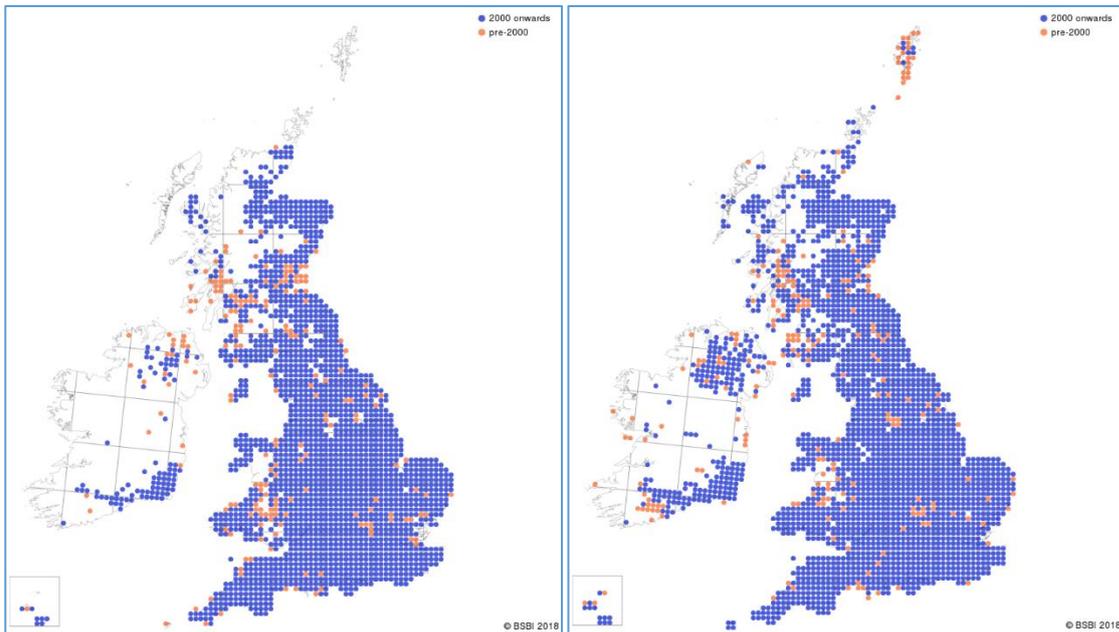


BSBI eNews – March 2018

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

### Snowdrops & Daffodils

Can there be any squares in lowland Britain and Ireland where someone has not planted daffodils or snowdrops in the wild? The map on the left shows the distribution of *Galanthus* and that on the right *Narcissus*. Blue dots represent hectads with post 2000 records, Orange dots hectads with pre-2000 only records. For a closer look, click [Snowdrops](#) or [Daffodils](#).



See Mick Crawley’s useful guides to [Snowdrops](#) and to [Daffodils](#). (Though I only record “*Narcissus* sp.”)

### Atlas 2020 Validation

If you can’t see any daffodils or snowdrops because of the snow, or it’s just too horrible to go out, then you have the perfect opportunity to get ahead with Atlas Validation work indoors! As I said last month there is some helpful guidance [here](#) and more general guidance [here](#). Remember if you need advice [Andy Amphlett](#) would be pleased to help. Meantime here are three interesting pieces by Andy on validation...

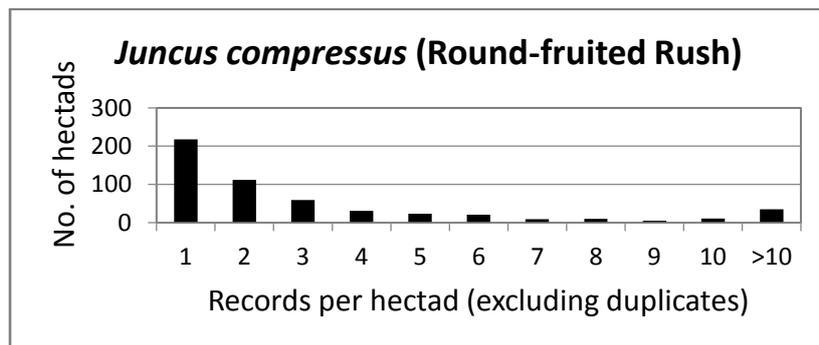
#### Atlas 2020 Validation: Grid references of old records

The Ordnance Survey grid did not appear on maps of Great Britain until post 1945. In Ireland, the Irish Grid did not appear on maps until the 1970s. The DDb has more than 875,000 pre-1946 records, of which 99% have grid references; 63% at tetrad or better and 56% at monad or better precision.

