

Meeting report – Loch an Eilein area (Dava Moor)

Four of us had a very pleasant afternoon despite a little very light rain. The main aim of the meeting was to look at the rare and interesting species found around Loch an Eilein. We found all the species apart from the *Carex diandra* (Lesser Tussock-sedge).



Above: Loch an Eilein.

Left: Moonwort.

We started off by looking at the little fern *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) on the verge of the lay-by. We then headed down to Loch an Eilein to look at the *Carex limosa* (Bog-sedge) which we found thinly scattered in the open boggy areas around the loch. While the beautiful looking *Vaccinium microcarpum* (Small Cranberry) was very

plentiful, flowering and fruiting nicely. We found the *Utricularia stygia* (**Nordic Bladderwort**) in the loch but no flowering plants.



Above: flowering Small Cranberry. Below: fruiting Small Cranberry.



Another sedge that is common around the loch was *Carex lasiocarpa* (**Slender Sedge**). A rare sedge in vc95 being only found in twelve sites and all in the southern half of the vice-county.

We then headed up to Loch an Dunain, a lochan I have never looked at before. To our delight we found more **Bog Sedge**, a new site for this sedge and only the second site for it in vc95.

We also had a look at some dry heath on the opposite side of the road to the lay-by. Here we found *Genista anglica* (**Petty whin**) and lots of leaves of *Pyrola media* (**Intermediate Wintergreen**) but only a couple flowering spikes. We finished the afternoon off by looking at two coastal species that are now well naturalised along the verges of the salted roads in NE Scotland *Puccinellia distans* subsp. *distans* (**Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass**) and *Plantago maritima* (**Sea Plantain**).



Left: Slender Sedge.

Photos by Eric Jensen and Ian Green.