

Vc95 Field Meeting Report: Rothés, 23rd March 2023

***Gagea lutea* (Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem)** was first found by the River Spey just north of the bridge at Boat o' Brig in 1996 and has since been found nearby, and also found several miles further down river near Fochabers. Then last year Ian McDonald found it several miles upriver at Rothés, the first record for NJ24. This is the site we went to visit.

So far, the Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem has only been found on the west bank of the River Spey, with all sites being in vc95. The east bank of the River Spey between Boat o' Brig and Rothés is in vc94, so be well worth someone looking along the east side to see if it can be found for vc94!

With the wonderful weather on Monday afternoon eight of us had a very enjoyable time looking at plants about Rothés and by the River Spey. Before we got to where Ian had seen the Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem we found it in a new site, this was also a new monad for it. A species that seems to be spreading well in places along the west bank of the River Spey.

While still in Rothés we found a good number of plants of ***Stellaria pallida* (Lesser Chickweed)** growing on a grassy area, a species that likes a free draining sandy soil in a sunny spot. This is the first record for NJ24. A species that is easily overlooked as it looks just like a small Common Chickweed.

We saw a good number of species with a good number of the spring species flowering, several of which were new for NJ24, so a very good afternoon.



***Gagea lutea* (Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem)** near Rothés, photographed by Ian McDonald



***Gagea lutea* (Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem)** near Rothas (left), and the group admiring it (right)

Species list for the field meeting (95 taxa) – thanks to Anne Burgess for producing this

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	Moschatel
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder
<i>Alchemilla</i> agg.	Lady's-mantle
<i>Allium paradoxum</i>	Few-flowered Garlic
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Meadow Saffron

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Crocus tommasinianus</i>	Early Crocus
<i>Crocus vernus</i>	Spring Crocus
<i>Crocus vernus x tommasinianus</i>	Spring x Early Crocus
<i>Crocus x stellaris</i>	Yellow Crocus
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Doronicum pardalianches</i>	Leopard's-bane
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Common Whitlowgrass
<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	Caper Spurge
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Gagea lutea</i>	Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Hedera colchica</i>	Persian Ivy
<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	Atlantic Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hydrangea</i> sp.	a Hydrangea
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Leucojum vernum</i>	Spring Snowflake
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great Wood-rush
<i>Mentha x villosa</i>	Apple-mint
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	Compact Grape-hyacinth
<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Sweet Cicely
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<i>Narcissus</i> agg.	Cultivated Daffodil
<i>Nothofagus obliqua</i>	Southern Beech
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet
<i>Petasites albus</i>	White Butterbur
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass
<i>Philadelphus</i> sp.	Philadelphus
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Japanese Rose
<i>Rosa</i> sp.	a Rose

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow
<i>Salix</i> sp.	A Sallow
<i>Salix x fragilis sens. lat.</i>	Crack-willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Scilla sardensis</i>	Lesser Glory-of-the-snow
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	Wood Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria pallida</i>	Lesser Chickweed
<i>Symphoricarpos x chenaultii</i>	Pink Snowberry
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Comfrey
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed
<i>Tulipa gesneriana</i>	Garden Tulip
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-speedwell
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch