

BSBI eNews – May 2018

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

Welcome to new BSBI County Recorders

I'm sure you would like to join me in welcoming three new BSBI County Recorders: David Elston, who is going to work jointly with David Welch in North Aberdeen and Kincardine; Matt Harding who will be joint with Phil Sansum in Stirling and to Chris Dixon who will be the new Recorder for East Gloucestershire. We wish them all success and happiness in their new roles!

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

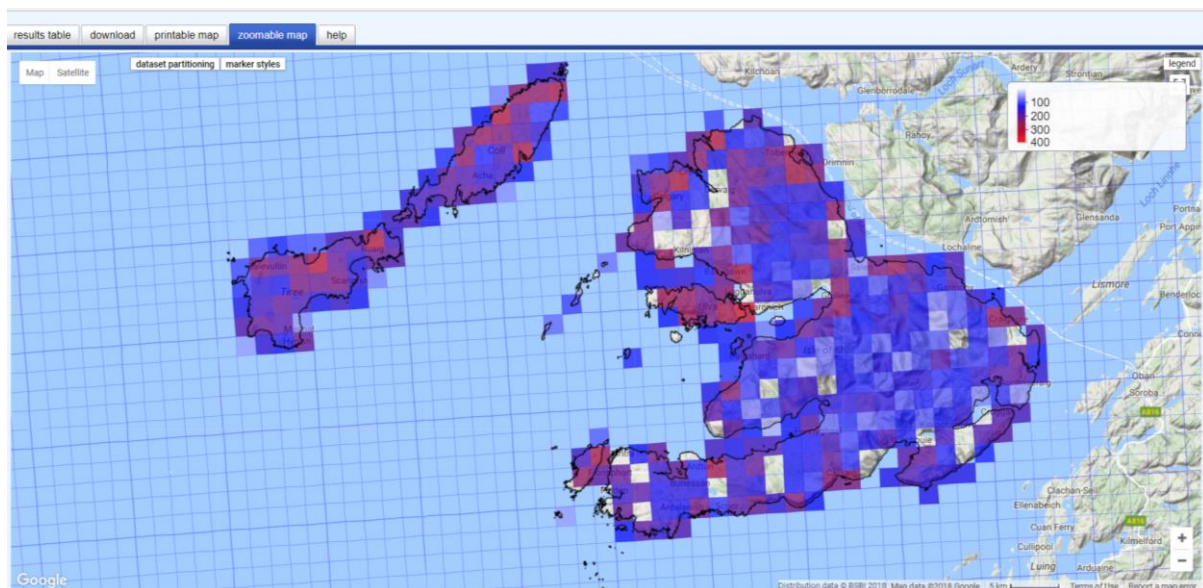
Vice-County Annual Reports

The Scottish and Irish Vice-county 2017 reports have recently been uploaded to the [Scotland](#) and [Ireland](#) BSBI pages, completing the set. (I reported that the [English](#) and [Welsh](#) reports were uploaded to the [England](#) and [Wales](#) pages respectively last month.) Thank you very much to everyone who completed a VC Annual Report for 2017 and to the volunteers and staff everyone who collated them.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Atlas 2020 VC Coverage Maps

You should have received links to my latest VC Coverage maps back in in March. It is quite a lot of work generating these maps and I'm not planning to update them in the near future. However if you need an update at any time (e.g. after a major data entry session or import operation) you can obtain something similar using this [DDb query](#), changing the VC to yours and clicking 'display results'. Once the query has run go to the 'zoomable maps' tab and view the map. The best colour scheme is via 'marker style' and 'heat map (faded) '.



If you remove the row in the query entitled frequency (click on red X at right end), you will see all tetrads with records. The query counts the number of species & hybrids. I have set it to just show tetrads with at least 40 taxa since 2000. Change the value to meet your own criteria. The DDb mapping is not as fancy as my maps but you can view as and when you want.

[Andy Amphlett](#)

Atlas 2020 Data Entry & Validation

Do keep on top of record entry, and regularly submit the records to the DDb and validate them as soon as they arrive. All three operations are much better done 'little and often' and as soon as possible after your day in the field. Here are [six useful tips for MapMate users](#).

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Invasive plant species – update

In last month's article on non-native invasive species, I mentioned that there are species alerts for [Ludwigia grandiflora \(Water-primrose\)](#) and [Myriophyllum heterophyllum \(Various-leaved Water-milfoil\)](#) and asked that sightings were reported urgently, so that they can be swiftly eradicated. As well as sending records of non-native invasive species to the relevant BSBI County Recorder, to ensure the message gets through promptly, please also email records of these species to (one of):

- alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk,
- info@sears.scotland.gsi.uk, or
- info@invasivespeciesireland.com



Parrot's-feather © NNSC Crown Copyright 2009

Please include at least a 6-figure grid reference to help locate sites quickly. If you use the [iRecord](#) or [Plant Tracker](#) recording Apps or websites instead, email alerts will be sent automatically to the relevant agency.

