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Cover images: *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish Moneywort), Breconshire (v.c. 42). John Crellin (see Wales roundup, p. 60).

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April 2021 Sample Issue
See inside for a selection of articles from *BSBI News* no. 147 and details of how to join the BSBI. Members receive three print copies of *BSBI News* each year as part of the package of membership benefits.



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In *BSBI News*, members report on botanical topics such as plant conservation, new discoveries and much more...

The BSBI and plant conservation

The BSBI and plant conservation

KEVIN WALKER

Edgar Milne-Redhead was a former president of the BSBI and a key figure in the Society's conservation work during the post-war period. He was in charge of the BSBI's Conservation Committee for a decade and represented the society at numerous meetings, most famously as chair of the committee set up to conserve the Lady's-slipper Orchid. It is therefore not surprising that conservation was a

work with conservationists to produce Red Lists, Biodiversity Actions Plans and more latterly State of Nature reports. Rare Plant Registers tell us what is important and unique at a local scale.

But given the pressures that wildlife is currently facing, evidence alone is not always enough. Sometimes we have to stand up for what we value most. The proposal to build a golf course on Coul



Dianthus gallicus (Jersey Pink) newly recorded from mainland UK

PHIL COLLIER, ROBIN GARNETT & MARTIN RAND

The dunes on the south side of Hengistbury Head (South Hampshire, v.c. 11) are unusually extensive (for Hampshire!) and relatively remote compared with nearby coastal areas. Several plant species are common here while generally scarce elsewhere, including *Calystegia soldanella* (Sea Bindweed), *Euphorbia paralias* (Sea Spurge) and *Jasione montana* (Sheep's-bit).

During a visit to the dunes on 8 September 2020, two of us (PC and RG) lingered to discuss the ID of *Jasione montana*. One of us glimpsed a *Dianthus* flower, only for a subconscious mind to immediately correct this 'mistake': 'it's only *Silene uniflora*'. Vegetatively this was not a bad call, but the conscious mind played its trump card again: 'that is a *Dianthus* flower'. Of

Stand of *Dianthus gallicus* (Jersey Pink) at Hengistbury Head, September 2020. Martin Rand

Hampshire) and mainland UK of *D. gallicus*, and not a different species or horticultural look-alike.

Known distribution and history

Dianthus gallicus Pers. (Jersey Pink) is a dune species of the Atlantic seaboard of France and Spain. Scattered records elsewhere in France and Europe are shown on the *Global Biodiversity Information Forum* (GBIF) website; but curiously, the mapping on the French national *S.I. Observation Flore* site shows it over much of the Pyrenean chain and northwards into the Massif Central. This is presumably because

Vascular plant Red Data List for Great Britain: a summary of amendments in years 14 and 15 (2019–20)

Vascular plant Red Data List for Great Britain: a summary of amendments in years 14 and 15 (2019–20) of the annual amendments process

SIMON J. LEACH

ON BEHALF OF THE GB RED LIST GROUP FOR VASCULAR PLANTS

Following previous updates (listed under 'References' below), the GB Red List Group for vascular plants has agreed further changes to the GB *Red Data List* covering years 14 and 15 (2019–20) of

the monumental *Flora of Great Britain and Ireland* (Sell & Murrell, 2018), and the much-revamped fourth edition of the *New Flora of the British Isles* (Stace, 2019). In the following account, references to these



Bunium bulbocastanum (Great Pignut) on the South Downs

DAVID STREETER

On 16 June 2018 the Sussex Botanical Recording Society held a meeting of 14 members based on the Fulking escarpment of the South Downs in West Sussex (v.c. 13). The excursion had been billed as an educational meeting and was intended to provide an opportunity for less experienced members to become more familiar with the rich downland flora for which the area is well-known.

At one point in the day a conscientious group of enthusiasts reported that they were having a problem with their field guides' umbellifer keys which were resolutely refusing to confirm that

A recently discovered colony of *Bunium bulbocastanum* (Great Pignut) on the South Downs in West Sussex (v.c. 13). Nick Sturt

to be *Bunium bulbocastanum* (Great Pignut), a view formally confirmed by Dr Mark Watson, the BSBI's umbellifer referee.

Not only is the plant the first record for v.c. 13, but is one of a group of essentially calcicole species, widespread in northern France (Delvosalle et al., 2009), but puzzlingly absent from the chalk south of the Thames and reappearing in the Chilterns to



BEGINNER'S CORNER

When is a Dandelion not a Dandelion? (A beginner's guide to yellow composites)

HAZEL METHERELL

Rough Hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*). Debbie Allan

In summer there appear lots of dandelion-ish looking flowers, but they are often not. The heads consist of many individual flowers called 'florets', the outer ones usually each with one long yellow 'ray.' I am not covering flowers with much smaller heads, like Prickly Lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) or Wall Lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*), or anything rare enough not to come across it accidentally. And we're certainly not going to delve into Hawkweeds (*Hieracia*) at this stage!

If the plant has long raggedly-lobed leaves in a ground-level rosette, with bare unbranched stems (oozing latex when snapped) and a single densely packed head of yellow florets... you have the real thing: *Taraxacum* agg., a Dandelion. There are over 250 species. Let's not go there for now! But if you want a taste see bsbi.org/identification/taraxacum.

Let's start with an easy one! Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*). The flowers are generally a more lemon shade than the other options; a single head

on an unbranched stem. You can soon spot them at a distance. The leaves have long white hairs, each about 10 mm long. *Pilus* is Latin for hair, so *Pilosella* is very appropriate.

No long white hairs? Then look at the bracts ('phyllaries') encircling the green part of the flowerhead. Hawk's-beards (*Crepis*) have an inner set of bracts clasping the flower bases like a cup, and an outer set of smaller bracts spreading outwards like a saucer. The most common ones are Smooth Hawk's-beard (*C. capillaris*), which is usually hairless and Beaked Hawk's-beard (*C. vesicaria*) which is usually downy. Both usually have multiple (i.e. branched) flowerheads. Unfortunately the only reliable way to tell them apart is by looking at the little parachute fruits. In Beaked Hawk's-beard the seed is drawn out into a long tip, like a long beak, with the parachute hairs at the top. In Smooth Hawk's-beard the seed is courgette-shaped with the hairs on the end, without a beak. Sounds tricky, but they are very distinct.

A regular section is 'Beginner's Corner' which covers identification of common species in a non-technical way and includes general articles on botany and recording plants.

BEGINNER'S CORNER: When is a Dandelion not a Dandelion?



Lemon yellow flowers of Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) (left). John Norton. Close up of a plant showing the long white hairs on leaves (right). All other photographs by Debbie Allan.



Beaked hawk's-beard (*Crepis vesicaria*) (left) and Smooth Hawk's-beard (*C. capillaris*) (right), showing branched inflorescence and 'cup and saucer' phyllaries.

Next (why do they give groups such similar and unhelpful English names?), Hawkbits (*Leontodon*) have a basal rosette of leaves and one or two flowers on leafless stems. Flowerheads are 25–40 mm diameter. Look at the leaves. If they have forked hairs, like a tiny 'letter Y' then you have a Hawkbit. There are two common ones: Rough Hawkbit (*L. hispidus*) and Lesser Hawkbit (*L. saxatilis*), usually with a single flowerhead on each stem, and again the only reliable

way to tell them apart is by looking at the fruits. Rough Hawkbit has the usual long white hairs on the top of all the fruits. In Lesser Hawkbit the hairs are missing from the outermost ring of fruits. In general, the flowerheads and leaves of Rough Hawkbit are larger than Lesser Hawkbit, and the stem is hairier.

Just unforked 'simple' hairs? Now you need to resort to surgery! Both of the following usually have multiple flowerheads. The key character is that if you pull the head apart, and there are papery scales

The 'aliens' section features recent discoveries of escaped and naturalised plants and regular updates of the Plant Alert scheme to report potentially invasive plants grown in gardens.

ADVENTIVES AND ALIENS: Adventives & Aliens News 23

ADVENTIVES AND ALIENS

Adventives and Aliens News 23

Compiled by Matthew Berry

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The generosity of contributors requires me to keep this introduction as short as I can, so that as much of the botanical interest as possible can be shared. Suffice it to say that, where feasible, remarks that might have gone into the preamble have been integrated into the record entries themselves, if in a compressed form. Many thanks.

V.c. 3 (S. Devon)

Pelargonium peltatum (L.) L' Hér. ex Aiton (Ivy-leaved Geranium). Plymouth (SX47595377), 14/8/2020, P. Pullen: growing on a limestone cliff amongst ivy and brambles. A trailing or climbing perennial (Geraniaceae) with somewhat fleshy leaves and very variable with respect to flower colour and markings. A native of S. Africa. The determination



Yucca filamentosa, Plymouth, South Devon (v.c.3).
Phil Pullen

is somewhat provisional and the plant could be a hybrid (P. Pullen pers. comm.).

