

## Annual reports from Wales, 2015

### VC35 Monmouthshire - Elsa Wood and Steph Tyler

#### Records

Number of records entered into Mapmate in 2015:

Steph: 7787

Elsa: 6269

Most have been synced to DDB

#### Highlights

- The Monmouthshire Botany Group goes from strength to strength –now have almost 100 on mailing list and a core of about 15-30 come out regularly on our organised days –some of the participants are getting quite competent now.
- Re-discovery of *Orobanche rapum-genistae* and further records of *Osmunda regalis*, both considered extinct in the Flora by T.G.Evans
- Another inland record of *Chenopodium glaucum* and write up of the species in Welsh News
- First vc record of *Rorippa austriaca*
- new hectad record for *Saxifraga granulata*.
- Finding *Eleocharis quinqueflora* near St Brides Netherwent and *E. multicaulis* in the Sirhowey valley
- Productive field meeting with Paul Green with us showing him *Ranunculus sardous* and him showing us some halophytes on a roadside near Raglan, including *Catapodium marinum*
- Attendance at MOD Caerwent Conservation Committee meetings and writing of an article on plants on this important area of limestone grassland published in MOD's Sanctuary magazine

#### Atlas 2020 progress

- Still need to do more in the west of the county –the east is quite well covered.
- All hectads now visited and only two with fewer than 120 species.
- Good coverage of poorly recorded tetrads with only about 60 tetrads now with <100 species.
- In 2016 attention will be directed at hectads with rather few species and the remaining poorly covered tetrads.
- Three additional botanists are now surveying their 'own' tetrads and on botany group walks we sometimes 'tetrad bash'.

## **VC41 (E) Glamorgan (Julian Woodman)**

### **Records**

A few thousand records collected, stored on paper, Excel and some MapMate.

### **Highlights**

- A few new colonies found of *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* on BSBI field meeting.
- Large colony of *Persicaria minor* on last Glamorgan Botany Group meeting with possible *P. mite* and hybrid between *P. minor* x *P. maculosa*
- Good colony of *Papaver hybridum* in Barry.
- New colony of *Trifolium suffocatum* (took Paul Green here as I suspected there might be some good *Trifolium* and other therophytes, I was hoping for *Trifolium glomeratum* but didn't see any). Other good stuff here was *Ornithopus*, lots of *Moenchia* and later in the year I came across a lot of *Hypochaeris glabra*.

### **Atlas 2020 Progress**

Much of Glamorgan Botany group outings are pretty much dedicated to recording for the atlas. We had five meetings this year covering a few monads a day.

Not sure of total coverage to date but can work out.

## **VC41 (W) Glamorgan (Barry Stewart)**

### **Records**

- 10,481 records stored in Mapmate and synced with LRC. Still to send data to DDb.

### **Highlights**

- Charles and Hilary Hipkin continue to systematically record at a 1km square level in Neath Port Talbot and contributed 5423 records of the year total for 2015, making numerous notable discoveries in the process, such as *Alisma lanceolatum*, *Avenula pubescens*, *Dianthus armeria*, *Filago vulgaris*, *Genista tinctoria*, *Huperzia selago*, *Hypericum x desetangsii*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *Pyrola minor*, etc.
- My list of species of interest included *Asplenium obovatum*, *Blysmus rufus*, *Carex oederi* subsp. *oederi*, *Erophila majuscula*, etc.
- Visits by Geoff Toone produced some notable finds including *Avenula pratensis*, *Bromopsis erecta*, *Coincya monensis* subsp. *recurvata*, *Poa infirma* and *Scandix pecten-veneris*. NRW carried out monitoring at a number of sites including those supporting *Mibora minima* & *Neotinea ustulata*.

### **Atlas 2020 progress**

- We currently have 104,587 records from the Atlas period. The vast majority (94%) of recording has been carried out by Charles & Hilary Hipkin (42,350+) and myself (55,900+). Contributions of the remaining 6% have come from 51 additional recorders.
- The distribution of records is pretty even, although there are still plenty gaps. It would be extremely useful if a MapMate query could be produced that would provide a list of species counts for each tetrad/monads, in order to target future recording.
- Charles, Hilary and myself will continue with the square-bashing. I anticipate this will result in complete coverage of NPT, but Swansea, although well represented at Hectad level, will have a few tetrads gaps by the end of the survey period.

