### CHESHIRE VC58 **COUNTY RARE PLANT REGISTER 2015**



Cicuta virosa L. near Gatesheath

This assessment of the rarity of plants in Cheshire is based principally on the work for the New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (2002) and more recent tetrad recording. The current recording will, no doubt, change the detail but the basic content will remain much the same. Many people have contributed records and they are to be thanked. If this document helps with conservation, I hope that will be their reward. The maps were produced using Dmap.

Principal habitats worth conserving in Cheshire are the coastal dunes, meres, mosses, clough woodlands, ponds and ex-industrial sites like the Northwich and Runcorn lime-beds and Moore sand quarry. Cheshire is not the richest of counties and de Tabley's Flora is like a catalogue of lost treasures, but it is not too late to save what we have left.

### Graeme M Kay

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### LIST OF RARE PLANTS IN CHESHIRE VC58

Internationally Rare Luronium natans

Nationally Rare

Asplenium trichomanes ssp pachyra- Carex muricata ssp lamprocarpa

Calamagrostis stricta Mentha pulegium Rubus wolley-dodii Equisetum x meridionale Trichomanes speciosum

**Nationally Scarce** 

Adiantum capillus-veneris

Carex elongata Cicuta virosa Coincya monensis Elatine hexandra Equisetum variegatum Euphorbia portlandica Fritillaria meleagris Fumaria purpurea Gentiana pneumonanthe Hieracium vagense Hippophae rhamnoides Hordelymus europaeus Impatiens noli-tangere Lepidium latifolium

Limonium celticum ssp britannicum

Limosella aquatica

Medicago sativa ssp falcata

Puccinellia rupestris

Ribes alpinum Silene gallica

Thelypteris palustris *Vaccinium x intermedium* 

Verbascum lychnitis Verbascum virgatum

Vicia lutea

Locally Rare

Allium oleraceum Allium scorodoprasum

Anacamptis pyramidalis

Arabis hirsuta

Asplenium marinum Atriplex laciniata

Brachypodium pinnatum

Bromopsis erecta Bromus commutatus Bromus racemosus

Bromus secalinus

Carex acuta

Carex hostiana

Carex lasiocarpa Carex limosa

Carex viridula ssp viridula

Carlina vulgaris

Centaurium pulchellum Cerastium arvense Circaea x intermedia Cirsium dissectum Cirsium heterophyllum

Clinopodium ascendens Crambe maritima Crithmum maritimum Cynoglossum officinale Dactylorhiza incarnata

Daphne laureola Dipsacus pilosus Drosera intermedia Eleocharis multicaulis Eleocharis quinqueflora Eleocharis uniglumis Eleogeton fluitans Epipactis palustris Equisetum hyemale Eryngium maritimum Euphorbia exigua Filago minima Filago vulgaris Gagea lutea

Glaucium flavum Hippuris vulgaris Huperzia selago Hyoscyamus niger Hypericum elodes Juncus compressus Lathyrus nissolia Limonium vulgare

Lycopodium clavatum Meum athamanticum Myosurus minimus

Linum bienne

Myriophyllum alterniflorum Nuphar pumila/x spenneriana

Orobanche hederae Paris quadrifolia Persicaria minor Phegopteris connectilis

Platanthera chlorantha

Polygonum oxyspermum ssp raii

Polygonum rurivagum

Potamogeton alpinus Potamogeton lucens Potamogeton pusillus Potamogeton trichoides

Pyrola minor

Pyrola rotundifolia ssp mariti-

Ranunculus baudotii Ranunculus circinatus Rhynchospora alba

Rosa agrestis Rosa micrantha Rosa mollis Rosa x hibernica Rosa x margerisonii Rubus chamaemorus Rumex longifolius Rumex pseudoalpinus Ruppia maritima Sagina nodosa Salix triandra Salsola kali Salvia verbenaca Saxifraga tridactylites Scleranthus annuus Scutellaria minor Sedum anglicum Serratula tinctoria Silene uniflora

Thymus polytrichus ssp britan-

Trifolium ornithopodioides

Utricularia minor Utricularia vulgaris Vicia lathyroides Vicia sylvatica

Sorbus torminalis

Thalictrum minus

Spergularia rupicola

Teesdalia nudicaulis

Viola canina ssp canina

Vulpia fasciculata

Wahlenbergia hederacea xAgropogon littoralis xFestulpia hubbardii

#### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

The accounts show the national status (where NT is Near Threatened and CE is Critically Endangered) and the number of 1Km squares where the species occurs in VC58. References are to The Flora of Cheshire, de Tabley (1899) and Flora of Cheshire, Newton (1971) and Supplement (1991). Nomenclature follows Stace Edn 3.

### Adiantum capillus-veneris L. Scarce Maidenhair Fern 1

As a native, occurs in moist sheltered places in the west. It is naturalised on the brick-work of the disused station at Thurstaston (SJ2383) where limestone mortar mimics its preferred habitat.

### xAgropogon littoralis (Sm.) C.E.Hubb Perennial Beard-grass Extinct

Was to be found where *Polypogon monspeliensis* was introduced at Wharton (SJ6567) on reclaimed land of old salt-works. It seems likely to have arisen at least in part *in situ* and hence is native, but now seems to have died out It is otherwise confined to the coast from Dorset to Norfolk.

# Allium oleraceum L. Vulnerable Field Garlic 3

A plant of dry grassy places scattered through England with a few sites in Scotland. It is fond of sandy riparian habitats where the bulbils can be dispersed by the water and the largest colony in Cheshire is by the R. Weaver near Frodsham (SJ5378) where a mixed colony with *A. vineale* (Crow Garlic) contained 2-300 plants in 2000. A smaller group (ca 30) occurs up river (SJ5477). The roadside site at Denhall (SJ2974) holds ca 200 plants.

# Allium scorodoprasum L. Sand Leek 2

A lowland plant of dry sandy soils occurring mainly in N England and the south half of Scotland which reproduces from bulb offsets and bulbils. It has one site in Cheshire on a ditch bank at Norton (SJ5685) where over 1000 flowering heads were seen in 2000, and a colony of 5 plants at West Kirby (SJ2087). Both this species and *A. oleraceum* are probably introductions of long standing in Britain.

### Alopecurus bulbosus Gouan Scarce Bulbous Foxtail Extinct

Old records are from the Mersey bank at Richmond Marsh, Norton Marsh, Frodsham Marsh.

# Anacamptis morio (L.) R.M.Bateman, Pridgeon & M.W.Chase NT Green-winged Orchid Extinct?

The history of this attractive orchid is a sorry tale in Cheshire. De Tabley lists it from Reddish, by the Bollin, Mobberley, Tabley, Oulton, Frodsham, Alvanley Cliff, Mouldsworth, and Congleton and quotes Webb saying it is the commonest orchid

in Wirral. By 1971 there were just two sites, the Lower Weaver Valley and Leasowe. The former is now destroyed and the few plants at the latter site have been stolen.

# Anacamptis pyramidalis (L.) Rich. Pyramidal Orchid

5

A plant of base-rich grassland which is gradually increasing in Cheshire at the moment. A small group occurs by the Ship Canal at Astmoor (SJ58), an increasing population at Ringway (SJ8083) had reached 43 spikes in 2000 and a colony at Meols (SJ2387) had up to 12 in 1997. Also SJ2487. A couple of plants at Chorlton (SJ7251) get mown regularly. The site at Northwich in Newton (1971) was submerged by a rubbish dump.

### Anagallis minima (L.) E.H.L. Krause NT Chaffweed Extinct

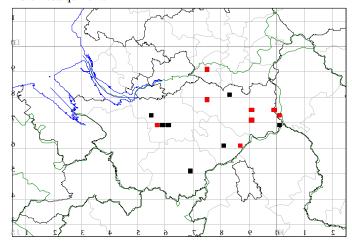
Recorded in de Tabley from Hale Moss, Lindow Common, Pickmere, Mere Mere, Thurstaston, Edge and Peover Heath. It is very easily overlooked.

# Andromeda polifolia L. Bog Rosemary

7

This species is included because of its extreme vulnerability by habitat destruction. De Tabley records it as a characteristic plant of the mosses with 20 named sites. It is now known in only 7 locations (shown in black): Flaxmere (SJ5572), Abbott's Moss (SJ5968), Brackenhurst Bog (SJ5969), Whitegate (SJ6169), Wybunbury Moss (SJ6950), Brookhouse Moss (SJ8061) and Lindow Common (SJ8281) where one plant hangs on where once it was "as fine as anywhere in Cheshire". Recently found in the hills in SK0069 apparently as in de Tabley.

#### ail ofil op ade mordn A



### Arabis hirsuta (L.) Scop.

#### Hairy Rock-cress

2

A few plants were reported from Leasowe and Wallasey golfcourses in 1987. Its current status is not known to me. It also occurs on the bank of the R Mersey in SJ8191 but presumably not native.

Asplenium trichomanes ssp pachyrachis (H. Christ) Lovis & Reichst.

NT Lobed Maidenhair Spleenwort

This is a fern of calcareous rocks growing on overhangs where it is sheltered from direct rain. Its main stronghold is the Wye Valley, but the populations discovered in 1997 at Maiden Castle, Bickerton (SJ4952) and Bickerton Hill (SJ5053) where it grows on calcareous sandstone are, with over 200 plants, possibly the largest in Britain. The sites belong to the National Trust. 4 plants were found on Raw Head (SJ5954) in 2006, and 60 plants on Bulkeley Hill (SJ5255) in 2009.

Asplenium marinum L. Sea Spleenwort

A plant of rock crevices usually close to the sea and sea-sprayed. It has long been known from Hilbre Island where it grows in abundance on the east cliffs. A colony at New Brighton (SJ2994) was found in 1995 which matches de Tabley's "entrance of the Mersey". It is no longer to be found at Bromborough. or West Kirby.

Atriplex laciniata L. Frosted Orache

Recorded from Red Rocks (SJ2088) and Leasowe (SJ2390).

Baldellia ranunculoides (L.) Parl. NT Lesser Water-plantain 4

De Tabley lists Tatton, Baguley Moor, Timperley, Acton Grange, Tabley, Moore, Tarvin, Over, Hatchmere, Dunham, Fishpool, Plemstall, Lache, Nantwich, Wybunbury, Doddington,, Middlewich and many sites on the Wirral. Sadly today, it has only been found at Thurstaston (SJ2383), Irby (SJ2685), Kings Marsh (SJ4355) and Bradley Green (SJ5045) in recent years and its survival is precarious.

Barbarea stricta Andrz. Probably introduced

Blysmus rufus (Huds.) Link Saltmarsh Flat-sedge

This species is locally frequent in salt-marshes and dune-slacks in the northern two thirds of the British Isles. The site at Red Rocks Reserve appears lost due to drying out and competition from ranker vegetation. It was reported from near Burton Point but the record has not been confirmed. In 2011 a good colony was found at Red Rocks in the developing saltmarsh with a further site found later.

Brachypodium pinnatum (L.) P. Beauv. Tor-grass

A tall grass in chalk and limestone grassland mainly in central, south and eastern Britain. It also occurs in basic grassland elsewhere. It was discovered in two sites in 2000: a canalbank

at Coole Pilate (SJ6446) but not seen since and at Parkgate (SJ2 8). In 2012 a large colony was found near Lamaload Reservoir (SJ9775) in apparently native vegetation.

2

3

16

Bromopsis erecta (Huds.) Fourr. Upright Brome

Another grass of chalk and limestone and other dry base-rich soils. De Tabley reported it from the Reddish Valley and near Congleton, but it was believed lost until 2 colonies were found on canal banks with one plant at Stoneley Green (SJ6152) and several clumps at Baddington (SJ6448). However, this and *Brachypodium pinnatum* seem likely to be introductions.

Bromus commutatus Schrad.

Meadow Brome 14

De Tabley gives many localities for this species, but seems uncertain about its true distribution. It has recently reappeared in arable fields in SJ7773 & 6074 and by the outflow from a brine well in SJ6972, and is reported from Meols. In 2006, it was found in several arable fields on Frodsham Marshes and an area of rough grassland (SJ4977 and SJ5077) where it might be native. It is still increasing as a crop contaminant.

Bromus hordeaceus L. ssp thominei (Hardouin) Braun-Blanq.

Bromus lepidus Holmb.

Slender Bromes 1

Although given several sites in Newton (1971), the existence of *B. x pseudothominei* was not generally known at the time and that is the only taxon detected recently. *Bromus lepidus* has been reported from Meols.

Bromus racemosus L. Smooth Brome

A similar situation to *B. commutatus*. The taxonomy of these species is still a matter of dispute. Recorded in SJ2885 in 2003 and in Meols. In 2007 it was found in planty in native grassland at Belgrave (SJ3861).

Bromus secalinus L. Rye Brome

A cereal weed rcorded by de Tabley for Broadheath, Mobberley, Marston, and Mollington, but like most cornfield weeds, thought long gone. However, as in other parts of the country, it has now returned in plenty in SJ6979, 6981, 6982, 7082, 7175, 4977, 5077, 5178, & 6779 and cannot currently be considered scarce.

Bupleurum tenuissimum L. Vulnerable Slender Hare's-ear Extinct

Previously known from the Dee bank and by Bromborough Pool where the last record was in 1927. Its recent rediscovery on the Flintshire side of the Dee gives hope that it may yet be refound in Cheshire as it is easily overlooked.

#### Calamagrostis stricta (Timm) Koeler Vulnerable

#### Narrow Small-reed

A tufted perennial with slender creeping rhizomes which may now be nationally red data due to drainage of some sites. It has only been seen in 8 sites nationally since 1987. It occurs on the fringes of Oakmere (SJ5767).

### Calystegia sepium ssp roseata Brummitt Scarce Sea-side Hedge Bindweed 5

A west coast species which has been detected at Astmoor (SJ5384) and Norton Marsh (SJ5584) where it is abundant and Stanlow SJ4276 on the Mersey Estuary, Moore NR SJ5785 and Frodsham Marsh (SJ5078).

### $Calystegia\ soldanella\ (L.)\ R.Br.$

Sea Bindweed Extinct

Used to be found on the shore at West Kirby, New Brighton, Wallasey, but rare even in de Tabley's day and gone by 1924.

#### Carex acuta L.

Slender Tufted-Sedge

A diminishing species only seen recently in SJ45, at Davenham (SJ6470), Caughall (SJ4070) and Upton Grange (SJ4269).

### Carex diandra Schrank

NT vtinct

Lesser Tussock-sedge

Extinct

This sedge has now gone from its only recent site in SJ65.

### Carex dioica L.

### Dioecious Sedge

Extinct

Records in de Tabley from Werneth, Staley Holmes, Baguley Moor, Hale Moss, Knutsford Moor, Hale Moss and Wybunbury. It could linger in the hills.

### Carex elongata L.

Scarce

#### Elongated Sedge

This is a plant of lowland ponds, canal sides and wet woods which used to occur at Staley, Rostherne, Holford Mill, Over, Bebbington Heath, Lower Peover and, more recently, by the canal in the Wrenbury area. It was last seen by a pond at Wrenbury where its current status is unknown. A good colony was found in 2007 at SJ4160.

#### Carex hostiana DC.

#### Tawny Sedge

3/4

A sedge of wet flushes and marshy ground tending towards base rich, previously found at Staley, Baguley Moor, Stretton Moss and Raby. It is now confined to a good colony at Swallowdale (SJ9366) and a few plants on Arnfield Moor (SK0298). A few plants were found in 1996 in Goodmoor Rough (SJ5046), an SBI, but damage to the habitat makes its

survival uncertain here. One clump was found in Kingsley CP (SJ5473) in 2001.

### Carex lasiocarpa Ehrh.

#### Slender Sedge

1

1

De Tabley lists Stretton Moss, Oakmere, Achmere, Hatchmere, and Brookhouse Moss. In the 1970s, it was claimed for Black Lake, Delamere (SJ5370), but recent searches have not revealed it. It is not easy to detect even when flowering, but remarkably was found by Iain Diack in leaf at Wybunbury (SJ6950) in 2008. It flowered in 2011 after scrub clearance.

#### Carex limosa L.

#### Bog Sedge

1

A sedge of very wet bogs mainly in NW England, Wales and Scotland. It still occurs in the middle of Wybunbury Moss NNR (SJ6950) in very wet sphagnum where recent management to maintain the water level should favour it.

### Carex muricata L. ssp pairae (F.W.Schultz) Celak.

#### Prickly Sedge

3

This species was added to the Cheshire flora in 1980 when found at Burton (SJ3074) where it grows with *C. spicata*. It was relocated in 2000. In 2011, 2 plants were found at Bradley Green after scrub clearance (SJ5045) and 1 in a reserve at Mobberley (SJ7879).

### Carex viridula ssp. brachyrrhyncha (Celak) B.

#### Schmid

#### Long-bracted Yellow-sedge

Extinct

The taxonomy of the yellow-sedges was not clear in de Tabley's day, so although he lists many records, it is not certain that this was ever a Cheshire plant.

### Carex viridula ssp. viridula Michx.

### Small-fruited Yellow-sedge

1

This plant has probably only ever occurred in damp sandy hollows on the coast and only lingers in one such place at Moreton (SJ2491) where rumours of its extinction (Newton 1990) were proved unfounded.

### Carlina vulgaris L.

#### Carline Thistle

Extinct?

1

De Tabley reports this yellow thistle as not uncommon on the sandhills. Recently, it occurred in sandy ground on Newchurch Common (SJ6068) but has not been seen recently. The record in de Tabley for Kerridge Hill seems unlikely.

