
A summary of Wales Vice-County Recorder reports, 2016

VC35 (Monmouthshire): Steph Tyler and Elsa Wood

Some 22,785 records were entered through our activities and some from data gathered by other botanists and via our local records centre. Records were entered from almost 200 monads. We now have fewer than six tetrads with no records. These will be targeted in 2017 by us and our Botany Group and more survey work carried out in a sample of these.

We have almost finished updating Trevor Evans' 2007 Rare Plant Register, removing some species and adding others.

We have led monthly walks for the Monmouthshire Botany Group in a variety of habitats and have continued our surveys at MOD Caerwent and on various grassland sites for Monmouthshire Meadows Group and Community Councils.

NCRs included *Anagallis minima* (Chaffweed) seen by Julian Woodman in gateways on private land above the Usk Valley near Llanlowell, the hybrid between *Linaria repens* (Pale Toadflax) and *L. vulgaris* (Yellow Toadflax), noted by Heather Colls in August at Rogiet Countryside Park and also at Cwmcarn, *Polygonum arenarium* (Lesser Red Knot-grass) found by SJT in a barley and adjacent maize field at Penallt and *Euphrasia tetraquetra* found by EW in a limestone quarry near Upper Ochryth, confirmed by Chris Metherell.

VC41 (Glamorgan - East): Julian Woodman

Much of my botanising has been with the Glamorgan Botany Group outside of work. A fuller write up of the year's excursions can be found here <http://bsbi.org/glamorgan>.

This though will pick up on my personal favourite and key finds this year within the Eastern half of the Vice County.

One of the key finds this year was another colony of *Poa bulbosa*, Bulbous Meadow-grass, in a coastal car park, spotted by one of the group as an unknown grass to them and quickly identified as *Poa bulbosa* by Tim Rich there and then. This find at Newton Burrows car park, Porthcawl adds to the recent discovery of a large colony in a similar situation at Port Eynon, Gower in 2014. These two colonies are though different to the struggling colony at Cold Knap which is the viviparous form.

Moving then to the final excursion of the year in September, I was unfortunately unable to attend this day. One of the exciting finds was a colony of Small Water-pepper, *Persicaria minor* on the edge of Merthyr Common. As David Barden says this mirrors the final excursion in 2015 which in some fields North of Cardiff a large colony of *Persicaria minor* was found then.

Outside of this within work time a couple of nice finds stick in my mind including Moonwort, *Botrychium lunaria*, in a hay field in the Vale of Glamorgan. Most unusual, not the nutrient poor short grassland I usually see it in. I was pleased to discover a large colony of Chaffweed, *Centunculus minima* in a few fields near Usk, VC. 35, which I was surprised to see is a new VC record. With my colleague Sue Westwood, we were able to confirm its presence in five locations at the site. Some quite luxuriant plants of the Chaffweed were seen on the edge of some areas that had been ploughed and sprayed some months earlier. Over to you Steph & Elsa.....

VC42 (Brecknockshire): Mike Porter and John Crellin

The Welsh AGM was held in Brecon in July and was blessed with excellent weather and a good attendance.

There were 3300 records generated in the county in 2016 including those made at the AGM meeting. The botany group met for recording 26 times and John was involved in several other more informal outings.

There were six field meetings at the BSBI Welsh AGM which generated 35 updated records of species last seen before 2000 and 11 new records for the hectad concerned. (Including *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* (Wilson's Filmy-fern) below the peak of Pan-y-Fan.)

Starting with a trip out in boats at the AGM we have made a good start in botanising what is probably the most species-diverse area of Brecknock, Llangorse Lake and its shores. The presence of *Nitellopsis obtusa* (Starry Stonewort) has been confirmed as have several older records for the more unusual *Potamogetons*.