[Stan Whitaker](#), [Scottish Natural Heritage](#) – Wildlife Management and INNS Team

Charophyte Identification Workshops in Ireland

Charophytes (Stoneworts) are one of the most under-recorded groups for Atlas 2020. Two two-day workshops with two of the leading Stonewort experts in Britain & Ireland – Nick Stewart & Cilian Roden aim to improve identification skills and their recording. The workshops will be held at the IFI Lough Owel Angling Centre, Co. Westmeath, conveniently located with access to suitable habitats. The workshops are on the following dates:

- Thur 10th and Fri 11th May 2018 ***FULLY BOOKED***
- Sat 12th and Sun 13th May 2018 ***ONLY A FEW PLACES LEFT***

The workshops are open to all, but priority will be given to BSBI recorders and members, as well as staff of supporting organisations. Places will be limited so please book **now**. [For further information and to book, click here.](#)

[Maria Long](#), BSBI Irish Officer

Field Meetings

Spring seemed very slow in coming, with a cool March and early April, but then we had the heat wave. Despite media reports, the temperatures were actually comparable to those of April 2011, though that year a generally cool May followed. The flora has certainly responded rapidly and many species have shot up in the last week, making identification much easier. There are plenty of spring meetings that you can participate in to improve your identification skills, so either join a local meeting and support your county recorder or sign up for one of the national meetings. Several of these are focusing on particular groups as well as recording for Atlas 2020.

I paid an expensive visit to the Cambridge University Bookshop this week, where I purchased two books. One was the first volume of the Sell & Murrell Flora, which I've already made use of. The other was the last in a series describing all the comets that have been observed. Fortunately, I had a discount as a Cambridge graduate, but they still added up to well over £200.

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

Annual Summer Meeting

There is a flyer for the Isle of Man [Annual Summer Meeting](#) with the April BSBI News and you can already book online. This is a great opportunity to visit a scenic location with interesting plants and to share or learn with colleagues from the Bryological Society. It is also a great social event, with plenty of time for discussion over breakfast or in the evening. I hope to see you there.

Although you do not need to create a PayPal account to pay for items on the BSBI webpages, we've discovered that a few people are prompted to do so. Switching to a different browser may get a different response (it worked in my case), or you can pay by cheque.

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

Scottish Recording Weeks

The Westernness and Argyll recording weeks are now fully booked, however there are still a few places on the Wigtownshire week (23-30 June) aimed at plugging Atlas 2020 gaps in under-recorded areas.

As well as recording, a huge amount of mutual learning at all levels goes on during these recording weeks. [Here](#) is a link to a page set up to take bookings for Wigtownshire but which also has detailed information about the week. Drop me an email if you are interested.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

BSBI Recorders' Conference 2018

Details have now been firmed up for the 2018 BSBI Recorders' Conference, to be held over the long weekend of 12th-14th October at FSC Preston Montford, Shrewsbury. There is a flyer inside the April issue of *BSBI News* and you can view the full draft programme via the [Recorders' Conference webpage](#). Spaces at the venue are capped at 80 so we plan to give County Recorders, referees and other BSBI members priority. There are 11 talks in the programme, 13 workshop options to select from and we've gone for something a bit different for the Sunday morning field trip this time: John Poland (and, hopefully, Matt Parratt) will lead a trip to a tree-rich location to look at identifying coniferous and deciduous, native and alien trees, with and without leaves. Email recconf@bsbi.org to find out more.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

Scottish Conference

Thirty-five members participated in a very enjoyable BSBI [Scottish Recording Conference](#) on Saturday 14 April at RBGE. This was the first of two one-day conferences. Another is due to take place on Saturday the 28 April in Strathpeffer near Inverness with the same programme repeated.

After a welcome by the BSBI President, Chris Metherell, and a couple short talks on Atlas 2020, Michael Philip gave a very entertaining talk on Local Groups, based on his experience in Lanarkshire with 'Team 77'. However, the highlights of a lovely sunny day in Edinburgh were two workshops on identifying Bladderworts by looking at quadrifid hairs (lead by Nick Stewart and Claudia Ferguson-Smyth) and on the distinguishing Deergrass taxa by Jeremy Roberts. We finished off a great day with a lively discussion session on post 2020 BSBI projects. I'll upload all the talks to the BSBI website shortly.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

Irish Conference

The Irish BSBI Conference was a hectic but successful affair this year! It took place on Saturday 24th March in the usual fantastic setting of the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin. There were 70 participants, with a particularly high turn-out of vice-county recorders, which is always great to see. Mike Porter and Tom Humphrey travelled over from the UK, and there were no less than eleven other speakers! Mike gave a wonderful opening talk entitled 'A decade of Violas', and this was followed up in the afternoon by two completely booked out Viola workshops. As well as Mike's talk, we also had sessions on the new Kerry BSBI Local Group, on Ireland's first female botanist, Ellen Hutchins, and on the ecology of dune slacks in the morning.

In the afternoon we had six flash talks, spanning topics such as how to recognise the Killarney fern gametophyte (and there were live samples to see), botanical art and project updates. County Recorders did a short computer-based session, while other attendees learned about Ireland's horsetails. You'll find all of the talks on the [BSBI Irish Conference](#) webpage. See you next year!

