

# Kent Botany



2012

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Contents	Page
Obituary	1
Introduction	4
Plant records: selection criteria and recorders	6
Plant records for East Kent (vice county 15)	7
Plant records for West Kent (vice county 16)	25



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**Front cover:** *Fumaria capreolata* subsp. *capreolata* forma *speciosa* at Greatstone Dunes, June 2012 (photo © Liam Rooney). A crimson-tinged form of White Ramping-fumitory, whose British distribution was previously believed to be limited to the Channel Islands, now found to be well-spread in the Dungeness area.

## Obituary

### Eric George Philp (24 June 1930 – 8 January 2013)



Botany in Kent is the poorer for the loss of Eric Philp, who died at Pembury Hospital on 8 January 2013.

Eric was a remarkable all-round naturalist, perhaps the best in the country, for whom botany was only one of his interests. No-one can have known Kent better: his recording must have led him into every tetrad in the administrative county several times, even by boat when otherwise inaccessible. Born in Crayford, West Kent, and so a Kentish man (although otherwise he was not particularly forthcoming in acknowledging metropolitan vice county 16), he lived in the county almost all his life.

One of his earliest memories was of breeding out caterpillars in jam jars – he went through two generations of Magpie Moth before he was five – and from this developed an interest in birds, beetles and a multitude of other aspects of natural history. As a child, he was a wartime evacuee in Stafford. An unexpected consequence was that a scholarship stream for grammar school was not afforded to evacuees, and so he missed some education opportunities, which might otherwise have led to

university. However, he passed his exams for attendance at the Maidstone Technical School for Boys and afterwards during National Service (1948-50) he undertook what he described as an overseas posting (on the Isle of Wight). On demobilisation he started visiting various bird observatories, obtaining his bird ringer's permit. Around that time he bought a Robinson MV light trap and began boosting his moth collection. He also met Dr. A.M. Masee of East Malling, a distinguished entomologist, who influenced Eric towards the study of plant bugs (Hemiptera) and beetles (Coleoptera). On Dr. Masee's death, he took over from him the Kent recordership of Hemiptera. Eric also eventually became Kent Coleoptera recorder, a President of the British Entomological & Natural History Society and a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

In April 1956 he married Dorothy, at St. Faith's Church, Maidstone. In December of that year he began work at Maidstone Museum, where he was Keeper of Natural History until his retirement in 1993. He was responsible for answering all queries on natural history and during his first year he worked hard at bringing his then limited knowledge of botany up to a standard with which he could deal with public enquiries. Eric had firm ideas about what a museum was for, and that it should afford a centre for reference collections, records and an identification service for whatever might be brought in. The establishment of a County Biological Records and Archive Centre at the Museum in 1973-74 consolidated this view.

Museum developments in later years, which sacrificed scientific knowledge to entertaining display, were not congenial to him and this, coupled with an occasional antipathy to institutional organisation, meant that he felt that some of the purpose of his work was being left behind. Once he had retired, recording for the Centre stopped (until re-incarnated as the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre in 2003), and there was then no-one who could deal with natural history enquiries; the only botanical records being gathered were then his own personal ones. Visiting the Museum after retirement, which he undertook regularly to continue in order to care for the herbarium, he would comment on the paucity of the residue of the collection of stuffed birds, many of which he had prepared or refurbished during his tenure; and he was scathing as regards the gory modern educational dinosaur display – what reptile, he would say, had red blood, such as was displayed? This was distant from the educational displays which he had undertaken during his tenure, including fresh seasonal plant material and, at one time, a grass snake, which was temporarily housed in the bath at home. The plant displays proved more controversial than was expected when a member of public tipped off the police regarding a specimen labelled *Eupatorium cannabinum* (Hemp-agrimony) and the police arrived, looking for cannabis. Up to Eric's death he had been engaged in re-organising the herbarium holdings of *Hieracium* (Hawkweeds), in which he had a particular interest, so as to correspond with the taxa and sequence in Sell and Murrell's *Flora of Great Britain and Ireland*.

Eric was involved in the establishment of the Kent Field Club as a founder member in 1955 and, as it became apparent that scientific recording and conservation management were not always readily combined in the same organisation, he was also party to the formation in 1958 of the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation, now the Kent Wildlife Trust, reviewing the constitutions of other fledgling conservation organisations for their suitability for Kent adoption. His role as regards the Trust he felt was not recognised in later years, and it was particularly galling if wardens failed to recognise him and sought to discourage him from investigating terrain in a Trust reserve. He was a founder member and Honorary Vice-President of the Kent Geologists' Group. He was also a founder member of the Kent Ornithological Society (1961). His interest in birds was life-long and led to his appointment in 1978 as the Honorary Swan Master for Maidstone Borough Council, pursuant to a series of royal charters from 1599 which entitle the Borough to keep and mark swans and cygnets on part of the River Medway. Although Eric was a skilled bird-ringer, this did not save him from inadvertently joining an unusually spirited swan in the waters of Leybourne Lakes on one occasion. He was a good friend of the Wild Flower Society, which he joined in 1960, and encouraged the Society to start offering local meetings, for which he was always willing to supply a Kent venue.

In his younger days, he botanised with Francis Rose, traversing Kent on the back of Francis' motor cycle. Francis had long projected a Flora of Kent, along conventional lines, which was never brought to the point of publication. In some respects this cast a shadow over publication of county botanical records, but Eric had become interested in a different approach, following John Dony's *Flora of Hertfordshire* (1967), in which a county flora was mapped using records at tetrad, or 2 x 2 km, level. He suggested to the Kent Field Club that a tetrad survey could be carried out by members, which would result in a set of distribution maps at Maidstone Museum. The Club adopted this in 1970, anticipating set-up costs of £20 and running costs of £5 for each year of the project, estimated at five years and leaving open whether the results would eventually be published. In the event, the timescales were too ambitious, and although 204,420 records had been gathered by the end of 1975, they served to show that there were still many gaps; so the project ran from 1971 to 1980 inclusive. Eric became Hon. Director of Field Studies for the Club in 1970 and in a couple of years had succeeded Francis Rose as vascular plant recorder. He was kept busy, not just with recording, but general co-ordination (the correspondence forms a large series of folders at the Museum); and when publication was decided upon and the maps were to be prepared, Eric inserted individually the 265,511 dots required. During this period he had also to cope with the re-establishment of his department following the major fire at the Museum in 1977 which damaged much of the natural history collection, although sparing the herbarium. The re-opening of the Museum coincided – to the day – with the Club's publication of his *Atlas of the Kent Flora* in 1982. The *Atlas* was highly regarded and also very successful in its sales; it helped place the finances of the Club on a strong footing.

Eric was elected President of the Kent Field Club (1990-91), but subsequently there was a passage during which relations became somewhat strained, initially due to the appointment of various referees and recorders in disciplines in which Eric was expert, but without consulting him. It was perhaps characteristic of him that he was generally able to maintain amicable relationships with individuals, whilst being critical about the organisation to which they belonged.

As he said in the Introduction to *A New Atlas of the Kent Flora*, completion of the first Atlas was followed by a vow never to become involved in another. However, the habit of recording was too strong to be denied, although he was uncomfortable about being involved again in all the administration of co-ordinating a survey team. For the first Atlas, there were people who had undertaken to record a particular square or squares but were taking an unconscionable time to produce a few records, when he could visit the area and collect many more in just a couple of hours. There were those who thought that the invitation to provide records was an opportunity to send their life list for an area, rather than a list during a survey period. There was the discovery that some recorders were persistently misidentifying certain taxa. It was in many ways easier to do it oneself, and so he did. Starting from scratch, re-mapping the Kent flora began as a personal exercise in 1991, expanded following his retirement in 1993 and over the period to 2005 developed into a set of records which he had seen and verified personally and which was capable of constituting a new Atlas. The Kent Field Club had expressed willingness to undertake publication again, but the road to achieving this was lengthy and caused frustration; more than once Eric suggested that he might be tempted to give up and destroy all the records on his computer. Eventually, with the provision by the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre of dedicated assistance in preparation of maps and layout, publication got under way; but it was not until 2010, five years after close of survey, that *A New Atlas of the Kent Flora* appeared. It was one of the first of the 'second generation' of county tetrad map Atlases, so enabling comparison with the previous Atlas for the trends of plant distribution. With over 250,000 records, it was an immense task for a single person. Eric was author of numerous books, papers and notes in various natural history and horticultural journals on a remarkably diverse range of topics, but his two Atlases will stand as monuments of his achievements.

Eric was a renowned field botanist and excellent company on expeditions, when he regularly botanised with friends such as Jim Bevan, Mervyn Brown, Doug Grant, Peter Heathcote and Brian Woodhams. He was East and West Kent recorder for the Botanical Society for the British Isles at least since 1971, relinquishing the position in 2009. Despite this recognised expertise, he did not

seek to impose his learning, but was happy to discuss critical taxa and consider others' views. In field meetings, he came across as a gentle unassuming man, with plenty of time for beginners' questions. He explained his determinations with great clarity and patience; the other side of this coin was his deposit in Maidstone Museum herbarium of a great range of specimens as permanent evidence of his views on the naming of finds. His energy in the field reflected the fact that he had been a school champion at 440 yards and ran as a Maidstone Harrier in his youth and, although he slowed down in the 1990s, his vigour was restored by a heart by-pass operation in 1995. The last botanical field meeting which he led was in October 2011 at Oare Marshes for the Kent Botanical Recording Group, of which he was President (2011-13), in which he gave a memorably complete account of *Salicornia* (Glassworts) in Kent.

His knowledge of the county and its records was phenomenal. One could name a place and he could give its tetrad number without reference to a map. Although his records were made by reference to tetrads, one could ask whereabouts in a tetrad an uncommon plant had been seen, and in most cases he could remember the number of visits made to the tetrad, the route taken and the location of the plant. Even apparent uncertainty might reflect accuracy: when asked about a particular site for *Chenopodium vulvaria* (Stinking Goosefoot), he replied that it could be in either of two monads – it transpired when this was checked out on the ground that there was a small scattering over a few square metres in both monads bisected by the grid line!

Following retirement, he sought to concentrate on plants, birds, beetles and plant bugs and to cut down on other things. "The problem is", he said, "that everything to do with natural history is of interest". Eventually, however, ill-health imposed some limitations on his activities. After treatment for bladder cancer in 2012 he suffered a stroke and was hospitalised; he bore this with fortitude and returned home for a week at Christmas before relapsing. He remained alert until his death on 8 January 2013 and, although his hospital window had only a view of another building, he started his 2013 recording list with two birds (towards what would be his normal annual list of 200 or so).

He is commemorated in the plant world, first by a hazel on his grave, a natural burial in grounds which are to become a nature reserve, and secondly by *Rumex x philpii*, a cross between *R. patientia* (Patience Dock) and *R. conglomeratus* (Clustered Dock) discovered by Eric near Snodland in 1978. He will be much missed by family, including Dorothy, their son Stephen and their three grandchildren; by friends, the county and national botanical community; and by naturalists in all the natural history disciplines in which he was so well known.

## Introduction

Kent Botany provides news of botanical developments in Kent each year. It is issued primarily as a web version, maintained on the Kent page of the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) website, <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/> and this should be regarded as the definitive version. A substantially similar hard copy version is also issued by the Kent Field Club, as part of its Bulletin (2012).

A dull, wet summer kept spring annuals going for longer than usual. At one end of the county, Owen Leyshon found Dungeness still green when the small clovers would normally have browned off and shrivelled up. At the other end, in metropolitan West Kent, Juliet Cairns remarked on the same phenomenon at Blackheath, where many records were made over a prolonged period at what would normally be a botanical desert. There was limited value in looking for plants which rely upon ditches drying out in summer to enable germination, such as *Chenopodium chenopodioides* (Saltmarsh Goosefoot) or *Persicaria minor* (Small Water-pepper) – their habitats were often under water.

## Highlights

Perhaps the most interesting finds came from the Dungeness area, particularly due to the encouragement given by Owen Leyshon. He guided a Bradford Botany Group excursion, which resulted in material of an attractive fumitory, whose standard turns crimson when the flower is fertilised, being sent to the national expert and confirmed as *Fumaria capreolata* subsp. *capreolata* forma *speciosa*, a form not previously recognized as established on the British mainland. He also facilitated a survey of some of the MoD land at Lydd Ranges by a small group of Kent botanists, which yielded some remarkable results, including:

- *Crassula tillaea* (Mossy Stonecrop) – the first Kent record since c.1900.
- *Hypochaeris glabra* (Smooth Cat's-ear) – two new sites were added to the four which are the only current Kent records (until recent years this plant was thought to be lost to the county from 1954).
- *Ruppia cirrhosa* (Spiral Tasselweed) – the number of Kent sites known at the time was doubled by the survey.
- A willowherb hybrid last recorded in Kent over a century ago.
- *Conyza floribunda (bilbaoana)* (Bilbao's Fleabane) – the second East Kent record.

Another discovery by Owen Leyshon, was a single plant of *Silene gallica* (Small-flowered Catchfly) which had been feared lost to Kent, but which turned up as a result of conservation measures directed towards a different Catchfly, *Silene conica* (Sand Catchfly). Further details of all these Dungeness/Lydd discoveries are given below in the plant records section of this paper.

## Recording in Kent

The Kent Botanical Recording Group held eight field meetings during the year for recording purposes across the county, covering a wide range of habitats. Reports were published in newsletters 4 and 5, circulated by email but also posted on the KBRG webpage. Membership of the group increased from 73 to 79 during 2012.

The number of records collected for 2012, as given in the county database at the beginning of January 2013, was just over 19,800. This compares with 24,000 for 2011 and about 13,800 for 2010. Despite the reduction from 2011, the total seems reasonable, given that priority is being given to rare plant register recording over general recording. Records continue to be shared with the Botanical Society of the British Isles, where they contribute to the on-line maps of species distributions, and with the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre. Our top two recorded species for 2010-12 are *Urtica dioica* (Common Nettle), found in 468 1km squares, and *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort Plantain), found in 400 1km squares.

The Kent draft rare plant register has progressed, with Parts A and B being replaced on the KBRG webpage with revised versions reflecting additional discoveries or developments, demonstrating how the register is intended to be updated on a continuous rolling basis. Part Ca was placed on the website in December 2012, following earlier informal circulation and feedback. Part Ce-Cy was issued for consultation in December 2012 and Parts D and E in February 2013.

