

VC91 Report 2020

Major efforts this year were preparing a Rare Plant Register and checking on locations of candidate species. DW dug out older records for these which hadn't been submitted to DDb, while DE did much of the hunting legwork. The vice-county is sufficiently compact that Covid didn't greatly hinder summer fieldwork, and some useful new records were made.

DW added to the vc list *Epilobium x limosum* (hybrid Willowherb) in a den margin at Benholm and *Euonymus latifolius* (Large-leaved Spindle) planted in policy woodland south of Banchory.

DW made the second and third records of *Hieracium sabaudum forma bladdonii*, from a farmyard in Durris and by Stonehaven railway carpark.

DE added *Melilotus altissimus* by (safely) going on foot to see some flowers he had spotted when driving along the A90 near Muchalls.

DE also ventured into Eslie Moss (Fettercairn) to obtain precise records of *Briza media* (Quaking-grass), *Carex diandra* (Lesser Tussock-sedge), *Menyanthes* (Bogbean) and *Neottia ovata* (Common Twayblade), and into Whitewater Moss (Garvock) to find *Carex disticha* (Brown Sedge) and *Carex vesicaria* (Bladder-sedge), the first record for this latter species in a vc 91 moss.

An exciting find of a big colony of creeping Potentillas was made by Alison Peaker and Carol Blow in Drumtochty Forest, which will need refereeing help in the coming season to sort out.

For DW, considerable time was spent on checks of a distinctive big-flowered bramble (*Rubus*) species, ready to produce a paper naming it; colonies occur near the vc 91 coast and more near Dundee.