## VC42 Brecknockshire (Mike porter and John Crellin – report from John)

### Records

John: 3100 records submitted to DDB which include 370 from previous years. My records are kept on cards and entered into my database. Other records, I keep the original submission (paper or electronic) and also put on my database. This year we have had significant records from members visiting the county.

### Highlights

- Dr Jo Parmenter spent some of her holiday doing a good survey of the shores of Usk Reservoir, finding two species provisionally new for the hectad.
- We gained access to the Sennybridge training area and now have a good relationship with the Rural Estates Adviser, Lisa Payne. This resulted in a new find for the county, *Plantago coronopus*. In a visit near Christmas to an SSSI in the “impact area” I recorded what I could and collected a fern that might just possibly be *Asplenium trichomanes* subsp. *pachyrachis* but that awaits the referee’s decision. (Visiting the impact area is only possible at times like this.)
- *Erophila glabrescens* was spotted and proved at the BBNP Car Park in Brecon. We must surely have more and it is not a first for the county as Mike had a specimen in the Cardiff Herbarium collected before the species was split in another part of the county and that was later determined as this spp.!
- Barry Stewart told me of what he was sure was *Daboecia cantabrica* near a roundabout in Brynmawr – just in the VC - and I visited it later when in flower. Dr Charles Nelson agreed it was this species and not a hybrid from photographs.
- The recording group had 27 meetings in the field with an average of 3 participants plus me. There were 23 different people involved in at least one of these.
- One trip out of county for the group (Kenfig and we found a new Fen Orchid site.)
- One course attended by group members (NPMS)

### Atlas 2020 progress

John: Volunteers are helping but we could do with more! I haven’t done a hectad analysis yet but will soon. I am aware thanks to Polly’s maps where we need to concentrate effort.

## VC 43 Radnorshire (Liz Dean and Sue Spencer)

### Records

- 1766 records from 2015 have been entered into Mapmate.
- These included 4 new taxa for the county: *Juncus effusus x inflexus* = *J. x diffusus*, *Fallopia baldschuanica*, *Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio* and *Dryopteris affinis* agg. *x filix-mas* = *D. x complexa* agg.. There were also 98 new hectad records, and 396 taxa recorded for the first time in a hectad since 2000.
- Over 20 monads (plus more with casual records).

### Atlas 2020 coverage

- Coverage is improving and areas are being targeted to improve hectad coverage.

## VC44 Carmarthenshire (Richard and Kath Pryce)

### Records

- All records are held on Biorecs. All of our 2015 field records have now been input, mostly by Kath. The only outstanding ones are 60+ charophytes sent to Nick Stewart for determination (but answers not yet received) and we also have a parcel of Potamogetons and other aquatics which we'll send to Chris Preston as soon as we have a minute! However, we also have some Excel files of records from third parties which Steve Coker is importing into the system for us so we'll wait for these before we send everything to the DDb.
- Summary of records made during 2015 and input to date:
- 37,942 species records comprising of 1161 different species from 2457 different locations.
- Most records were recorded to 10m or 1m precision and only 9 tetrads and 5 monads include records to just these precisions – all recorded by visitors, mostly during Glynhir week. However, Jo Parmenter (on holiday from Norfolk) made some very useful records in the east of the county when recording common species to tetrad level but she religiously recorded high precision grid refs for all less common species indicated on our record cards.
- Highlights
- See highlights article in current BSBI Welsh Bull., Glynhir write-up in BSBI Yearbook 2016 and article on *Salicornia x marshalii* new to Wales, discovered in 3 hectads with Rob Shaw (of WWBIC) and written-up by him in BSBI News 131, pp.24-25..
- 175 *Taraxacum* specimens sent to John Richards for determination produced 125 'good' records (50 were indet., det. to section only or "cf") They included three new vc records, four 2nd vc records and 54 new 10km square records!! There were also a couple of "cf" specimens which could have been new vc records and which might be worth trying to recollect in 2016!
- We also sent thirty-five hawkweed *Hieracium* specimens to David McCosh who was able to put names to all of them! The batch produced two new vc records, *H. virgultorum* and *H. triviale*.
- Rob Shaw was employed for most of the year at West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre covering for maternity leave and he proved to be a very valuable asset supplying a couple of thousand records from the west of the vc. He also attended several Glynhir days and we've been out with him several times since.