Plants found or re-found in 2012 and being added to the register list for 2013 onwards comprised: *Crassula tillaea* (Mossy Stonecrop), *Eleocharis acicularis* (Needle Spike-rush), *Fumaria bastardii* (Tall Ramping-fumitory) and *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* (Four-leaved Allseed). The emphasis of the rare plant register is on the rarer native plants (including archaeophytes or ancient introductions). It is not necessarily easy to ascertain whether a new find of a plant formerly native in Kent but long unrecorded, or previously absent from Kent but native elsewhere, 'deserves' rare plant register treatment. A casual with clear anthropogenic origins does not have a strong case for this, but this clarity is not always available in practice. We may surmise that *Crassula tillaea* (Mossy Stonecrop)

arrived at Lydd Ranges with military vehicles from East Anglia or Dorset; or that *Eleocharis acicularis* (Needle Spike-rush) at Fowlmead may have been emptied from an aquarist's tank; but in the absence of certainty, preference has been given to inclusion in the register, on the basis that such evidence as there is of the plants' status may assist understanding the position in future.

Each species account on the register is accompanied with information regarding records, generally in the form of a table of records (primarily from 1970 onwards) or a county distribution map. The objective is to assess the position for each species from 2010 onwards, and records collected each year contribute towards this. The number of 2012 records for rare plant register species reported by the end of the year amounted to 657 (cf. 863 for 2011 and 919 for 2010). There could be a law of diminishing returns at work here, in that the 'easy' records may have been collected first, but this is still an encouraging number of records overall. Amongst our rare plants records this year were: 13 reports of *Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome), which recorders are now recognising better; 23 records of *Hordeum marinum* (Sea Barley), with which Kent is well endowed; a similar number for *Polypogon monspeliensis* (Annual Beard-grass), showing that a recording effort has been made along the north coast; and five finds of *Hypopitys monotropa* (Yellow Bird's-nest), which may have been favoured by the weather.

Survey recording was carried out for the last year of the BSBI's threatened plants projects, investigating the current status of species at risk by re-visiting the site of old records. Success was achieved in only just over 50% of 33 designated sites, so it looks as though, albeit sometimes for no discernible reason, some of these plants may have moved beyond the stage of just being threatened. A report is given in KBRG newsletter 5.

**X *Agropogon lutosus* (the hybrid between Creeping Bent and Annual Beard-grass)  
with one of the parents, *Polypogon monspeliensis*, on the right.  
Photo © Liam Rooney, 21 August 2012**



## Plant records: selection criteria and recorders

Kent Botany 2012 covers plant records for that year, together with earlier finds notified since Kent Botany 2011 was prepared. The criteria for record selection are flexible, but focus on plants which are unusual in Kent, or where the plant's location, habitat or population characteristics are unusual. Preference is given to new discoveries, particularly those which do not correspond with a tetrad recorded in Philp (2010). Finds which are new to East Kent (vice county 15) or West Kent (vice county 16) are given in **bold**. Records of known populations of rare plant register species will usually be carried through for publication in the draft rare plant register, and not necessarily in these records. In West Kent, preference is generally given to records outside the metropolitan area, given that the London Natural History Society already publishes an annual botanical report in *The London Naturalist* for discoveries within its area of coverage.

Nomenclature follows the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (first reprint) of Clive Stace's *New Flora of the British Isles* (Stace, 2011). Plant names commonly in use but replaced by that edition are given in italics with an "equals" symbol (=).

### Recorders and other persons mentioned in reports

ACL Alan Leslie	FB Fred Booth	JRo Jeremy Roberts	RJM Rose Murphy
AG Alfred Gay	FOH Fred O'Hare	JW Jo Weightman	RM Richard Moyse
BAT Jessie Tregale	GH Georgina Hopkins	KR Kate Ryland	RMB Rodney Burton
BBu Bryan Bullen	GHa G. Hazlehurst	LM Dr Lesley Mason	RP Rosemary Pavis
CC Chris Cook	GJ Dr Geoff Joyce	LR Liam Rooney	RR Rosemary Roberts
CP C. Donald Pigott	GK Geoffrey Kitchener	MG Margot Godfrey	RS Ray Stephenson
DB D.A. Broughton	HS Heather Silk	ML Mel Lloyd	RW Roger Wright
DC David Carey	JA Jan Armishaw	NKR Dr Norman Robson	SB Sue Buckingham
DG Doug Grant	JBr Jon Bramley	OL Owen Leyshon	SC Steve Coates
DH Dave Hutton	JC Juliet Cairns	P&PH Pauline & Peter Heathcoate	SK Sarah Kitchener
DJ David Johnson	JJ Jenny Jackson	PP Pippa Palmar	SL Stephen Lemon
DM Daphne Mills	JP Joyce Pitt	PS Philip Sansum	SP Sue Poyser
EGP Eric Philp	JPa Joan Payne	RB Ron Bodiam	TI Tim Inskipp
EJC Eric Clement	JRe Julian Reed	RDM R.D. Meikle	

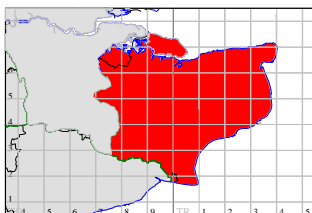
Thanks are due to all these; and to Charmian Clay for comments on the report presentation.

### Other abbreviations or notation

BSBI = Botanical Society of the British Isles	NNR = National Nature Reserve
comm. = communicated by, or communication	OFC = Orpington Field Club
conf. = confirmed by	pers. comm. = personal communication
det. = determined by	Philp (1982). <i>Atlas of the Kent Flora</i> by Eric Philp
indet. = identity not determined	Philp (2010). <i>A New Atlas of the Kent Flora</i> by Eric Philp
KBRG= Kent Botanical Recording Group	RNR = Roadside Nature Reserve
KFC = Kent Field Club	s.s. = <i>sensu stricto</i> , in the strict sense
KWT = Kent Wildlife Trust	syn. = synonym
LWT = London Wildlife Trust	WFS = Wild Flower Society
MoD = Ministry of Defence	Plant records which are marked <sup>R</sup> represent plants on the draft Kent rare plant register list applicable at the end of 2012 (version 5).
MNE = Maidstone Museum herbarium	



## Plant records for East Kent (vice county 15)



*Acanthus mollis* (Bear's-breech). A garden escape found on waste ground north of Church Lane, Deal, TR 36029 52221, on 13 November 2012 by JA and LR; and on 23 March 2012 by SB, established on chalk cliffs at Broadstairs, TR3996 6804.

*Adiantum capillus-veneris* (Maidenhair Fern). A small quantity was seen growing on an old brick and flint wall, London Road, Dover. TR 3068 4263, by GK on 28 July 2012.

***Allium nigrum* (Broad-leaved Leek).** The discovery of three plants in a wooded area near a foot bridge over the A2 by-pass, Boughton Street, TR 05463 59353, by LR on 2 June 2012 appears to be a **first record for vice county 15**. Here it was probably a garden throw-out. Also at Boughton Street, LR found on 13 June 2012 a further plant at TR 05366 59286 and two more at TR 05437 59328. These were in a row of *Tilia* trees between a recreation area and a line of houses (Poplar View), from whose gardens (where it was present) it was assumed to be self-sown. The epithet '*nigrum*' (black) seems incongruous for a white-flowered *Allium*, but relates to the ovaries rather than the tepals. As it is sold in supermarkets, it may be achieving wider currency in gardens, with increased potential for escape.



*Allium nigrum*. Photo © Liam Rooney, 13 June 2012

*Allium subhirsutum* (Hairy Garlic). This weedy *Allium* was reported by SP & DG as seen on 25 May 2012 where found by DM & FB (and conf. EGP) by the junction of Lower Warren Road and the slip-road off Bluebell Hill TQ 74926 60733. OL encountered three plants behind houses on Coast Drive, Lydd-on-Sea, TR 08779 19514.

***Alnus x hybrida* (hybrid between Alder and Grey Alder).** A small tree, apparently a spontaneous hybrid, growing at Boughton under Blean, TR 05994 58680, in a line of planted windbreak *A. incana* (Grey Alder) bounding a hop garden. *A. glutinosa* (Alder) was present in large numbers by a stream on the other side of the field. The leaves were intermediate, having the shape of *A. glutinosa* but the texture and teeth of *A. incana*; every leaf checked had nine pairs of veins. Twigs were hairy, unlike *A. glutinosa*, but the plant had the smaller cones with much longer peduncles of *A. glutinosa*. Found by LR on 16 September 2012. Whilst Philp (2010) records a planted tree in East Kent, this is the **first vice county 15 record** for a natural cross, and a first for Kent.

*Alnus x hybrida*. Photo © Liam Rooney, 16 September 2012



*Amsinckia micrantha* (Common Fiddleneck). Recorded by JRe from Luddenham Court, TQ 993 632, on 14 July 2011. On 26 July 2012 (per LR), there was a large group of plants from TQ 99296 63158 to TQ 99296 63198 along the eastern side of the farmyard there. It is a rare casual in Kent, although common as an arable weed in sandy soils in East Anglia, which raises the possibility of its arrival at Luddenham Court with agricultural equipment or materials. No such origin applies to a sighting by GK on 9 October 2012 of a diminutive plant on a

mown grassy bank of amenity land north of Medway Street, Chatham, TQ 7567 6812. The nearby presence of *Anthemis austriaca* (Austrian Chamomile) suggested wildflower seed sowing.

*Amsinckia micrantha*. Photo © Lliam Rooney, 26 July 2012

*Anacamptis morio*<sup>R</sup> (Green-winged Orchid). AG reported a site on private land, not recorded in Philp (2010), near Stelling Minnis, straddling TR1145, TR1246 and possibly extending to TR1245. Only 13 spikes were seen in bud or in flower on 7 May 2012, but this was a very poor year as there have apparently been 200-300 in past years. Further details are in the revised rare plant register.

***Anemone pavonina* var. *purpureo-violacea* (Boissier) Halacsy (Peacock Anemone).**

Two plants were found well-established on a wide roadside verge at the south east side of the junction between Blenheim Road and Madeira Road, Littlestone, TR 08411 24619 by JA and LR on 17 April 2012. The site was outside garden boundaries; there was no evidence of being garden rejects or having seeded from nearby gardens but, equally they did not appear to form part of any amenity planting. Accordingly, their origin is unclear. It is not a usual British garden escape, although there is a 1999 record for the species in Dorset. This would be a first record for Kent, subject to some uncertainty regarding status.



*Anemone pavonina*. Photo © Lliam Rooney, 17 April 2012

*Anthemis austriaca* (Austrian Chamomile). Half a dozen large plants were seen by LR on 27 May 2012 at Stoney Road, Dunkirk, TR 06849 59391. They were growing in an area of cracked concrete beside a path with other plants likely to have been introduced. For a further East Kent record, see *Amsinckia* above.

*Asplenium ceterach* (= *Ceterach officinarum*, Rustyback). The sighting of one plant on a wall at East Street, Faversham, TR 01834 61275 by LR on 4 November 2012 goes towards bridging a gap between far East Kent records and those for mid- and West Kent. These have been fairly separate, not just in the mapped records of Philp (2010) but also historically (although the fern was present at Faversham in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century).

*Aucuba japonica* (Spotted-laurel). A young seedling of this ornamental shrub was noted by LR on 10 February 2012 at Boughton under Blean, TR 070 590, derivative from originally planted specimens in an area now neglected.

*Bassia scoparia* (Summer-cypress). Already recorded elsewhere along the A249, *Bassia* was seen by GK on 16 October 2012 to have progressed around Queenborough on Sheppey (TQ9072, TQ9172). Larger plants can be detected while driving, but there are many small, inconspicuous plants lining the carriageway in places.

*Briza maxima* (Greater Quaking-grass). This attractive Mediterranean, cultivated grass was seen by LR on 27 May 2012 at Stoney Road, Dunkirk, TR 06849 59391, in an area of cracked concrete beside a path with other plants likely to have been introduced. The same species was recorded three days later by OL escaped at Lydd-on-Sea, TR 08761 19567, in two patches, one with 80 plants.

*Bromus hordeaceus* subsp. *thominei*<sup>R</sup> (Sand Soft-brome). Although this small, semi-prostrate grass of coastal sand was identified in 26 tetrads in Philp (2010), recording in recent years has tended to by-pass the species. We now have, however, three 2012 monad records from MoD lands at Lydd Ranges (TQ9918, TR0217, TR0219) by OL, GK, SB & TI; further details are given in the revised rare plant register.

*Bromus secalinus*<sup>R</sup> (Rye Brome). This arable weed enjoys ten tetrad county records in Philp (2010), with no discernible distribution pattern. No records were made in 2010-11, but thanks to LR, RM, SB, SP & DG, 13 monad records were made in 2012, of which eight were in vice county 15. Apart from its habitat preference for arable margins, there is still no clear overall county distribution pattern, other than concentrations where individual recorders have got their eye in. The revised rare plant register contains further details.

*Bromus x pseudothominei* (Lesser Soft-brome). A KBRG meeting encountered this delicate grass (the taxonomy of which has been questioned, as it may not be of hybrid origin) plentifully in an ungrazed field at The Dowels, TQ 9712 3071, on 27 June 2012. It was also recorded on 5 July 2012 by LR & GK as frequent in the grassy margin of an arable field near Warden, Sheppey, TR 007726.

*Buddleja globosa* (Orange-ball-tree). One bush was reported by OL as present on 28 June 2012 at Romney Road, near Hammonds Corner, TR 05164 24334 in a small highways looped lay-by where there is much dumped old tarmac. This appears to be the second vice county 15 record, following publication of a Greatstone record in Kent Botany 2011.

*Bupleurum tenuissimum*<sup>R</sup> (Slender Hare's-ear). There were 17 records made in 2012 for this species in Kent, of which most (12) were in East Kent. A number were additions to the tetrad records given in Philp (2010), although the discovery of populations at Reculver (TR2569) by SB & LR and Lydd Ranges (TQ9917, TR0217) by OL, GK, SB & LR point back to knowledge of the plant in these general areas from Philp (1982). Particularly impressive was an enormous population located by LR & GK at the peninsula north of Iwade. This was in a well-recognized type of habitat, along the flat grassy area on the inland side of estuarial embankment defences, extending at least from TQ 8910 6923 westward into monad TQ8869 as far as TQ 8883 6931 for c.350m, sometimes interrupted but often continuous, on occasion at least four metres wide.