Salvia hispanica L. (Chia). Exeter Quay (SX919921), 28/11/2020, R. Hodgson: several flowering plants growing at quay side. The first Devon record. It is almost certainly being under-recorded in the non-flowering stages. The DDB now contains 11 other records divided between v.c.c. 6, 12, 23, 29, 39 and 40. See Adventives & Aliens News 14 for more details of the Chew Valley Lake (v.c.6) record. It has also been reported in v.c.c. 14 and 44 (M. Berry, 2019).

Yucca filamentosa L. (Adam's-needle). Plymouth (SX4960359662), 28/9/2020, P. Pullen (conf. J. Poland): four plants growing close together on disturbed ground at Derriford Hospital. An evergreen garden shrub (Asparagaceae), native to the south-eastern US. The trunk is absent or prostrate (vs erect in *Y. gloriosa* [Spanish-dagger]). The leaves soon split into fine filaments particularly towards the tips, thus the specific epithet. See Poland & Clement (2020), p. 112.

V.c. 4 (N. Devon)

Mirabilis jalapa (Marvel-of-Peru). Bideford (SS46022623), 13/11/2020, R.I. Kirby: one plant growing on pavement at base of high south-facing retaining wall, Torrington Lane, East-the-Water. The first Devon record. A perennial garden plant (Nyctaginaceae), native to tropical America. It seems to set good seed. Of the two principal colour forms, red- and yellow-flowered, the red seems by far the most common. It is the only ('wild') British representative of the family, which includes the Bougainvilleas. Clement et al. (2005): 38. Stace (2019): 537.



Cicerbita macrophylla subsp. *macrophylla*, Clapham, Mid-West Yorkshire (v.c.64). David Broughton

be/content/cicerbita-macrophylla for a full treatment of the differences. David Broughton has also written a blog post about the discovery: <https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/2020/03/11/cicerbita-macrophylla/>

ADVENTIVES AND ALIENS: Adventives & Aliens News 23

as a native in central Europe, the Mediterranean, southern Russia and south-west Asia. There appear to be only two other British records, for v.c.c. 63 (1972) and 18 (1986). In both cases it is believed to have been introduced with grass seed. *BSBI News* 45 p. 1 and pp. 24–25. Ryves et al (1996), fig. 16.

V.c. 106 (E. Ross)

Trifolium incarnatum subsp. *incarnatum* (Crimson Clover). Hilton area (NH862773), 27/5/2020, T.D. Easter: c. 20 plants in field margin and on south-facing hedge bank, Clashnamuaich, very near the Dornoch Firth. Adventives & Aliens News 21, v.c. 12.

V.c. H21 (Co Dublin)

Senecio minimus (Toothed Fireweed). Sandyford (O1976726493), 15/11/2020, A. Fitzgerald:

Plant Alert – March 2021 update



Spring has finally sprung, marking the beginning of another Plant Alert season. By the time this has reached you, we will have just finished our first event of 2021, a presentation covering the challenges of finding the future's invasive plants, hosted by the Field Studies Council as part of their Natural History Live virtual sessions.

In the darker months, we began cleaning the Plant Alert dataset, in particular verifying records from photos submitted and removing those that were not from inside gardens. Probably encouraged through our media campaign and illustration of newspaper articles with well-known invasives such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, a number of people reported these species from their local area, but not from inside of gardens. The removal of these records will, of course, change our list of top reported species, and we hope, further highlight other ornamentals potentially making the initial leap out of gardens.

Up to March 2021, we have now received 488 records with 191 unique species recorded. Of those records, *Phaenosperma globosa* (Waterfall Millet) and *Araujia sericifera* (Cruel Plant) are of a number of species yet to be recorded on the BSBI database outside of gardens. *Phaenosperma globosa* is a clump-forming evergreen grass spreading by stolons. The attractive flowerheads grow to around 120 cm tall and develop into arching sprays of bead-like seeds. Although not currently readily available, it is becoming more popular as an architectural plant, meaning it is a species to keep an eye on.

Araujia sericifera is a twining, fast-growing, evergreen climber in the Apocynaceae, producing small sprays of bell-shaped, scented, white or pink flowers in late summer to autumn. Preferring a sheltered position, it will be one to watch in courtyard gardens and urban microclimates. A native of South America, it is listed as an invasive species in parts of Australia,

If either of these species is growing in a garden near you, we would appreciate further records of their behaviour. Those who have already sent in records of dominating ornamentals in the garden may be pleased to hear Plant Alert data is currently being used to help update the list of recommended species for horticulturalists for 'non-invasive gardening' plant choices. 'A guide to plants you can use in place of invasive non-natives' encompasses three booklets covering aquatics, landscaping and home gardening plant choices of those less likely to cause problems to the environment should they escape from the garden.