### Atlas 2020 progress

- Coverage already quite good and we intend to again try to concentrate in N and NW Carms this year where there are some weak spots. We attach maps showing the differences between pre and post 2000 hectad species totals. The northern part of the county is generally under-worked and with the manpower we have we're unlikely to be able to reach the pre 2000 totals (many good habitats and their species may well have gone anyway). Generally, in some of the southern hectads where the urban areas are concentrated, the higher numbers by comparison with pre 2000 totals probably, not only reflects the fact that they are more intensively recorded, but also that more aliens have

become established since 2000. Incidentally, sorry for no grid numbers on the maps but the hectad with the highest total on both maps is SN40.

- Members attending the Glynhir week will again be directed to under-worked tetrads as well as doing rare/scarce species monitoring.
- Will continue to collect *Taraxacum* material for AJR to det. later in the year. Can you suggest a practical way to address *Rubus* – unlike *Taraxacum*, they are a very thorny problem!

## **VC45 Pembrokeshire (Stephen Evans)**

### **Records**

See 2014 report but much less field work was carried out by the Recorder in 2015 because most spare time was spent working on the Rare Species Register. There are still many 2015 records from other recorders to be input as they have yet to be received or have arrived in the last week. So far, in 2015, 177 monads have records in the database.

Monitoring/surveillance continued in 2015, by the Recorder and other members, for the usual species, namely *Asparagus prostratus*, *Hammarbya paludosa*, *Lathyrus japonius*, *Melittis melissophyllum*, *Platanthera bifolia*, *Ranunculus tripartitus* and *Rumex rupestris*.

### **Highlights**

- *Centaurea cyanus* was found in the entrance to an arable field at a new location.
- A few tiny plants of *Adiantum capillis-veneris* have become established near the northern tip of the disused limestone quarries at West Williamston nature reserve – could all the mild wet weather be partly accountable for this new location. We only have one other native population of this rare fern.
- *Ballota nigra*, a scarce Pembs. plant reappeared at Pembroke Castle after disturbance.
- *Glaucium flavum*, another scarce plant, has appeared again at Pickleridge, Dale following disturbance of the sandy shingle by the early 2014 storms.

### **Atlas 2020 progress**

143,888 records were entered into the DDB in 2015 of which about 80,000 were extras.

About 50,000 of these records have been collected after 2010 to add to the 95,000 or so collected between 2000 and 2010. There are three BSBI volunteers now helping the County Recorder with recording for the Atlas and two will target gaps in squares near their homes but the vast bulk of the work will have to be completed by the recorder and his wife.

## **VC47 Montgomeryshire (Kate Thorne and Gill Foulkes)**

### **Records**

Almost 10,000 records were received in 2015, all are on Mapmate and have been synched to the DDb.

We keep NRW and the MWT informed re records on any of their sites, and all the new data will be sent shortly to the Local Record Centre (BIS).

### **Highlights**

*Hammarbya paludosa* (new county record), updates of *Carex lasiocarpa* at 2 sites and a new site with a good population of *Serratula tinctoria*. Species found (or refound as no recent record) in 2015 include: *Agrimonia procera*, *Erophila glabrescens*, and *Erysimum cheiranthoides*.

9 Flora Group outings contributed around 2000 records. Additional outings with the Montgomery Field Society added more. The Flora Group also had an indoor winter meeting investigating the identification of docks and Apiaceae using fruit morphology.

### **Atlas 2020 progress**

As last year we are continuing to target individuals and flora group outings towards recording in areas with few or no records since 2000 whilst also trying to update plants in the RPR.

## **VC48 Merionethshire – Sarah Stille**

### **Records**

7735 records for 2015 of which 7626 were input or imported from spreadsheets by VCR.

Last synched to DDb, 8 December 2015 at generation 1010.

Electronic [emails, spread sheets] or hard copy [recording cards or field notes] backup of all data held by VCR

### **Highlights – Merioneth report for 2015 (published in Welsh Bulletin)**

This has been my second year as an ‘absentee’ VCR, one in which three members of NRW have offered to run our local group, Meirionnydd Nats. They have already held three successful and interesting meetings and I am very grateful to Rhiannon Cottrell, Heather Garrett and Jo Clark for organising these. In December, we will meet for a social lunch and planning meeting generously hosted again by David and Elin Elias. In spite of my no longer living locally and being able to go out whenever I want, over 7000 new records have already been input this year, with more still to come.

