

BSBI eNews – January 2017

From Jim McIntosh, Senior Country Officer, [jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org](mailto:jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org)

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### New Year Plant Hunt

We hope that you will take part in our sixth New Year Plant Hunt between 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Last year, 865 botanists from 108 vice-counties recorded 653 taxa in bloom so it will be interesting to see what we find this year. [Tom Humphrey](#), BSBI Database Officer, has worked with colleagues at the Biological Records Centre to develop a new app for New Year Plant Hunt recording on mobile phones and your computer via a New Year Plant Hunt website which goes live on 1st January.

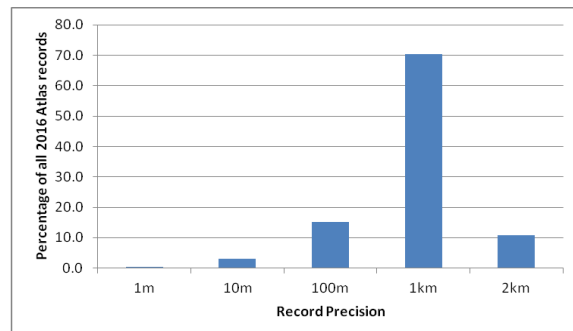
Records can be entered via [this page](#); results will be listed [here](#); and this [front page](#) features an interactive map showing where records have been submitted, streamed images of plants recorded and a Twitter feed showing (only) New Year Plant Hunt comments. Any feedback on the above would be gratefully received - please contact us [here](#).

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

### Taking stock of Atlas 2020

Just under a million Atlas records (965,288 to be precise) have now been added to the BSBI DataBase for 2016. An amazing achievement! Here are some interesting statistics based on an analysis of them:-

- 99.9% of all 2016 records in the DDb were at tetrad precision or better.
- 97.8% of 2016 records in the DDb came from MapMate sources.
- 89.1% of records made in 2016 and in the DDb were at monad precision *or better*.



- 1,586 hectads had more than 40 species recorded in 2016 (out of a total of 3,925 whole or part hectads in the British Isles).
- Hectad TL45, City of Cambridge, had more species recorded in it than any other - 792.
- The Irish hectad with the most taxa recorded in 2016 was T02, Wexford, with 573 species.
- The Welsh hectad with the most species recorded was SJ06, Denbigh, with 539.
- The Scottish hectad with the most species recorded in 2016 was NT27, Edinburgh, with 478.
- 3,614 distinct taxa were recorded across the British Isles
- The number of distinct taxa recorded in England, Scotland, Wales, & Ireland were 3,124, 1,828, 1,685 and 1,654 respectively.
- The most recorded species in 2016 (so far) were *Urtica dioica*, *Taraxacum agg.* and *Ranunculus repens*. No surprises there then!

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

## **Vice-County Annual Reports**

One of the most avidly read and much enjoyed articles in the [Scottish Newsletter](#) in recent years has been the collation of Vice-county Annual Reports that Scottish Recorders send in just after New Year. It was also published on the [BSBI Scotland](#) webpage. It is a fascinating account of botanical endeavour by BSBI Recorders and members. VC Annual Reports also appeared in the Welsh Newsletter & the [Irish Botanical News](#) this year. So let's repeat and expand the exercise for 2016 Annual Reports to cover the whole of Britain, Ireland, the Channel Isles and Isle of Man!

Watch out early in the New Year for requests from your Country Officers for Vice-county Annual Reports. This is a great opportunity for you to report on progress with Atlas 2020, publications such as [Rare Plant Registers](#), checklists and Floras and tell us about any initiatives, such as local groups, leading field meetings, giving talks, working with other organisations. You should also include *brief* details of exciting new finds (but please keep to the strict 250 word limit).

## **New BSBI Species Accounts**

[Kevin Walker](#), BSBI Head of Science and [Pete Stroh](#), BSBI Scientific Officer, have just produced another 22 new in-depth Species Accounts of British vascular plants. This brings total number of Species Accounts up to 78 – all of which are available on the [Species Accounts](#) webpage as pdfs. Each account has paragraphs on identification, similar species, habitats, distribution, ecology, threats and management, as well as photographs and references. They are a great mid-winter read! They are also very useful to re-read before any attempted searches for the species.

## **BSBI Photo Competition**

All the images from the [2016 BSBI Photographic Competition](#) are available to view on the [BSBI's new Flickr photograph collection](#). There are two albums in the collection – one for each of the two competition categories – “Rare species” and “Common Species”. Click on the album you'd like to look at. You can see them in a timed slide show, big or small photograph tiles, depending on which of the three options you select at the top right. However if you click on the first image that appears with either tiled option, you can step through the images one at a time and see subtitles with the species, location (often vice county) and photographer's name. The images look particularly good on the Flickr app.

The collections include some great photographs of rare and less common species and I have asked photographers to ensure that County Recorders have full record details of the populations they photographed. But you may need to prompt.

## **BSBI VC webpages**

The latest vice-county webpage to go live is that for [Lanarkshire](#) prepared by new County Recorder, Michael Philip, with help from Louise Marsh. It is very easy to set your own page up, just [send Louise](#) some text and images (as jpegs) plus any documents (Word, pdf) you'd like to link to. [Look at](#) what others have done and copy the format that you like most!

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

## Snippets

The [BSBI Field Meetings Programme for 2017](#) is now available.

Presentations and Exhibits from November's [BSBI Annual Exhibition Meeting](#) are now available to download by clicking the link.

[A new vascular plant Red List for Ireland](#) has been published by National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) and is available to download free of charge. The book is dedicated to BSBI County Recorders in recognition of their contribution, and they are thanked in full in the foreword. [More...](#)

An impressive guide has been made freely available by the Natural History Museum, London, called '[A beginner's vegetative guide to orchids of the British Isles](#)', written by Mike Waller. It's very frustrating seeing orchid leaves and being unable to identify the species! This guide may be answer.

## BSBI News & Views

On BSBI News & Views in December: guest contributions about the [Freshwater Habitats Trust](#)'s work to conserve habitats for endangered plants; [A Focus on Nature](#), the "youth nature network"; the launch of [New Nature magazine](#), a new publication for, by and about young naturalists; you can read about how a [BSBI training grant](#) and VCR support helped one beginner botanist become a valued recorder in just one year; there's a [student review](#) of Kew Gardens' short taxonomy course; and John Faulkner's [Christmas message](#) pays tribute to the amazing work of BSBI's volunteer members – i.e. you!

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

## BSBI eNews

The current and recent back issues of BSBI *eNews* are available on the [Publications](#) page of the BSBI website. An email with a link to BSBI *eNews* is circulated to BSBI Recorders, Referees, staff and committee members. Please feel free to forward it to anyone (including non-members) who you think might be interested. I'd welcome short contributions from anyone on topics of interest and relevance to fellow readers. BSBI *eNews* is generally published on the 1st of each month so contributions should ideally reach me by the 21st of the preceding month. I'd also be pleased to have feedback on any of the articles appearing in BSBI *eNews*.

Happy New Year – and Happy New Year Plant Hunting!

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer