

DERBYSHIRE FLORA GROUP NEWSLETTER

EDITED: Dr ALAN WILLMOT (BSBI County Recorder)

Number 36 – WINTER 2022/2023

1. EDITORIAL

Thankfully we were able to run a full programme of eight outdoor meetings this year, due to the ending of covid restrictions. With these recording sessions and the efforts of individual members of the group, we were able to add some 24,000 new records to the main BSBI database (DDb) for Derbyshire. These included around 20,000 for 2022 and over 1,000 different species and hybrids. Amongst the species and hybrids there were 26 completely new plants for the county (Section 3) and some significant refinds (Section 2). I include in this Newsletter news of the sad loss of one of our best local amateur botanists: Grace Wheeldon (Section 4). Finally, I report on the publication of the third national plant atlas (Section 5) and repeat details of our outdoor meetings (Section 6).

2. SIGNIFICANT REFINDS 2022

As we have a bumper crop of new county records this year, I have restricted my selection of refinds to just the two plants which I consider the most interesting. These are both from the new Avenue Country Park near Wingerworth at SK387684. They were growing on a newly laid roadway across a new flood-prevention dam. The roadway was made of permeable pavers. These allow vegetation to grow but provide a hard surface for traffic across the face of the dam. Such pavers are generally laid on a bed of sand with the spaces between the individual bricks infilled. I believe this sand or fill was the source of the two plants highlighted below and of a number of other interesting plants found on the site.

2.1 *Ranunculus parviflorus* (Small-flowered Buttercup)

This was found on 7th May by Mary Smith on our Flora Group meeting to the site. Although

it does occur elsewhere in the Midlands, this was the first sighting of the species locally since about 1950.



Ranunculus parviflorus Avenue CP K Balkow

2.2 *Trifolium ornithopodioides* (Bird's-foot Clover)

This was found by Fiona Keeler when she went to visit the site of the above find on May 12th. This diminutive clover has had not been recorded locally since about 1850.



Trifolium ornithopodioides Avenue F. Keeler

3. New County Records 2022

Amongst the 26 new county records for Derbyshire for 2022, six were from the same site. These are noted together below followed by the remaining plants individually.

Hudsons Plant Centre (SK328441)

Hudsons Plant Centre Duffield sells a range of garden plants including a modern speciality, young Olive trees in pots imported complete from Spain. The soil in these pots has produced over the last year a range of exotic weeds. So far none of these has yet jumped out of the pots into the wilder Derbyshire but they have not been consciously planted so are worthy of mention. All these records from Hudsons were made by Claire and Mary Smith. The most unusual is **3.1 *Aizoon hispanicum* (Aizoon)**. This is an annual succulent that has never to our knowledge been recorded in Britain before.



Aizoon hispanicum Hudsons C. Smith.

The remaining five species have all been found in Great Britain before but not in Derbyshire. There was one further succulent herb which is an unidentified species of **3.2 *Salicornia* agg. (A glasswort)**. The other four are all herbaceous weeds with generally southern distributions in Britain. **3.3 *Filago lutescens* (Red-tipped Cudweed)** is an annual and probably native in southern England. **3.4 *Parapholis incurva* (Curved Hard-grass)** is a native annual grass which has a coastal distribution in England. **3.5 *Parietaria officinalis* (Eastern Pellitory-of-**

the-wall) is an introduced perennial. It is similar to our ***Parietaria Judaica* (Pellitory-of-the-wall)** but has broader leaves. **3.6 *Portulaca oleracea* (Common Purslane)** is an annual and ancient introduction to the British Isles. It is currently spreading in southern England due to its use as a pot-herb.



Parietaria officinalis Hudsons A. Willmot.

Other New County Records for 2022

3.7 *Amaranthus blitum* (Guernsey Pigweed)

This introduced annual weed of waste ground was recorded at Jordanthorpe (SK3681) on a muck heap by J. Atkin in September. This species is currently spreading in southern England.

3.8 *Amaranthus bouchonii* (Indehiscent Amaranth)

This, another introduced annual *Amaranthus*, was recorded on a roundabout in Baslow (SK2672) by M. Lacey also in September. It is sometimes considered just a sporadic mutant of *Amaranthus powellii* (Powell's Amaranth).