Some highlights have been the refinding of Northern Bedstraw, *Galium boreale* and Heath Fragrant-orchid, *Gymnadenia borealis* both for the first time this millennium and a whole raft of species found by Clive Lovatt and Liz McDonnell as they ferreted around some of the less-scenic parts of the county, on the shore, in caravan parks, wasteland etc. These included Sharp-leaved Fluellen, *Kickxia elatine*, a rare casual only ever recorded once previously, and Dune Fescue, *Vulpia fasciculata*, a scarce native fescue found at Aberdyfi for the first time for 24 years. Paul

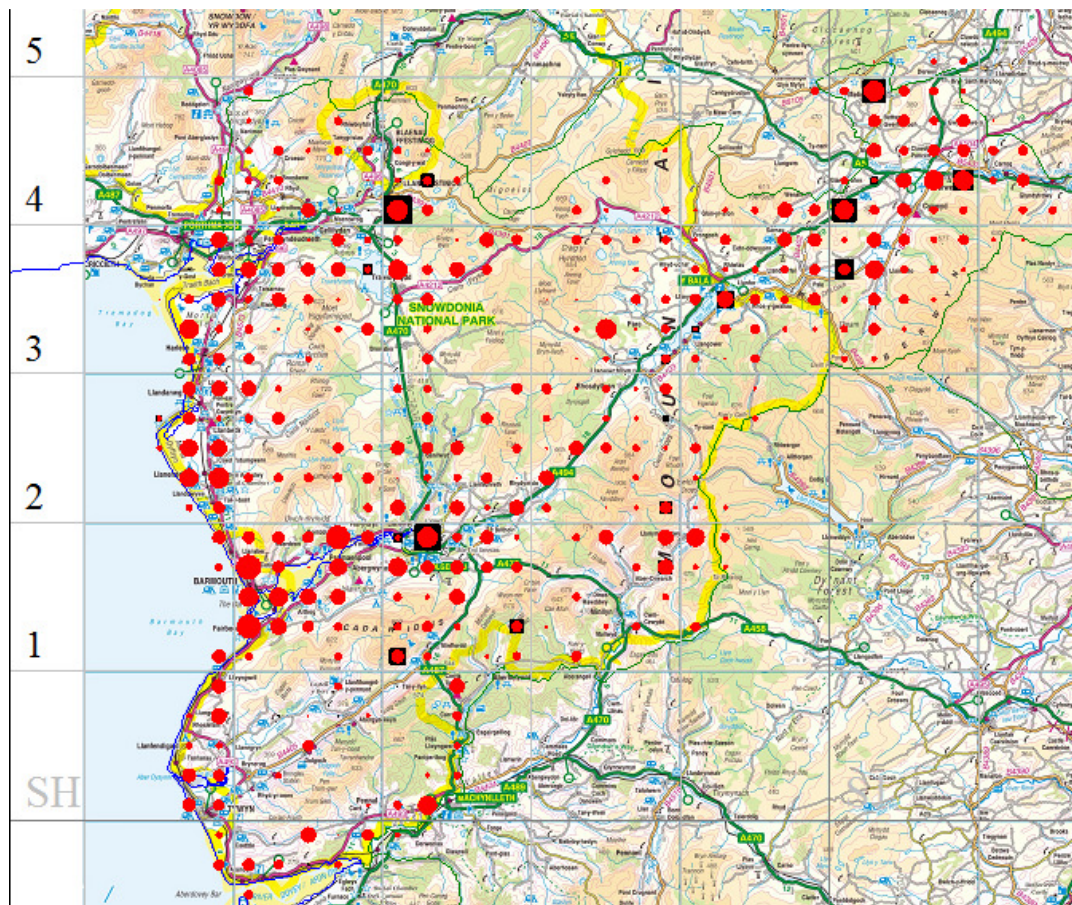
Green, found *Imperatoria ostruthium*, Masterwort, beside the new road near Llyn Celyn; Gethin Elias found a new site for *Andromeda polifolia*, Bog Rosemary on the Migneint and Andrew and Janet Graham updated the only county site record of *Arabidopsis petraea*, Northern rock-cress, since well before this new century

A highlight of 2015 was the AGM held at Plas Tan y Bwlch. It was an exhausting [for me] but thoroughly successful [for VC records] event and I am very grateful to all those who contributed by leading walks, giving talks or helping otherwise with the planning. Heather Garrett spent a whole day driving me around seeking access permissions for the several field trips which were planned – it can be one of the hardest parts of the job and I was really grateful for her support.

