

# Alchemilla Workshop, Glen Shee & Fealar Estate, 20th-21st July 2024

Matt Harding & Mark Lynes

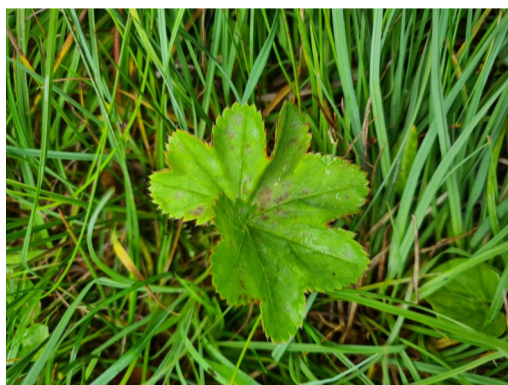
BSBI *Alchemilla* Referee Mark Lynes, ably supported by Martin Robinson and Les Tucker, delivered a fantastic two-day *Alchemilla* workshop in the south Cairngorms this July, covering species including *Alchemilla sciura* (Cairnwell Lady's-mantle), *A. glomerulans* (Clustered Lady's-mantle) and *A. wichurae* (Rock Lady's-mantle). This poster showcases some of the highlights of the weekend.

Team *Alchemilla* (left) began at the Glen Shee car park, where we found 7 species - *A. sciura* (centre), *glomerulans*, *glabra*, *xanthochlora*, *filicaulis* ssp. *vestita*, *alpina* and unfortunately *mollis*. On Sunday a long trip up the estate road into Fealar gave us *A. wichurae* (right) as well.



## *Alchemilla sciura* (Cairnwell Lady's-mantle)

- Petiole densely adpressed hairy
- Leaves bluey-green, often contorted, glabrous on top and bottom surface (excluding veins)
- Big deep teeth, spiky but not hunchbacked (c.f. *glabra*), tufts of hairs usually stand out
- Silky main veins
- Stem hairy to 2-3 internodes up, flowers in flat-topped bunches, glabrous



## *Alchemilla glomerulans* (Clustered Lady's-mantle)

- Adpressed hairs on both leaf surfaces, can glint when hairs catch the sun
- Leaves pale green, often with red margins, with pleated look caused by concave lobes
- Petiole with adpressed hairs (often liberal, occasionally glabrous)
- Main veins on underside of leaf usually hairy all the way along
- Flowers typically in tight bunches



## *Alchemilla wichurae* (Rock Lady's-mantle)

- Leaf teeth sharp and deep, with slit between lobe sinuses. Teeth appear incurved because hairs curve beyond teeth tips
- Leaves feel thin. Upper leaves typically glabrous, sometimes with few hairs on outer lobes and/or down folds. Vein angle on two basal lobes at 45 degrees to veins in lobes above
- Petioles dusky pink at base, with wrap around adpressed hairs (can be dense to glabrous)
- Inflorescence lax and open, with individual flowers appearing distinct

Left photo above comparing *A. wichurae* (top) and *A. glabra*. Note more hunchbacked teeth of *glabra*, compared to the 'paper-sliced' teeth of *wichurae*. Central photo above shows *A. wichurae* growing on a mole hill - an association, or do they just stand out more against the bare earth? The debate continues.



Alas, Team *Alchemilla* was occasionally distracted by other plants!

Clockwise: *Gymnadenia densiflora*; *Pyrola minor*; *Botrychium nordicum*; *Polystichum lonchitis*; *Juncus alpino-articulatus*; composite with *Trichophorum germanicum*, *T. x foersteri* & *T. cespitosum* leaf sheaths; the smallest *B. lunaria* in the world!; *Salix repens x aurita*, and the elegant *Equisetum pratense*.