*Calamagrostis epigejos* (Wood Small-reed). Uncommon in Kent, this grass was recorded by EGP at Elmley on 9 August 2012 where he had found it on 8 October 2009 as new to Sheppey.

*Centaurea cyanus*<sup>R</sup> (Cornflower). Most records now appear to be garden or wildflower sowings, and escapes from these sources, as with a white-flowered form seen by LR on 2 June 2012 as a street weed at the base of a wall in Bramley Avenue, Faversham, TR 02217 60601.

*Cerastium arvense* (Field Mouse-ear). Away from its far eastern Kent distribution centre, a two metre stretch of this species was noted by HS (det. SB) on a KWT RNR near Sheldwich, TR 00489 57695, on 23 May 2012.

*Chamaemelum nobile*<sup>R</sup> (Chamomile). Discovered by LR on 1 February 2012 (conf. SB as present on 15 August 2012 and recorded as in large patches on Benenden village green at TQ 8088 3281, covering some 20 x 30 metres, on the south side of the cricket pitch). It is a significant find for this nationally 'Vulnerable' species which had been becoming very rare in Kent, and the habitat appears comparable with the classic green/common land localities (such as those at Southborough and Tunbridge Wells Commons in West Kent, the records for which were also refreshed in 2012); but local enquiries have failed to produce any information regarding the history of its Benenden presence.

*Chenopodium glaucum*<sup>R</sup> (Oak-leaved Goosefoot). Locations for this 'Vulnerable' species in addition to tetrads given in Philp (2010) were discovered at:

- Luddenham Court (on 26 July 2012 by LR) where there were 300+ plants mostly on bare ground in the farmyard where they would be annually covered by stored silage sacks, from TQ 99286 63165 to TQ 99286 63201 with scattered plants around TQ 99270 63177.
- Newhook Marshes (on 5 July 2012 by LR & GK), where there were three young plants in a gravelly area compressed by vehicle movements and rabbit grazed, TQ 9564 7040.

*Chenopodium hybridum* (Maple-leaved Goosefoot). A small roadside plant was seen by GK on 16 October 2012, south of West Minster, Sheerness, TQ9089 7301, apparently a new record for Sheppey.



*Clinopodium calamintha*. Photo © Liam Rooney, 23 October 2012

*Clinopodium calamintha*<sup>R</sup> (Lesser Calamint). Found by LR & GK on 23 October 2012 as abundant along c. 45 metres of the north side of the former Bobbing Hill road (closed in relation to construction of the current line of Sheppey Way and the A249) between TQ 88322 64749 and TQ 88369 64747. There were numerous plants and seedlings along this stretch, both on the verge and in cracks of pavements and in the gutter. This may well have been the route taken by Thomas

Johnson in 1629, when he first recorded the species for Kent. EGP (pers. comm.) has also remarked that it has been known at Bobbing Church, which is on the continuation of that route.

*Conyza floribunda* (= *C. bilbaoana*) (Bilbao's Fleabane). This recent newcomer to Kent was discovered by TI on 7 August 2012 near military buildings on Lydd Ranges, c. TR 034 199.

*Cortaderia selloana* (Pampas-grass). In Kent, pampas-grass is predominantly an escape on coastal ground, and on 12 May 2012, LR noted an established plant on grassy dunes above the saltmarsh along the mouth of the Stour near Richborough Port, TR 33753 61901. A wide scatter of plants, often in remote areas, was also seen by LR & GK on 21 August 2012 near the west coast of Sheppey, in TQ8970, TQ8971 and TQ9071.

*Cotoneaster rehderi* (Bullate Cotoneaster). Noted in an overgrown quarry by SB near Aldington, TR05817 37140, on 30 October 2012.

*Crassula tillaea* (Mossy Stonecrop). Last recorded in Kent around 1900, this species was found well established in some quantity on 7 August 2012 by OL, GK, TI & SB at Lydd Ranges, on open, bare sand and shingle compacted by use as a vehicle track leading off a military road from TR 03785 19888 to TR03878 19865 for about 100 metres. Given the lack of public access to the MoD land, it may have been present undiscovered for a long time, and it is possible that it has arrived with military vehicles from East Anglia or Dorset. It is being transferred to the rare plant register (in which an account has now been included) from the county 'probably extinct' list.



*Crassula tillaea*. Photo © Sue Buckingham, 7 August 2012

***Crataegus persimilis* (Broad-leaved Cockspurthorn).** One established bush/shrub in a scrubby area (an old crusher yard) adjacent to a garage at Littlestone, TR 07350 24568, was identified by OL on 14 October 2012. This presumed escape is a **first vice county 15 record**.

***Cynara cardunculus* (Globe Artichoke).** The KBRG meeting of 15 August 2012 recorded one plant by a footpath on the Sissinghurst estate, TQ 808 383, and this casual occurrence appears to be a **first vice county 15 record**.

[*Cynodon dactylon* (Bermuda-grass) – 2011 record withdrawn, see *Digitaria* below]

*Cyperus eragrostis* (Pale Galingale). This tropical American species is grown as a garden ornamental, and was the first record of the year, being found by LR on 1 January 2012 at Stoney Road, Dunkirk, TR 06852 59391, where two path-side plants were growing from a crack in concrete. Also, several plants were found by SB on 6 October 2012 at the margin of a clay pool near Woodnesborough, TR 2980 5607.

*Dianthus caryophyllus* (Clove Pink). A clump of 20 odd flowers was noted by OL on 22 June 2012 on the seaward side opposite 27 Coast Drive, Lydd-on-Sea, TR 08991 19018.

*Digitaria sanguinalis* (Hairy Finger-grass). A native of south Europe and south west Asia, this is an occasional introduction which was seen by JA & LR on 13 November 2012 (conf. GK). There were many plants on a thin grassy strip by a wall on the north side of Southwall Road, Deal, TR 36972 52696; also, a large amount growing from bases of walls along the west side of Church Lane, Sholden/Deal, TR 36414 52422 to TR 36607 52535.

[In view of the proximity of one of these sites to what was recorded as *Cynodon dactylon* in Kent Botany 2011, the latter identification has been withdrawn.]



*Dittrichia graveolens*  
Photos © Liam Rooney, 5  
August 2012

*Dittrichia graveolens* (Stinking Fleabane). This camphor-scented southern European plant has a British history of introduction as a wool shoddy alien. It was recorded for East Kent before 1960<sup>1</sup>. Recent British occurrences have been of a different nature: since 2006 it has been spreading by the A31, M27 and M3 in Hampshire. The first record of this nature has now been detected in Kent. On 5 August 2012, LR found two plants, one flowering and one a seedling, growing from the kerb on a slip road off Thanet Way (A299) just before the entrance to Wey Street Farm near Hernhill, TR 06089 61455. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that it has hitch-hiked from Hampshire!



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***Doronicum x willdenowii* (*D. pardalianches x plantagineum*) (Willdenow's Leopard's-bane).** A large patch of this garden escape was found by SB (conf. EJC) on 7 May 2012, on a roadside bank at Kingsdown, TR 37890 48520. This is a **first vice county 15 record**.

*Eleocharis acicularis* (Needle Spike-rush). This Kent rarity was regarded as likely to be extinct but has now been found at a new location by SB, on 14 May 2012. Our last records were in the 1990s, from Francis Rose's original East Peckham site (1992) and from a lake near Birling Ashes (1997). The present discovery was in a seasonal pond in Fowlmead Country Park, TR 35795 53774, where there were bright green mats of plants in shallow water and wet mud at the margin, extending well into the pond. The estimated coverage was 20 x 20 metres. Fowlmead is a former colliery site and so it is an artificial habitat; the spike-rush can scarcely have been a long-term resident here. SB points out that the species is a favourite of aquarists; introduction from such a source seems more likely than arrival with wildfowl from a 'natural' site. The identification was confirmed by the BSBI referee (JRo), and the Fowlmead discovery features on his website at:

<http://www.edencroft2.demon.co.uk/spikerushes/acicularis.html>

This species is accordingly transferred to the rare plant register from the county 'probably extinct' list.



*Eleocharis acicularis*. Photo © Sue Buckingham, 14 May 2012

*Epilobium roseum* (Pale Willowherb). Found as a street weed (as seems most usual in Kent), in Erith Place and neighbouring areas, Dover, TR3142, by GK on 28 July 2012.

<sup>1</sup> Lousley, J.E. (1961) A census list of wool aliens found in Britain 1946-1960. *BSBI Proceedings* 4: 221-247.

*Epilobium x floridulum* (*E. parviflorum x ciliatum*). One plant of the cross between Hoary and American Willowherbs was seen by GK on bare ground by the A2070 near Kingsnorth, TR0139, on 6 August 2012.

*Epilobium x schmidtianum* (*E. obscurum x palustre*). The hybrid between Short-fruited and Marsh Willowherbs was found by OL, GK, TI & SB with the parents on 7 August 2012 in a mossy part of a damp hollow on shingle in an area of the MoD Lydd Ranges which lay within the administrative county of East Sussex, but botanically was part of vice county 15, East Kent (TR 01458 18756). Whilst this was recorded at Dungeness by Marshall in 1891, when he regarded it as frequent with the parents, it has not been seen since in Kent and *E. palustre* itself is sufficiently scarce to be on the Kent rare plant register.

*Epipactis purpurata* (Violet Helleborine). A couple of records were made for sites in addition to those given in Philp (2010). Three spikes were found by PP (comm. LR) on 4 May 2012 beside a path in King's Wood, west of Godmersham, TR 04871 50978. Also, three plants were reported by GHa (comm. DJ) as flowering on 12 August 2012 under shade near a beach trunk at Dargate, TR089 612.

*Erodium maritimum*<sup>R</sup> (Sea Stork's-bill). On 7 August 2012, this diminutive species was found by OL, GK, TI & SB at an MoD car park at Lydd Camp, then recorded as TR0320, with a reading of TR03477 20013 taken the next day by SB and TI. This represents an extension of range from Dungeness.

*Eryngium planum* (Blue Eryngo). One smallish specimen of this central and south east European plant, cultivated in British gardens, was seen by OL on 10 June 2012 on a road verge at the south end of Lade car park, TR 08474 20739, where it has been established for at least three years.

*Euphorbia amygdaloides* subsp. *robbiae* (Turkish Wood Spurge or Mrs Robb's Bonnet). A large patch of this vigorously rhizomatous garden escape was seen by SB on 23 March 2012 with abundant *Senecio cineraria*, (Silver Ragwort) on a chalk cliff top at Dumpton Bay, Broadstairs, TR 3954 66429.

*Euphorbia characias* subsp. *veneta* (Mediterranean Spurge). The KBRG meeting on 3 May 2012 observed several largish plants as having spread from a garden in Share and Coulter Road, Chestfield, TR1366, onto the pavement.

*Euphorbia oblongata* (Balkan Spurge). Two records of this escaped garden spurge, which seeds readily, were made at Greatstone by OL. On 31 May 2012 he noted one plant on a fire site behind Leonard Road, TR 08195 21202, and on 20 June 2012 there were around 20 plants on shingle behind Derville Road, TR 08158 21267.

*Filago minima* (Small Cudweed). Two records were made in the Dungeness area well away from the distribution given in Philp (2010), although a Dungeness tetrad is noted in Philp (1982). The species was recorded (and *Filago vulgaris*<sup>R</sup> Common Cudweed) on the sand at Lydd Ranges, TR0219 and TR0319, by OL, GK, TI & SB on 6 August 2012.

*Fumaria bastardii* (Tall Ramping-fumitory). This species has been on the county 'probably extinct' list as not having been seen since the 1950s. However, a fumitory found on 7 September 2011 by members of the Sussex Botanical Recording Society has been determined as this species by the BSBI referee, RJM. The discovery was written up as 'Return of *Fumaria bastardii* to Sussex' in *BSBI News* (2012) 119:39. Whilst it was claimed for Sussex as part of recording in vc14, the map reference given (TQ 9918 1818) is in the administrative county of East Sussex, but for botanical recording purposes is in vc15, East Kent. The position is complicated in that the fumitory could not be found when Kent botanists visited the site in 2012, and the map reference appeared to be incorrect. Upon enquiry it seems that the plant was originally found somewhat south of the published location, in the near vicinity of a group of coastal properties, Jury's Gap House and Jury's Gap Coastguard Cottages. The published location is about 250m Kent-wards of the vice county boundary and the actual location is understood to be about 300m inside East Kent. As yet, there is no evidence of more than a single confirmed occurrence, which may be casual; but it is to be taken into the Kent rare plant register.

***Fumaria capreolata* subsp. *capreolata* f. *speciosa*.** This form of White Ramping-fumitory is known to occur sporadically around the Mediterranean and has been recorded for the Channel Islands but not hitherto, it appears, for the British mainland. However, recording in 2012 has provided evidence for it being scattered but quite widespread at Dungeness and not just a casual, so these are the **first records for vice county 15, East Kent**, as well as the mainland generally. The form is notable for the back of the upper petal turning bright crimson speedily after fertilisation. Its unusual nature was recognised on 25 May 2012 by the Bradford Botany

Group (pers. comm. BAT – and see note in *BSBI News* (2013) 122:40), who sent a photograph of a plant in tallish duneland grass near Littlestone Lifeboat station at the north end of Greatstone Dunes (TR 08290 23583) to ACL, eliciting the suggestion that this was forma (or var.) *speciosa*. Material was then sent to the BSBI referee, RJM, who confirmed it as this taxon. This led to greater awareness of the form, and OL recognised this as a plant of which he had on 17 May 2012 seen two patches on Greatstone Dunes TR 082231, one up a dune-slope towards houses and another within 10 metres, near a bonfire related to clearance of coastal Sea-buckthorn.