We held the third Caerdeon Residential a couple of weeks later and that too went well – we had our usual good weather – except for the last day when it poured! – and even then we made over 600 records. This year we combined one of the days with a local group meeting so we had more people than usual. Caerdeon is becoming a favourite event for adequate, cheap, no-frills accommodation, wonderful scenery and botany and three or four days spent in great company with like-minded people.

### Atlas 2020 progress

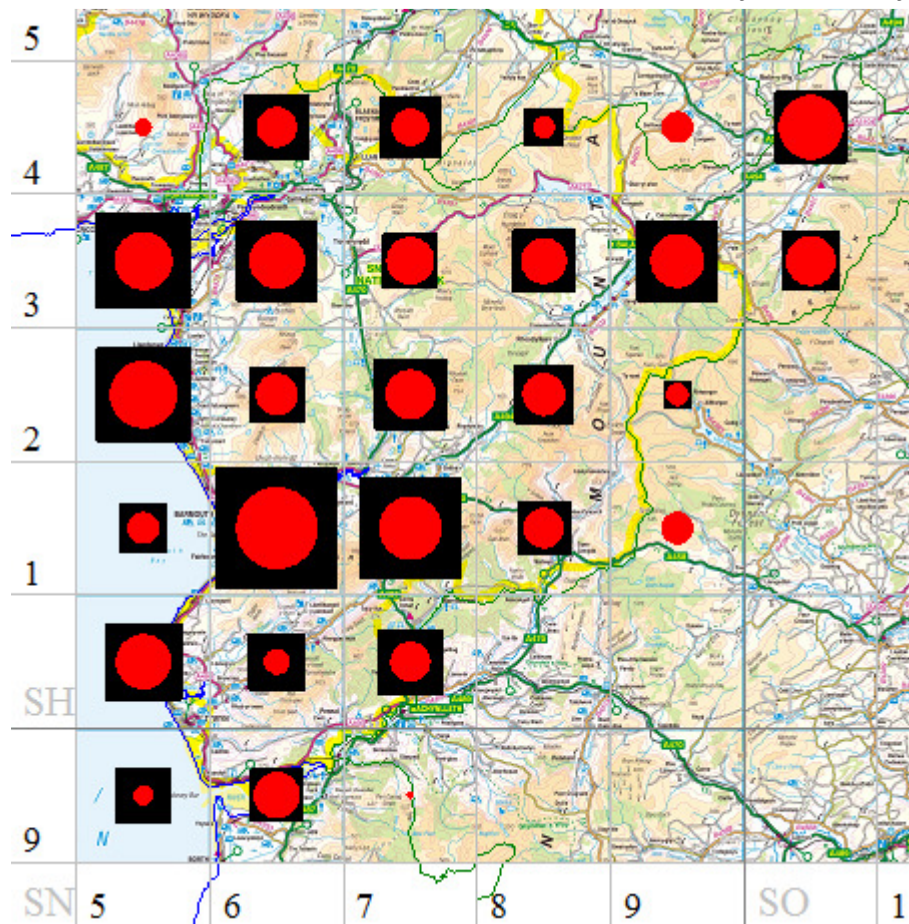
Meirionnydd Nats programme aims to cover as much of the VC as poss and we target un-/under-visited hectads and tetrads.



There are still some big gaps mainly in the more remote, upland areas, in SH60, SH62, SH64, SH70 [part], SH73, SH81, SH82 and SH83.

Looking at the hectad map pre- and post-2000, there seems to be a lack of recording updates in the better-recorded hectads such as SH61 and SH71. Some of this is down to genuine loss of taxa and some due to less taxonomic splitting in modern times. I am trying to process the “wants lists” for hectads [and for tetrads as we visit them] but it is a time-consuming process weeding out all the irrelevant “extra” taxa which give a distorted picture of how under-recorded an area is.

Incidentally, I have found a huge list [almost 500] of new hectad records as I am doing my Welsh Plant records for the end of this month – but they are already in the system ☺]





## **VC49 Caernarvonshire – Wendy McCarthy**

### **Records**

1,852 records entered into Mapmate and most synced to hub for Ddb; copies also kept on paper as tetrad cards. C. 50 records prepared for publication in WPR

### **Highlights**

- Field trips into Snowdonia with Fred Rumsey to record upland Euphrasia
- Atriplex training meeting; Updating *Fumaria purpurea* with Paul Green
- Discovery of *Carex limosa* new to SH55

### **Atlas 2020 Progress**

Coverage is generally good and recording is ongoing. Formal recording meetings (6) with volunteer recorders, extra informal meetings planned when time permits

