

## Malcolm Macneill - Glasgow urban botanist extraordinaire!



Malcolm Macneill

Malcolm contacted the newly-formed Lanarkshire Botany Network (vc77) in early 2017.

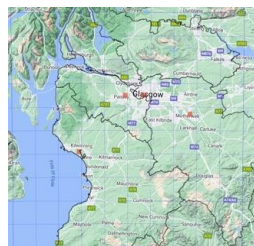
Since then, he has contributed over 43,000 records on his own, quite apart from his frequent participation in our outings programme or with ones and twos of other people.

His favourite landscape is the streets, weedy lanes and waste ground of urban areas and his specialist subject is *Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue-leaved Saxifrage) - see photo right.



In the last 8 years, Malcolm has recorded this species in 156 monads, often in HUGE populations, across much of Central Scotland.

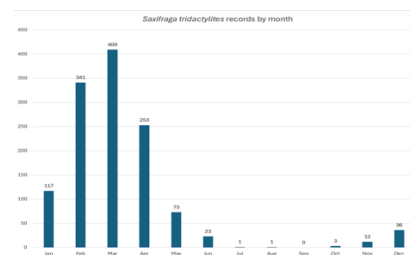
The plant is known to be increasing in Scotland, but perhaps there was more of it previously than we thought: do you botanise in February?



before 2017



now



records by month

Over many years, Malcolm has spent time all over the British Isles, gaining familiarity with lots of plants which are not common in Scotland. As a result, he is well-equipped to spot newcomers in our local flora. With his keen eye and thorough field skills, he has added a disproportionate number of first vice-county records recently (120 new species for vc77 alone since 2016).

These include:

- Cardamine corymbosa* (New Zealand Bitter-cress)
- Chenopodium murale* (Nettle-leaved Goosefoot)
- Picris hieracioides* subsp. *hieracioides* (Hawkweed Oxtongue)
- Bidens frondosa* (Beggarticks)
- Apera spica-venti* (Loose Silky-bent)
- Campanula lactiflora* (Milky Bellflower)
- Catapodium marinum* (Sea Fern-grass)
- Plantago afra* (Glandular Plantain)



*Picris hieracioides* subsp. *hieracioides*  
(Hawkweed Oxtongue)



*Bidens frondosa*  
(Beggarticks)

One of his prize finds has been the glandular form of *Veronica peregrina* (American Speedwell). This is the first time this variant has been found in Scotland - proof of Malcolm's eye for detail!

In 2023 Malcolm was the recipient of a BSBI Award for his contribution to local botany.