#### Centaurium littorale (Turner ex Sm.) Gilmour Seaside Centaury

De Tabley knew this sparingly on the north Wirral coast, and mentions Hoylake and Hilbre. It is easily confused with Common Centaury and no convincing specimens had been seen until it was found on an old limebed at Clifton (SJ5279) in 2011.

### Centaurium pulchellum (Sw.) Druce Lesser Centaury

This species shares the habitat of the small-fruited yellow-sedge and only survives in small quantity at Moreton (SJ2491). In 2013 it was found on the limebed at Clifton (SJ5279).

### Cerastium arvense L.

#### Field Mouse-ear

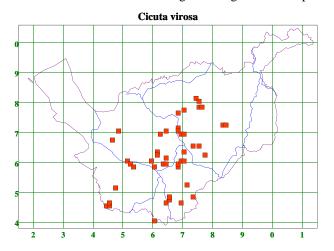
The well-known colonies of this plant on Hilbre Island still survive. The colony found in 1991 in Delamere (SJ5669) on a sandy lanebank is struggling, but a large colony on the edge of the Moore NR (SJ5785) was found in 1999 and looked safer, but is now hard to find, Other old locations at Overton, West Kirby and Caldy appear lost.

### Chenopodium bonus-henricus L. Vulnerable Good King Henry 1

Atlas 2000 treats this as an archaeophyte from Roman times. Although de Tabley had many records, recently is has only been seen in three areas where it was always close to habitation, reflecting its past culinary use: of Arnfield (SK0198), Disley (SJ9884), Kettleshulme (SJ9979), and Arnfield (SK0096), only the last was found in 2010.

# Cicuta virosa L. Scarce Cowbane Common(37)

Cowbane is a plant of ponds and mere fringes occurring mainly in East Anglia, Central Scotland and the Shropshire/Cheshire border. Cheshire holds the biggest population of any county. Although poisonous to cattle, large doses are needed and the plants are often grazed with no apparent ill effects. The main threat is through shading and loss of ponds.



# *Circaea x intermedia* Ehrh. Upland Enchanter's-nightshade

Recorded from Reddish Vale, Bredbury Wood, Marple, Disley, Gatley, Cotterill, Bowdon, Ashley, and Apethorne Wood, Hyde in de Tabley, but only found in Cotterill Clough

(SJ8083) by 1971. Since then it has been found in Norbury Hollow near Disley (SJ9485) and at Wrinehill (SJ7444). A colony in imported stones at Green Shack (SJ9876) has probably died out by now.

#### Cirsium dissectum (L.) Hill Meadow Thistle

1

1

A plant of wet peaty soils not known in Cheshire until the 1960s when it was found in the fields by Quoisley Meres (SJ5445). It was still present in 1991 when ca 6 plants were seen. Records from Norbury Mere remain unconfirmed.

# *Cirsium eriophorum* (L.) Scop. Woolly-headed Thistle

Extinct

De Tabley gives one old record from Yatehouse Green (SJ7068), perhaps an introduction.

# Cirsium heterophyllum (L.) Hill Melancholy Thistle

2

Only one native site for this thistle, here at the southern end of its British range, was detected in the Flora survey this being in the Macclesfield Forest area, but it has not been refound. De Tabley gave it for Staley Bridge and the Goyt Valley. One plant was found by a footpath in Marple, but was presumably an escape. A colony at Trentabank reservoir is an introduction.

# Clinopodium acinos (L.) Kunze Vulnerable Basil Thyme Extinct

De Tabley gives it from Bowdon and Chester, but doubts its nativity.

# Clinopodium ascendens (Jord.) Samp. Common Calamint

3

Of many locations in de Tabley's Flora, only one, on a sandstone cliff at Saighton (SJ4461), was found in the 1960s and still thrives. It has since been found at Claverton (SJ4163) in 1988. A few plants opposite a cottage in Peckforton (SJ5358) are presumably introduced. A few small non-flowering plants in a roadside cart rut at Bradley are thought to be this species.

# Coeloglossum viride (L.) Hartm. Vulnerable Frog Orchid Extinct

Once found at Staley Wood, Hollingworth, Woodend, Ringway, Grange Hill, Liscard Vale, Bidston, Broxton, Duckington, and Malpas. The record in Newton (1990) is in VC57.

# Coincya monensis (L.) Greuter & Burdet ssp. monensis Scarce Isle of Man Cabbage 2

The species is endemic to the British Isles and occurs in only 33 hectads nationally, mainly on the coasts surrounding the Isle of Man. In Cheshire it is still to be found in two sites: Leasowe dunes (SJ2792) and Wallasey golf-course (SJ2893) as in de Tabley. Ssp

cheiranthos from SW Europe occurs as an introduction as at New Ferry and Birkenhead.

#### Colchicum autumnale L.

#### Meadow Saffron

De Tabley records this from Staley, Edge and Withington, but was not convinced it was native. One plant, probably this species, was found on a wood edge in 2010 in SJ6076 but is likely to be introduced.

### Cotula coronopifolia L.

#### Buttonweed

Although only an alien, Buttonweed has been a feature of damp areas behind the sea-wall at Leasowe, to where it escaped from Leasowe Castle, since 1885 and efforts are made to conserve it. It has recently been seen in SJ2591 and also on Frodsham Marsh (SJ4878).

### Crambe maritima L.

#### Sea-kale

Not mentioned in de Tabley or Newton, although there is a pre1930 record in the 1963 Atlas. The coast lacked the right habitat until rocky defences were created and in 1995 a seedling was found at Thurstaston (SJ2482) which flowered in 1998. In 2000, a total of 6 plants were noted.

# *Crithmum maritimum* L. Rock Samphire

throws its nativity into question.

# Not recorded until 1980, this plant of maritime rocks was a welcome addition to the Cheshire flora. It still survives at Red Rocks (SJ2088) and has recently been detected at Caldy (SJ2285). It is rumoured that seeds were scattered here which

### Cryptogramma crispa (L.) R.Br. ex Hook Parsley Fern Extinct

De Tabley gives Tegg's Nose, Macclesfield, Staleybridge and Woodhead where it may yet be rediscovered.

### Cynoglossum officinale L. Common Hound's-tongue

1-2

Occurs in varying numbers on the sand-dunes at Leasowe and Wallasey where de Tabley recorded it as common.

### Dactylorhiza incarnata (L.) Son

### Early Marsh-orchid

Only recorded for Northwich lime beds as ssp *coccinea* in Newton (1971) and lost under a rubbish dump since. Newton (1990) gives SJ5279 for this ssp in 1990, and SJ7391 in 1983, Red Rocks (SJ2088) in 1972 and 1982, and Runcorn (SJ5383) in 1990 for ssp *incarnata*. A possible ssp *pulchella* was seen in SJ5144 in 1995, but needs confirmation. The confused taxonomy of the genus makes older records unreliable.

#### Daphne laureola L.

#### Spurge Laurel

A shrub growing in calcareous or clayey woodland which is locally frequent in England and Wales, but with only one site in Cheshire at Giant's Castle, Styal Woods (SJ8283) where 36 plants were counted in 1999 growing with *Tilia cordata*. One plant was found in SJ9694 in 2000 and 2 in a hedge in Threapwood (SJ4345) in 2006. Formerly seen at Cotterill Clough, Bellaire Wood and round Chester.

### Dianthus deltoides L.

NT

3

#### Maiden Pink

2

Extinct

This used to grow in several places on the N Wirral such as West Kirby, Wallasey, and New Brighton, but by the time of the 1971 Flora, it was confined to a single location on a fragment of dune at Hoylake. It has now been built upon. It occasionally appears as a short-lived introduction as at Stamford Bridge, Northwich and Brinnington.

### Dipsacus pilosus L.

#### Small Teasel

5

De Tabley only records this from Stockport, Cotterill Clough, Aston and Crewe Hill and Newton (1971) adds 2 more sites. It is still present at Crewe Hill (SJ4252), Aston (SJ5776), Wimboldsley (SJ6763) and Coxbank (SJ6542). A new colony in SJ6444 was found in 2010.

### Drosera anglica L.

NT

#### **Great Sundew**

Extinct

Once a feature of many mosses (Lindow, Stretton, Carrington, Oakmere, Hatchmere, Wybunbury, and near Holmes Chapel), this insectivorous plant seems to have last been recorded in 1918 at Abbott's Moss.

### Drosera intermedia Hayne

#### Oblong-leaved Sundew

1

In the past, this was found on many of the county's mosses. De Tabley gives Lindow Common, Carrington Moss, Baguley Moor, Knutsford Moor, Delamere, Oakmere, Hatchmere, Newchurch Common, Bidston Heath, Oxton Heath, Frankby Heath and Wybunbury Moss. By the 1960s it was confined to a small area of Thurstaston Common (SJ2484) and was feared lost after a series of dry years, but a few plants reappeared in 1998 where their survival is precarious. It might survive in the less accessible parts of the wetter mosses.

#### Dryopteris cristata (L.) A. Gray

#### CE Extinct

#### Crested Buckler-fern

Only found on Wybunbury Moss in de Tabley's day, having been exterminated at Hatchmere by collectors.

### Elatine hexandra (Lapierre) DC.

Six-stamened Waterwort

1

This diminutive water plant was rediscovered in 1980 in Mere Mere (SJ7381) where it was first recorded prior to 1833. Newton

(1991) comments that the water quality was pure and clear in 1981, but in 1996, although the plant survived, the water was full of algae, presumably caused by fertiliser run-off from the adjacent golf-course.

### Eleocharis multicaulis (Sm.) Desv. Many-stalked Spike-rush

An easily overlooked plant still to be found in a bog pool near Nunsmere (SJ5969). It was seen on Thurstaston Common in 1977 where drying of the habitat may have affected it. De Tabley records it as not uncommon in the right habitat and lists Eaton Moss, Stretton Moss, Oakmere, Newchurch Common, the Fishpool, Hatchmere, Frankby, Oxton, and Heswall Heath, but drainage has eliminated many of these sites.

### *Eleocharis quinqueflora* (Hartmann) O. Schwarz.

#### Few-flowered Spike-rush

As with *E. multicaulis*, this species has been much diminished due to habitat loss. Of de Tabley's sites at Hale, Tranmere, Heswall, Raby, Wallasey, and Lower Peover, none remain and it has only been seen recently in damp grassland in the Leasowe, Moreton area (SJ2492 and 2591). A site found at Hatchmere (SJ5372) in 1987 is now overgrown and the survival of the species there is in doubt.

Ralph Goodchild reports it from Thurstaston Common.

# Eleocharis uniglumis (Link) Schult Slender Spike-rush

Only seen recently (1995) in a wet field at Aston (SJ5576), but probably still present in suitable places on the Wirral.

### Eleogiton fluitans (L.) Link Floating Club-rush

A plant of still water which can vary in quantity depending on conditions. Recently recorded from Thurstaston (SJ2383) in 1987, Sound Common (SJ6148) in 1993, Capenhurst (SJ3773) in 1998, Rock Savage (SJ5080) in 2000, and Shocklach (SJ4448) and Bradfield Green (SJ6959) in 2005.

#### Epipactis palustris (L.) Crantz Marsh Helleborine

This spectacular orchid has never been common in Cheshire. De Tabley has a few sites in the east, but it was mostly on the Wirral as at New Brighton, and Leasowe. Now it is confined to the man-made habitat of lime-beds where it is currently flourishing at Marston (SJ6674), Rock Savage (SJ5379) and Moore (SJ5785). If these sites scrub over and dry out it will inevitably be lost there too. The site at Hatherton (SJ64) appears lost through degradation of the habitat caused by cattle.

# Epipactis phyllanthes G.E.Sm. Drooping Helleborine

Extinct

2

6

Reported from an oakwood at Hooton in 1985.

# *Equisetum hyemale* L. Rough Horsetail

A plant of shady places where moving water below the surface keeps the ground moist. In the past, it was to be found at Arden, Over, and perhaps along the Dee shore. A specimen in LIV came from near Parkgate. What was believed to be this at Red Rocks is now in doubt due to confusion with *E. x meridionale*. In 1989, a small colony was found near Church Minshull (SJ6562), thus restoring the plant to the Cheshire list. It still survives.

# Equisetum variegatum Schleich. ex F. Weber & D. Mohr Scarce Variegated Horsetail 2

May still occur where it has been long known in dune-slacks at Hoylake (SJ2087) and Wallasey (SJ2893) in a few places where the habitat still survives, but probably always an error. (see below).

### Equisetum x meridionale (Milde) Chiov. Rare

A decision by Peter Jepson to grow *E. x meridionale* from Anglesey next to *E. x trachyodon* from Wirral to see how they differed, produced the unexpected result that they were the same. It is now known that all plants previously recorded fron the Wirral as *x trachyodon* are, in fact, *x meridionale* and are considered to be of ancient origin. De Tabley has them as *E. variegatum var arenarium* and records it all along the north and west dunes system which is now much reduced by building. This is the first and only known site for it in England. I suspect that all records for *E. variegatum*, *x trachyodon* and probably *E. hyemale* from the coast refer to *E. x meridionale*.

# Equisetum x trachyodon A. Braun Error MacKay's Horsetail 3

This hybrid at Red Rocks (SJ2087) was first recorded in 1979, the first record for Cheshire. It has now been redetermined as *E. x meridionale*, a taxon understandably not considered at the time! The plant is subject to a local BAP.

Erodium lebelii Jord. Scarce Sticky Stork's-bill 2

First recorded from the dunes at Leasowe (SJ2491) in 1995 and again at Red Rocks (SJ2087) in 1996.

# Eryngium maritimum L. Sea Holly

Still to be found on the sand-dunes but not as much as formerly. Most is at Red Rocks (SJ2087) with smaller numbers at Thurstaston (SJ2482) and Leasowe (SJ2792).

### Euphorbia exigua L. NT Dwarf Spurge 1

Found in 2000 to be established as a weed in Ness Gardens (SJ3075)

1

3

### Euphorbia portlandica Portland Spurge

This species is now to be found at Red Rocks (SJ2087), Moreton (SJ2491) and Leasowe (SJ2792).

### Festuca altissima All. Wood Fescue

Included in Newton (1970), but the site is in VC57

### Festuca rubra ssp juncea (Hack.) K.Richt. A Red Fescue

A plant of maritime rocks, so far detected at Burton Point (SJ3073) and Red Rocks (SJ2088) but probably elsewhere along the coast.

### *xFestulpia hubbardii* Scarce Hybrid Vulpia 1

A recently discovered taxon which only occurs on sand-dunes at Leasowe (SJ2792). It may yet arise at Hoylake where *Vulpia fasciculata* is now flourishing.

### Filago minima (Sm.) Pers. Small Cudweed

This is a plant found in barish places on sandy soils which used to be widespread, if not common in Cheshire. De Tabley cites 22 locations. It was recorded in 1927 at Delamere and not again until 1991 when it was found in a disused sandpit at Wybunbury (SJ7049). A further colony was found in another old sandpit at Mouldsworth (SJ5170) in 1997. Now abundant on Moore NR.

# Filago vulgaris Lam. NT Common Cudweed 3

This cudweed was rare even to de Tabley who records it mainly from Delamere and the north Wirral. It too was last recorded in 1927. It was found on the site of a demolished building in Macclesfield (SJ9173) in 1996 where it was assumed to be introduced and was built over soon after. It was seen in set-aside at Warburton (SJ9089) in 1998 but did not survive. The discovery of a large colony in the Moore NR (SJ5785) in 2000 after 2 plants had been seen on the adjacent roadbank in 1998, was presumably a native resurgence and is still spreading. In 2002 a small colony was found on a sandy bank by Westlow Mere, Congleton (SJ856643), a flooded sand-pit, presumably also native seed regerminating. In 2007, it was found on Newchurch Common (SJ6069). There are several casual records.

# Fritillaria meleagris L. Vulnerable Fritillary Introduced(2)

Two plants, one white, one purple, were found in a damp pasture at Hassall Green (SJ7757) in 1993, but are most unlikely to be native. Introduced on the Middlewood Way.

# Fumaria purpurea Pugsl. Purple Ramping-fumitory

Last recorded in 1982 by the road through the dunes (SJ2993), but only of casual appearance in Cheshire. *Fumaria capreolata* and *F. bastardii* are of similar sporadic occurrence, though not as rarely.

Scarce

Rare casual

### Galeopsis angustifolia Ehrh. ex Hoffm. CE Red Hemp-nettle Extinct

Previously a rare cornfield weed at Mow Cop and casual at Neston.

### Gagea lutea (L.) Ker Gawler

Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem 1 Appearing native in one site at Kidnal (SJ4749) where over 100

Appearing native in one site at Kidnal (SJ4749) where over 100 plants grow on a wooded bank. It has occurred as a garden escape elsewhere.

### Genista anglica L. NT Petty Whin Extinct

Once found occasionally on heaths as at Staley Brushes, Baguley, Manley, Horton, Wybunbury, Rudhaeth, and Bidston, Brimstage, Eastham, Heswall, etc on the Wirral. Last seen 1943 near Ness.

# Gentiana pneumonanthe L Scarce Marsh Gentian Extinct

This striking flower, though described as rare in de Tabley, used to occur on many wet heaths. (Lindow Common, Baguley Moor, Bartington Heath, Runcorn Moor, Parkgate, Bidston, Heswall, Tranmere, Oxton, Thurstaston, and Rudheath). Was only to be found on Oxton Heath and Thurstaston Common in the 1990's but now lost from all sites probably due to drying habitats.

### Gentianella campestris (L.) Börner Vulnerable Field Gentian Extinct

A past resident of grassland at Staley Hall, Staleybridge, Werneth Low, Tatton, Hoylake, Leasowe and Wallasey.