[Maria Long](#), BSBI Irish Officer

Snippets:

***Veronica hederifolia* subspecies**

All the characters relevant to identification of the 2 subspecies are in Stace (2010) with additional information in the Plant Crib (1998). Some characters are not always available all the time. I'm looking into fruiting characters but need more material, particularly of ssp. *hederifolia*. It is rare here with less arable etc. If you have either subspecies I would be grateful to see any (whole plants, preferably fresh), especially with good to advanced fruits. They do die down, though should be going into fruit now for a few weeks in May. Flowering plants welcome also if fresh with a few roots.

[Michael Wilcox](#), 43 Roundwood Glen, Greengates, Bradford, BD10 0HW

Twig Key

The pre-publication offer has now opened on John Poland's long-awaited Field Key to Winter Twigs. The offer is open to BSBI members and non-members alike. [More...](#)

MAKAQueS - Online key

Chris Dixon, the newly appointed Recorder for East Gloucester, has recently published an interactive, multi-access botanical key to seed plants in the British Isles and a gallery of images called [MAKAQueS](#). Take a look!

BSBI Viola Handbook: Remember that Summerfield Books will be offering a further discount of 15% on the price of the [BSBI Viola Handbook](#) until the end of May.

New on the BSBI website in April

- Collated accounts from Scottish and Irish County Recorders have been uploaded to the [Scotland](#) and [Ireland](#) pages and make fascinating and inspiring reading - huge thanks to all Recorders for their superb efforts.
- The Scotland and Ireland pages have also been updated to include details of forthcoming training opportunities and you can also download [Scottish Newsletter #40](#) from the Scotland page - many thanks to editor Angus Hannah for another excellent issue, featuring 56 pages of botany in Scotland.
- New webpages have been created for [South-west Yorkshire vc63](#), for [Charophytes](#) (where you can book for the forthcoming workshops in Co Westmeath) and for John Poland's [Twig Key](#).
- There is also a new page for the [Eyebrights Handbook](#) but payment should be made via the PayPal facility on the members-only area of the website. You will need a password to access the members-only area – please email me if you've forgotten your password.
- County webpages updated in April to include field meetings for the year ahead, local newsletters and/or local botany blogs: Dumfriesshire, Lanarkshire, Westernness, Co. Antrim, Sussex, Cumbria, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Flintshire. Use the links on the [Local Botany](#) page or the interactive map on the homepage to click through to the county page.

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

On the News & Views blog in April

A [report about FSC's Young Darwin Scholarship](#), which BSBI is supporting again this year; a [note about the Wildflower Hunt](#) launched by our colleagues at Plantlife and their new code of conduct, based on the [BSBI Code of Conduct](#); [Ian Denholm's account of a new stamp](#) launched by Royal Mail and featuring *Crepis foetida* – BSBI was consulted on the design; a note about the [forthcoming Charophyte workshops in Ireland and Identifying Plant Families workshops in Scotland](#); this month's [Byron's Gin post](#) looks at Bird Cherry; a note about the [Botanical Art Worldwide Exhibition](#) taking place in May; a sneak preview at the [latest issue of BSBI News](#) which has just been mailed out to BSBI members; a [competition to win a copy of Oak and Ash and Thorn](#), a new book about trees; and a report on the recent Irish Spring Conference by delegate Jessica Hamilton ([Kerry](#) BSBI Group).

[Louise Marsh](#), BSBI Communications Officer

BSBI eNews & General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The new data protection regulations come into force on the 25th May. If you would like to continue to receive emails with BSBI eNews, and occasionally other news items, you will need to opt-in [HERE](#) by clicking the links and completing the details as requested. In future we can only email those members who have done so. If you haven't signed up we cannot send you the June BSBI eNews, or future editions - and nor can we remind you after the 25th May.

We only hold your email addresses in order to send you BSBI eNews and other related items, on occasion, and will never pass your details on to others. The minor exception is the secure mailing platform MailChimp, which we may use to distribute future editions of BSBI eNews. You can request to see the data we hold on you at any time and we will remove you from this email list at your request.

The latest edition of BSBI eNews will always be available on the [BSBI Publications](#) webpage.

[Jim McIntosh](#), BSBI Scottish Officer

GDPR Guidance for County Recorders and local botany group administrators

If you keep a mailing list of local botanists and are wondering if you need to do things differently once GDPR comes into force, we would suggest the following:

- Email everyone on your list now (be sure to send the email to yourself and Bcc everyone else).
- Tell them that you have their email address on a mailing list and explain what you have been using the list for (e.g. "letting you know about local field meetings").
- Ask them to please email you and let you know if they are happy to remain on that list.
- Explain that if you do not hear from them in writing (email) before 25th May then you will have to delete them from the mailing list.
- Keep the emails you receive from people who want to remain on your mailing list and delete the names and contact details of anyone you don't hear back from.
- Remind them that you will never use their email address for any other purpose or pass it on to any third party.
- Remember to *always* use the Bcc option in future!

If you have any queries, please contact me.

[Jane Houldsworth](#), BSBI Head of Operations