

From Jim McIntosh, Senior Country Officer, jim.mcintosh@bsbi.org

BSBI Recorders' Conferences

We held two one-day conferences in Scotland during April on the theme of Atlas 2020. Members and Recorders enjoyed a varied programme of talks variously on Atlas 2020, MapMate, the BSBI Database (DDb) and the Millennium Seed Bank Project. There was also a round-up of reports from the Vice-Counties and a general discussion and Q&A session. The highlight however was a beautifully illustrated talk on Stoneworts by Nick Stewart. These talks are now available on the [BSBI Scottish Conferences](#) page.

BSBI MapMate

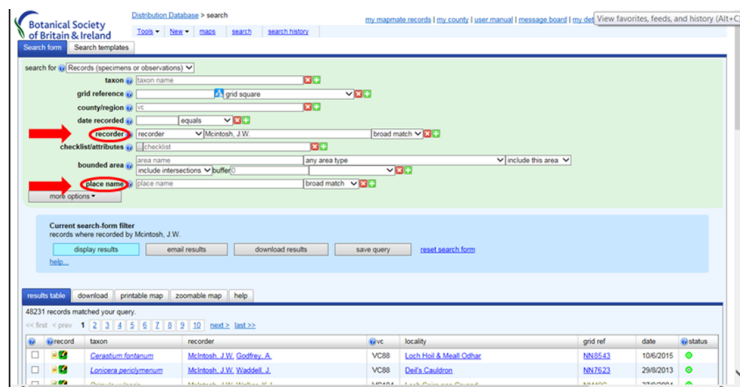
We are not aware of anyone having problems with MapMate running on Windows 10 that weren't already present in an earlier version of Windows (like 8 or 8.1) which they then upgraded to Windows 10. We *think* it runs absolutely fine on new Windows 10 machines. But before we make any recommendations on Windows 10 it would be useful to know who *does* have problems with MapMate not operating properly on *any* Windows operating system. We would like to try to resolve those problems (if possible) and it may help us give clearer advice on Windows 10. Please let us know straightaway if you have a problem with MapMate apparently not working properly, and we will be in touch. Please report problems to [Polly Spencer-Vellacot](#), our Welsh Officer who will collate responses from all vice-counties.

Threatened Plant Project – Update

[Peter Stroh](#) reports that the write-up of the Threatened Plants Project has been going well this winter, and we have now completed draft accounts for all 50 species surveyed. Our focus has now turned to writing the introduction and drafting chapters outlining the methodology and main findings, as well as getting into shape one main table that will condense all the relevant results of the survey for each species. In addition, we are now actively searching for external funding so that the TPP survey can be published as a book in addition to being available as an online resource.

BSBI DDb – New Ways to Search

[Tom Humphrey](#), BSBI Database Officer reports that it is now possible to search for records by Recorder or place name (without selecting 'more options'). However, searching using grid references will usually return better results than by using place names.



The screenshot shows the BSBI Distribution Database search interface. The search form includes the following fields and options:

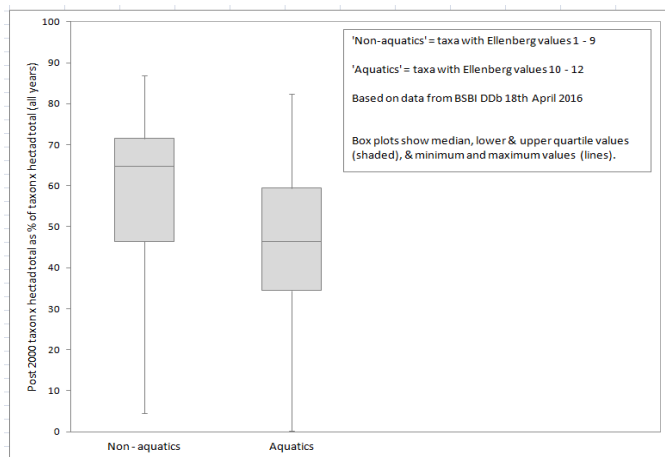
- Search for: Records (specimens or observations)
- taxon:
- grid reference:
- county/region:
- date recorded:
- recorder: (with a dropdown menu showing 'McIntosh, J.W.' and a 'broad match' checkbox)
- checklists/contributors:
- bounded area:
- place name: (with a dropdown menu showing 'any area type' and a 'broad match' checkbox)