Progress for the 2020 Atlas is slow but sure and a tighter focus on the remaining “not-spots” will be needed in the three years to come – we are going to target a rarely visited area of National Trust Commons this year as a BSBI field meeting and John will introduce forest walks as a regular feature of our botany group meetings from 2017.

A new edition of the Rare Plant register was produced in early 2016 and will be updated again for the launch of Welsh RPRs in March 2017.

A significant number of useful VC42 records on iRecord are now being approved by John – and will hence get onto the DDB. He is concentrating on the more significant species for this.

VC46 (Cardiganshire): Steve Chambers

This report covers a biennial (2015-16) as there was no time to produce one last year. All records from the interval have now been inputted on MapMate, the ‘totalizer’ for which now stands at c. 24400. Over the period relatively comprehensive surveys of 51 tetrads in 18 hectads have been completed, viz. (all SN/22) 14U,X; 25F,Q,V; 34L,R,X; 35C,G,R,S,U,W,Y; 44J,Y; 45A,D,Z; 46K,V; 55D,J,U; 56F,H,L,R,X,Z; 57L; 65D,E,F; 66L,N,X; 67Y; 68H,Y; 75I,P,IJ; 76Y, 78G,M; 86C,H, I & J. These include a number of remote upland squares in the *Molinietum*-zone down the E-edge of the VC in SN86. Already since 2012 most hectads have had >4 tetrads surveyed, and a proportion more, so if similar survey effort can be sustained for the next three years then the general flora should eventually be adequately covered at hectad scale for Atlas 2020. Currently 6 hectads have >400 species recorded and 17 hectads > 300. Using MapMate coloured ‘smarties’ to identify under-recorded squares the focus for 2017 will be SN15, 25, 57, 78, 79 & tetrads in the ‘heel’ of Cards. If anyone is gadding about in these areas over the summer then site or tetrad record cards would be gratefully received! It is hoped that members of the Aberystwyth Botanical Society can be encouraged to pull on their recording shoes (or wellingtons) and head for the hills.

On the native front an exciting find in 2015 was the reappearance, after an absence of 30 years, of *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Narrow-leaved Helleborine). A single spike surfaced at Ynys-hir not far from the historic site at Furnace. For VC-scarce species new sites have also been found (one a piece) for *Trollius europaeus* (Globeflower) and *Vicia orobus* (Wood Bitter-vetch), and also for *Carex dioica* (Dioecious Sedge), *Hieracium rectulum* (Dyfed Hawkweed), *H.scabrisetum* (Scabrous Hawkweed), *Hypericum undulatum* (Wavy St John’s-

wort), & *Ranunculus parviflorus* (Small-flowered Buttercup). VCR *Taraxacum* species include *T.edmondsonianum* (Edmondson's Dandelion) & *T.sublaeticolor* (Small-headed Dandelion). The 2nd VCR of *Crambe maritima* (Sea-kale) was found at Borth. In 2016, record updates were made for the very local mire sedges *Carex lasiocarpa* (Slender Sedge), *C.limosa* (Bog-sedge) and *C.magellanica* (Tall Bog-sedge) at remote upland sites where they had not been recorded in some cases since the late 1980s. Two new undescribed probable hybrids in the genera *Hypericum* and *Ranunculus* are currently under investigation. Established or casual NCR non-native exotica found since 2016 include *Coreopsis tinctoria* (Garden Tickseed), *Crocus biflorus* (Silvery Crocus), *Kerria japonica* (Kerria), *Lonicera pileata* (Box-leaved Honeysuckle), *Phuopsis stylosa* (Caucasian Crosswort), *Sisyrinchium striatum* (Pale Yellow-eyed-grass) & *Verbena tenuisecta s.lat.*, while NRW management intervention at Ynys-las NNR has eradicated, probably for the best, *Phormium cookianum* (Lesser New Zealand Flax). An alien strongly on the front-foot currently is the rampant *Geum macrophyllum* (Large-leaved Avens) which has been found in numerous new tetrads in four new hectads since c. 2014, including places far away from its original heartland around the Bronnant area. It is becoming something of a character plant of path edges at amenity sites popular with dog walkers, to where its burry fruits are almost certainly being transported by furry friends and their owners.

VC47 (Montgomeryshire): Kate Thorne and Gill Foulkes

Almost 11,000 records were received in 2016. Six Flora Group outings contributed around 1,200 records with additional records from individual recorders, Montgomeryshire Field Society trips and two BSBI field meetings (west Montgomeryshire led by Dr Andy Jones, and Llanymynech during the Annual Recorders Conference). The Flora Group also had an indoor meeting looking at Roses.

New finds (NCRs) included: *Erophila majuscula* (Hairy Whitlowgrass), *Rubus griffithianus*, *Rubus amplificatus*, and several *Euphrasia* species - *E. arctica x confusa* ; *E.nemorosa x scottica*; *E.nemorosa x confusa* and *E. scottica* (all determined by the BSBI referee).

Several species were re-found where there had been no recent records: *Rubus cardiophyllus*, *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (Southern Marsh-orchid) on a new site, possibly now the only county site, *Euphrasia anglica* (found at only its second site since 1991), *Euphrasia confusa* (found at its first site since 1991) and *Mentha x gracilis* (Bushy mint).

New sites for other species in the Rare Plant Register included:

Limosella aquatica (Mudwort) and *Persicaria minor* (Small water-pepper) at a new site along the Severn.

Rosa micrantha (Small-flowered Sweet-briar) at two new sites.

Melica nutans (Mountain Melick) at two new sites (SJ00, SH90) taking this from county rare to county scarce status.

Erysimum cheiranthoides (Treacle-mustard), *Filago minima* (Small Cudweed), and *Rhamnus cathartica* (Buckthorn) each at a second site.

Geum x intermedium at a new site.

Spirodela polyrhiza (Greater Duckweed), in an old oxbow, first record not from the canal.

The plan is to continue to target individuals and flora group outings towards recording in areas with few or no records since 2000 whilst also trying to update plants in the RPR. The RPR was published in 2009 and has been updated regularly electronically since then but with extensive revision of sections and lists in January 2017.

VC49 (Caernarvonshire): Wendy McCarthy

(This report has been sent to Welsh Bulletin for publication)

Recording is currently aimed at trying to update records for Atlas 2020 and Polly helpfully produced useful lists for each hectad of species recorded in the last date class which need re-finding. In early March I set off, with Mari Roberts and Lesley Ball, to search for *Stellaria pallida* (Lesser Chickweed) in SH24. Ann Conolly had recorded it in all 6 monads so it is curious that I had never found it as I have visited the delightful Porth Dinllaen area many times. Eventually Mari spotted a tiny patch of plants at the sandy edge of the golf course, proving to be the only sighting that day too. We were pleased also to update *Artemisia verlotiorum* (Chinese Mugwort) as it apparently hadn't been seen here since Ann first found it in 1978, on a bank by the car park. We spent some time looking at Whitlow grasses (*Erophila* sp.) but could find only *E. verna* s/s. A few weeks later I visited a sandy hill known as the Vardre in Deganwy SH77 and found a patch of plants along a grass bank which fitted perfectly the description of *E. glabrescens*, looking quite different to *E. verna* s/s which was plentiful nearby. Also here was *Vicia lathyroides*, (Spring Vetch) with much *Aphanes arvensis* (Parsley Piert) and *Torilis nodosa* (Knotted Bur-parsley)..

Our first recording meeting of the year found us at Porth Ysgaden SH23 on the Llyn peninsula. The best find here was a small colony of *Inula crithmoides* (Golden Samphire) on rocks above the sea. Debbie Evans found a new site for *Crassula tillaea* (Mossy Stonecrop) in gravel at the edge of a small lay-by. A week earlier Martyn Stead, Mari and I had found a new site at Borth y Gest SH53, making these the 4th and 5th records of this tiny plant which is an alien in vc 49.

In May Martyn and I went to Pwllheli SH33 and managed to update records for several species. An unexpected find was a small patch of *Convallaria majalis* (Lily of the Valley) in dunes above the beach, undoubtedly a garden throw-out but very attractive none the less. Later that month we were pleased to find 100's of fronds of *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's Tongue) in three separate colonies on a grassy slope above the sea at Porth Llanllawen SH22. I had previously made several searches in Ann's location at Porth Oer in this hectad without success. Another pleasing update was a small patch of *Carex acuta* (Slender Tufted-sedge) almost lost in a sea of *Carex acutiformis* (Lesser Pond-sedge) at Bont Newydd SH22, only the second currently known record for this species.

One of the aims of our recording meeting in May was to check up on *Sanguisorba officinalis* (Great Burnet) in SH85, where it grows on a damp shaded lane bank near Padog. We were pleased to see it thriving, with at least 60 plants counted, as this is one of only two sites in the county. An unexpected bonus on this meeting was a single *Botrychium lunaria* (Moonwort) just pushing through on a bank in the neighbouring square SH84, a new hectad record. All of the party were pleased with good views of a Cuckoo calling on a fence post.

Sedum forsterianum (Rock Stonecrop) and *Vicia sylvatica* (Wood Vetch) were two species which needed updating in SH75 and in June we scrambled up a couple of steep gulleys above Llyn Crafnant, finding the first in one gully, along with *Geum x intermedium* (*Geum rivale* x *urbanum*) new to the hectad and *Adoxa moschatellina* (Moschatel) the latter also a good update, and the vetch flowering nicely on a high ledge in the second gully. Further up the hillside, on a single basic rock in otherwise acidic ground, there was a fine display of *Hieracium carneddorum* (Carnedd Hawkweed) which proved to be another update on checking at home later.

We are fortunate in Wales to have had some excellent training workshops with experts and these of course help us to produce new records with our new-found skills! *Fumaria purpurea* (Purple Ramping-fumitory) is now recorded in 11 monads, 4 of these found in 2016. *Rubus* records are slowly accumulating, although it should be said that, in my case at least, these are mostly of easily recognisable ones such as *R. lentiginosus*, *R. nemoralis* and *R. incurvatus*. The alien *R. procerus* is turning up all over the place and could prove to be an invasive problem in the future. Two garden brambles were found this year, *R. loganobaccus* (Loganberry) and *R. laciniatus*, in different sites near Caernarfon SH46. Also at Caernarfon a pond below a derelict farm had *Crassula helmsii* (New Zealand Pygmyweed) and a nearby pool by a stream was full of *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (Floating Pennywort) an undesirable third county record. The *Dryopteris* training meeting with Fred Rumsey

was a great help in learning the differences in the *D. affinis* group. Martyn, Mari and I were fortunate to follow this up a week later with a day out at Nant Gwrtheyrn with BPS local organiser David Hill. He showed us *D. affinis*, *D. cambrensis* and *D. borreri*, all good updates for SH34, and it was good to see these three again, helping to consolidate what we had learned from Fred. Another good *Dryopteris* find was that of *D. aemula* (Hay-scented Buckler) 9 plants amongst boulders on the shore of Llyn Cwm Silyn, which proved to be new for SH55.

In June I went to some species-rich grassland near Bangor and was delighted to discover 7 flowering spikes of *Epipactis palustris* (Marsh Helleborine) new to SH57 and bringing the total of orchid species at this site to 8. *Juncus subnodulosus* (Blunt-flowered Rush) and *Galium uliginosum* (Fen Bedstraw) were also present.