With the growing season underway, nurseries and garden centres are full to bursting with over 80,000 ornamental plants (RHS Plant Finder 2020) for us to choose from. Help us by spreading the word on Plant Alert to enable gardeners to report those plants spreading to an extent that they have to be controlled to prevent them overgrowing other plants or parts of the garden where they are not wanted.

To keep abreast of Plant Alert events and records find us on Twitter @Plant_Alert or our website

April Webb
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Other regular sections include Notices (including news and announcements from BSBI), a round-up of plant records from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland and reviews of recent books and publications compiled by Clive Stace.

NOTICES

NEW BSBI FUNDRAISING MANAGER

The BSBI is excited to welcome Sarah Woods to its staff team as the Society's first Fundraising Manager. Sarah will be looking to diversify the income of the charity, supporting existing projects such as Atlas 2020 and the work of our Country Officers, as well as seeking out new funding opportunities. You can read more about Sarah and the skills she brings to the BSBI in this interview for our Ne

MEMBERS' ACCESS TO THE BSBI'S DISTRIBUTION DATABASE

The plan to provide members with access to the BSBI's Distribution Database (DDb) was first mooted by BSBI's former president Chris Metherell two years ago and following extensive discussion we are now able to announce that this will take place later this year. This will provide members with the ability to access the Society's c.50 million botanical

COUNTRY ROUNDUPS: Ireland

IRELAND

The year started off with the New Year Plant Hunt, and again there was a good turnout from Ireland, with 98 lists submitted. The highest number of plants in flower on a single list was 72, and in all 2,178 individual records were made.

Various restrictions have meant that there are not many botanical finds to report. However, Ciarán Byrne discovered a fifth site

three Vice-counties that make up Co. Cork (v.cc.H3-5).

By the time you read this report the Irish Spring Conference will have taken place. There were ten presentations on the day.

all of which can be viewed by visiting the BSBI Irish Conference webpage.

Paul Green



REVIEWS

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Britain's Orchids. A Field Guide to the Orchids of Great Britain and Ireland
Sean Cole & Mike Waller
Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., commissioned by WILDGuides, 2020;
pp. 288, c. 1,200 photographs, 52 maps, 98 watercolours by Sarah Stribbling; sbk, £20.00. ISBN 9780691177618

of the British Isles by Foley & Clarke (2005) and the equally attractive and informative *Orchids of Britain & Ireland*, 2nd edition (2018) by Anne and Simon Harrap, to books on where to find them and dig them up (by inference) for growing in your garden to 'increase their chances of survival'. This sumptuous successor to David Lang's 2004 *WILDGuides Britain's Orchids*, however, is the book for the discerning, especially for those who find the books with photos of the best flowering spikes of each taxon that can be found rather lacking when out in the real world of orchid flower variation, immature, post-mature, or depauperate state – when trying to come up with a name for a record. This really is a comprehensive identification guide to our native and alien orchids and their hybrids in all their possible final forms and

pages on how to identify orchid taxa in flower, with superb side-by-side montages of whole plant watercolour drawings of related taxa in comparative order of similarity; followed by four on identification by flower structure, incorporating some 70 annotated close-up photos. Then we have 150 pages of individual taxon accounts, covering all the species, subspecies and varieties, each species with a full flower-spike watercolour annotated with identification tips, a map, leaf-flower-seed stage calendar and numerous close-ups of flowers in bud, fully open and in seed. There are, for example, 24 images of flower variation in the helleborines – including my narrow-lipped form of Broad-leaved brought on by sudden drought that I referred to above. Twenty-four pages are then devoted to hybrids and four to adventives and extinctions.

To join the BSBI

Please go to www.bsbi.org/join-us, select your payment option (PayPal, Direct Debit, cheque, bank transfer), fill in a membership form and send it to us.

BSBI caters for all botanical tastes and skill levels, from absolute beginners to national experts. Membership benefits include:

- Three print issues each year of *BSBI News*.
- Exclusive access to 100+ expert plant referees to help you identify difficult plant groups.
- Discounts on BSBI publications such as Handbook no. 22 *Broomrapes of Britain and Ireland* (due out in May 2021) – there are eight other BSBI Handbooks in the pipeline.
- A membership welcome pack which includes three most recent issues of *BSBI News*, print copies of the BSBI Yearbook, BSBI Code of Conduct, our booklet 'So You Want to Know Your Plants' and a BSBI bookmark.
- Your password for the members-only area of the BSBI website where you can access scientific papers published in *New Journal of Botany*, view electronic back issues of *BSBI News* 2015–2021... and much, much more.



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of Britain & Ireland**