

Plants in Vice-county 104: A Review of July-December 2022

About 50 new hectad records were made in VC104 in the second half of 2022 bringing the year's total to over 140. Over 6,600 2022 records have been transferred to the DDb including over 20 new vice-county records for the year.

Skye Botany Group's project with the [Darwin Tree of Life project](#) resulted in more new sites for *P. x mantoniae* (*P. interjectum* x *vulgare*). A specimen of *Ophioglossum azoricum* (Small Adder's-tongue) from Raasay was taken for whole genome analysis.

SBG members were further involved in [BSBI's SHARP Project](#) and had success in the second half of the year with e.g. *Euphrasia heslop-harrisonii* (an Eyebright) at Broadford, *Atriplex praecox* (Early Orache) from the Braes area and *Zostera marina* (Eelgrass) at Coral Beach. Some plants on the SHARPP list for VC104 are taxa whose nomenclature is in a state of flux e.g. *Cochlearia officinalis* subsp. *scotica* and *Rhinanthus minor* subsp. *borealis*, or whose actual taxonomic status is in question, e.g. *Euphrasia arctica* x *marshallii*. Some of these plants have been re-found in/near their previous locations but they are no longer what we thought they were, so whether we can say they have been re-found (even though they may have been), is debatable!

Members of SBG completed the survey of Broadford for the [Urban Flora of Scotland](#) project. Surveys covered six monads and resulted in over 900 records.

Eight *Hieracium* (Hawkweed) specimens were sent for expert determination. All but two were the relatively common *H. anglicum* (English Hawkweed), *H. shoobredii* (Shoobred's Hawkweed) and *H. triviale* (Common Hawkweed). The remaining two were initially determined as *H. langwellense* (Langwell Hawkweed) and *H. orcadense* (Orkney Hawkweed), both of which would have been valuable records. However, SJB made the mistake of querying one of them and now they have both been reduced to INDET.

This year's additions to VC104:

<i>Allium moly</i>	Yellow Garlic
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Garden Anchusa
<i>Astilbe rivularis</i> *	River Astilbe
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> cv.	Cabbage cultivar
<i>Carex riparia</i>	Greater Pond-sedge
<i>Crocus tommasinianus</i>	Early Crocus
<i>Echinops bannaticus</i>	Blue Globe-thistle
<i>Euphrasia arctica</i> x <i>heslop-harrisonii</i>	An Eyebright hybrid
<i>Filipendula camtschatica</i>	Giant Meadowsweet
<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	Fritillary
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Sunflower
<i>Hyacinthus orientalis</i>	Hyacinth
<i>Levisticum officinale</i>	Lovage
<i>Libertia formosa</i>	Chilean-iris
<i>Malus sylvestris</i> s.s.	Crab Apple
<i>Persicaria nepalensis</i>	Nepal Persicaria
<i>Phedimus kamtschaticus</i>	Kamchatka Stonecrop
<i>Pilosella caespitosa</i>	Yellow Fox-and-cubs
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> subsp. <i>balearicum</i>	Fodder Burnet

Sorbaria kirilowii

Chinese Sorbaria

Taraxacum pseudohamatum

A Dandelion

Astilbe rivularis* Buch.-Ham. Ex D.Don (not** *Astilbe rivularis* auct. non Buch.-Ham. Ex D.Don = *A. chinensis* (Maxim.) Franch. & Sav.). First record for the British Isles.

Not seen since before 2000:

Taxon	Vernacular	Year of last record
<i>Euphrasia arctica x marshallii</i>	An Eyebright hybrid	1979
<i>Erysimum cheiri</i>	Wallflower	1980
<i>Polypodium x mantoniae</i>	Manton's Polypody	1983
<i>Symphytum officinale</i> *	Common Comfrey	1984
<i>Saxifraga umbrosa</i> **	Pyrenean Saxifrage	1987-1999

*Many earlier records for *Symphytum officinale* may be errors for *S. x uplandicum* (Russian Comfrey).

**The only previous record for *Saxifraga umbrosa* in VC104 is from Portree and is anonymous and undated. It is very likely an error for *Saxifraga x urbiium* (Londonpride) which is known from several sites in Portree. Therefore, this is very probably also a first vice-county record.

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January 2023