#### Geranium columbinum L.

### Long-stalked Crane's-bill

Previously known from the Altrincham area, in Delamere area and round Heswall and Bidston. Last recorded in 1916 from Burton Point.

# *Geum x intermedium* Ehrh. Hybrid Avens

Recorded from Mobberley in 1873 and Wybunbury in 1968, but not since. *G. rivale*, the rarer parent is now reduced to 8 sites.

?

1

### Glaucium flavum Crantz Yellow Horned-poppy

As Cheshire lacks suitable shingle, the appearance of this species is usually short-lived and it was last reported in 1988 from

between Caldy and Thurstsaston. Still there in 200 and at Wallasey in 2004. It used to be more common along the Dee.

### Gnaphalium sylvaticum L. Endangered Heath Cudweed Extinct

This species has not been recorded since the last two sites at Sandiway (SJ6270) and Mouldsworth (SJ5170) were lost. De Tabley listed at least 23 sites. It is a plant of heaths and sandy areas which has declined dramatically nationally. A few plants were found as a casual in SJ7888 in 2010.

# Groenlandica densa (L.) Fourr. Vulnerable Opposite-leaved Pondweed Extinct An 1884 specimen from Delamere was determined as this by J.

E. Dandy.

### Gymnocarpium dryopteris (L.) Newman Oak Fern Extinct

Once found on walls at Middlewich and Ellesmere Port and in natural habitats at Staleybridge, Arncroft Wood, Bredbury, Marple, Morley, Errwood, Goyt, and Alderley Edge but not found recently.

### Hammarbya paludosa (L.) Kunze Bog Orchid Extinct

De Tabley did not know this in Cheshire, but there was a record from Sink Moss in 1837 (see Newton 1970).

### Hieracium vagense (Hanb.) Ley Scarce A Hawkweed 1

This was recorded from a steep eroding river cliff in Coombes Clough, Crowden (SK0599) in 1980 det C West. Doubts have been cast on the determination as it is normally a plant of limestone rocks. A redetermination and check on the pH of the rock are desirable. A similar looking species was found in the same habitat at Arnfield (SK0298) in 1999 and awaits determination.

### Hippophae rhamnoides L. Scarce Sea-buckthorn Introduced

Although classified as scarce, sea-buckthorn as a native is confined to a few stretches of the east coast and its widespread occurrence is Cheshire is entirely as a result of planting.

# Hippuris vulgaris L. Mare's-tail 2

Never common, this plant of shallow water is now only recorded recently from two sites; Capesthorne (SJ8472) in 1989 and in 1997 from a lake at Moreton (SJ2490). De Tabley also knew it from Capesthorne and in several places in N Wirral. Of the places given in Newton (1971), it was not refound at Plumley, Brereton or Frankby in the 1990s.

### Hordelymus europaeus L. Scarce Wood Barley 2-3

De Tabley only records this handsome grass from Cotterill Clough (SJ8084) where it survives today thanks to efforts to divert the course of the new road constructed when Ringway runway 1 was extended. Newton (1971) also recorded it at Etherow in VC57 where its survival status is unknown and at Flood Brook Clough (SJ5380) where it has not been found recently. It was found at Giant's Castle, Styal (SJ8283) in 1992 in a well botanised spot and seems to be increasing, pointing to recent arrival.

# Huperzia selago (L.) Bernh. Ex Schrank & C. Mart.

Fir Clubmoss 1

Not seen since 1900 until one plant was found in the Goyt Valley (SJ9974) in 2005 but footpath work destroyed it in 2007. In 2012 it was found on the south of Shining Tor (SJ9872) by Peak Forest Rangers with at least 18 plants.

# Hyoscyamus niger L. Vulnerable Henbane Casual

This poisonous biennial herb has probably never been other than of casual occurrence in Cheshire. Newton (1971) gives Mouldsworth sand-quarry (SJ5170) and Newton (1991) lists Denhall, Runcorn docks and by the Ship Canal at Ellesmere Port. Seen in SJ4066 in 2003.

### Hypericum elodes L. Marsh St John's-wort

From having been a feature of the wetter parts of mosses in de Tabley's day (he lists 17 sites), the plant declined and the last record was from Dunham on the Hill in 1925. However, following reclamation work at Shakerley Mere (SJ7371), it was refound there in 1989 but not detected in 2007. In 1997 it was found by a pool at Willaston (SJ3476).

2

# Hypericum montanum L. NT Pale St John's-wort Extinct?

Only ever seen on the old railway at Lower Kinnerton (SJ3362) where it was barely surviving in 1987 and may now be gone.

# Hypochaeris glabra L. Vulnerable Smooth Cat's-ear Extinct

Only ever found in three places of which one at Bowdon was casual. In 1868 it was found by Beeston Castle, and in 1836-7, somewhere on the coast. Recent records are unconfirmed and doubtless errors.

# Hypopitys monotropa Cranz Endangered Yellow Bird's-nest 1

Yellow Bird's-nest is a saprophyte living on the roots of trees which was last seen in an old tree nursery in 1992 in Sale (SJ8092). It has always been transient and was previously recorded from Hooton in 1964, gone by 1967. A good colony was found in 2006 at Marple (SJ9588) and still avoided threatened

development in 2008 and had spread to the nearby old railway in 2010 but may now have gone. A small colony was found in Anderton Nature Park in 2011 (SJ6575) and was much increased in 2012.

# Impatiens noli-tangere L. Scarce Touch-me-not Balsam 2

A plant of damp woodland which is regarded as native only in the Lake District and mid-Wales. It was seen in Big Wood, Combermere (SJ5944) in 1995 and in Great Wood, Peover Superior (SJ7772) along the stream bank among unusual native vegetation and not near houses which seems different from de Tabley's Lower Peover station.

### Juncus compressus Jacq. NT Round-headed Rush 1

First found by a pool by the canal at Middlewich in 1991 (SJ6966), but now has been built over. Found in 1999 Sale Ees (SJ7892) where it still occurs. Records on the Wirral were erroneous.

### Lathyrus nissolia L. Grass Vetchling

Most occurrences of this elusive plant are from grass seed, eg Astmoor and Adswood, but it is sometimes established as at Wharton (SJ6568). Two locations seem possibly native as de Tabley claimed: a railway bank at Wardle (SJ6058) and a green lane at Caldecott (SJ4352) which is a good match for Wolley Dod's site near Stretton Hall.

### Lathyrus sylvestris L.

Narrow-leaved Everlasting-pea Extinct Recorded in Newton (1971) as native on the Weaver bank at Sutton, which matches the record de Tabley rejected, but since lost.

#### Ledum palustre L. spp groenlandicum (Oeder) Hultén

This species is no longer regarded as a British native. Its only site in Cheshire at Danes Moss, Macclesfield is a re-introduction of an introduction!

# Lepidium latifolium L. Scarce Dittander 2

A culinary fore-runner of horse-radish which is native mainly in the south east, but only introduced in Cheshire. A good colony in the old sidings at Dewsnap, Dukinfield (SJ9375) was lost along with many other notable plants when the site was developed. It still survives in Chester (SJ4067), but its fate at a long-known site in Meols is unknown. A remarkable new colony was spotted on the central reservation of the M56 in 2010 at SJ6884.

#### Limonium celticum ssp britannicum Ingr.

Scarce

#### Rock Sea-lavender

The colony on Hilbre Island (SJ1887) continues to thrive despite taxonomic sinking feelings!

# *Limonium vulgare* Mill. Common Sea-lavender

1

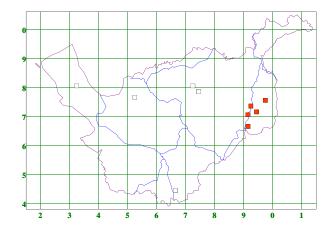
1

This salt-marsh plant has never been common in Cheshire and was reduced to one site at Bromborough in de Tabley's day where the last record was in 1924. This site was refound in 2003.

# Limosella aquatica L. Scarce Mudwort 5

A plant of seasonally exposed mud mainly occurring by old reservoirs in the east, although de Tabley gives it from Raby and Knutsford. It is of sporadic appearance and has recently been increasing, having been seen at Macclesfield, Lamaload, Bosley, Sutton and Bottoms reservoirs.

#### Limosella aquatica



### Linum bienne Mill.

Pale Flax

De Tabley recorded this inconspicuous plant from 4 or 5 places in the Wirral, but it was believed lost until found on the river bank near Frodsham in 1989 (SJ5279) where it thrives. It has since been found on the bank of R. Birkett at Leasowe (SJ2791) in 1997 and in a (then) neglected lawn in Gayton (SJ2880) in 1992 where it was believed native, but has not been seen since.

### Lithospermum arvense L.

### Field Gromwell Extinct

Mainly a cornfield weed now no longer to be found. Recorded from Werneth, Mobberley, Bidston, and Egremont in de Tabley.

### Lotus glaber Mill. Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil

1

3

Found on waste ground at Bromborough (SJ3484) on 2000 but probably introduced.  $\,$ 

Luronium natans (L.) Raf. Scarce Floating Water-plantain 2

A European endemic protected under WCA Schedule 8. Britain has some of the main populations where it occurs in lakes and canals. It used to be fairly common in Macclesfield and Peak Forest Canals, but is no longer to be seen since canal traffic increased. It was reported from the Trent & Mersey canal in 1994, but did not survive. In 1994, two large colonies were found on exposed mud at Bosley reservoir (SJ9266) where it may still be extant, but the site is now dominated by *Crassula helmsii*. A very small colony was seen in the canal in SJ9296 in 2012. In 2013 a small colony was found in a pool at Hollinworth in an apparently native site (SK0097).

#### Lycopodiella inundata (L.) Holub. Endangered Marsh Clubmoss Extinct

Lost from Cheshire as in most of England other than the New Forest. It was last recorded in Delamere in 1912, having been previously found at Lindow, Baguley, Bartington Heath, Oakmere, the Fish Pool, Delamere, Bidston, Thurstaston, and Oxton

# *Lycopodium clavatum* L. Stag's-horn Clubmoss

The last known site at Brownlow Heath was destroyed by tipping in the 1970s. Historically, it was known from Delamere, Bromborough and several places in the eastern hills where one plant was found in Coombes Clough, Crowden (SK0599) in 1994 but since not relocated. It could occur elsewhere in the area.

# Marrubium vulgareScarceWhite HorehoundExtinct

A few plants were found on sandstone rocks at Burton Point in 1972 where there was no reason to suggest an introduction. A clump survived in 1987, but the plant has not been seen since. Severe summer droughts may have killed it. Seen on a wall in Burton in 2013.

#### Medicago sativa L. ssp falcata (L.) Arcang.

Scarce Sickle Medick 1

As a native, this species occurs only in E Anglia, but it is found widely as a introduction as on Hilbre Island (SJ1887) where a single clump occurs. It was originally claimed to be Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil.

# Mentha pulegium L. Endangered Pennyroyal 3

An increasingly rare native characteristically found on damp village greens in the New Forest. It used to occur in such places in S Cheshire until the late 19th C (Beam Heath, Nantwich, Hankelow Green and Audlem). Its current existence in Cheshire is from imported grass-seed suitable for damp ground. It is to be found at Eastham Ferry (SJ3681), Anderton Nature Park (SJ6575) where it forms spectacular swathes and Stapeley Grange (SJ6750). Introduced material is believed to be a genetically different form from the USA and is currently being studied.

# Meum athamanticum Jacq. Spignel

NT Extinct

A single plant of this species was an amazing 2005 discovery at Mow Cop (SJ8657) in typical upland pasture. The only record but no longer there.

# Moenchia erecta (L.) P.Gaertn., B.Mey, & Scherb. Upright Chickweed Extinct

Only found at Bidston and Grange in de Tabley's time, having previously been found at Leasowe, New Brighton, New Ferry, Lower Bebbington, and Raby.

# Myosurus minimus L. Vulnerable Mousetail 3

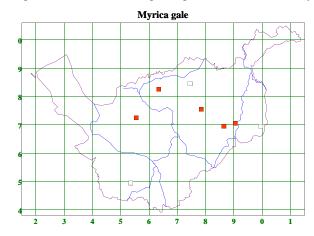
This inconspicuous member of the buttercup family, was believed extinct until refound in 1988 at Shocklach Green (SJ4248) where the numbers vary considerably depending on the season. In 1993, it was found in several places at Aldford (SJ4258) and in 2000 a few plants were found to have escaped to Pulford (SJ3958) from the well-known nearby colony in Wales. Now also SJ3958. De Tabley recorded it also from Vale Royal and Guilden Sutton.

# *Myrica gale* L. Bog-myrtle

1

5

Surprisingly, this species does not seem to have changed much in abundance since, de Tabley's day. It is still found in his sites at Danes Moss (SJ9070), Stretton Moss (SJ6382), and Hatchmere (SJ5572), but not at Rostherne. The status of Newton's records from 54NW and 96NE is not known, but more recent colonies have been found at Ollerton (SJ7875) and Gawsworth (SJ8669). Several colonies hold only old plants with no sign of regeneration, the site being overgrown with trees and drying out.



# Myriophyllum alterniflorum DC Alternate Water-milfoil

4

Still to be found in Bosley Reservoir (SJ9166) (but threatened by Crassula helmsii) and recorded from Taxal (SK0079) in 1996 and Disley (SJ9783) in 1995. Believed lost on Hilbre but refound in 2007.

#### Myriophyllum verticillatum L. Whorled Water-milfoil

Extinct?

Persicaria minor (Hudson) Opiz Small Water-pepper

Vulnerable

Never common in Cheshire, this aquatic was apparently last known from Frodsham marshes where it was seen in 1985, but the extreme pollution of the waters by fertilizer seems likely to

have finished it off.

Neottia cordata (L.) Rich Lesser Twayblade

Extinct

Nuphar pumila (Timm)DC.

Scarce

Least Water-lily

Reported from Hatchmere (SJ5572) but needing absolute verification, and now thought to be Nuphar x spenneriana.

### *Orobanche hederae* Duby Ivy Broomrape

A colony was found on ssp helix in a neglected part of a garden at Gayton (SJ2880) in 2005 and is increasing. The only record for VC58.

*Orobanche rapum-genistae* Thuill.

Extinct

NT

1

Greater Broomrape

A species much reduced nationally which de Tabley records for Staleybridge, Hill-cliff, Ince, Eastham, Edge and Congleton, but had no current location.

Paris quadrifolia L.

Herb-Paris

A creeping herb found in moist base-rich woodland. It used to grow in woods on the Bollin, Rock Savage, Aston Park, Pickmere, Over, Wych, Lower Peover and Davenham in 19thC. Newton (1971) has it from SJ44 and SJ54 and in 1990 adds Darnhall (SJ6362), subsequently lost and Dutton Dene (SJ5977) where it stills survives. It is easily overlooked and may still occur elsewhere.

### Parnassia palustris L.

#### **Grass of Parnassus**

Extinct

Once widespread though not common, by 1971 this attractive plant only grew in a base-rich flush at Hatherton (SJ64) where it has been trampled to death by cattle. A reported record from Disley has not been seen recently.

### Pedicularis palustris L.

Red-rattle

Extinct?

This shared the same site and fate as Parnassia palustris where it was last seen in 1991. The location of the site in SJ65 given in Newton (1971) is unknown. De Tabley listed Baguley Moor, Hale Moss, Rostherne, Knutsford, Peckforton Mere, Hatchmere, West Kirby, Raby and Brookhouse Moss, most of which are much changed since then.

De Tabley lists ca 15 sites, but Newton (1971) only has 2 of which one was only a casual introduction. The Tatton Park plants were last reported in 1985 and their fate is unknown. In 1991 it was found by Oakmere (SJ5767) and in 1994 good colonies were located by Trentabank Reservoir (SJ9671), but not seen in 2008.

#### Phegopteris connectilis (Michx.) Watt Beech Fern

3

The only historical records not in the eastern hills were in Burleyhurst Wood, Wilmslow, and between Heswall Hill and Claughton on the Wirral. It was not found at all during the 1971 Flora survey, but has since been found in three locations. In 1990 near Kettleshulme (SJ9089), in 1994 (and 2000) near Woodhead (SE0901) and by Fernlea reservoir (SK0176) in 1995. It is easily overlooked as it does not seem to form large colonies.

### Pilosella x stolonifera Hybrid Fox and Cubs

2

Recorded in Newton from Plumley, but not seen there recently. In 2010 a colony was found in Sale (SJ7992). Also probably in SJ7155 in 2013.

### Pilularia globulifera L

NT

**Pillwort** 

**Extinct** 

A nationally much reduced species due to loss of habitat which was last recorded from the Fishpool, Delamere. It had previously been found at Baguley, Mere, Oxton, Congleton Moss and Beam Heath, Nantwich.

#### Pinguicula vulgaris L.

#### Common Butterwort

**Extinct** 

Another victim of the destruction of boggy habitats. Frodsham, Thornton Hough, Thurstaston, and Raby were Wirral sites, long gone. Newton (1971) has one site at Swallowdale (SJ9366) but repeated searches have failed to refind it. It may hang on somewhere in the hills.

#### Platanthera chlorantha (Custer) Rchb. NT

Greater Butterfly-orchid 2

Once a feature of pastures in the north and east, this orchid has only been seen in two sites recently. De Tabley lists Marple Vale, Staleybridge, Wilmslow, Werneth, Alderley, Hollingworth, Mottram, Goyt Valley, Cotterill, Rostherne, Mobberley, Plumley, Holford and Over. Newton (1971) gives only 3 sites in upland meadows in SJ96, 97 and in SJ77 by Peover Brook. Plants found at Swettenham in 1987 have not reappeared recently after the site became overgrown. In 1989 it was found in the Wilmslow area where 2 spikes were seen in 1995. The most recent location was near Kettleshulme with 11 spikes in 1996.

