

## North Aberdeenshire VC93 Report for 2019

We concentrated this year on adding extra monads or tetrads in hectads that fell short of them, and hunting for species not recorded since 2000. For the DDb, 4019 records excluding duplicates were added in the year via Mapmate, with more added for the vice-county from other sources. Most species are now validated.

Searches of former sites for species not seen since 1999 proved successful for *Callitriche hermaphrodita* (Autumnal Water-starwort), *Nuphar lutea* (Yellow Water-lily), *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel) and *Bromopsis ramosa* (Hairy Brome). Another rediscovery of note was *Silene vulgaris* (Bladder Campion), which had been recorded previously in seven hectads but not seen since 1991; it was found near Rosehearty in a new hectad.

NCRs include the hybrid Buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana* x *dilatata* = *D. x deweveri*, recorded from a single site but suspected elsewhere, along with neophytes *Spiraea alba* (Pale Bridewort), *Amsinckia micrantha* (Common Fiddleneck) and the crop-derived *Trifolium incarnatum* subsp. *incarnatum* L. (Crimson Clover) and *Raphanus sativus* (Fodder Radish).

Other good finds were *Salix aurita* x *myrsinifolia* = *S. x coriacea* on a verge near Glass from which Dr Meikle identified many willow species decades ago, and *Ulmus minor* (Small-leaved Elm) in a hedgerow near Freefield House, both being furthest North UK records.

A hill-top search on The Buck indicated the colony of *Salix herbacea* (Dwarf Willow) covers more ground than previously recognised, with shoots found up to 100m apart.

For *Saxifraga hirculus* (Marsh Saxifrage), flowering was below average at the single site monitored.