

Plants in Vice-county 104: A Review of January-June 2022

About 90 new hectad records were made in VC104 in the first half of 2022. So far, over 4,500 2022 records have been transferred to the DDb. There are a few more to come in.

Skye Botany Group's project with the Darwin Tree of Life project has resulted in some new sites for *Polypodium interjectum* and a single find of *P. x mantoniae* (*P. interjectum* x *vulgare*) by a member who strayed across the sea into VC105. The second phase concerning *Ophioglossum* (Adder's-tongues) is underway and will include the taking of a specimen for whole genome analysis. An expedition to Dun Scaich in Sleat allowed folks to refresh their memories of *O. azoricum* (Small Adder's-tongue).

SBG members were further involved in BSBI's SHARP Project and had notable success with *Ribes spicatum* (Downy Currant), where all historical records have been re-found and one population is now additionally known in an adjacent tetrad. We also made a trip to Ardnish, Broadford to search for *Platanthera x hybrida* (*P. chlorantha* x *bifolia*). This is a site suggested by Terry Swainbank in his BSBI paper on the hybrid, because both parents are present close together. We did not find it there, but a visit to the croft where Terry lived when on Skye resulted in a single spike with the pollinia diverging at 20-22°, halfway between the angles seen in the parents. This was 30 m from where Terry recorded it in 2015.

Members of SBG are surveying Broadford for the Urban Flora of Scotland project. This has already resulted in a number of additions to the VC104 plant list. In total for the vice-county, about 14 additions have been made so far this year, mostly garden escapes/throw-outs or planted in the wild. A couple of these need confirmation and there are two or three more likely candidates that will be determined fully when flowering. However, the newly found *Taraxacum pseudohamatum* in Portree and *Carex riparia* (Greater Pond-sedge) in Broadford are part of the native British flora.

Back in Broadford, *Fumaria officinalis* subsp. *officinalis* (Common Fumitory) had only one previous record in VC104 (though *F. officinalis* with no subspecies specified has a few more) and *Trifolium campestre* (Hop Trefoil), was the first localised record for Skye – two earlier ones being at the 10 km square level and undated.

It seems to have been a good year for *Pseudorchis albida* (Small-white Orchid) with new sites and good numbers in known sites. A new site was found near Broadford for the locally rare *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid) – a long way from any previously known site on Skye.

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