An excellent record of *Neottia cordata* (Lesser Twayblade) was sent from Ian & Linda Fraser, 88 plants in total, some flowering, from the slopes of Tryfan and, rather surprisingly, a new record for SH65. In August I received a message from Lesley to say that she had found 'a huge blue spike' which on checking turned out to be a magnificent specimen of *Echium pininana* (Giant Viper's-bugloss) undoubtedly self-sown in the middle of brambles on a piece of waste ground near Ysbyty Gwynedd, needless to say a new record for SH57. Julian Driver sent a good list of mostly upland species with several updates, the best of these being *Asplenium obovatum* (Lanceolate Spleenwort) near Yr Eifl SH34, last seen there in 1988.

Our September meeting to explore the village of Llithfaen SH34 was hi-jacked by Iwan Edgar, with promises up a nearby hill of *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* (Wilson's Filmy Fern), *Phegopteris connectilis* (Beech Fern) and *Melampyrum pratense* (Common Cow-wheat), how could we resist? We were pleased to find the first two, along with *Cryptogramma crispa* (Parsley Fern) but dismayed to find that a cairn had been erected at the summit eradicating the third.

My thanks go to everyone who have attended meetings, accompanied me in the field and sent me records.

VC50 (Denbighshire): Delyth Williams

(This newsletter was sent to the BSBI Denbighshire group)

The year started off on 6th March in the Ruthin Rugby Club for an update of progress and plans for the season, followed by a much-needed look at plants in the Llanfwrog tetrad. Even though it was bitterly cold we set off, but when the sleet and snow took over while we were in the church yard we decided to call it a (very short) day.

Thereafter there were about 15 advertised Denbs Group meetings over the season, plus a few short-term weather dependent arrangements. Add that to several independent recorders who have contributed considerably from their respective tetrads and the total comes to over 20,000 records from VC50 Denbs for 2016.

The main thrust of this year's selection was to visit previously recorded tetrads at a different time of year to ensure best possible coverage. On the whole the weather was kind to us with the notable exception of a day of monsoon scale in June in Pentrellyncymer SH9752. We persevered though and were well-rewarded with new sites for *Sedum forsterianum* Rock stonecrop, *Melica nutans* Mountain Melick, *Vicia orobus* Wood Bitter-vetch, *Carex pallescens* Pale sedge and some lovely specimens of *Araucaria araucana* Monkey-puzzle trees scattered through the village.

On 1st May a visit to the far west of the vice-county to Llanrwst SH7962/3 added 219 new taxa, most noteworthy some lovely estate planted trees such as *Sequoiadendron giganteum* Wellingtonia, *Cedrus libanii* Cedar of Lebanon, *Abies grandis* Giant Fir and *Carpinus betulus* Hornbeam. The origin and history of the trees in this area would merit further study. *Asplenium ceterach* Rustyback fern, although not rare, is always pleasing to find and it is common in these parts in the mortar of walls.

We went south in early June to Moelfre SJ1828, adding 199 new taxa. It was a lovely day in these gentle unspoilt hills yielding *Saxifraga tridactylites* Rue-leaved Saxifrage new to the hectad and

Jasione montana Sheep's-bit, Luzula pilosa Hairy Wood-rush and Myosotis discolor Changing Forget-me-not which are not uncommon, just pleasing to see.

A few hardy souls yomped for many hours in July over the Migneint looking for Carex magellanica Tall bog-sedge, which we re-found and Carex limosa Bog-sedge, which we didn't.

August took us to Nant-y-Rhiw SH8258 where we confirmed two locations for Carex laevigata Smooth-stalked Sedge, which is by no means common and where Aphanes arvensis Parsley-piert, Lepidium didymum Lesser Swine-cress and Odontites vernus Red Bartsia were new to SH85. There was a surprising find of Thalictrum minus Lesser Meadow-rue doing well in the mortar all over the walls of the old chapel.

Stunning views of familiar places from a different angle made a September meeting to Ty Nant, Dinmael SH9944 enjoyable. We topped up more records for the tetrad, finding Vicia tetrasperma and Chenopodium rubrum Red-footed Goosefoot, both new to the hectad.