While many of these grid references will be perfectly accurate, it is important to remember that the given grid reference was not part of the original record but was added later, most probably by someone other than the original recorder and possibly without local knowledge. This has a number of important implications for validation of such historic records – mainly that they should be examined very carefully. The implications for validating historic records are discussed here on the [DDb Message Board](#).

### Atlas 2020 Validation: *Juncus compressus* (Round-fruited Rush)

Entering records from old (1970s) record cards for vc96, I have come across several instances where *Juncus compressus* (Round-fruited Rush) had been clearly crossed off, whereas *J. conglomeratus* (Compact Rush) was not. *J. compressus* is not recorded from vc96, and the records are clearly wrong.



*J. compressus* is recorded from 534 hectads and (excluding duplicates) in 218 hectads (41%) there are only single records. Might some of these hectad singletons be errors? When validating records for Atlas 2020, it would be worth investigating hectad singleton records for *J. compressus*, especially away from its centre of distribution, in England.

### Atlas 2020 Validation: *Trichophorum cespitosum* (Northern Deergrass)

Following Jeremy Roberts' piece in the December 2017 *eNews*, I have checked all records of the scarce species *Trichophorum cespitosum* s.s. on the DDb. After consultation with Recorders it transpired that c.20% of the records were errors. The main sources of errors were DDb imports from Recorders who use Recorder or other non-MapMate databases, followed by records from MapMate where the records had been imported from a spreadsheet. A few records had been entered directly into MapMate, where the original recorder had been using the name *T. cespitosum* in its old (aggregate) sense.

Since 2000, *Trichophorum cespitosum* s.s. has been recorded from 54 hectads: 25 in Scotland, 16 in England, 11 in Ireland and 2 in N. Ireland. The species is not recorded from Wales, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands. I will check for any newly arriving records of this species on the DDb, and if necessary consult with Recorders. The first 3 new records that arrived on the DDb since I completed my checks all proved to be errors, so do not be surprised if I get in contact to query records.

The best source of information on the identification of this species is [Jeremy's website](#). Please send vouchers for new VC or hectad records to Jeremy. In addition, please add value to your records of this species by including details of how the identification was confirmed (e.g. fruiting plants, upper-leaf-sheath aperture size / shape / angle, or stem section checked under a microscope), along with details of the habitat and associated species.

[Andy Amphlett](#)

## Recorders' Conference

A team of volunteers is working to organise the next Recorders' Conference which unfortunately had to be postponed a little. We now have a booking of 12th-14th October and the location is FSC Preston Montford, Shrewsbury. The team has an outline programme and we are approaching potential speakers. A flyer will appear in the April issue of *BSBI News* but for now please keep an eye on [this page](#) for updates.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

## Scottish Conference

*Everyone* is welcome to attend the 2018 Scottish Recording Conferences. Two one-day events will be held, with the same programme (to minimize travel). The first one is at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> April and the second is two weeks later on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at Strathpeffer, near Inverness. Highlights will include mini-workshops on Identifying Bladderworts and on separating *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *T. germanicum* and the hybrid. Booking will go live next week – follow the links from the [Scottish Conferences](#) page. Meantime stick the dates in your diary.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

## Irish Conference

Bookings are now open for the Irish BSBI Conference 2018, which will be held on Saturday 24th March, at the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin. There's a definite *Viola* theme to this year's conference but the programme also includes workshops, presentations and flash talks on subjects as diverse as local BSBI groups, Killarney Fern gametophytes, botanical artists, lycopods and Ireland's first female botanist! Click [here](#) to download the flyer, view the full programme and make a booking. And scroll down to find out about the special offer available to all delegates - a chance to buy the BSBI Viola Handbook at a special discounted price!

[Maria Long](#), BSBI Irish Officer

## Field Meetings

Having been in the Antarctic for the last few months, one thing that everyone there misses is the colour green. Halley Research Station is on a floating ice-shelf where the temperature rarely rises above freezing and the snow never melts. Consequently, nothing grows anywhere near the station.

One of the many publications that was waiting for me on my return was the new look BSBI News. I've had a quick glance through and it really is quite a change in presentation. Thanks to all involved. I've not received any meeting reports to precis for the April issue, though I gather the Winter Twig meetings were a great success. I'm looking forward to [the book](#).

Several vice-counties have sent me their meeting schedules for the year and these are now included in the [Meetings diary](#). If yours aren't there do let me have the details so that I can add them. The diary can help you schedule meetings and it is worth checking to see if any neighbouring county has already got a meeting, or whether there is a national meeting taking place.

If you are holding (or attending) a field meeting, have a look at the information provided on the [Meetings](#) page that gives helpful hints and tips. If you are not holding a field meeting yourself then please do support the field meeting programme. Several Atlas 2020 meetings are rather under-subscribed so far.