3.9 *Atriplex x hulmeana* (A hybrid Orache)

This hybrid of *A. prostrata* (Spear-leaved Orache) and *A. littoralis* (Grass-leaved Orache) was recorded growing on a newly landscaped site with imported sandy soil by M. Lacey in June (Sheffield Rd Chesterfield SK3872). It is generally coastal in England.



Atriplex x hulmeana Chesterfield M. Lacey.

3.10 *Callistephus chinensis* (China Aster)

This garden annual was found growing on waste ground in Chesterfield (SK3871) by K. Balkow in September.

3.11 *Chenopodium strictum* ssp. *glaucophyllum* (Glaucous-leaved Fat-hen)

This was recorded growing on imported soil at Sheffield Road Chesterfield (SK3872) by M. Lacey in July. This is like *Chenopodium album* (Fat-hen) but has green stripes up the stem which are often red tinged at the nodes. It is considered a separate species in some books when it is called *Chenopodium glaucophyllum*.



Chenopodium glaucophyllum SK3872 M. Lacey

3.12 *Coreopsis tinctoria* (Garden Tickseed)

This garden escape was recorded as growing on wasteland beside new housing in Chesterfield (SK3871) by K. Balkow in August.

3.13 *Cynodon dactylon* (Bermuda-grass)

This was recorded as growing in between block paving in a front garden in Allestree (SK3439) by A. Willmot in September. Possibly native on sandy soil near sea, it may have been introduced with bedding sand for the pavers.

3.14 *Echium pininana* (Giant Viper's-bugloss)

Seedlings of this were found growing in a side alley off Arboretum Street Derby (SK3535) by M. Bryce in June. Mature plants were obvious towering over the walls of the alley as can be seen in the photo below.



Echium pininana Derby M. Bryce

3.15 *Euonymus alatus* (Winged Spindle)

A self-set example of this garden bush was noted by B. Gough on the side of a brook (SK4733) at Long Eaton in March.

3.16 *Euphorbia characias* ssp. *veneta* (Mediterranean Spurge)

K. Balkow noted one large flowering clump of this garden plant on the verge of Quarry Road Apperknowle (SK3878) in February. There were other non-flowering clumps higher up the road.

3.17 *Euphorbia maculata* (Spotted Spurge)

This weed of nurseries was recorded growing as a pavement weed at Whatstandwell Bridge (SK3354) by M. Lacey in June. It was also recorded in its "natural" habitat at Hudsons Plant Centre (SK3244) by C. & M. Smith later in the year.



Euphorbia maculata Whatstandwell M. Lacey

3.18 *Glebionis coronaria* (Crown Daisy)

This grain-seed alien was recorded on wasteland beside new housing Chesterfield (SK3871) by K. Balkow in August.



Glebionis coronaria Chesterfield K. Balkow

3.19 *Ilex x meserveae* cv Blue Prince

This unusual Holly was noted on a Flora Group meeting in West Wood (SK4172) and later identified by G. Coles. It is the result of the hybridisation of our native Holly (*I. aquifolium*) and Rough Holly (*I. rugosa*).

3.20 *Ipomoea purpurea* (Common Morning-glory)

This was another of K. Balkow's finds from Chesterfield (SK3871) in September, recognisable by the glossy appearance of the upper sides of its leaves. This was probably either a garden escape or a birdseed alien.



Ipomoea purpurea Chesterfield K. Balkow.

3.21 *Knautia macedonica* (Balkan Scabious)

This garden plant was recorded by J. Lee on Manystones Lane (SK2355) where it was probably introduced with imported soil.

3.22 *Lonicera fragrantissima* (Winter Honeysuckle)

This honeysuckle flowers in winter before the production of leaves and is sometimes used in planting schemes. One plant of it was noted by B. Gough at the base of a hedge in Long Eaton (SK4733) well away from any garden.

3.23 *Rorippa islandica* ss (Northern Yellow-cress)

All previous records for this plant are considered errors for *R. palustris* (Marsh Yellow-cress). It was finally recorded by M. Lacey on a muck heap Jordanthorpe (SK3681) in October.



Rorippa islandica frs Jordanthorpe M. Lacey

3.24 *Silene dichotoma* (Forked Catchfly)

Superficially very like *Silene latifolia* (White Champion), this seed-alien was recorded in a clover field at Jordanthorpe (SK3681) by M. Lacey in October.



Silene dichotoma Jordanthorpe M. Lacey

3.25 *Taraxacum inopinatum*

This endemic dandelion with a westerly distribution was found by M. Lacey in Silly Dale (SK1876) in April.

3.26 *Trifolium alexandrinum* (Egyptian Clover)

Mick Lacey came across this unusual clover (see below) in a fallow field at High Edge Wadshelf (SK3072) in August.



4. Grace Wheeldon (1930-2022)

Grace W. Wheeldon, who died in December, was one of the best amateur field-botanist who worked in Derbyshire in the last century. The main BSBI database the DDb contains around 28,000 records attributed to her. Most were made in the 70s, 80s and 90s but the earliest was made in 1955 and the latest around 2009. She lived for most of her life in Youlgreave with her husband George S. Wheeldon. He was the local postman and most of her records are attributed to both of them. However, she was the botanist and he mostly the driver. She not only simply ticked off the occurrence of plants. She also surveyed populations of rare plants such as the Dark-red Helleborine on an annual basis to aid their conservation. This surveying work was carried out under the umbrella of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Plantlife. After the death of George, she moved to Darley Dale but still carried on with her plant recording often in the company of Trevor Taylor.

I am sorry I did not know her better. I shall miss her as will Derbyshire botany.

5. Atlas 2022

This year marks the end of over 20 years work with the publication of the third national plant atlas. It is a two-volume work with a supplementary report. The two volumes contain individual reports on species arranged taxonomically. They are priced at £132 but with a 50% reduction for BSBI members. There will also be an on-line version of the publication. The main launch will be on line on March 8th when the on-line version of the atlas will be published. There will be later on-line and on-site launch events with the printed version of the atlas formally published on 21st March.

6. OUTDOOR MEETINGS 2022

I have already circulated the list of meetings for 2023 but have repeated them below for anyone how missed the first circulation. Note that all meetings are subject to any covid regulations current at the time and will not proceed if outdoor meetings are banned then.

Plant Atlas 2020

Mapping Changes in the Distribution of the
British and Irish Flora



Volume 1

P. A. Stroh, K. J. Walker, T. A. Humphrey,
O. L. Pescott & R. J. Burkmar



Front Cover of Volume 1 of New Atlas.

7. 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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Allestree Derby DE22 2RA

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E-mail: alanwillmot@outlook.com

DERBYSHIRE FLORA GROUP OUTDOOR MEETING PROGRAMME 2023

All meetings are held on Saturdays starting at 10.30 am and usually end around 4.30pm. Carry lunch.

	Month	Venue	Meeting Point for general botanising and recording.	Leader
25	March	Foremark Water & Carvers Rocks	Foremark Water Visitor Hub car park SK335241	AW
15	April	Rosliston Forestry Centre	Rosliston Forestry Centre car park on Burton Road SK242175	AW
6	May	Wensley Dale & Darley Bridge	Winster village car park on Wensley Road SK246606	BG
20	May	Redhill Quarry & Gang Mine	National Stone Centre car park on Porter Lane 286553	JL
17	June	Creswell Crags limestone gorge	Creswell Crags car park off Crags Road SK539744	GC
22	July	Sothall and Beighton	Car park at north end of Rother Valley Way at SK448823	KB
19	August	Derwent Meadows	Alvaston Park riverside car park at SK380344	AW
9	Sept.	Goyt Moss plus Cat & Fiddle area	Derbyshire Bridge car park at SK018715	PA

N.B. Some of these meetings start from "Pay & Display" car parks where change is not usually available. Some other car parks are now card only.

Meetings organiser: Dr Alan Willmot, 2 Kedleston Close, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2RA.

Mobile: 0794 121 4977

Home phone: 01332 550373

Email: alanwillmot@outlook.com

Meeting leaders:

AW: Alan Willmot

BG: Brian Gough

PA: Penny Anderson

KB: Ken Balkow

JL: Judith Lee

GC: Graeme Coles

Anyone interested in botany is welcome to come on these meetings but please contact the organiser

if you have not attended one of the events before.

A.Willmot 19th Jan 2023 Floravc57/Meetings/Meets2023