John Palmer organised a successful Bramble recording week-end in July with experts Rob Randall and David and Joyce Earl based in Llysfasi College. A full report will be in the BSBI Yearbook.

The season ended on 30th October along the limestone of Offa's Dyke Path at Llandegla SJ1952/3, adding 145 new taxa and showing promise of a place to re-visit next Spring.

Very many thanks to all those of you who came along and let's look forward to another good year in 2017. If you weren't able to make it this year, there's always next!

VC52 (Anglesey): Ian Bonner

(This Annual Review was produced for the Welsh Bulletin)

This has been a year of transition in the way the flora is recorded. Hugh Knott has completed his first full year as Joint Recorder and Ian Bonner his first full year as an absentee recorder and resident of Cinderford in Gloucestershire.

The map shows the current status of post-2000 recording on Anglesey, though not all the data has been processed to the DDb at the time of writing. Early in the year a considerable number of new records from Debbie Evans from 2014/15 were added to the DDb, mainly from under-recorded monads inland in the north and west of the island. In 2016 a minimum of 91 monads were visited by Debbie and Hugh, with help from a small number of others, again with the emphasis on those without previous records (or with few or none since 2000), and again mostly in the west and north. As a result some large, previously 'blank' areas of the map are being filled in. There do remain some significant gaps in our coverage, but the previous contrast between a heavily recorded coastal region and under-recorded central area has now been significantly reduced. The objective for 2017 will be to continue to fill in these gaps where possible (some monads have no public access) and to visit other monads with relatively few records. There will also be increasing emphasis on under-recorded areas of semi-natural habitat wherever these can be identified.

Twelve members of the Flora Group met on Newborough Warren on a very sunny 5th June to look particularly at water buttercups in some of the dune pools and confidently recorded Ranunculus aquatilis (Common Water-crowfoot) from two pools in SH42.62 and Ranunculus trichophyllus (Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot) from pools in SH43.63 & 43.64. Also along the way the Group made a good number of additions of common species to several monads in the NNR.

Otherwise, apart from a very useful recording day in the centre of Amwlch, SH44.92, the Flora Group has not been active this year.

Continuing his interest in the coast Ivor Rees has turned his attention to Scurveygrass (Cochlearia spp.) around Anglesey. Since 2000 there have been over 250 records of Cochlearia officinalis sens. lat. (Common Scurvygrass) from roadside banks (a feature of NW Anglesey), rocky shores and salt-marshes, but with little attempt to be more precise. Further progress seems to depend on choice of classification. Following Stace (2010) most plants fit C. officinalis L. sensu stricto, which according to Rich (1991) embraces the C. officinalis subsp. officinalis of Clapham et al

(1987) However following Rich (1991) it is possible to fit some salt-marsh specimens to *Cochlearia atlantica* Pobed.

Confusion though follows as Stace (2010) lists *C. atlantica* Pobed as a synonym of *C. officinalis* subsp. *officinalis*!

Before 2000 *Cochlearia anglica* L. (English Scurvygrass) was recorded from several muddy salt-marshes around the coast, but recent gatherings have failed to fully match the specimens to the description. Ivor Rees has collected a range of specimens in 2015 and 2016. Dr. Wyse Jackson (BSBI Referee for *Cochlearia*), determined the plants as *C. anglica* x *C. officinalis* = *C. x hollandica*. This hybrid has been quite widely recorded around the coast of Ireland, but these appear to be the first records for Anglesey and indeed for Wales.

The six records are scattered round the west, south and east coasts: from Porth Cwyfan and the Ffraw estuary at Aberffraw in SH33.68 & 35.68 respectively; the upper part of the Braint estuary, near Dwyran, SH44.65; the shore of the Menai Strait, below Coed Mor, SH54.71; two localities in Red Wharf Bay in SH54.79 & 52.80.