[Jonathan Shanklin](#), Honorary Field Meetings Secretary

## Annual Summer Meeting

The flyer for the [Isle of Man Annual Summer Meeting](#) (ASM) is still in draft but will be circulated with the *BSBI News* for April and should be on the webpage fairly soon. Looking forward, the ASM in 2019 is likely to be in southern England. Exactly where is still to be decided, so suggestions are welcome.

[Jonathan Shanklin](#), Honorary Field Meetings Secretary

## Rubus update

A significant proportion of the late Alan Newton's *Rubus* specimens have now been incorporated into the main British *Rubus* collection at Manchester Museum by David and Joyce Earl. This includes almost all of Alan's main and subsidiary collections. Work has now begun on several batches of specimens collected from Devon and Cornwall with much assistance from several volunteers at the herbarium who are mounting material currently held in newspaper. There are additional sets of British *Rubus* specimens from Wales and Scotland and also from Rob Randall to process in due course. It has been an absolute delight to find a good number of type specimens and samples of *Rubus* species that are completely new to Manchester Museum gathered by Alan Newton and other bramble enthusiasts.

I'll keep you updated on progress with the study ploidy levels of British brambles, the multi-access *Rubus* key and interesting finds in forthcoming newsletters.

[David Earl](#), *Rubus* Referee

## Update - Garden plants: a threat to the natural environment due to climate change?

My PhD needs you! All VCRs are invited to complete a [survey](#) as part of my PhD project. Further information can be found [here](#). The data from the survey will be invaluable as a foundation for my research and I am very grateful to those VCRs who have already completed it - the results are very interesting.

As of 21<sup>st</sup> February, I have only received nine completed surveys. That is three from Wales, three from Scotland, two from England, and one from Ireland. As a Welshman, I am very glad that Wales is ahead (proportionally). However, I hope to have as many VCs as possible represented so that I can compare the results for different parts of Britain and Ireland. Let us aim for the complete 152 VCs!

The [survey](#) can be completed in 15-30 minutes and accessed until **31<sup>st</sup> March**. If you would prefer to complete a hard-copy version, please email me with your address. If recording duties are shared for your VC, both VCRs are welcome to complete the survey. I look forward to sharing the results with you and presenting them at the next BSBI [Exhibition Meeting](#). If you have any questions, please email.

[Tomos Siôn Jones](#)

Twitter: @TomosJones92

## Snippets:

**BSBI Viola Handbook:** To tie in with the two Viola-themed [field meetings](#) in Ireland and Wales, and the Viola-themed [Irish BSBI Conference](#) (details above), Summerfield Books will be offering a further discount of 15% on the price of the [BSBI Viola Handbook](#) throughout April and May, and conference delegates will be able to take advantage of this special offer from 24th March. Further details [here](#).

**Book on Francis Rose:** A new book about botanist/lichenologist Francis Rose is in preparation: "Francis Rose was an important and influential field ecologist. His knowledge and generosity were outstanding. His enthusiastic mentoring guided botanists, bryologists, lichenologists as well as ecologists. Simon Davey is planning to write a book collecting warm anecdotes about him helped by

Francis's daughter Anna and many friends. Any stories will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Please contact [srdavey@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:srdavey@globalnet.co.uk)"

**Recording Cards:** Colleagues at CEH have been very helpful in recent years printing out recording cards for Recorders. They are happy to continue doing this but the email address has changed – please contact [brc@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:brc@ceh.ac.uk) rather than emailing any named contacts.

**New Webpage:** The new webpage for [Co. Antrim](#) is now up and running.

**Message Board:** BSBI Recorders and Referees now have their very own message board on the DDb webpage. Login into the DDb, click "message board" and select "Vice county recorder and taxon referee" at the bottom of the list. Note that you **must** be registered to use the DDb **and** be logged in. The first post asks whether the BSBI should be more involved with conservation. Take a look and respond!

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

### On the News & Views blog in February

A quiz allowing you to [win a copy of \*The Book of Seeds\*](#); a post flagging [what's new on the BSBI Ireland webpage](#); a [VCR's report](#) on her New Year Plant Hunt and her three botanical wishes for 2018; a note about [two new papers](#) co-authored by Kevin Walker; a report from a [recipient of a BSBI Science & Research grant](#): how BSBI grants can help change lives! We also featured a report on [how BSBI staff and officers are promoting BSBI at outreach events](#) across Britain and Ireland; several 'botanical snippets' for February; a report on BSBI's Training & Education committee and [how Byron's Gin supports the committee's work](#); and a fun note on how [botany can keep you young!](#)

[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 let me know if you wish to unsubscribe or amend your email. 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 (unless it happens to be a bank holiday!) 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*.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer