

Plant Records, 2024.

The *Flora of Staffordshire* dealt with records made up until the end of 2011. (Further matters relating to that time period are dealt with in a series of supplements.)

This short account is the thirteenth annual report listing some of the more interesting results of later fieldwork.

Dates are all 2024, unless stated otherwise.

New records for VC39

Brachypodium rupestre, SO8798, Wightwick Bridge, P. Newton (= PN),

Callistephus chinensis, Tipton, N. Aspey (= NA).

Galanthus ikariae, SK0163, Hazel Barrow, 2022, H. Ball (= HB).

Malus x robusta (= *M. baccata x prunifolia*) 'Dolgo', SJ9324, Stafford, NA.

Petasites japonicus ssp. *giganteus*, SJ9824, Ingestre, HB.

Pistia stratiotes, SJ9124, Doxey Marshes, M.F. Godfrey. Also, independently, four days later, D.W. Emley (= DWE).

Polystichum makinoi, SO9187, Brierley Hill, NA.

Prunus mahaleb, SJ8900, Dunstall Park, PN.

Stylophorum lasiocarpum, SO9186, Brierley Hill, J. Hough.

Taraxacum berthae, SK0550, Ipstones, HB, conf. A.J. Richards.

Tetradium daniellii, SK1209, Lichfield, NA.

Viburnum opulus f. *roseum*, SO8993, Gospel End, PN.

Vinca difformis, SK1548, Yerley Hill, Okeover, G. Clark (= GC).

Species seen again after a gap of many years

Rumex pulcher, SK0127, Stowe-by-Chartley, J. Parmenter (= JP). 2022. Last seen prior to 1901 from the areas of SJ84 (Stoke, reported by Garner *The Natural History of the County of Stafford, 1844*); SJ92 (Stafford, reported by Douglas in Bagnall's *The Flora of Staffordshire: Journal of Botany 39, Supplement, 1901*); and Cheadle (SK04, reported in Dickenson *A Catalogue of Plants ascertained to be indigenous in the County of Stafford, The History and Antiquities of Staffordshire [Shaw], 1798*).

Torilis arvensis, SO9187, Brierley Hill. NA. The last confirmed records were from Offley, SJ72 and Perton, SO89, both in Bagnall's *The Flora of Staffordshire: Journal of Botany 39, Supplement, 1901*.

New tetrads for rarer taxa

The following have been seen in a total of less than about seven tetrads, since 1994.

Achillea filipendulina, SO9490, Dudley, NA.

Anemone x hybrida (= *A. hupehensis x vitifolia*), SO9890, Oldbury, PN.

Calendula arvensis, SO9592, Tipton, NA.

Calystegia sepium ssp. *sepium* f. *schizoflora* SJ8412, Mottey Meadows, DWE.

Carex x boenninghausiana (= *C. paniculata x remota*), Brindley Heath, SK0018, JP.

Cyrtomium fortunei, SJ9058, N of Biddulph Moor, HB.

Clarkia amoena, SO9592, Tipton, NA.

Davidia involucrata, SO9386, Brierley Hill, NA.

Digitaria sanguinalis, SK0042, Cheadle, S. Moores,

Echinochloa frumentacea, SJ9100, Science Park, PN, det. J.E. Hawksford (= JEH).

Galanthus ikariae, SK0642, Alton, HB.

Geranium psilostemon, SJ8945, Fenton Park, N. Pomiankowski (= NP).

Humulus lupulus 'Aureus', SK1548, Yerley Hill, Okeover, GC.

Juglans nigra, SK1009, Lichfield, NA.

Lagurus ovatus, SO9490, Dudley, M.W. Poulton (= MWP).

Linum grandiflorum, SK1109, Lichfield & SO9592, Tipton, both NA.

Malus hupehensis, SJ9324, Stafford, & SO9592, Tipton, both NA.

Ornithogalum umbellatum ssp. *umbellatum*, SJ9100, Science Park, PN.

Oxalis dillenii, SJ8824, Seighford & SO8986, Wordsley, both NA.

Parthenocissus inserta, SJ9806, Landywood Station, NA.
Pterocarya fraxinifolia, SJ9318, Acton Trussell, NA.
Scilla forbesii, SJ8945, Fenton Park, NP.
Senecio x baxteri (= *S. squalidus x vulgaris*), SJ8845, Stoke, JEH.
Sisyrinchium californicum, SJ9406, Shareshill, NA.
Spartium junceum, SJ9225, N of Stafford, NA.
Trifolium resupintum, SO9490, Dudley, MWP.
Vitis vinifera, SJ9324, Stafford, NA.

Further observations

PN surveyed nearly 25 miles of canal towpaths in the Black Country during the Autumn, primarily searching for *Bidens* spp. *B. frondosa* was first found in Staffordshire, SP0393, in 1954. He recorded it this year in 16 monads spread over 5 canals. *B. tripartita* has been in decline for many decades throughout VC39 and he found no trace remaining in the area he explored. PN also observed that *Erigeron bonariensis* is now the most common of the “*Conyza*” group in that area of the county, with less common *E. floribunda*. *E. canadensis*, is still widespread, but is now the least frequent. His findings indicate a continuing rapid spread of *Senecio inaequidens* (which was only recorded once prior to 2004).

NA has recorded *Oxalis dillenii* from four sites in recent years. This suggests that it should be looked for elsewhere. Both it and *O. stricta* can occur as arable weeds or nearby waste places. He has also noted *Malus hupehensis* on three different roadsides and, again, this could occur at other sites. Additionally, his records evidence that local authority seed mixes can now include *Linum grandiflorum*, *Clarkia amoena* and *Callistephus chinensis*.

12,854 Indicia and 25,688 iNaturalist records (often with photographs) were examined. Most were accepted as correct. The majority were of very common taxa.

It is noted that less experienced recorders are seldom recording *Epilobium* spp. other than *E. hirsutum* and *E. parviflorum*. Presumably they are encountering difficulties in determining between the others. Although *E. tetragonum* is steadily increasing, moving into our area from the south of the country, there is a suspicion that it is sometimes over-recorded at the expense of *E. obscurum*. The latter is more common northwards and very catholic in its choice of habitat. It can tolerate quite wet places and has been mistaken there for *E. palustre*. It has been observed that *E. tetragonum* can thrive in areas of gravel or similarly poor substrates; and often has leaves that are markedly erecto-patent.