More detailed notes by Ivor Rees about *Cochlearia* on Anglesey appear elsewhere in this Issue (page...).

Cream coloured flowers of *Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian) have been noted in a small area of dune grassland at Tywyn Trewan, SH31.74 since 2010 and were the subject of a note in Welsh Bulletin 91. January 2013, page 20.

The number of cream coloured flowers varied from year to year and they are mixed in with pale and the typical dark coloured flowers (photo..).

Counts have been made over the last six years with about 30-40 most years, peaking at 200 in 2012 and with none seen in 2013.

The site has changed somewhat over the period from having mainly a very short dune slack sward to being dominated by ranker grasses, except on the trampled paths. Numbers have been fewer in recent years but they have spread out more. Only about 15 of the cream coloured flowers were seen in 2016.

These plants showed a strong resemblance to the northern subspecies *septentrionalis*, which occurs in the Northern Isles, the Outer Hebrides, other N & W coasts of Scotland and on the Northumberland coast around Lindisfarne. Inland they are found in part of the Scottish Highlands and on the limestone of the Pennines. In view of the distance from any the other populations and the variability of gentians there was reluctance to consider that those in Anglesey could really be the northern subspecies.

In July 2011 Tim Rich visited the site and collected specimens for Herb. NMW. This August Tim, (BSBI Referee for *Gentianaceae*) has been looking at cream coloured gentians in Scotland and is now happy to confirm the Anglesey plants as *G. amarella* subsp. *septentrionalis* (Druce) N.M. Pritch (Photo, on p.). Again these are first records for Anglesey and Wales.

It is interesting to speculate on the origin of this outlying population – long present native? Of recent origin? Or an introduction. The location is on and beside the Anglesey Coast Path and very close to the RAF Valley Airfield which, until recently, was home to a Search & Rescue Unit with helicopters operating to potentially many remote locations.

The ease of accidental introduction was shown when a couple of cream coloured plants spontaneously appeared on thin limestone soil in a garden where specimen collecting bags had been shaken out – though no plants appeared the following year.

Last year we reported on the *Atriplex* Workshop (Welsh Bulletin 97) and the discovery of the rather elusive *Atriplex longipes* (Long-stalked Orache) in tall salt-marsh vegetation, just below the sea wall, at Wern, Red Wharf Bay, SH55.80. It is usually just one of the parents in the widespread hybrids *A. x gustafssoniana* and *A. x taschereaui*. However further searches in 2016 by Ivor Rees have lead to the discovery of *Atriplex longipes* elsewhere in tall salt-marsh vegetation in Red Wharf Bay, closer to Llanddona, SH56.80 and further north in Traeth Dulas, SH48.88. Also in SH48 a new hectad record for the hybrid *A. x taschereau* (*A. glabriuscula* x *A. longipes*) at Porth y Mor, SH49.88.

Look out for a separate note Ivor Rees is preparing for BSBI News about some of the difficulties in identifying *Atriplex* using bracteole characters.

Another coastal genus causing identification difficulties is *Salicornia* (Glassworts). They are widespread in the many suitable shore habitats around Anglesey, but too few of the records are at species level. This is partly due to phenotypic plasticity, but also the continuing disputes between taxonomic experts over classification schemes. A new hectad record though for *Salicornia ramossissima* (Purple Glasswort) from Traeth Dulas, SH48.88. is illustrated on page ...) and shows the broad scarious margins to the bulging segments and the differences in the size of the lateral and central flowers.

Other interesting records of native species are a rather few and far between this year – top of the list goes to *Carex punctata* (Dotted Sedge) from the cliff at the western edge of The Range, SH20.80. A very useful addition to the species list for the RSPB Reserve. This is only the fourth Anglesey record, three on coastal rocks and one, unusually, on a sandy bank under Corsican Pines in Newborough Forest. Arthur Chater again providing confirmation from a photograph of a fruiting spike.