## **VC50 Denbighshire – Delyth Williams**

### **Records**

- All records onto MapMate; all synced to the DDB
- About 25 Denbs Group recording meetings
- Starting 1<sup>st</sup> March in snow, ending 10<sup>th</sup> November
- About 40,000 records entered in all, some digitised from older records

### **Highlights**

- Denbighshire has the most records uploaded to the DDB for any county in Wales in 2015
- *Radiola linoides*, *Hordelymus europaeus*, several new *Rubus*
- 3-day Atlas Recording with visiting botanists 28 – 30<sup>th</sup> July

### **Atlas 2020 progress**

- Members of Denbs Group provide valuable help
- A good few reliable volunteers also submit many records
- 168 tetrads/monads with more than 40 records visited in 2015
- Coverage for Atlas 2020 coming on
- Plans to record in as many tetrads as possible, ensuring good coverage in at least 5 in each hectad

## **VC51 Flintshire - Emily Meilleur**

### **Records**

Records received and inputted in 2015 is 3552, although more to go in. Records kept in local record centre Cofnod.

### **Highlights**

- Small flowered butter cup - Rhyl
- Annual Beard grass – Deeside Ind Estate
- Fumitory workshop with Paul Green
- Bramble weekend with Dave & Rob
- Recording week

### **Atlas 2020 progress – volunteers helping:**

Gail Quartly Bishop helping – recording, data input, data verification, leading field meetings

Amanda Davies – site selection and site access

## **VC52 Anglesey – Ian Bonner and Hugh Knott (as published in Welsh Bulletin)**

Firstly some unfinished business from 2014 – in April the Flora Group visited Plas Cadnant and the adjacent Dingle SSSI. In the woodland, close to the Afon Cadnant SH55.73 was a tussock of a purplish/red sedge that was not identified. A small shoot was collected and grown on in a pot and taken to the February 2015 Committee for Wales meeting where Elsa Wood identified it as *Uncinia rubra*, (Red Hook-sedge). It has subsequently flowered and looks just like the pictures of this taxon on the internet. It is a native of New Zealand and widely used in low maintenance planting schemes and presumably spread to this location by seed.

We were also able to look at the distribution maps of aquatic plants on Malltraeth Marsh prepared by Richard Lansdown, after his 2014 Survey for the RSPB. These show that the shallow scrapes for the benefit of birds like Lapwing also benefit many aquatic plants – indeed he estimates there may be as much as a hectare of *Pilularia globulifera* (Pillwort) scattered over the reserve. Richard also found *Bidens cernua* var. *radiata* (Nodding Bur-marigold), the attractive rayed form reported on in last year's article, to be quite widespread over the Reserve.

The, by now, traditional pre-season meeting took place at Treborth on 24<sup>th</sup> March when progress in 2014 was briefly reviewed and a mix of field meetings to specific locations and under recorded monads planned for 2015 – Barry Wrightson agreed to continue to co-ordinate the meeting arrangements.

Peter Marren graced Anglesey with a visit on 27<sup>th</sup> March – to view *Mibora minima* (Early Sand-grass) at Aberffraw in preparation for a book Peter is writing about selected rare plant species from around Britain.

The first recording meeting proper took place on 14<sup>th</sup> April when seven of us assembled at the now rather derelict Llyn Alaw Visitor Centre to explore blank monads around Llanbabo SH37.86. A testament to the value of several pairs of eyes was that some 125 taxa were noted from this rather unpromising area so early in the season, including a couple of less common garden escapes – *Geranium phaeum* (Dusky Crane's-bill) and *Ruscus aculeatus* (Butcher's-broom).

On 25<sup>th</sup> April Peter Jones showed off his recently discovered locality for *Huperzia selago* (Fir Clubmoss) on Yr Arwydd SH473.855 before we divided into two groups to brave a cool and wet morning on Mynydd Bodafon SH46.85 and the monad to the north. The steeply sloping grassland and woodland around the ruins of Nant-y-sebon SH46.86 yielding an impressive list of over 130 species.

A late April visit to the New Red Sandstone outcrops SW of Brynrefail in SH47.86 found one or two elderly *Euonymus europaeus* (Spindle) bushes surviving the cattle and sheep grazing on the now improved grassland. Higher up there is still a small area of wet heath, part of which is ungrazed with locally scarce *Viola palustris* (Marsh Violet). A follow-up visit in mid August found further heathland relics with plentiful *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel) and *Scutellaria minor* (Lesser Skullcap), also a single clump of *Oreopteris limbosperma* (Mountain fern) which has become a scarce fern on Anglesey.