The presence of P. bifolia in Cheshire is unconfirmed due to confusion of the two species.

### Polygonum oxyspermum C.A.Mey. & Bunge ex Ledeb ssp raii (Bab.) D.A.Webb & Chater Ray's Knotgrass

Ray's Knotgrass occurs on sandy beaches and tends to be transient in occurrence. It is never common and was last seen in the mid 1990s at Thurstaston.

# Polygonum rurivagum Jordan ex Boreau Cornfield Knotgrass

The occurrence of this species in Cheshire is generally as a casual introduced with grass seed, as at Carrington in 1996 and Handforth in 1997, but in 2000 it was found as an arable weed at Bradley (SJ5376) which is its more usual habitat in south and east Britain. It is increasingly common generally.

# *Polypodium cambricum* L. Southern Polypody

Extinct

Recorded in the Fern Atlas for SJ97, but the record is an unlocalised historical one.

Polypodium x mantoniae Rothm. & U.Schneid.

Recorded at Barnton (SJ2586)

### Potamogeton species Pondweeds

Pondweeds have in general suffered a severe decline recently, mainly due to fertilizer run-off into ponds and meres and to the opening up of canals to leisure traffic. *P. natans, polygonifolius, berchtoldii, perfoliatus* and *pectinatus* are the only ones at all common, the latter being particularly pollution tolerant.

### Potamogeton alpinus Balb. Red Pondweed

Stated by de Tabley to be frequent in mid-Cheshire, but only seen in 11 sites by 1972, most of which were canals. Recently detected only at Dukinfield (SJ9396) in 1993 and Kettleshulme (SJ9880) in 1998.

Potamogeton coloratus Hornem. Scarce Fen Pondweed Extinct

Recorded in 1902 on Willey Moor (SJ54), but the site is now drained.

Potamogeton compressus L. Endangered Grass-wrack Pondweed Extinct

De Tabley did not consider this a Cheshire plant, but Newton (1971) found it in the Macclesfield and Peak Forest canals where it is no longer to be seen.

Potamogeton gramineus L. Various-leaved Pondweed

Extinct

De Tabley recorded it from Rostherne Mere, Achmere, Hatchmere, and Bidston Marsh. It was last recorded from Ledsham and Neston in 1956.

# Potamogeton lucens L. Shining Pondweed

2

In de Tabley, Disley, Macclesfield Canal, Rostherne Mere, Dunham Park, Marston, Plumley and Lower Peover are given. Newton (1971) gives only the Macclesfield Canal, but it was refound in Dunham Massey (SJ7387) in 1994 and seen in the Trent & Mersey Canal (SJ47) in 1993.

Potamogeton praelongus Wulfen NT Long-stalked Pondweed Extinct

Only ever recorded in one place which was the Shropshire Union Canal at Quoisley in 1967 where it was first seen in 1947.

### Potamogeton pusillus L. Lesser Pondweed

4

?

De Tabley sites Jackson's Boat, Hale Moss, Marston, Tabley, Darnhall, Frodsham, Helsby, Hatchmere, Beeston, Birkenhead, Hooton, Little Sutton, Malpas, Crewe, and Macclesfield Canal. Newton (1971) gives only Frodsham Marshes, and Newton (1990) adds Tatton in 1981. Since then there have been records from Mere Mere (SJ7381) in 1996, Newchurch Common (SJ6069) in 1998, Tatton Park (SJ7579) and Comber Mere (SJ5844) in 2006. It is an easily confused or overlooked species.

### Potamogeton trichoides Cham. & Schltdl. Hairlike Pondweed

Only recorded in the Peak Forest Canal at Apethorne in the 1960s and possibly in 1984. Another species hard to identify.

### Pseudorchis albida (L.) A.& D. Löve Vulnerable Small-white Orchid Extinct

Recorded at Bromborough in 1862, Hollingworth in 1843 and 1855 and at Staley Wood.

Puccinellia rupestris (With.) Fernald & Weath.

#### Stiff Saltmarsh-grass

Scarce

A plant of bare places at the edge of saltmarshes whose nearest known stations are on the Severn Estuary which makes the discovery of over 30 plants in a saline spring in Anderton Nature Park (SJ6575) quite remarkable, it being unlikely to be introduced. It has been recorded in similar habitats in Staffordshire. There are old records for the Mersey Estuary where it could still linger undetected.

Pyrola media L. Vulnerable Intermediate Wintergreen Extinct

# *Pyrola minor* L. Common Wintergreen

Round-leaved Wintergreen

This was known from a wood at Tintwistle and by the R. Etherow in Longdendale in de Tabley's time, but now is only to be found on railway ballast at Disley (SJ9885) where it is assumed to have arrived by train from Derbyshire.

### Pyrola rotundifolia ssp maritima (Kenyon) E.F.Warb. Scarce

A small colony found at Moore (SJ5986) in 2004 was the first record and has increased to two patches.

# Radiola linoides Roth. NT Allseed Extinct

Once common on damp heathy ground, but not recorded since last seen at Flaxmere in 1912. It used to be at Lindow, Lower Withington, Chelford, Shaw Heath, Knutsford, Bowdon, Baguley, Sale Moor, Hatchmere, Bidston, Oxton, Claughton, Heswall, Thurstaston, Neston, Edge, Hankelow Green, Rudheath, and Peover Heath.

# Ranunculus arvensis L. CE Corn Buttercup Extinct

A cornfield weed which like several other similar species is no longer to be found due to the purer seeds and extensive use of herbicides.

### Ranunculus baudotii Godron

### Brackish Water-crowfoot

A species found in brackish pools near the sea formerly known from several places on the coast, but recently seen only on Frodsham Marshes (SJ4978).

## Ranunculus circinatus Sibth. Fan-leaved Water-crowfoot

Newton(1971) had this aquatic in 5 sites; Frodsham Marshes, Tatton Mere, Tabley Mere and N Wirral, but recently only 3 sites have been found. It is still in Melchett Mere (Tatton) (SJ7481)and occurred near Congleton in 1991. It also was found in a fishing pool in Anderton Nature Park (SJ6575) in 1999.

# Ranunculus parviflorus L. Small-flowered Buttercup Extinct

Never a common species in Cheshire - de Tabley sites Upton, Hoylake, West Kirby and Lawton - it is now gone. Its decline is due to intensive farming, the use of herbicides, etc.

# Ranunculus tripartitus DC. Endangered Three-lobed Crowfoot Extinct

### Rhynchospora alba (L.) Vahl White Beak-sedge

1

2

This is another species to suffer from the drying out of boggy areas. De Tabley says it was common on Lindow Common and occurred on Danes, Carrington, Holford, Oakmere and Wybunbury Mosses and at Marston. In 1926 it was very rare at Hatchmere, but the 1971 Flora did not find it anywhere. However, in 1977 a small patch was found in a bog pool near Abbott's Moss (SJ5969), but was not seen in 1994, the spot being overshaded by willows. A further colony in Abbott's Moss itself (SJ5968), found in 1991 and it is now thriving there. In 2002, its continued presence at Wybunbury Moss was confirmed where it was abundant in 2008.

# Ribes alpinum L. Scarce Mountain Currant 1

In de Tabley, this shrub was known from Staleybridge, Styal, Disley, and Reddish in 5 locations. The Disley site (SJ9884) is the only one known to still exist, but others could survive. It is not a native in Cheshire.

Rosa agrestis Savi. NT Small-leavedSweet-briar 1

A single bush was found on an old lime-dump which mimicked limestone at Runcorn (SJ5383) in 2002.

# Rosa micrantha Borrer ex Sm. Small-flowered Sweet-briar 4

Recorded in ca 1908 by Wolley-Dod (det Primavesi) for several locations in south Cheshire (eg. Chorlton Lane and Burwaldsley), but only currently found at Timbersbrook (SJ9063), Malpas (SJ5047) in 2001, Norley Meres (SJ5549) in 2006, and at Willington (SJ5264) in 2010.

Rosa mollis Sm.
Soft Downy-rose 3

Only two fully convincing specimens of this northern rose have been found; in hedges at Allgreave (SJ9667) and Gawsworth (SJ8971). There is a less certain plant at Brimstage (SJ2982).

# Rosa x hibernica Templeton Irish Rose 2

A large thicket of this rose (*pimpinellifolia x canina*) was found at Meols (SJ2390) in 2001 exactly where described by de Tabley. A rather straggly plant was also found by Greasby Brook (SJ2485) near Thurstaston.

### Rosa x margersonii (Wolley-Dod) Wolley-Dod

1

3 plants of a rose determined as this (*caesia* ssp *vosagiaca x pimpinellifolia*) were found at Irby (SJ2584) in 2001, with a larger colony (ca 50m) in a nearby hedgerow which approximates to a site in de Tabley for *R. x hibernica*.