Hugh Knott collected *Symphytum officinale* (Common Comfrey) from just east of Llanfechell, SH38.91, which Bob Leaney confirmed as subspecies *officinale* var. *purpureum* (Photograph on page). This a distinctly uncommon species on Anglesey with only four post 2000 records and almost certainly not truly native on the island.

Chenopodium rubrum (Red Goosefoot) continues to spread with new records from three additional hectads, SH28, 37 & 38. It was growing in the entrance to a potato field in SH29.80; a road verge in SH39.75; a field in SH33.80 and a road verge in SH34.82. A change from the more usual shore and manure heap habitats. There are now 14 post2000 monad records, whereas only a single locality was given in Roberts 1982.

The Dotted Sedge record highlights another recording issue. There is only a tiny piece of shore in SH20.80 and originally the few records were incorporated SH21.80 to the east. A similar situation exists along the breakwater around Holyhead harbour which extends across three monads containing no other land; and should a botanist visit the refuge tower on Ynys Dulas, off the east coast near Moelfre, any records will be in a new hectad, SH59!

RSPB continue to record the performance of *Tuberaria guttata* (Spotted Rockrose) and *Tephrosia integrifolia* subsp. *maritima* (South Stack Fleawort) at South Stack and nearby Penrhosfeilw Common nature reserve.

Spotted Rockrose is confined to a single monad at South Stack, where the average numbers of plants from 2000-2016 has been 2432, with 1810 counted in 2016.

The average number of flowers of South Stack Fleawort spread over 4 monads at the two sites from 2000-2016 has been 4408 per year, with only 2746 in 2016. This year's count was low by comparison, but within the observed variation.

Kathryn Birch has provided data on numbers of *Ophrys insectifera* (Fly Orchid) spikes counted on the fens at Cors Bodeilio and Cors Erddreiniog for each year from 2009/10 to 2016. At Cors Bodeilio, 143 flower spikes were counted, compared with 81 in 2009, showing an upward trend, at least over this period.

At Cors Erddreiniog the figure was 92 flower spikes, compared with 33 in 2010, however this is reflective of steep yearly variation over this period with no trend evident at this site.

Thanks to RSPB and NRW for making this information available to the BSBI.

There were a number of new neophyte records, including the first three localised records for *Conyza canadensis* (Canadian Fleabane) from the town centres of Holyhead, SH24.82 and Llangefni, SH45.75 and the Penrhos Retail Park, Holyhead, SH25.81. Looking at the national distribution and the number of records spreading west along the North Wales coastal belt it is quite a surprise that there have not been more Anglesey localities.

Another surprising first record is of *Lobelia erinus* (Garden Lobelia) from a roadside edge in Llanfechell SH36.91. It is such a widespread garden annual and has been well recorded from many other Welsh counties.

There was also the first localised record for *Allium roseum* (Rosy Garlic) naturalised along a woodland edge, by the coastal path at Red Wharf Bay, SH530.814.

A more unusual first record is of *Iris xiphium* (Spanish Iris) found by Richard Birch growing along the high-water mark on the east side of the Inland Sea, SH29.76.

A number of second records include *Lepidium draba* (Hoary Cress) from the top of the beach on Breakwater Road, Holyhead, SH24.83; *Rosa virginiana* (Virginian Rose) from a hedge, at Bwchanan, SH36.90 and *Oxalis exilis* (Least Yellow-sorrel) which was very abundant in the tightly strimmed churchyard at Rhosbeirio, SH391.917.

The BSBI Database now includes some impressive analysis of recording progress towards Atlas 2020 county by county. For Anglesey it shows that over 140,000 records have been added since 2000, with over 10,000 added so far this year..

For the 16 hectads the average % of taxa re-recorded since 2000 is 79% (range 72 – 84) and the average number of additional taxa found in each each hectad is 115 (range 38 – 173).

References

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