Below the search form, there are buttons for 'display results', 'email results', 'download results', 'save query', and 'reset search form'. The search results table is as follows:

record	taxon	recorder	@vc	locality	grid ref	date	@status
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	McIntosh, J.W., Godfrey, A.	VC88	Loch Hail & Meall Oibhe	NN85.63	10/6/2015	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	McIntosh, J.W., Waddell, J.	VC88	Dal's Cauldron	NN79.23	29/8/2013	<input type="checkbox"/>

Atlas 2020 Aquatics recording

I had a hunch that aquatics were being less well recorded for Atlas 2020 than non-aquatics, and asked Andy Amphlett if he could analyze data in the BSBI Database, to prove that. Andy writes “Analysis of the DDb does indeed show that across the whole of GB and Ireland, aquatics as a whole are less well recorded post 2000 than non-aquatics. For purposes of this analysis aquatics were defined as those taxa with Ellenberg indicator F (moisture) values¹ of 10 - 12, while non-aquatics had values of 1 - 9. The numbers of distinct taxon by hectad records pre-2000, and since 2000 were calculated using these two DDb queries for [non-aquatics](#) and [aquatics](#).



The analysis is summarised in this graph. 18 April 2016

For each vice-county, and for each of the two groups of taxa (aquatics and non-aquatics), the total number of post 2000 taxon by hectad records was calculated as a percentage of the pre-2000 total. 146 vice-counties have higher post 2000 percentage, meaning that they were better recorded, for non-aquatics than for aquatics. Only 7 vice-counties have aquatics with a higher post 2000 level of recording than non-aquatics, and these vice-counties have a low overall level of post 2000 recording.”

New Journal of Botany

Ian Denholm, Editor-in-Chief of the New Journal of Botany, writes “Feedback from those accessing NJB online has been positive, and of course Louise and I welcome comments that we can consider ourselves or pass on to the publisher. On entering the NJB website via the password-protected portal on the BSBI website (email enquiries@bsbi.org if you have forgotten the password) it is possible to select the current issue or a previous issue by clicking on volume and then issue number. For each article it is possible to view just the abstract or the references or to download the full article in HTML format (optimised for online viewing) or as a PDF (formatted as in the hard copy issue). Our license with Taylor and Francis permits BSBI members to save copies of articles for purely personal use, but obviously not to post them publicly. One VCR has suggested including all abstracts from a new issue in a copy of e-news. It would be interesting to know if there is general enthusiasm for this.

As stated previously we are keen to do all we can to encourage submissions, so if you have an idea for an article and would like to discuss further, please get in touch via the dedicated email address njb@bsbi.org.”

¹ For meanings of these Ellenberg values see <https://www.brc.ac.uk/plantatlas/index.php?q=moisture-help>

Help required to sample Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) in UK

French botanist Xavier Bouteiller has asked BSBI members for help with sampling a UK population of Black Locust as part of Europe-wide research he is carrying out. There are further details on [BSBI News & Views](#). Please [email Xavier](#) if you can help.

BSBI Website

The BSBI website has had a bit of a refresh and we are now able to upload items to pages very quickly and easily. Please forward any updates to [Jane Houldsworth](#) and we can promise you a speedy response. We hope you like the new look and can still find everything you need. Apologies if you were unable to access the site during the migration process.

BSBI eNews

BSBI *eNews* is read by BSBI Recorders, Referees, Staff and Committee members. I'd be really pleased to have short contributions from anyone on topics of interest and relevance to fellow readers. It is generally published on the 1st of each month (except on bank holidays!) so contributions should ideally arrive around the 21st of the preceding month. Please send them to me, [Jim McIntosh](#).

If you'd prefer not to receive the monthly *eNews*, or would like me to use an alternative or new email address, please get in touch. Previous *eNews* at least as far back as 2011 are on the new VC Recorders' Dropbox folder, to which you are very welcome to have access – just drop me a line.