675) on Sheepbridge Industrial Estate in May 2020 by Mick Lacey.



*Avena barbata* Broombank Rd, M Lacey.

### 2.4 *Crocsmia masoniorum* (Giant Montbretia)

This garden escape was first recorded on the verge of Sitch Lane, New Mills (SK0287) by John Hawksford in September.

### 2.5 *Crocasmia pottsii* (Potts' Montbretia)

John found this second Montbretia in the same month on the nearby Laneside Road (SK0284) New Mills.

These two Montbretia records indicate the value of looking at supposedly well-known plants closely. John initially took both these plants to be the common Montbretia (*Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*) but closer inspection showed both of them to be new county records.

### 2.6 *X Dactyloдения heinzeliiana* (An orchid hybrid)

This is the hybrid of the Chalk Fragrant-orchid with the Common Spotted-orchid. Mick Lacey made the first record of this at Long Siddings Quarry North (SK0976) in July; and then later in the same month Richard Upton found the same hybrid in Miller's Dale Quarry (SK1473). It should be noted that all three Fragrant-orchids can hybridise with the Common Spotted-orchid; and that the identification of the Chalk species as involved here is based on the common flowering times and the close juxtaposition of the two putative parents.



*X Dactyloдения heinzeliiana*, Long Siddings Quarry North, July 2020 M Lacey.

### 2.7 *Datura strominium var. chalybaea*

This was another one of the finds of Mick Lacey. It was found in a field adjacent to the Van Dyke Hotel (SK4977) in November. This variety has purple flowers rather than the usual white ones found in the plant.

### 2.8 *Gaillardia x grandiflora* (Blanketflower)

Roy Smith noticed this garden escape in newly seeded ground near the entrance gates to Poolsbrook Country Park (SK4373) in July.

### 2.9 *Genista monspessulana* (Montpellier Broom)

This ornamental garden plant was noticed in a hedgerow near the Peak Railway site in Darley Dale (SK2663) by Claire and Mary Smith in September. It was obviously the result of dumped garden rubbish.



*X Dactyloдения heinzeliiana*, Miller's dale Quarry, July 2020 R Upton.

### 2.10 *Helianthus petiolaris* (Lesser Sunflower)

This was noted at Straws Bridge (SK4541) by Brian Gough in October. It was growing on the edge of the lake and was probably the result of bird feeding as this plant is not much grown in gardens.

### 2.11 *Lagurus ovatus* (Hare's-tail)

This was first reported by Chris Baker from recently cleared land at Willington (SK2928) in June. It was then recorded by Brian Gough at Codnor Park reservoir (SK4351) later the same month. This ornamental grass is a native of southern Europe. It is much planted in gardens and is often spreading outside of them in southern England.

### 2.12 *Ligustrum lucidum* (Glossy Privet)

Brian Gough reported this evergreen relative of the Garden Privet as a very old well-established tree on Manners Road (SK4642) Ilkeston in April. It was probably planted in the late 1960s.

### 2.13 *Lathyrus vernus* (Spring Pea)

Mick Lacey recorded the pink-flowered form of this ornamental garden plant at Stubbing Court (SK3567) in April. It is usually a garden escape in this country but was probably planted here to beautify a "wild corner" of the countryside.



*Lathyrus vernus* Stubbing Court, April 2020. M Lacey.

### 2.14 *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coastal Redwood)

In its natural habitat on the coast of California this tree can grow to over 100 metres tall. I do not think that the self-seeded plants of this species that Mick Lacey found at Boythorpe (SK3770) in February had quite reached this size but maybe in the future.

### 2.15 *Stylophorum lasiocarpum* (Chinese Celandine Poppy)

This yellow-flowered poppy is occasionally grown in shaded areas of gardens. One plant was found by the Farley Moor parking area (SK2963) in August by Claire and Mary Smith. Unfortunately, it was long gone-over but it had produced many fruits during the year as shown in the photo below.

### 2.16 *Taraxacum* species: 3 (Dandelions)

Having had to botanise closer to home like all of us this year Mick Lacey turned to the Dandelions in his garden in Chesterfield (SK3772). This resulted in three new species for the county during April last year.

#### *Taraxacum hesperium*

This species is endemic to the British Isles where it grows mainly in the west of Britain.