Encouraged by this latter find a visit to the seepages on the N side of Yr Arwydd, SH47.85, found seven clumps of Mountain Fern at the junction of Molinia (Purple Moor-grass) mire and adjacent Ulex (Gorse) and Pteridium (Bracken) – it had not been recorded from here since 1960. The whole area is ungrazed and quite a struggle to negotiate, but we were rewarded with good views of basking Adders.

A May visit to Tywyn Trewan Common with the North Wales Wildlife Trust found *Moenchia erecta* (Upright Chickweed) to still be locally plentiful at this its only Anglesey location, on the golf course fairway and adjacent tracks at SH321.755.

Quite a few visits this summer have been to lane-sides where the earth and stone banks, or cloddiau, support a flora that might have been typical of adjacent land before enclosure and subsequent agricultural improvement. Characteristic plants include *Lepidium heterophyllum* (Smith's Pepperwort), *Senecio sylvaticus* (Heath Groundsel) and *Jasione montana* (Sheeps-bit Scabious), the last listed as Near Threatened (NT) in the Red Data List for Wales (a >20% decline at the hectad level). Anglesey is an important stronghold for *Jasione*, which was noted in 26 additional monads this summer and since 2000 has been recorded from about 200 of the 800 monads that cover Anglesey.

A July visit to Bodorgan Station found *Blackstonia perfoliata* (Yellow-wort) around the Station Yard SH38.70. Of the five other post-2000 records of yellow-wort four are also from disturbed ground associated with disused quarries. On nearby verges was a sizeable patch of *Geranium columbinum* (Long-stalked Crane's-bill) – very local away from the limestone along the east coast. Also *Hypericum x desetangsii*, the hybrid between *H. maculatum x perforatum* was confirmed by Norman Robson, who commented that it appeared to be notosubsp. *carinthiacum* – meaning that it was derived from *H. maculatum* subsp. *maculatum* which has not been recorded from Wales!

At South Stack the RSPB sowed a crop of barley in one of their fields for a second year and in late July the Flora Group listed all the non-crop plants – some 55 species – though the number of typical arable 'weeds' was low. *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel) was very abundant, including the occasional plant with blue flowers, as was *Euphorbia helioscopia* (Sun Spurge). *Spergula arvensis* (Corn Spurrey) and *Stachys arvensis* (Field Woundwort) were abundant and three fumitory species were noted, *Fumaria bastardii* (Tall Ramping-fumitory), *F. muralis* (Common Ramping-fumitory) & *F. officinalis* (Common Fumitory).

A second visit to a former waste disposal site near Gwalchmai produced a list of over 250 taxa and a second VCR for *Verbena officinalis* (Vervain) growing along the laneside by the former entrance, SH37.76. Vervain has been known since 1997 from around the car park to the Local Nature Reserve by Wylfa Power Station.

A late July walk W of Gadfa SH44.89), towards Parys Mountain, passed through 2 fields recently cultivated and sown with grass seed which showed an impressive display of *Viola arvensis* (Field Pansy) - the fields looked quite white from a distance. Amongst a good range of other arable species was a single flowering plant of *Misopates orontium* (Weasel's-snout) at SH4468.8998. This is one of only five post-2000 records and two of the others are from gardens. On disturbed soil on

the edge of Parys Mountain SH44.89, were a few plants of ***Aethusa cynapium*** (Fool's Parsley), a surprisingly uncommon plant on Anglesey and the first record for SH48.

Continuing the arable weed theme a very interesting re-find by Sue Wilkinson was of two plants of ***Galeopsis speciosa*** (Large-flowered Hemp-nettle) in Llangristiolus SH43.73, one on spoil excavated for a pond and one on soil disturbed by tree planting. It was last recorded from here in 1986 when the area was regularly cultivated and there are no other post2000 localities.

RSPB continue to monitor rare plant species on their reserves, including ***Tuberaria guttata*** (Spotted Rockrose) at South Stack. Of the twelve known locations only 6 held any plants and of these only 4 held 25 or more plants – giving a total of 2313 plants, which compares with only 1120 plants in 2014. Counts started in 1994 and the annual totals have varied from 1044 (2013) to 5957 (2002).