*Fumaria capreolata* subsp. *capreolata* f. *speciosa*.  
Photo © Liam Rooney, 20 June 2012

Further plants in this vicinity were found by LR & GK on 20 June 2012, again on duneland disturbed by clearance works (TR 08187 23017 and TR 08182 23020). In the meantime, DW on 30 May 2012 had found two plants over 4 km away, behind the houses of Battery Road, Dungeness, TR 08940 18544. Even further away, towards the tip of Dungeness, OL found

on 21 June 2012 one plant on fly-tipped soil / sand by commercial premises at TR 09591 17409 where it was believed that some such fumitory had been present for a number of years. Then on 3 August 2012 several patches were recorded by OL along a footpath between the houses connecting Meehan Road South and Meehan Road (between TR 08057 23124 and TR 08075 23171). It is likely that the fumitory has been present at this last location for several years and potentially provides a source for spread onto Greatstone Dunes on the other side of the road, where seen as mentioned above. So a picture is beginning to be pieced together of a fumitory previously unrecognised in mainland Britain, but present in a number of sandy areas, often disturbed, at Dungeness - some habitats temporary, others likely to have carried a population for some time, in spite of the lack of previous record.

*Fumaria parviflora*<sup>R</sup> (Fine-leaved Fumitory). A BSBI Threatened Plant Project request to investigate whether this species was still present following a 1971 record led to SB finding the fumitory in two sites between Chillenden and Tilmanstone. On 26 June 2012, she found one plant in the margin of a flax crop at TR 28960 52403 and four further plants spaced out over 30 metres of similar margin at TR 28934 52131. Weeds were able to creep into the crop, as an unsprayed margin some 10 metres wide had been left; neighbouring fields were being managed under an environmental scheme to encourage ground-nesting birds.

*Fumaria vaillantii*<sup>R</sup> (Few-flowered Fumitory). This species has virtually disappeared from Kent, so the discovery of a new location by DM on 12 August 2012 is good news. It was found (conf.

EGP) in a disturbed area about 2 x 5 feet beside a fairly newly installed fence at Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium, constructed between September 2011 and July 2012. The plants were straggly and mixed with another ruderal, *Lepidium didymum* (= *Coronopus didymus*, Lesser Swine-cress). The habitat is in contrast with the usual one, of arable fields on chalk.



*Fumaria vaillantii*.  
Photos © Daphne Mills, 12 August 2012

*Galanthus* spp. (Snowdrop). Two discoveries were reported for 2012. Three clumps of a taxon, apparently *Galanthus* 'Atkinsii', were found by LR on 15 February 2012 on a footpath at the end of George Lane where an adjoining footpath is met running beside a stream, at Boughton under Blean, TR 05714 59325. The origin is suspected as having arisen from garden waste thrown out some years before. This cultivar is believed to be a hybrid whose parentage includes *Galanthus nivalis* (Snowdrop) and *G. plicatus* (Pleated Snowdrop). The leaves of this plant were wider than those of *G. nivalis*, variably pleated, sometimes with pleating absent, sometimes along one side of the leaf, which is suggestive of that parentage. The second record was a slightly different

plant, but also with leaf characteristics which would accord with *G. nivalis x plicatus*. The original find was by JA earlier, but reported on the basis of a record made by JA & LR on 29 February 2012. There were scattered clumps amongst *G. nivalis* near Beech Court Gardens, Challock, TR 00036 49648, albeit not part of the gardens. The habitat was scrubby ground outside a woodland plantation, and the occurrence of snowdrops may have been related to the remains of an old building, which at least indicates that the plants have been established and have naturalized over some considerable time.

*Galeopsis angustifolia*<sup>R</sup> (Red Hemp-nettle). There were a couple of 2012 sightings of this nationally 'Critically Endangered' species. On 6 August 2012, OL, GK, TI & SB found many plants on disturbed shingle by a military road (South Brooks Road) and railway on Lydd Ranges scattered over 30 metres from TR 02248 17747 north eastwards. On 8 August 2012, SB & TI came across one plant by a path at the ARC site north east of Dungeness Road, TR 06449 19886.

*Galium parisiense*<sup>R</sup> (Wall Bedstraw). This year has seen a transformation in recent records, as Philp (1982) and (2010) gave only West Kent sightings for this species. Now, however, we have several for well-drained ground habitats – not walls – in East Kent. SB & LR on 22 May 2012 found it growing in bare colliery spoil at Fowlmead Country Park, recorded by SB on 12 June 2012 as more than 100 plants over an area of about 1 x 0.5 metres at TR 35794 53773. On 6 August 2012, OL, GK, TI & SB made a series of records at Lydd Ranges, where the plant was found to be frequent around TR 03154 19685 in an area of fairly bare compacted sand on shingle, used for movement of sand stored in a large heap, and also present on top of the heap itself, centred on TR 03132 19693. Monad TR0219 contained many areas of compacted sand over shingle, and the species was seen there at TR 02717 19465; in various places by a military road, e.g. at TR 02984 19844 and TR 02987 19850; at TR 02789 19654 and also nearby around TR 02819 19686 in a light (but closed) sward on lakeside banks. The Lydd Ranges records essentially represent a limited sampling exercise and it is likely that the species is more extensive where the appropriate sand/shingle mix exists.

*Genista monspessulana* (Montpellier Broom). One established isolated shrub was found by LR on 29 September 2012 growing by a footpath through a field at Hernhill, TR 06695 60937, not looking as though planted or part of any planting scheme.

*Genista tinctoria* (Dyer's Greenweed). One bushy plant was recorded by HS on 27 August 2012, growing on the verge of the A2070 near Snave, TR 013296, well away from its usual Kent distribution.

*Geranium x oxonianum* (Druce's Crane's-bill). This garden escape was noted on 17 July 2012 by SB on a trackside bank opposite houses at Eythorne, TR2849, as f. *thurstonianum*, a form with very narrow petals. In addition, many established plants of the usual form were recorded by LR along an alleyway between Oare and Davington, TR 00712 62309 to TR 00764 62209.

*Gladiolus communis* (Eastern Gladiolus). Reports were received of this species from the grassy verge of Kerton Road, Lydd-on-Sea. TR 08375 18962 (OL, 30 May 2012) and chalk grassland east of Dover, TR 34508 42594, where well established (SB, 11 June 2012).

*Glyceria declinata* (Small Sweet-grass). This relatively little-recorded Sweet-grass, with toothed lemmas, was seen by SB on 18 July 2012 in a small pool on woodland ride at Park Wood, north of Rhodes Minnis, TR 148 448.

*Hebe* 'Midsummer Beauty'. Two plants were recorded by LR on 14 January 2012 as growing from the base of a wall next to a path leading to Bramley Avenue, Faversham, TR 02326 60489. This cultivar is believed to be a complex hybrid, *H. speciosa x (salicifolia x speciosa)*.

*Hedera colchica* (Persian Ivy). A small roadside plant was recorded by LR on 17 January 2012 at Selling Road, Selling, TR 04527 56423.

*Hedera helix* 'Green Ripple'. A cultivar with distinctively wavy leaves having cream veins, this ivy was noted by LR on 17 May 2012 near Boughton under Blean, TR 06354 58912, as thoroughly established and spreading along the ground through the undergrowth and trees that line the A2 by-pass embankment. Its origin here is unclear, but the recorder suspected that it came from stray, discarded prunings.

*Helichrysum italicum* (Curry-plant). Coastal escapes were recorded by OL on 10 June 2012 (one large plant off Waller Road on the shingle of Dungeness NNR, TR 08177 21200) and SB on 1 July 2012 (on Walmer beach at



TR3792 4940). The latter find was named as subsp. *microphyllum*, which has leaves 1cm long or less and is sometimes known as the Dwarf Curry-plant.



*Herminium monorchis* (Musk Orchid). A record count of 850+ spikes in July 2012 at Park Gate reserve was published in KWT's *Wild Kent* (winter 2012-13). This greatly exceeds any other year from 2001 onwards (range: 14-188, data from JJ).

*Hermodactylus tuberosus*. Photo © Sue Buckingham, 24 March 2012

***Hermodactylus tuberosus* (Snake's-head Iris).** Not many British records exist for this early-flowering Mediterranean species and, indeed, it is not widely grown in gardens, although introduced long ago (it is listed in the 1599 catalogue of John Gerard's garden). Although named here following Stace, there are widespread views that it belongs back in the genus *Iris*. Two large clumps were found by SB on 24 March 2012 on a roadside at the base of a cliff, Kingsdown, TR 37966 47933. **This is a first record for vice county 15, East Kent.**

*Hieracium scotostictum* (Dappled Hawkweed). Recorded on 20 June 2012 by LR, OL & GK at Lade, Dungeness, TR083207, on shingle where the light railway passes amidst housing, having originally been found (when immature and indet.) by LR & JA.

*Himantoglossum hircinum*<sup>R</sup> (Lizard Orchid). This species has appeared on the eastern verge of Boxley Road, south of Boxley, TQ 7701 5842, where realigned when the high speed rail link was constructed. Kent County Council was aware by 19 June 2012, and DJ measured the two spikes at 80cm and 60cm tall on 26 June 2012. Nearer the main county distribution focus in easternmost Kent, but in a new area, two more plants were found by the KBRG meeting on 1 July 2012 in grassland behind Walmer beach at TR 37834 50034.

*Hippuris vulgaris*<sup>R</sup> (Mare's-tail). Two records were made on Sheppey by LR & GK on 5 July 2012. It was found scattered in open water along the north side of a brackish fleet at Newhook Marshes from c. TQ 9540 7023 to TQ 9535 7024, a conventional habitat. A more surprising find was at Warden Point, TR 013 716, in a pool on London Clay formed in the fold of the mobile slumping cliffs. This must be a pool of very recent formation. It was difficult of access and not fed by any existing ditches, streams or water-bodies; the most likely explanation of the plant's occurrence appears to be bird dispersal.

*Hordeum marinum*<sup>R</sup> (Sea Barley). The total of county records for this nationally 'Vulnerable' grass from 2010 onwards is 59, of which 23 were contributed in 2012. Notable amongst this year's finds was a scattering well inland, along the A2070 roadside near Kingsnorth (Ashford), encouraged by highway de-icing salt and recorded by GK on 6 August 2012. Whilst it was only recorded from TR 01671 38936 northwards at least to TR 01656 39137, it was seen in a number of other places between Ashford and Brenzett whilst driving. Neither time nor parking opportunities enabled these to be recorded.

*Hottonia palustris* (Water-violet). A couple of records were made for sites in addition to the tetrads given in Philp (2010). SB found Water-violet in a sheep pasture pond on the east side of Dray Corner Road near Headcorn, TQ 81958 45043, on 10 April 2012; and in profusion in a marsh dyke near Sandhurst, TQ 8024 2616, on 20 August 2012.

*Hyacinthus orientalis* (Hyacinth). Presumably a horticultural reject, a single plant was recorded by LR on 19 March 2012 by a footpath from the Ridgeway to the Street, Boughton under Blean, TR 06242 59256, where it has persisted for several years.

*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (Floating Pennywort). Regrettably, this South American aquatic was found by SB & LR as invasive in all waterways viewed in TR0864 on the Seasalter Levels Nature Reserve. It can grow up to 20cm per day and forms thick mats, suppressing other vegetation.

*Hyoscyamus niger*<sup>R</sup> (Henbane). On 17 September 2012, OL noted 16 plants (all non flowering) growing along a disturbed sandy edge to the RH&D Railway track at Littlestone - TR 07173 23970 to TR 07177 24036, then a second group at TR 07194 23849. A large plant (non flowering) appeared at this site in 2011, but new plants have appeared after major trackside works in winter 2012.

*Hypericum olympicum*. Photos © Owen Leyshon, June / July 2012

*Hypericum olympicum* (Mount Olympus St John's-wort). A large low clump was recorded on 22 June 2012 by OL on shingle near to the roadside north of Battery Road, Dungeness, TR 08948 18596. Det. by NKR, the BSBI referee, as follows: '*H. olympicum* forma *olympicum*, in which the leaves are elliptic or elliptic-oblong to lanceolate. It is a native of the Aegean region that is frequently grown in gardens here, and is probably a 'throw out' from a local garden.' This appears to be the second vice county 15 record for this species.



*Hypochaeris glabra*<sup>R</sup> (Smooth Cat's-ear). Only three tetrads were given for this nationally 'Vulnerable' species in Philp (2010), although a further site was discovered in 2011 (see Kent Botany 2011), changing the plant's county status from rare to scarce. Exploration of MoD lands at Lydd Ranges in 2012, however, has shown that more colonies exist. Over 30 plants were found by OL, GK, TI & SB on 7 August 2012, mostly at TR 036 194 and TR 035 194. but also in TR 036 195. They were on open sandy, heathy ground over shingle, semi-bare or shortly vegetated (particularly with a layer of moss/lichen), heavily rabbit-grazed and often slightly hummocky (plants being both on humps and in shallow hollows). This ground extended on both sides of a military road near pine plantations. Associates included *Agrostis* spp (Bent-grass), *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather), *Rumex acetosella* (Sheep's Sorrel), *Sedum acre* (Biting Stonecrop), *Sedum anglicum* (English Stonecrop) and *Teucrium scorodonia* (Wood Sage). A further seven plants were seen by SB & TI on 8 August 2012 on a mown lawn by barracks at TR 0355 2002.

*Hypochaeris glabra*. Photo © Sue Buckingham, 7 August 2012

*Hypopitys monotropa*<sup>R</sup> (= *Monotropa hypopitys*, Yellow Bird's-nest). Originally found by RB, a colony of 33 flowering spikes was recorded by LR on 3 August 2012 at Yocketts Bank KWT nature reserve, TR 12482 47566, on the south side of a footpath, under *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech) associated with woodland species including *Euphorbia amygdaloides* (Wood Spurge) and *Carex sylvatica* (Wood-sedge).



*Ilex x altaclerensis* (*I. aquifolium* x *perado*, Highclere Holly).



A plant was seen by LR & JA on 1 February 2012 in a hedge bounding a pasture at New Pond Road, Benenden, TQ 80536 32810. The glossy black-green leaves with purplish petioles were very much reminiscent of cv. 'Hodginsii'. With no evidence of any planting scheme here, this is a **first record for vice county 15, East Kent.**

*Ilex x altaclerensis*. Photo © Liam Rooney, 1 February 2012

*Iris orientalis* (Turkish Iris). Recorded by SB & LR on a roadside at Sarre Bridge, TR 2547 6486, on 25 June 2012.