#### *Taraxacum latens*

This is an introduced species that is only known from a handful of counties.



*Taraxacum latens* Chesterfield, April 2020. M Lacey.

#### *Taraxacum sublaeticolor*

This is a native species which grows in grassy places, roadsides and wasteland.



*Stylophorum lasiocarpum* Farley Moor August 2020. A Willmot.

### 2.17 *Typha laxmannii* (Graceful Cattail)

This introduced species of Cattail or Bulrush was found in a ditch on the site of the demolished Maquis of Granby pub at Bamford (SK2082). It was growing abundantly on this site and can be expected to turn up elsewhere as it is often grown in gardens. The leaves are intermediate in width between our two native species of Bulrush and the seed heads are shorter and wider than in the common Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*).



*Typha laxmannii* Bamford, November 2020. M Lacey.

### 2.18 *Yucca gloriosa* (Spanish-daggers)

Brian Gough found a plant of this growing in Manners Footpath Woods (SK4642) in April. It was a specimen of the variety with strongly recurved leaves known as var. *recurvifolia*, which was obviously a garden throw-out.

## 3. OTHER INTERESTING RECORDS FROM 2020

These are not first county records like the previous set of records but are of interest usually because there have only been a few previous records for the plants in the county.

### 3.1 *Allium neapolitanum* (Neopolitan Garlic)

This was another churchyard find by Mick Lacey in Newbold (SK3773). It was first noted in February but not confirmed until it flowered in April. This was only the second record for the county.

### 3.2 *Carduus tenuiflorus* (Slender Thistle)

Mick Lacey's record of this from Pomegranate Road, Newbold (SK3772) in May was only the fifth record for this thistle from the county. However, it is probably under-recorded so I have included his picture to encourage others to look out for it.



*Carduus tenuiflorus* Newbold, May 2020. M Lacey.

### 3.3 *Chiastophyllum oppositifolium* (Lamb's-tail)

Claire and Mary Smith found this the second local record for the plant on a wall by a road in Monyash (SK1566) during May last year. Yet another garden ornamental making a bid for freedom over the "garden wall".



Lamb's-tail Monyash, May 2020. C Smith.

### 3.4 *Erucastrum gallicum* (Hairy Rocket)

Mick Lacey found this in a field in Taddington (SK1670) in May. The only previous local record for this weed of arable and waste ground was in 1960. It is a yellow-flowered crucifer with a distinctive leaf.



*Erucastrum gallicum* leaf Taddington, May 2020. M Lacey.

### 3.5 *Malva parviflora* (Least Mallow)

Despite the earliest record for this plant in the county being 1789 there has been only one other record since, before that is Mick Lacey's discovery of the plant at the Peak Village Rowsley (SK2566) in August. It is generally a weed of waste ground. Here it was growing in the bed of a dried-out pond and was possibly a contaminant in duck food. The attached photo shows how small the plant is compared to a ten pence piece. Its small stature probably explains at least in part why it is recorded so rarely. Note the leaf is no bigger than the coin.



*Malva parviflora* Rowsley, Aug 2020. M Lacey.

### 3.6 *Nassella tenuissima* (Argentine Needlegrass)

This ornamental grass is increasingly being used in planting schemes involved with roadworks such as roundabouts in the Chesterfield area. It is not surprising then that it has begun to turn up as a casual on waste ground as at Newbold (SK3672) where Mick Lacey found it in May. This was only the second county record.



*Nassella tenuissima* Newbold, May 2020. M Lacey.

### 3.7 *Scorpiurus muricatus* (Caterpillar-plant)

This was found at Rowsley (SK2566) by Claire Smith in August. It was another of the plants found growing in the dried-up bed of the pond at the Peak Village Shopping Village. It also probably came from the same source as the *Malva parviflora*.

#### **4. OUTDOOR MEETINGS 2021**

Any outdoor programme for the year is suspended due to the covid restrictions. I will circulate members with a programme as soon as I know we can organise outdoor meetings.

#### **5. ENQUIRIES**

Any enquiries concerning the identification and recording of higher plants in Derbyshire can be directed to me as below. It is always useful to include photographs with any possible new county records or queries if you can.

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