First records of garden escapes include ***Anemone apennina*** (Blue Anemone) from Coed Marquis, Menai Bridge SH55.71 in April; ***Pratia pedunculata*** (Matted Pratia) from verges in Rhosneigr SH31.72 and a lawn in Llanfair Pwll SH52.71 in June and ***Campanula persicifolia*** (Peach-leaved Bellflower) beside a track on Parys Mountain SH449.902 in July.

Another new species in 2015 was ***Crassula tillaea*** (Mossy Stonecrop) spotted by Martyn Stead on a rather scruffy car-park in Rhosneigr SH320.735, again not native to Anglesey, though is considered so on sandy/gravelly ground in East Anglia. Mossy Stonecrop has been spreading north and west and found now on a number of caravan and car-park sites across Wales.

Nik Aspey visited Llyn Coron in August and provided a welcome update on ***Persicaria minor*** (Small Water-pepper), counting 40+ plants from the muddy shoreline in SH38.70. Small Water-pepper has been known from Llyn Coron since 1813 and is its only Anglesey locality.

Also in August Sam Bosanquet of NRW mapped Rhoscolyn Reedbed SSSI and amongst a number of interesting finds noted a small, 1x1m. Clump, of ***Carex pseudocyperus*** (Cyperus Sedge) in the reed bed at SH27.75 to add to the well known sites around the Valley Lakes and the 2010 discovery of the sedge in a wetland beside the new A55 at Malltraeth.

Hugh Knott and I were pleased to count over 50 flower spikes of ***Gentiana pneumonanthe*** (Marsh Gentian) in a shallow depression on the plateau of Tre Wilmot, SH23.81, rather struggling through ***Molinia caerulea*** (Purple Moor-grass) and ***Erica tetralix*** (Cross-leaved Heath) on this currently ungrazed site, but noted that in 1999 the count was over 1,100 from a similar area!

An early September visit to Newborough Warren found the recently created slack area to be very dry and mainly being colonised by fragments of ***Rubus caesius*** (Dewberry) and ***Salix repens*** (Creeping Willow), but established slacks further inland were a mass of ***Parnassia palustris*** (Grass-of-Parnassus). A few other less common species noted included ***Clinopodium vulgare*** (Wild Basil) at a couple of sites in SH41.63; ***Geranium sanguineum*** (Bloody Crane's-bill) a single flowering plant on the track used by the dune management machinery and ***Lithospermum officinale*** (Common Gromwell) which has been regularly recorded from around SH411.630 but apparently nowhere else in the dunes or forest.

Hosting the BSBI *Atriplex* Workshop was the highlight of September when a dozen or so members lead by John Akeroyd, the *Atriplex* referee, examined Oraches from the shore of the Menai Strait, Red Wharf Bay and the estuaries of the Afon Crigyll and Afon Ffraw. Altogether some six species and four hybrids were determined, including the rather elusive ***Atriplex longipes*** (Long-stalked Orache). A more comprehensive note about the Workshop has been prepared for the 2016 Year Book.

Another specialist making a welcome holiday visit to the Island in September was Geoffrey Kitchener who just happened to notice a couple of dock hybrids which turn out to be new VC records! ***Rumex crispus x R. conglomeratus = R. x schulzei*** from damp grassland at the edge of the dunes, Glan Halen, Llanddona, SH56.80 and ***Rumex crispus x R. sanguineus = R. x sagorskii*** from a hedgerow near Traeth Bychan, SH515.853. In both cases the hybrids were growing with both sets of parents.

The final meeting in early October was to Cors Goch NWWT Reserve, walking from the Castell carpark towards the heath at Caban, where a few Marsh Gentians (***Gentiana pneumonanthe***) were still in flower. The Trust's August count totalled only 188 flowering plants across the Caban and Craig Wen heaths, compared to 432 in 2014.

Along the lane-side Martyn Stead spotted a small clump of a helleborine which appeared to be ***Epipactis dunensis*** (Dune Helleborine) at SH495.804. Dune Helleborine had also been recorded from a trackside, well away from coastal dunes, at Glan Morfa SH43.67, in July. Our destination was the limestone outcrop on Rhuddlan Fawr where we found half a dozen or so plants of ***Spiranthes spiralis*** (Autumn Lady's – tresses) in flower along the scarp edge, despite the worrying lack of grazing.

In total 7257 records have been entered into MapMate in 2015 and synched to the BSBI Hub.

Thanks are due as always to members of the Flora Group and all those who have submitted records or helped with determinations and confirmations

#### **References:**

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