*Lagurus ovatus* (Hare's-tail). Two, apparently casual, records indicate that this introduced grass, much favoured in dried grass arrangements, is not just limited to the Dungeness area: a sighting by the KBRG meeting on 1 July 2012 near a house at Kingsdown, TR 3797 4891; and a record by LR on 27 May 2012 of four plants at Stoney Road, Dunkirk, TR 06849 59391 with other introduced species.

*Larix x marschliinii* (*L. decidua* x *kaempferi*, Hybrid Larch). Several seedlings were recorded by SB on 22 September 2012 near planted parent trees in King's Wood, west of Godmersham Park, TR 0408 5126.

*Laurus nobilis* (Bay). Bay occasionally escapes from gardens, but from our 2012 records, this capability is perhaps more extensive than is often reckoned. LR recorded six roadside seedlings at Selling Road, Selling, TR 04130 56553 on 17 January 2012; young trees dotted around planted ones at Boughton, TR 070 590, a fine stand and numerous seedlings on the roadside by a walled garden at Staplehurst Road, Boughton, TR 06476 59764, two saplings at Dunkirk, TR 05510 59441, and countless seedlings along a path from Boughton Street to a footbridge over the A2 where fruits have fallen down a hill from a garden tree and germinated where they ended up, between TR 05516 59457 and TR 05494 59396 – all these records being on 10 February 2012. To these may be added a single bush on Kingsdown beach, TR 37960 48455, seen by the KBRG meeting on 1 July 2012.

*Lepidium sativum* (Garden Cress). A single plant was recorded by SB on 13 August 2012 by a pond at Riverside Country Park, TQ 806 684. This appears to be the same site where another recorder found *Ammi majus* (Bullwort) the previous year, and suggests that bird seed is being scattered.

*Medicago polymorpha*<sup>R</sup> (Toothed Medick). Inland sites seem largely to have disappeared in Kent between the surveys in Philp (1982) and (2010), but this species was found by JBr (conf. LM) in June 2012 on recently disturbed ground of a former arable field next to Little Venice caravan park, Yalding, TQ 690 502.

*Mentha x verticillata* (*M. aquatica* x *arvensis*, Whorled Mint). There were two records for this hybrid south of Molash: one by SB on 22 September 2012 by a path in King's Wood, TR 0217 5111; and the other by LR on 4 October 2012 at TR 02401 50601, found in close proximity to both parents, but mostly amongst *M. arvensis*.

*Muscari neglectum* (Grape-hyacinth). Two small clumps of this species (not the usual *M. armeniacum*) were reported by LR as growing on a roadside verge and looking unplanted by Upper Park Gate Farm, Elham, TR 17106 45308.

***Nectaroscordum siculum* (Honey Garlic).** A garden plant of contradictions, having sweetly scented flowers and garlic-smelling leaves, recorded by GK on 31 May 2012 in quantity in a wild-looking fenced-off area by Water Lane, Gun Green, TQ 775 308 and spreading out onto the grass highway verge. **A first record for vice county 15, East Kent.**

*Nectaroscordum siculum*. Photo © Geoffrey Kitchener, 31 May 2012



***Nemesia strumosa* (Cape-jewels).** One plant was seen by LR on 29 September 2012 growing from the base of a wall at Church Hill, Hernhill, TR 06596 60913. It was not observed in nearby gardens but as it is a frost-tender annual used in summer bedding, seedlings derived from the previous year's planting schemes in the neighbourhood would not necessarily have an obvious origin in 2012. There are relatively few British records for this South African casual escape and this is a **first record for vice county 15, East Kent.**

*Nemesia strumosa*. Photo © Liam Rooney, 29 September 2012



*Nepeta cataria*<sup>R</sup> (Cat-mint). Thirty plants of this nationally 'Vulnerable' species were found by SP & DG east of Pilgrim's Way, Wouldham, TQ 722 638; and by SB in quantity at Conyer brickworks on 13 August 2012, with many plants over an area of 6 x 6 metres in scrub at TQ 95945 65227, three at TQ 96021 65056 and more at TQ 96162 65443.

***Nepeta racemosa* (Eastern Cat-mint).** This has been present, apparently as an escape, at the south side of Lade car park, TR 08478 20743, since at least 2009 and was given in Kent Botany 2011 as *Nepeta x faassenii* (Garden Cat-mint). This identity was incorrect and has been withdrawn. The plant has the exserted stamens, cordate leaf bases and decumbent habit of *N. racemosa*, as was pointed out by LR following a visit in April 2012. This was also the view of the Bradford Botany Group on visiting in May and is confirmed by GK. The plant,



originally found by OL, is a first record for vice county 15, East Kent.

*Nepeta racemosa*. Photo © Liam Rooney, 17 April 2012

[*Nepeta x faassenii* – 2011 record withdrawn, see above.]

*Nicandra physalodes* (Apple-of-Peru). Two roadside plants were noted by SB on 13 August 2012 by the quay at Conyer, TQ 96170 64716.

*Oenothera cambrica* (Small-flowered Evening-primrose). Stace (2011) treats this as a generally coastal segregate of *O. biennis* (Common Evening-primrose) and it was seen by GK, OL & TI on 7 August 2012 within the East Sussex administrative county part of vc15, East Kent, at Jury's Gap, TQ9918.

*Oxalis debilis* (Large-flowered Pink-sorrel). Pink-sorrels generally turn out to be *O. articulata*, with its thick rhizomes, but a casual plant of *O. debilis* was seen by LR & GK on 5 July 2012 on tipped ground at Newhook Marshes, TQ9750, a first for Sheppey.

*Papaver argemone*<sup>R</sup> (Prickly Poppy). Philp (2010) gave only 11 tetrad records for this nationally 'Vulnerable' plant, so it is gratifying that three more were added by SB in 2012, all in a part of East Kent which appears to be a stronghold. One plant was seen on 26 June 2012 in a crop margin near Chillenden, TR 28814 52295, with arable weeds such as *Valerianella dentata*<sup>R</sup> (Narrow-fruited Cornsalad) and *Legousia hybrida* (Venus's-looking-glass), left unsprayed under a scheme to encourage nesting birds. Another was present in an arable margin at Studdal, TR 31279 49786; and two more were in an arable margin east of Eythorne, TR 29983 49064.

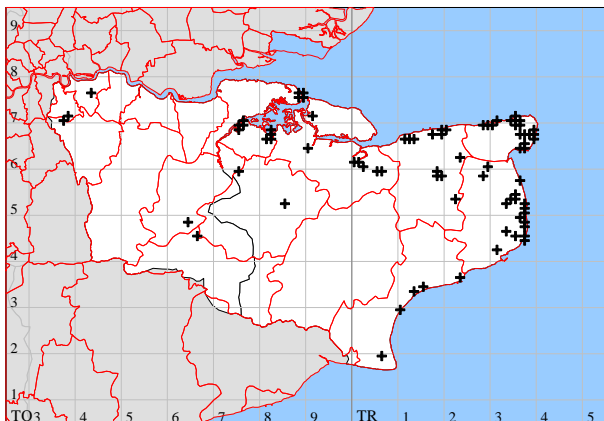
*Phalaris aquatica* (Bulbous Canary-grass). A large clump was recorded by GK on 30 October 2012 on the west estuarial embankment of Ferry Reach, near the Sheppey Crossing, TQ 912 693. Whilst it is sometimes found as a relic of game bird food crops, it is difficult to account for its presence here.

*Phalaris aquatica*. Photo © Geoffrey Kitchener, 30 October 2012

*Phalaris arundinacea* var. *picta* (Variegated Reed Grass). On 23 October 12, LR & GK recorded an extensive patch of this horticultural grass between a track and ditch about 200m away from housing (Chetney Cottages, Iwade), TQ 8952 6926, growing alongside native *P. arundinacea*.

*Picea abies* (Norway Spruce). A Christmas Tree was seen by the KBRG meeting on 16 July 2012 self sown in Orlestone Forest at TQ 984 354.

*Poa infirma*<sup>R</sup> (Early Meadow-grass). Our 2012 records are too numerous to mention. The grass is still spreading (from a first county record in 1999), or perhaps this is our awareness of it. We now have the beginnings of a metropolitan West Kent distribution, with records from JC near Beckenham and Oxleas Woods. Nevertheless, it is still primarily an East Kent species within the county, and we have been able to pick up records along the length of the east coast, having initially found it mostly along the north (see distribution maps in Kent Botany 2010). What is now emerging – and this is beginning to be paralleled in other parts of southern England – is that it is being recorded away from the coast. Its inland habitats are generally bare or semi-bare and affected by the passage of feet or traffic. East Kent examples from 2012 are: a laneside parking space outside Woodlands Farm near Adisham (TR 22417 53568, SB); a kerb edge near Tyland Barn, Sandling (TQ 753 592, SP & DG); on a public footpath at Fordwich (TR 18211 59632, SB); at the edge of old tarmac between Canterbury and Littlebourne (TR19093 58305, SB). We are also beginning to find it in flower beyond the usual



February to mid-April period, lasting until mid-May or later (its continental Europe flowering period can be January-July).

***Polycarpon tetraphyllum* (Four-leaved Allseed).** This tiny annual is a native of open coastal ground in the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly and south west England; records elsewhere have been regarded as casual. It has not been seen in Kent before 8 August 2012, when TI spotted it as a street weed in Lydd. It was present at the junction of New Street, Ness Road and Church Road, TR 04392 20988. Plants then continued for 100 metres along Eastern Road to TR 04493 21056 and 50 metres south-westward along New Street. There was no obvious source of introduction, but it has recently appeared on the Sussex coast (Eastbourne, 2009; Hove, 2011) as well as the Essex side of the Dartford Crossing (2012) and so it is possible that this is the beginning of distributional changes similar to those experienced for *Poa infirma*. This is a **first vice county 15 (East Kent) record** and it is proposed to add this species to the Kent rare plant register.



*Polycarpon tetraphyllum*. Photo © Sue Buckingham, 9 August 2012

*Polygonum oxyspermum* subsp. *raii*<sup>R</sup> (Ray's Knotgrass). Until now unknown in south east Kent, although there are old records for Camber in East Sussex, one plant was found on shingle at Dungeness, 100 metres east of Galloways (TR 04449 17060). It was seen by a survey team working for the Environment Agency and then searched for, and re-found, by OL (conf. TI, who was nearby) on 10 August 2012.

*Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent). Continuing to spread, this grass was the subject of 13 records county-wide in 2012, most of them in East Kent. It was mainly found as a garden or street weed, although there was an anomalous discovery in recently cleared woodland near Wootton (SB). Other East Kent finds were at Boughton-under-Blean (LR), Broadstairs (SB), Deal (LR & JA), Dover (GK), Faversham (LR), Rochester (GK), Sittingbourne (GK), Stodmarsh (SB).

*Populus x canadensis* (*P. nigra x deltoides*, Hybrid Black-poplar). A female tree outside the corner house on the junction of Cockreed Lane and Rolfe Lane, New Romney, TR 066 255, was originally determined by the BSBI referee as *P. nigra* (Black Poplar). In the light of this, it was intended to use cuttings from it in a planting programme at Romney Marsh, but before proceeding, OL arranged for DNA analysis. The results of two tests indicated that this was first generation *P. x canadensis*.

[*Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia* (Black Poplar) - New Romney record for 2010 withdrawn.]

*Potentilla indica* (= *Duchesnea indica*, Yellow-flowered Strawberry). This unpalatable garden plant was found by SB on 2 May 2012 naturalized in Ash churchyard, TR 28735 58381. Then on 5 November 2012 she came across it again, well established on a roadside bank by houses at Wootton, TR 2229 4542. Its vigorous runners enable it to cover ground rapidly.



***Potentilla norvegica* (Ternate-leaved Cinquefoil).** There are very few Kent records for this roughly hairy introduced cinquefoil and none for East Kent, so the finding of this species at Trenleypark Wood is a **first record for vice county 15, East Kent**. About 20 plants were seen by SB & LR on 5 July 2012 on an unshaded sandy slope at TR19370 59216. The area was fenced and appeared to have been grazed by horses, whose feed may have some connection with the means of introduction as it is a grain alien; it is also a very occasional garden plant, but somewhat weedy for this purpose.

*Potentilla norvegica*. Photo © Sue Buckingham, 5 July 2012

*Potentilla recta* (Sulphur Cinquefoil). A more attractive and garden-worthy plant than the previous species, a single plant was noted by the KBRG meeting on 1 July 2012 escaped on waste ground at Kingsdown, TR 37911 48962, and another singleton by OL on 12 August 2012 on a parched and somewhat bare grass verge outside 68 Leonard Road, Greatstone, TR 08253 21248.

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir). Occasional seedlings have been observed: by the KBRG meeting at Orlestone Forest, TQ 9835 3539, on 16 July 2012; by SB near Rhodes Minnis, TR 143 440, on 18 July 2012; and by SB near Appledore Heath, TQ 9602 3187, on 26 August 2012.

*Quercus rubra* (Red Oak). A very occasional forestry tree, seedlings were seen on 29 September 2012 by SB at Clowes Wood between Canterbury and Whitstable, at TR 1350 62891 and scattered elsewhere.

*Ranunculus aquatilis* (Common Water-crowfoot). Not so common in Kent, this species was noted on 10 April 2012 by SB in a sheep pasture pond on the east side of Dray Corner Road near Headcorn, TQ 81958 45043.

*Ranunculus parviflorus*<sup>R</sup> (Small-flowered Buttercup). This is a rare Kent plant of open, generally well-drained ground and, whilst we have records for 2010 onwards for the Medway valley and Dungeness, the last record in north east Kent was before 1847. It transpires, however, that the species is widespread and abundant over the colliery spoil of Fowlmead Country Park. It was first sighted by SC & ML on 5 May 2012 in the car park. SB followed this up on 14 May 2012, recording it in all four monads of the Country Park (TR3553, TR3554, TR3653 and TR3654). It was found in concentrations of as many as 100 plants per square metre, primarily on open



ground but also under new tree plantings. As an annual, it requires low competition and so favours temporary habitats subject to some disturbance, e.g. rabbits. The Fowlmead colliery spoil is very nutrient-poor and so has been slow to accept colonisation of any plant life, so there is limited competition in any event, providing opportunities for an opportunist species which is capable of tolerating these conditions. Where there were associated species, these also tended to be annuals, e.g. *Cerastium diffusum* (Sea Mouse-ear), *Cerastium glomeratum* (Sticky Mouse-ear), *Erodium cicutarium* (Common Stork's-bill) and *Vulpia* spp.

