

Peeblesshire plants 2024

Crataegus x subsphaerica (*C. monogyna* x *C. rhipidophylla*), a Hybrid hawthorn.

In 2023 Sue Jury and Douglas McKean VC82 exhibited this hybrid and said that it was widespread, but under-recorded. I have been keeping an eye out for it this year and have now found it in Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire. It is usually a component of relatively young hedges where it can be quite easily spotted with its large stipules and leaves which have teeth running down to the petiole. Hedging plants including this hybrid as well as *C. rhipidophylla*. have been imported from Europe in the past and they now seem to be firmly established here.

Senecio inaequidens, Narrow-leaved Ragwort.

This ragwort appears to be increasing its range northwards and this year has reached Peebles. I found a single plant among other weeds including *Aethusa cynapium* (Fool's Parsley) and *Anisantha diandra* (Great Brome) growing on disturbed ground beside a new pedestrian route. This is now a very common alien in southern England and France where its bright yellow flowers enliven road verges for miles on end.

Cardamine pratensis, *flore-pleno*, Cuckooflower.

These flowers were an attractive sight growing in profusion in the remote Glenternie Burn catchment in the Manor valley this summer. Apparently sterile clones of Cuckooflowers can reproduce by rooting from leaves and perhaps this explains the spread of the Glenternie plants.