*Ranunculus parviflorus* Photo © Mel Lloyd, 5 May 2012

*Ranunculus peltatus*<sup>R</sup> (Pond Water-crowfoot). This species appears to be in serious decline in Kent, but was found during the KBRG meeting of 27 June 2012 in a shaded ditch near the edge of Romney Marsh, TQ 97417 30845.

*Reseda alba* (White Mignonette). An occasional casual of waste places, but hitherto absent from south east Kent, this species turned up there twice in 2012. On 24 May 2012, OL recorded 20 odd flowering spikes at Lydd Industrial Park, TR 04339 19990, found a few days before by TI; and on 30 May 2012, OL also found a single plant on shingle alongside Dungeness Road, TR 06725 19429.

*Rosa agrestis*<sup>R</sup> (Small-leaved Sweet-briar). Whilst in Philp (2010) it was feared that this rose was reduced to one extant record in Kent, it now appears that there is a small scattering in mid-north Kent. One tall plant in a hedge on the north side of Staplestreet Road, Hernhill, TR 06583 59624, was found by LR on 5 June 2012; and on 13 August 2012 SB saw a single plant in Berengrave Nature Reserve, TQ 82295 67540.

*Rumex maritimus*<sup>R</sup> (Golden Dock). Long known from the north Kent marshes near Stoke / Cooling / High Halstow, this species has also recently been recorded in Sheppey. Investigation of the peninsula north of Iwade, which lies between, has shown that the dock is also well established in two monads there. On 23 October 2012 LR & GK noted several plants in the standing water of a wet depression in the grazing marshes at TQ 88668 69541; about 20 more plants in another depression at TQ 8922 6961; and many plants on wet ground and in standing water on grazing marshes at TQ 8915 69222, growing with *Rumex palustris* (see below) although not as abundant. The peninsula is well frequented by wildfowl, which are a likely vector of seed.

*Rumex palustris*<sup>R</sup> (Marsh Dock). Philp (2010) regards this species as only known regularly from Shorne Marshes and Dungeness, but on 23 October 2012 it was found by LR & GK to be abundant in wet areas of the grazing marshes on the peninsula north of Iwade. A scattering was noted in standing water at TQ 89540 69246, but the main population was along the margin of a waterbody, where it was omnipresent when not crowded out by *Bolboschoenus maritimus* (Sea Club-rush), for some 500 metres from TQ 889 692 north-westwards to a

tributary channel or depression at TQ 886 695. This appears to be the only place in Kent where both *R. palustris* and *R. maritimus* grow together.

*Rumex x lousleyi* (*R. cristatus x obtusifolius*). A very large plant on an embankment near Rushenden, Sheppey, TQ 9036 7134, was noted by LR & GK on 21 August 2012, with ragged inflorescence and intermediate tepals, both parents being present.

*Rumex x sagorskii* (*R. crispus x sanguineus*). The cross between Curled and Wood Docks was seen with the parents in an arable margin by Windmill Quay Road, Brambledown, Sheppey, TQ 966 713, by LR & GK on 5 July 2012.

*Rumex x schulzei* (*R. crispus x conglomeratus*). An isolated clump of the cross between Curled and Clustered Docks was recorded by SB & LR on 2 August 2012 at the RSPB reserve, Seasalter Levels, TR081 641. The hybrid was also recorded at the MoD Lydd Ranges on 6 August 2012 by OL, GK, SB & TI. It was present on a grassy verge between a military access route (Southbrooks Road) and a dyke: there were two plants at TR031193 and another one, which was a cross involving the coastal taxon *R. crispus* subsp. *littoreus* with its large tubercles as a parent, at TR 030 192.

*Ruppia cirrhosa*<sup>R</sup> (Spiral Tasselweed). This nationally 'Near Threatened' species was reduced in Philp (2010) to two tetrads, but five records for sites in different monads were added in 2012, so it is not quite so much at risk in Kent after all. The sightings restored knowledge of presence at Reculver and Dungeness published in Philp (1982). The plant was seen on 3 September 2012 by LR as small scattered patches in a dyke behind the seawall near Conyer, TQ 95840 65948. Near Reculver, it was noted by LR & SB on 22 August 2012 as completely filling a small (50 x 20 metres) lagoon at TR 2665 6919, with associated *Aster tripolium* (Sea Aster) indicating that the water was brackish. At Lydd Ranges, it was recorded by OL, GK, SB & TI on 6 August 2012 in the shallow north east corner of a coastal lagoon, TR 02650 17496, saline by virtue of seepage through the coastal shingle bank;



on 7 August 2012 in a shallow saline pool at TR 0022 1844, warm to touch; and on the same day also at a saline pool at TQ 998 179.



***Ruppia cirrhosa* and habitat.**  
Photos © Sue Buckingham,  
6 & 7 August 2012

*Salix purpurea*<sup>R</sup> (Purple Willow). Five small trees were noted by SB on 16 May 2012 on a marshy hillside east of Bearsted, TQ 80531 54541, close to a stream and with *Carex acutiformis* (Lesser Pond-sedge) and *Petasites hybridus* (Butterbur). Another small tree was found by TI on 10 August 2012 on the edge of Galloways Road, Lydd Ranges, TR 03993 18652.

*Salix x holosericea* (= *S. x smithiana*, *S. viminalis x cinerea*, Silky-leaved Osier). One large tree of the hybrid between Osier and Grey Willow was seen by LR on 18 June 2012 on rough ground beside Brickfield Lane, Boughton under Blean, TR 05691 58660, (*S. viminalis* being present).

*Salix x reichardtii* (*S. caprea x cinerea*). This not uncommon hybrid between Goat and Grey Willows was recorded at Worth, TR3355, by SB on 1 August 2012; and by OL, GK, SB & TI at Lydd Ranges, TR0319, by a pond with the parents on 7 August 2012.

*Salvia officinalis* (Sage). A flowering clump on shingle behind houses of Coast Drive, Lydd-on-Sea, TR 08963 18904, was noted by OL on 22 June 2012, taken to have been fly-tipped (if not planted).

*Santolina chamaecyparissus* (Lavender-cotton). One large patch was observed on shingle behind houses at Leonard Road, Greatstone, TR 08208 21182, by OL on 2 July 2012; the free-draining substrate is no doubt favourable for the establishment of Mediterranean plants. It was also recorded in 2009 at Jury's Gap as a Sussex plant (but at a grid reference which lay within botanical East Kent).

*Securigera varia* (Crown Vetch). A large sprawling patch of this introduced legume on a roadside verge at Eythorne, TR 28787 50274, was recorded by SB on 17 July 2012.

***Sedum kamtschaticum* (Kamchatka Stonecrop).** On 4 July 2012 OL recorded two clumps of this Asian hortical stonecrop on shingle on what might have been a very old fly-tipped site (cleared 10 years ago) behind houses of Coast Drive, Lydd-on-Sea, TR 08721 19721. There are not many British records for this species, although not uncommon in gardens and a fairly vigorous spreader, and this appears to be **a first record for vice county 15, East Kent.**



*Sedum kamtschaticum*. Photo © Owen Leyshon, July 2012

***Sedum kimmachii* Byalt (Mexican Stonecrop).** A patch of this stonecrop was noted by OL on 31 May 2012, behind a house garden wall at Coleville Crescent, Lydd-on-Sea, TR 0822 2112, amongst other garden plants spreading onto the Dungeness shingle. It was det. by RS, the BSBI referee for *Sedum*, who says that there are three Mexican species which have long caused confusion: *S. confusum* (aptly named), *S. aoikon* (not always accepted) and *S. kimmachii* (syn. *S. decumbens*). The pea green (rather than dark green) foliage of the Dungeness plant, its short leaves and compact, decumbent habit assign it to the last of these species. The absence of leaf teeth distinguishes it from *S. kamtschaticum* (above). It is offered by several nurseries and is readily propagated. Its high altitude origins render it compatible with the British climate. This is not the only Kent record, as RS advises that material was sent to him by BAT from the edge of a small wood near Shoreham, West Kent, TQ 529 608, where seen by the Bradford Botany Group on 28 May 2003. Although its status is somewhat marginal, growing alongside a garden wall, the Dungeness plant is, however, **a first record for vice county 15, East Kent.**



*Sedum kimmachi*. Photo © Owen Leyshon, 2 June 2012

*Sedum spectabile* (Butterfly Stonecrop). A couple of plants of cv. 'Herbstfreude' were recorded by SB on 1 October 2012 in the rough of a golf course at Sandwich Bay, TR 3536 6058.

*Sempervivum tectorum* (House-leek). In contrast with its European native montane habitats, this succulent was found established on the low, flat Dungeness shingle. On 10 June 2012 OL noted a sizeable patch on the NNR near Waller Road south of Greatstone, TR 08191 21222, in an area with many garden throw-outs and associated with the edge of what may be soil pushed out by original housing development. On 22 June 2012 he found a further site on the coastal shingle strip from Greatstone to Dungeness with a large patch of established rosettes behind houses off Coast Drive, Lydd-on-Sea, TR 09024 18722.

*Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort). The spread of this species continues, with various recorders having noted its presence in 2012 at Brenley Corner (LR), around Queenborough (LR & GK), Rainham (SB), and Rochester (SP & DG).

***Silene gallica* and habitat.**  
Photos © Liam Rooney, 20 June 2012

*Silene gallica*<sup>R</sup> (Small-flowered Catchfly). A nationally 'Endangered' annual, this was recorded in Philp (2010) as a single casual in West Kent plus a small colony on a site at Littlestone since built over and now occupied by Armada Close. It seemed unlikely that the species would be seen in Kent again, but on 16 June 2012 OL discovered a single plant at Littlestone. This was on the coastal side of Marine Parade, Littlestone, opposite Armada Close, TR 08323 24018. The catchfly was flowering





at Littlestone Greens on an east-facing sandy bank which had been scarified with rakes during the previous autumn and mowing reduced, in order to encourage the germination of *Silene conica* (Sand Catchfly) which also grows there. Associated species included plants typical of coastal sandy soil with some calcareous content: *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid), *Cerastium semidecandrum* (Little Mouse-ear), *Echium vulgare* (Viper's-bugloss), *Elytrigia atherica* (Sea Couch), *Galium verum* (Lady's Bedstraw), *Hypochaeris radicata* (Cat's-ear), *Koeleria macrantha* (Crested Hair-grass), *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort Plantain), *Salvia verbenaca* (Wild Clary), *Sedum album* (White Stonecrop) and *Silene conica*. The management regime is being continued.

*Sisyrinchium striatum* (Pale Yellow-eyed-grass). A garden plant from South America which readily self-seeds, several specimens were observed by LR on 11 June 2012 growing from the base of a wall at Whitstable Road, Faversham, TR 02495 61087.

*Solanum physalifolium* (Green Nightshade). Also from South America, this nightshade was noted as a weed in a beetroot crop by SB on 6 October 2012 at Woodnesborough, TR 3073 5631.

*Stachys x ambigua* (*S. palustris* x *sylvatica*, Hybrid Woundwort). Found, abundant but apparently in the absence of the parents, by SB on 2 July 2012 north of Port Richborough, TR 3380 6273.

*Stratiotes aloides* (Water-soldier). This aquatic has now reached the Seasalter levels, having been recorded on 23 June 2012 by LR in a dyke dividing wet grazing meadows, off Seasalter Lane, from TR 08469 64254 to TR 09065 64316. It was considered probably to be more extensive than this. The species relies on dispersal by transfer of vegetative material, as it does not set seed in Britain.

***Symphoricarpos x chenaultii* (Pink Snowberry)**. A large and spreading shrub was recorded by LR on 4 July 2012 amongst trees between the A2 and Brickfield Lane, Boughton under Blean, TR 05199 59443, with no indications that this was any part of a planting scheme. There appear to be no other records for East Kent and so this is taken to be **a first vice county 15 record**. Nationally, it has a patchy distribution which may well reflect local reluctance to record in the absence of positive evidence of unplanted origins; it is reputed not to establish readily from seed, although its ability to self-layer would facilitate establishment from discarded cuttings.

*Symphytum x hidcotense* 'Hidcote Blue' (Hidcote Comfrey). A cultivar of probable triple hybrid origins, this was seen by LR on 19 March 2012 on a footpath verge from Colonels Lane running parallel to the A2 by-pass, Boughton under Blean, TR 06399 58889. A large patch had spread along the path and now has 'jumped' further up onto the other side of the path and onto the A2 embankment.

*Thalictrum minus* (Lesser Meadow-rue). One large clump was noted by OL on 2 July 2012 at an old fire site on shingle behind houses on Leonard Road, Greatstone, TR 08195 21202: here clearly a garden throw-out, well outside the British native range of the species.

*Tristagma uniflorum* (Spring Starflower). This South American bulbous garden plant was found as a street weed by LR on 19 March 2012, growing between the base of a wall and the pavement, Whitstable Road, Faversham, TR0261. It was also recorded near Burham, TQ7162, by SP & DG on 30 March 2012; and SP mentioned it as in a grassed area to the rear of Rochester Castle, TQ 7411 6850, where seen on 7 April 2012 - probably originally planted but known there for many years and spreading well.

***Triteleia laxa* (Triplet Lily)**. At least five specimens of this Californian plant were recorded by OL on 4 July 2012 at an old bonfire site amongst tall grass on shingle behind the houses of Coast Drive, Lydd-on-Sea, TR 08733 19676. It is cultivated in several Dungeness gardens. There are very few British records of this garden escape, and none for Kent; it ranks as **a first record for vice county 15, East Kent**.

*Triteleia laxa*. Photo © Owen Leyshon, 4 July 2012



*Ulex gallii*<sup>R</sup> (Western Gorse). A gorse with a very limited Kent distribution (indeed, Hanbury & Marshall in their *Flora of Kent* (1899) were not convinced that it was a Kent plant) and curiously disjunct, both in its scattered county occurrence and its appearance in Kent at all, given that it is primarily a western species. A new site was discovered by SB on 11 November 2012, near Etchinghill, Folkestone, TR 15946 38366, where there was a

patch of about 6 x 6 metres growing with *Ulex europaeus* (Gorse).

*Ulex gallii*, habitat. Photo © Sue Buckingham, 11 November 2012



*Urtica dioica* subsp. *galeopsifolia* (Stingless Nettle). The form of nettle without stinging hairs was seen by LR & GK in the hedgerow of Elmley Road, Brambledown, Sheppey on 5 July 2012 from TQ 95858 71356 to TQ 95844 71317. The leaves are longer and narrower than those of the usual subsp. *dioica* and are a slightly different green. Confirmation of determination is of course literally a matter of grasping the nettle!

*Urtica dioica* subsp. *galeopsifolia*.  
Photo © Liam Rooney, 5 July 2012

*Verbascum speciosum* (Hungarian Mullein). A casual found by LR & GK on 5 July 2012 by a track at Newhook Marshes, TQ 96019 70403, remote from housing; little recorded in Kent and not previously on Sheppey.



***Verbena bonariensis* (Argentinian Vervain).** A garden plant with elongated stems which self-seeds very effectively, this was found on 29 May 2012 by LR growing from a brick wall on Colonels Lane, Boughton under Blean, TR 06062 59283. This was followed on 17 September 2012 by OL, who saw a single plant in flower on the side of the RH&D railway track, Littlestone, TR 07188 24079; and on 25 October 2012 by SB & LR, who recorded it south east of Radfall, TR1463. The species has been seen on a number of occasions as an escape in West Kent, but these sightings constitute the **first records for vice county 15, East Kent**.

*Verbena bonariensis*. Photo © Owen Leyshon, 17 September 2012

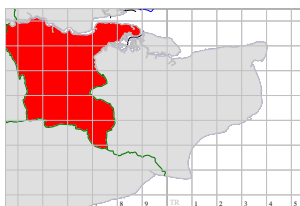
***Vinca difformis* (Intermediate Periwinkle).** A scrambling plant seldom naturalized out of gardens, in contrast with the Greater and Lesser Periwinkles, this species was recorded by SB on 23 March 2012, as a patch on the cliff at Broadstairs, TR 39946 68162. It was the white-flowered form, which is known as an escape in some other counties, although the species normally bears very pale blue, almost whitish, flowers. There is a pure white cultivar, cv. 'Snowmound'. This appears to be **a first record for the species in vice county 15, East Kent**.

*Wolffia arrhiza*<sup>R</sup> (Rootless Duckweed). The minute gritty blobs of this plant were found by OL, GK, SB & TI on 7 August 2012 as abundant in a pond on acid ground at the MoD's Lydd Ranges, TR 03847 19887, with *Spirodela polyrhiza* (Greater Duckweed).

X *Agropogon lutosus* (=X *A. littoralis*, Perennial Beard-grass). This hybrid between Creeping Bent and Annual Beard-grass<sup>R</sup> was found by LR & GK on 21 August 2012 to be abundant near Rushenden, Sheppey, TQ 90182 71224, with the parents around a dried-up depression with *Crassula helmsii* (New Zealand Pigmyweed), with more not far away with the parents alongside a rough coastal road, TQ 897 714. The same recorders on 23 October 2012 found a further plant with the parents north of Iwade, on the mainland side of the channel separating Sheppey, TQ8969.

*Yucca gloriosa* (Spanish-dagger). Three small plants were found together on grassy dunes above the saltmarsh along the mouth of the Stour south of Pegwell Bay, TR 33940 62116, by LR on 12 May 2012. On 18 July 2012, OL noted a further, small(ish) plant growing up through a bramble patch in the moat at the west end of the RNSS Cottages at Dungeness, TR 08425 17266. It had probably been there for some time (they can grow for 20 years and more) and only became obvious when it came up to flower.

## Plant records for West Kent (vice county 16)



*Allium subhirsutum* (Hairy Garlic). A rather scruffy *Allium*, found by GK on 7 March 2012 between Green Street Green and Farnborough, TQ4563, in woodland behind houses, beside a path where garden waste had been deposited. Additionally, he came across this species on 26 May 2012 in scrub near Bluewater, TQ 5834 7307, where it had presumably been dumped.

*Alopecurus aequalis*<sup>R</sup> (Orange Foxtail). This grass was reported by JC as near Folly Pond, Blackheath, TR3976, on 2 July 2012. There appear to be no other 2012 sightings; the constant rain deprived this species of the summer lowering of water levels which would otherwise encourage its growth.

*Anagallis arvensis* subsp. *foemina*<sup>R</sup> (Blue Pimpernel). Various observers noted the return of the Blue Pimpernel to Kitchen Field at Ranscombe Farm prompted, it seems, by a reversion to spring, instead of autumn, ploughing.



*Atriplex hortensis* (Garden Orache). Several plants were seen by GK on 23 June 2012 growing on tipped soil in a sand quarry near Borough Green, TQ6057, mostly the usual purplish-red hortale form (var. *rubra*), but some less pigmented, greenish.

*Aucuba japonica* (Spotted-laurel). A bush was noted by GK on 7 March 2012 not far from deposited garden waste in woodland behind houses, between Green Street Green and Farnborough, TQ4563.

*Bassia scoparia* (Summer-cypress). This species continues its progress along main roads, a plant having been seen by GK on 15 September 2012 in the centre of the A206 south of Erith, TQ5176.

***Bromus lanceolatus*. Photo © Geoffrey Kitchener, August 2012**

*Bromus lanceolatus* (Large-headed Brome). An unusual brome was seen by GH in a plant arrangement by JP<sub>a</sub> and it transpired that this had been gathered in the wild in July 2012. Both GH and JP<sub>a</sub> then visited the location of origin, and found the plant in a wheat field at

Dunstall Farm, Shoreham, TQ 535 613. This grass, with its hairy lemmas and contorted awns, is indeed attractive enough to be an ornamental. There are very few, scattered British records, none recent in Kent, although there is a previous record for vice county 16.

*Bromus secalinus*<sup>R</sup> (Rye Brome). See under East Kent plant records. As regards the West Kent sightings, the most impressive were at Ranscombe Farm, where RM remarked (12 July 2012) that large numbers of plants (apparently in thousands) were present in and on the edge of the crop in several fields and also in some conservation headlands.

***Bromus secalinus* from Ranscombe.  
Photo © Richard Moyses, 12 July 2012**



*Ceratochloa cathartica* (Rescue Brome). Scattered along field margins near Hoo St Werburgh, TQ7871 and TQ7972 (GK, 18 September 2012).

*Cotoneaster lacteus* (Late Cotoneaster). A stray bush was recorded by GK on 14 June 2012 on a roadside bank bordering Stangate Quarry (infilled) near Borough Green, TQ6056.

*Cotula coronopifolia* (Buttonweed). A couple of yellow button flowers were seen by GK on 22 May 2012 at the margin of a brackish dyke at Higham Marshes, TQ 699 750; but this South African species has clearly invaded much more extensively than this, and on 5 September 2012 JC found more in this monad and on Shorne Marshes, TQ6974. She also recorded it on 7 August 2012 as behaving invasively in Mounts, Folly, Hare & Billet Ponds on Blackheath, TQ3976, so it is not just the grazing marshes which are affected.

*Epilobium x floridulum* (*E. parviflorum x ciliatum*). The hybrid between Hoary and American Willowherbs was recorded by LR & GK as present in a chalky disturbed weedkilled area near Holborough, TQ7063 on 19 June 2012. Another plant was seen by GK on 13 September 2012 in a disturbed area by a barn west of Lamberhurst, TQ 6586 3745.

*Epilobium x palatinum* (*E. parviflorum x tetragonum*). The cross between Hoary and Square-stalked Willowherbs was found by GK on 18 September 2012 near Hoo St Werburgh, TQ7972, in a field covered with willowherbs, but without any other hybrid plant being seen. It may have been that this was the first year in which the weeds had been let grow to such an extent, so that hybridization opportunities had not yet arisen sufficiently.

***Epilobium x semiobscurum* (*E. obscurum x tetragonum*).** The first record for vice county 16 (and for Kent generally) of this hybrid between Short-fruited and Square-stalked Willowherbs was made on 4 October 2012 by GK & SK just west of Angley Wood, Cranbrook, TQ 753 366. One plant was growing near a new field fence, with the parents present along the arable margin nearby.

*Epilobium x semiobscurum*. Photo © Geoffrey Kitchener, 4 October 2012



*Epipactis purpurata* (Violet Helleborine). Eleven flowering spikes were recorded by DJ on 24 August 2012 under beech on either side of 'Darwin's sandwalk' at Down House, TQ 4293 6090.

*Euphorbia characias* subsp. *veneta* (Mediterranean Spurge).

Although originally of garden origin, there were several self-seeded clumps of this spurge present in the area of the demolished Joyce Green Hospital at Dartford, TQ 54521 76011, recorded on 13 April 2012 by CC, RW & MG.

*Filago minima* (Small Cudweed). A couple of 2012 records were made in tetrads other than those covered by Philp (2010), but within the main line of distribution which follows the Folkestone Beds across the county: on 26 April by JP at Ditton Quarry, TQ7157; and on 23 June by GK as plentiful on old quarry sand exposures near Borough Green, TQ6057, many plants large because of the rainy season.

*Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort). Over 20 flowering stems were found on 16 June 2012 at the Kemsing Downs KWT reserve by BBu, the voluntary warden. This was a new patch at Goss Bank below Oak Hall Manor (locally, Treacle Towers), TQ 554 594, where scrub had been cleared by KWT during the winter. The original colony, well distant at TQ 54997 59381, was then still flourishing (55 flowering stems, comm. RR).

*Forsythia x intermedia* was recorded by GJ on 8 April 2012, growing in crevice of a ragstone wall on Bradbourne Road, Sevenoaks, TQ 5301 5599.

*Genista tinctoria* (Dyer's Greenweed). A large colony reported for 22 July 2012 by SL (where recently discovered by DH) well spread over a previously sheep-grazed field centred at TQ 49896 48922 near Bough Beech reservoir, owned by the water company and historically isolated within Winkhurst Wood until the reservoir was built.

*Geranium purpureum*<sup>R</sup> (Little-Robin). A new location for this very rare Kent species was discovered by LR & GK on 19 June 2012 near Holborough. About 70 plants were found scattered along a footpath between a stream and a commercial / industrial site, from TQ 70485 62690 to TQ 70539 62670. Associates were weeds of waste areas such as *Anisantha sterilis* (Barren Brome), *Geranium pyrenaicum* (Hedgerow Crane's-bill), *Hirschfeldia incana* (Hoary Mustard) and *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort Plantain). The other Kent population, at Haysden, was

found by a WFS meeting on 13 May 2012 to have extended its range about 1km southwards, by way of a single plant at an arable field margin, TQ57017 45124 (illustrated in the Wild Flower Magazine, winter 2013, no. 485).

*Geranium purpureum*. Photo of plant, © Liam Rooney; habitat, Geoffrey Kitchener, 4 October 2012



*Herminium monorchis*<sup>R</sup> (Musk Orchid). During June/July 2012, LM recorded 253 plants at Ladd's Farm, in three fields at TQ 673 629, TQ 683 628 and TQ 675 632. The west side of the Medway valley in this neighbourhood seems to be the focus of the Kent distribution of this nationally 'Vulnerable' species.

*Hypopitys monotropa*<sup>R</sup> (= *Monotropa hypopitys*, Yellow Bird's-nest). An astonishing population was seen at High Elms (TQ4462) by FOH, perhaps resulting from dull, wet weather conditions this year. It was first photographed on 17 June 2012, but carried on producing flower spikes well into August. It was impossible to count the colony fully as the first spikes to show had gone by the time that the latest were breaking the ground. In a normal year, FOH would have expected to see one or two specimens at this locality, perhaps none. In 2012, there was at least a thousand – 'I don't think I'll see the like again' was the recorder's reaction!



*Hypopitys monotropa*. Photo © Fred O'Hare, 17 June 2012

Another colony of this nationally 'Endangered' plant, a new one, was discovered by BBU at Great Buckland, TQ 671644. Here on 5 August 2012 he recorded about 50 spikes, amongst leaf litter and twigs in the corner of a private garden on a west-facing slope of the North Downs. Also, on 31 July 2012, RR was shown by P&PH a colony of 24 spikes in Hartley Wood,

Longfield, TQ 61363 68242, which had increased to 37 a week later, echoing the rapid growth reported from High Elms.

*Jasminum nudiflorum* (Winter Jasmine). This Chinese plant was recorded on 21 January 2012 by RP in flower (as it had been, the previous Christmas eve when first seen by her) well established in a hedgerow alongside Churchfields, Offham Road, West Malling, TQ677575. The hedge was bordered on one side by the road and on the other by a footpath adjoining flats developed from allotments and it is surmised that the plant may have originated with garden rubbish deposited in the hedge bottom long ago.

*Lathyrus aphaca*<sup>R</sup> (Yellow Vetchling). This nationally 'Vulnerable' species was reported from near the River Darent, Horton Kirby, TQ 556 682, found by JW (comm. JP).

*Lathyrus hirsutus* (Hairy Vetchling). Four plants were found by GK & SK on 27 August 2012, aptly enough at Botany Marshes, Swanscombe, TQ 60927 75810. This was in the course of a BSBI Threatened Plant Project survey for *Bupleurum tenuissimum* (Slender Hare's-ear) and the habitat was similar for both species: in turf between wheel ruts on a track between a flood defence embankment and estuarial marshes, with some saline

influence from the estuary. This appears to be the only current West Kent locality for the species, which is generally regarded as an introduced one, although queried as native in the past.

*Lathyrus hirsutus*, plant and habitat.

Photos © Geoffrey Kitchener, October 2012



*Lonicera pileata* (Box-leaved Honeysuckle). A non-climbing honeysuckle, this shrub was seen by GK on 7 March 2012 in woodland behind houses between Green Street Green and High Elms, TQ4563, assumed derived from garden waste. Also present was *L. nitida* (Wilson's Honeysuckle), which is becoming less fashionable than *L. pileata* in garden plantings.

***Ludwigia peploides* (Creeping Water-primrose).** Belonging to a family which has been castigated as a potentially invasive alien in waterbodies, this species was seen at a small closed-access nature reserve, Kidbrooke Green, TQ4175, by RMB & JC on 19 July 2012, where it was well-established, although subsequently a couple of working parties were convened to destroy it, encouraged by Defra policy in relation to invasive non-native species. JC's acquaintance with it here goes back to 2009, and it seemed not to have been unduly invasive since then. The species may have been introduced here, whether accidentally with other plantings or deliberately (for its attractiveness) in the early 1990s. Recognising the degree of establishment, this is taken as a **new vice county 16 (West Kent) record**, at least from 2009.



*Ludwigia peploides*. Photo © Juliet Cairns, 25 August 2009

*Luzula x borrieri* (*L. forsteri* x *pilosa*). Largely sterile hybrids between Southern and Hairy Wood-rushes were found by the KBRG meeting on the shaded sandy banks of Goodley Stock Road, Kent Hatch, TQ4352, on 7 July 2012.

*Medicago polymorpha*<sup>R</sup> (Toothed Medick). Amongst the clovers and medicks which were visible at Blackheath, encouraged by prolonged rain, one plant of Toothed Medick was seen at the south west edge, TQ3876, by JC on 9 June 2012. In the same monad on 29 August 2012 she also recorded *Medicago sativa* subsp. *falcata* (Sickle Medick).

*Melilotus indicus* (Small Melilot). When seen, this species often appears as a casual, as with about 30 plants on a small roundabout at the junction of Vale Rise and Vale Road, Tonbridge, TQ 59860 46094, which were noted by SB on 30 May 2012.

*Oenanthe pimpinelloides* (Corky-fruited Water-dropwort). Records continue to be made for public grassland in the London Borough of Bromley, where the species is presumed to migrate on grass-cutting machinery. To these, JP added on 22 June 2012 a non-metropolitan site outside Greater London, rank grassland above the golf course at Lullingstone Park, TQ5264.

*Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's-tongue). This fern was found by JRe on 17 May 2012 in an area 2 x 3 feet in a wood between Otford and Kemsing, TQ5358, with a separate colony of three fronds noted 100-150 yards away on 18 May 2012. The find is interesting, as the fern is often thought of as a plant of ancient meadow. This location was arable in the 1960s and subsequent scrubbing over has developed into tree cover with open rides, so the fern has colonised since then.

*Parthenocissus inserta* (False Virginia-creeper). This was seen by GK on 14 June 2012 scrambling over a large area outside gardens and up trees at Borough Green, TQ 604 571.

*Petunia x hybrida* (Petunia). A casual observed by GJ on 9 May 2012 in a pavement crack at the base of a wall, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, TQ 5305.5475.

*Plantago major* subsp. *intermedia*. Photo © Sue Poyser, 28 September 2012

*Plantago major* subsp. *intermedia*<sup>R</sup> (Greater Plantain). Growing in bare, coastal ground, generally with some salinity, this subspecies appears to have been under-recorded in the past. The leaves are prominently 3-veined (sometimes 5) with undulate tooting near the base and are sometimes shortly hairy. The inflorescence is relatively short and cylindrical. Records came from SP & DG (28 September 2012 on marshes at Northward Hill bird reserve, TQ7740 7675); and from GK (18 September 2012 on a track landward of the sea wall south of Hoo St Werburgh, TQ 79923 71795, and 2 October 2012 near a cattle feeding station on Allhallows grazing marshes, TQ 849 784).



*Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent). Recorded from the Medway Bridges area, TQ7267, by SP & DG on 3 August 2012.

*Potentilla argentea*<sup>R</sup> (Hoary Cinquefoil). Philp (2010) described this species as rare and declining, no longer findable at many known sites. A new site has now appeared, with about 30 plants of various sizes found by RM on 9 May 2012 in a ride in Merralls Shaw, c. TQ715676, within Ranscombe Farm Reserve. They looked settled in and as though present a while, although the ride was only widened in 2009. The soil appeared to be head material with sand and gravel.

*Quercus rubra* (Red Oak). The KBRG meeting on 7 July 2012 saw at least one sapling at Goodley Stock, TQ4352, deriving from forestry plantings.

*Rhinanthus angustifolius*<sup>R</sup> (Greater Yellow-rattle). The appearance of this species in metropolitan vc16 and its possible migration on hay-cutting machinery was considered in Kent Botany 2011. Since then, JP drew attention to her discovery on 21 June 2012 of an enormous quantity in the chalk grassland of High Elms Country Park (subsequently recorded by GK as in TQ4362 and TQ4462). Two large patches were also seen on 15 June 2012 by SB and her botany class in a meadow at Jubilee Country Park, TQ 43593 67763, and more was recorded on 6 July 2012 at Keston Common, TQ4164.

*Rumex x abortivus* (*R. conglomeratus* x *obtusifolius*). There were two 2012 records for the hybrid between Clustered and Broad-leaved Docks: one made by the KBRG meeting of 19 August in an overgrown pasture in the Teise valley by the county border, TQ 631 371; and the other made by GK on 2 October in rough grassland in a holiday park at Allhallows-on-Sea, TQ 83732 78812.

*Rumex x dufftii* (*R. obtusifolius* x *sanguineus*). The hybrid between Broad-leaved and Wood Docks was recorded by GK on 4 October 2012 by a field hedge (such marginal habitats being characteristic of *R. sanguineus*), on the west side of Angley Wood, TQ 753 366.

*Rumex x knafii* (*R. conglomeratus* x *maritimus*). One plant of the cross between Clustered and Golden Docks was seen by LR & GK on 28 August 2012 at Cliffe / Cooling Marshes, TQ74919 79133, with the parents where dredgings had been deposited on the banks of a marsh dyke.

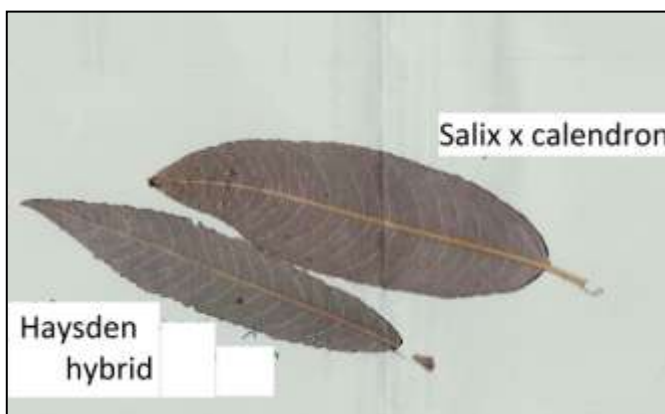
*Rumex x ruhmeri* (*R. conglomeratus* x *sanguineus*). At least three plants of the cross between Clustered and Wood Docks were distinguished from a mixed population of parents in a damp area disturbed by tree clearance south of Sunninglye Farm, Bayham, TQ 628 373, by the KBRG meeting of 19 August 2012.

*Rumex x schulzei* (*R. crispus* x *conglomeratus*). A single plant of the cross between Curled and Clustered Docks was seen by LR & GK on dredgings by a dyke on the Cliffe / Cooling Marshes, TQ7579, where the parents are the commonest dock species, on 28 August 2012.

*Salix caprea* x *cinerea* x *viminalis*. Material from a puzzling willow, found by SB at Haysden, TQ 563 456, growing beside a concrete track by the car parking area for the country park with no evidence of planting, was collected by her in 2012 (catkins in March, foliage in July) and submitted to RDM, the BSBI referee. His view was that this was a wild triple hybrid between Goat Willow, Grey Willow and Osier. He believes that it probably arose from the hybrid *S. caprea* x *cinerea* (*S. x reichardii*), which is fairly common, having crossed with *S. viminalis*. It is difficult to assess the rarity of this taxon, nationally or otherwise, given that textbooks and the BSBI recording

lists give the name *S. x calendron* for a cross between these species and so, if there have been any records for the wild triple hybrid, they are likely to have been made under this name. RDM, however, is clear that *S. x calendron*, as it is generally known, is a single female clone of a planted willow, believed to be of the same parentage, and this name should not be used for the present find.

*Salix x sericans* (*S. caprea* x *viminalis*). A bush of the hybrid between Goat Willow and Osier was recorded on 23 June 2012 by GK in a sandpit near Borough Green, TQ6057.



*Saxifraga granulata*<sup>R</sup> (Meadow Saxifrage). Found to be widespread on the sands of the Folkestone Beds near Ightham in TQ5957 (not given in Philp (2010), and regarded as lost from many former sites), this species was seen on 12 May 2012 by GK & SK as a patch on the sandy road-bank of Fen Pond Road, TQ 5945 5738; present as a large patch with an outlier patch in sandy woodland north of the A25, TQ 5983 5728; scattered in sandy grassland and scrub north west of the A25/A227 roundabout, from TQ 599 572 to TQ 599 573; and abundant on the grassy roundabout itself, although subject to the vicissitudes of the highway grass-cutting regime.



*Scandix pecten-veneris*, habitat.  
Photo © David Carey, May 2012

*Scandix pecten-veneris*<sup>R</sup> (Shepherd's-needle). A significant new population of this nationally 'Critically Endangered' species was discovered by DC on 12 May 2012 in the Medway valley between Golden Green and Five Oak Green, as a few plants on a footpath edge leading into an arable field on heavy clay, just north of the westernmost of

Whetsted gravel pits. Later that month, he traced the fuller extent, being several hundred plants, mostly in a narrow strip between the headland and a barley crop, within about 0.5 m of the edge of the crop. The strip of plants stretched for about 150m from TQ 64148 47063 to TQ 64296 47084. The site may in the longer term be subject to the threat of extension of gravel extraction (site 71 in the county minerals extraction plan).

*Scandix pecten-veneris*. Photo © David Carey, May 2012



*Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort). This invader was reported for 2012 from Allhallows-on-Sea (GK), Cliffe Marshes (LR & GK) and Dartford (DB).

*Silene armeria* (Sweet-William Catchfly). A casual garden escape was noted by GK on 23 June 2012 on tipped soil in a sand pit near Borough Green, TQ605578; this has only a very few West Kent records.

*Silene noctiflora*<sup>R</sup> (Night-flowering Catchfly). One plant was seen by GK on 23 June 2012 at the margin of a barley field near Churchdown Wood, Fawkham, TQ59182 68779, in a neighbourhood which used to be well-known for the quality of its arable weed flora, little of which now remains, due to agricultural herbicide applications.

*Silybum marianum* (Milk Thistle). On 3 April 2012, a plant was recorded by GK at the edge of an arable field north west of Paddock Wood, TQ 660 459.



*Solanum* spp. (Nightshades). *Solanum nigrum* subsp. *schultesii* (Black Nightshade). This glandular-haired subspecies of Black Nighshade was recorded by GK on 12 September 2012 in a cropped arable field south east of Hoo St Werburgh, TQ 7973 7178, with the usual subspecies *nigrum*. Further east, at TQ799 718, *Solanum physalifolium* (Green Nightshade) was abundant in the stubble.

*Stachys x ambigua* (*S. palustris* x *sylvatica*, Hybrid Woundwort). The KBRG meeting of 19 July 2012 found this cross in coarse vegetation on the bank of the River Teise. Parents were not noted in immediate vicinity although they and hybrid were about 50 metres away in East Sussex. Another record was made on 14 July 2012 by SB in a roadside ditch south east of Tonbridge, TQ 59821 43917.

*Nassella tenuissima* (= *Stipa tenuissima*, Argentine Needle-grass). Planted up in an amenity area by Stoke Road, Hoo St Werburgh, this ornamental grass was recorded by GK on 18 September 2012 as a street weed abundantly self-seeded in the neighbourhood, TQ 836 7216.

***Tilia cordata*. Photos © Philip Sansum, August 2012**

*Tilia cordata*<sup>R</sup> (Small-leaved Lime). This species is an intriguing one, because of its prehistoric abundance as a constituent of Holocene wildwood in southern England and its rarity as a surviving native in Kent. It is therefore particularly interesting that a new, apparently native population has been discovered at the head of two tributaries of a woodland gill system in the Weald, at Dogpits, north east of Markbeece. One or two stools were located at TQ 46804 43498, the remainder, totalling about a dozen stools mixed with *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) at TQ 468 437, within 300 metres or so. The trees were recorded by KR on 4 May 2012, in the course of a revision of the ancient woodland inventory for the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with landowner's permission and material was collected



by PS on 30 August for submission to the BSBI referee, CP, who confirmed identity. The association with gill woodland suggests that these may have acted as refugia for the persistence of pre-Neolithic primary forest vegetation, just as there are bryophyte and fern survivals in Wealden gills where the microclimate replicates earlier conditions, although tree survival may also have much to do with gill topography which generally will have inhibited intensive wood management. A discussion of the issues raised by this discovery is in press (Philip Sansum & Kate Ryland, *Tilia cordata* Miller from gill woodland in the Weald of Kent, *BSBI News*). PS & KR point out that, whether or not Small-leaved Lime is under-recorded in the Weald, it does appear to be surprisingly sparse; and that this may be a reflection of its inability to cope with being browsed in the distant past by herbivores. In this connection, they point out that although Anglo-Saxon wood-pasturage in the Wealden dens is well known, and could have accounted for some decline in Small-leaved Lime, the evidence of its decline in the Sussex High Weald in pre-Anglo-Saxon times has been interpreted as

showing that the Wealden transhumance pattern is even older. So the rarity in Kent of Small-leaved Lime may be a reflection of the length of time over which it has been browsed to death, while climate changes have rendered it harder for the species to re-establish.

***Trifolium tomentosum* (Woolly Clover).** JC reported the presence of this Mediterranean clover at Blackheath on 24 June 2012, being occasional along both sides of Mounts Pond Road and south of Mounts Pond in TQ3876 and TQ3976. It is reputedly a rare introduction from imports of wool shoddy, esparto and tan-bark, but it is difficult to see how these origins might relate to the Blackheath location, where it has been persistent since found by her on 3 May 2009 (conf. RMB and others). No other Kent records have been traced and the 2009 discovery appears to be **a first record for vice county 16, West Kent.**

***Verbascum chaixii* (Nettle-leaved Mullein).** One flowering plant was seen by JP on 26 April 2012 in an area of open waste ground with other aliens and garden plants at Ditton quarry, TQ7157. No other West Kent record with sufficient escaped status has been traced, and this is taken as **a first vice county 16 (West Kent) record.**