# Rubus chamaemorus L. Cloudberry

Recently a 2nd colony has been found near the Cat and Fiddle (SK07A/B) and the BSBI Big Database has several more sites of which I was unaware. SE00F, K, L, M, R, S and X. It seems to be widespread but in small colonies in the eastern hills.

# Rubus wolley-dodii (Sudre) W.C.R.Watson RDB Wolley-Dod's Bramble

A British endemic found only at Edge Park and surrounding district (SJ44 & 45).

#### Rumex longifolius DC. Northern Dock

First found for the county during the 1971 Flora survey at Billinge Hill (SJ9577) and still present at its most southerly British location. It also grows in a nearby pasture. The hybrid with *R. obtusifolius* has been found there occasionally.

### Rumex alpinus Höfft NT Monk's Rhubarb 3

Another culinary herb of ancient introduction, characteristic of hill farms in the east. De Tabley did not mention it, but it is still to be found in Macclesfield Forest (SJ9772) and at Kettleshulme (SJ9978) and also in Brabyn's Park, Marple (SJ9689).

### Ruppia maritima L. Beaked Tasselweed

In 1971 this was only detected on Burton Marsh, after having been seen in several coastal sites in the 19th C, but the Dee Estuary is much changed since then. It could easily be present in salty pools in the area, but has only been found in a brackish pool at Nantwich (SJ6451) of late. In 2000, this was so befouled by bird droppings that no plant life survived at all!

#### Sagina nodosa (L.) Fenzl Knotted Pearlwort 5

De Tabley knew this as frequent on the coast, siting New Brighton, Wallasey, Leasowe, Hoylake, Parkgate and Burton Rocks. It has not been reported recently from there although a few moist hollows do survive. His location from the "Cat & Fiddle" is still extant (SK0071), but not those from Knutsford, Baguley, Hale Moss, Rostherne Mere, Pickmere and Wilderspool. It is however, thriving on Ashton's and Neumann's Flashes at Marston (SJ6674) on old lime beds and was seen in 1990 by the canal at Hyde (SJ9493) and SJ9494 in 2012. A site at Broadheath (SJ7588) appears lost. Several sites occur in the Goyt Valley. (SK07).

### Sagina subulata (Sw.) C.Presl. Heath Pearlwort

Extinct

Another species which has succumbed to the degradation of heathland, though never common, having been found only at Oakmere, Little Budworth, Heswall, Bebbington, Frankby, and Thurstaston. It could yet be refound.

#### Salicornia species Glassworts

Glasswort occurs all round the coast in suitable places and various species have been determined. *S. dolichostachya* is at Heswall (SJ2581), Little Neston (SJ2876) and New Ferry (SJ3485); *S. europaea* at Red Rocks (SJ2087), Heswall, and Little Neston; *S. fragilis* at Red Rocks, Heswall and Little Neston and *S. ramosissima* at Red Rocks, Heswall, Little Neston and New Ferry. A remarkable inland site for the latter at Neumann's Flashes (SJ6675) seems to have disappeared when the habitat dried out.

# Salix triandra L. Almond Willow

1

4

De Tabley sites Marple and by Peover Eye, Newton (1971) has 2 unnamed sites in SJ86 and recently it has been found at Wrenbury in 1996 with 2 male trees on the river bank (SJ5848), at Blakenhall (SJ7348) in 2 spots in 1993 and 1996, one at Crowton (SJ5872), and Norbury Meres (SJ5448), but some of these now seem doubtful.

# Salsola kali L. Vulnerable Saltwort 3

Although once fairly common along the coast, this plant of open sand was not found for the 1971 Flora. However, in 1975 it was reported from Red Rocks (SJ2087) and from West Kirby in 1986. Recently it has flourished between Leasowe and Meols with a siting at Wallasey (SJ2893) in 1995.

### Salvia verbenaca L.

Wild Clary

3

De Tabley used to know this at West Kirby, declaring it gone by 1873, but still knew it at Chester by the Roodee. By 1971 only one site at Denhall was known. However, it was refound at Hoylake (SJ2088) in 1982 on the golf-course and was still there in 2004. A further colony was found in 1994 (SJ2087). Sites have also been found inland in SJ7360 and SJ7574 whose status is unknown.

### Saxifraga hirculus L. Yellow Marsh-saxifrage

Vulnerable Extinct

Last seen on Knutsford Moor in 1842 where the habitat is now quite unsuitable.

#### Saxifraga tridactylites L. Rue-leaved Saxifrage

14

Formerly locally common on the Wirral, (Hoylake, Bidston, Wallasey, Prenton, and New Brighton), but only known from Wallasey golf-course and Beeston Castle by 1971. Recently it seems to be increasing in more artificial habitsta and has been recorded (1993) from walls in Frankby (SJ2486) on the Wirral. Elsewhere, it has been seen at Winnington in 1995 on top of a

### Scandix pecten-veneris L.

CE

#### Shepherd's Needle

Another species to succumb to the greater purity of grain and use of herbicides. Morley in 1924 was the last of many casual appearances.

#### Scheuchzeria palustris L.

Rannoch Rush

Extinct

Known in 1844 from Wybunbury Moss and seen again in 1865 and finally in 1896.

#### Schoenus nigricans L.

Black Bog-rush

**Extinct** 

Previously recorded from Stretton Moss and Wybunbury Moss.

### Scleranthus annuus L.

Endangered

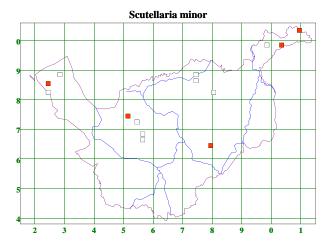
Annual Knawel

Reported by de Tabley as having a "thin but uninterrupted" distribution, but reduced to 7 sites by 1971. Recently records have come from old sand quarries at Alderley Edge (SJ8678) in 1989 and Mouldsworth (SJ5170) in 1991 but not since. Its has also been found in open sandy habitats at Whitegate (SJ6269) in 1991 and Maiden Castle (SJ4952) in 1998, but not seen in 2005. Only one plant was found in SJ8678 in 2009.

#### Scutellaria minor Huds.

#### Lesser Skullcap

De Tabley cites this bog plant as rare and decreasing which has proved to be the case. It has been known from Staley Moor, Lindow Common, Seaman's Moss, Bowdon, Hale, Delamere, Oakmere, Achmere, Fishpool, Heswall, Thurstaston, Bidston, and Oxton. Newton (1971) gives 4 sites all of which are still Silene uniflora Roth. known; Holme Moss (SK0903) seen 1992, Tintwistle (SK0398) in 1999, Brereton Heath (SJ7964) in 1992, Snidley Moor (SJ5174) in 1990 but very overgrown, and refound on Thurstaston Common (SJ2485) in 2000.



#### **English Stonecrop**

Only ever seen on the coast and reduced to one area (Hoylake) by 1971. A recent record came from Leasowe (SJ2792) in 1992.

### Extinct Selaginella selaginoides (L.) P.Beauv.

#### Lesser Clubmoss

Extinct

1

Used to occur in dune-slacks at Heswall, New Brighton, and Wallasev..

### Seriphidium maritimum (L.) Polj.

#### SeaWormwood

Extinct?

Only ever known from Wallasey Pool, from where it was seen in 1860, and Bromborough Pool from where it had disappeared by 1974. It was reported from a field bank at Meols (SJ2490) in 1981 where its current status is unknown.

#### Serratula tinctoria L.

#### Saw-wort

4

Never common in Cheshire, de Tabley giving only 6 sites (Mobberley, Tattenhall, Clatterbridge, Wybunbury, Lower Peover and previously Gilbrook from which he says it was gone by 1860). Newton (1971) only has one site in SJ66 whose precise location is unknown. Today, it is known from road verges at Moston (SJ7161) and Coddington (SJ4356) where it suffers from mowing, and a few plants were found in an old hedge at Darnhall (SJ6264) in 1996, but not in Newton's site. One plant in the hedge Bradwall (SJ7664) in 2003.

#### Silene gallica L. Small-flowered Catchfly

Endangered Casual

A much reduced weed of cultivated sandy soils which is only ever casual in Cheshire. It has occurred on the Wirral as at Hoylake in 1860 and Newton (1971) gives an SJ28 site for 1968. Recent records are from Middlewich (SJ7166) in 1993 and Winsford (SJ6568) in 2000.

#### Sea Campion

3

The most recent records are from Red Rocks, Hoylake (SJ2088) and Hilbre Island (SJ1887), both of long standing. Newton (1990) also gives the Mersey bank in SJ47. De Tabley says it used to grow in the Tranmere/Rock Ferry area and knew it at Burton Point and Parkgate.

#### Sorbus torminalis (L.) Crantz

#### Wild Service-tree

4

A handsome tree only to be found in ancient woodland. De Tabley, however, reported it only from Delamere Forest where it was planted. It occurs in indigenous woodland at Darnhall (SJ6462), Shotwick (SJ3470) with 30 trees and Warburton's Wood, Kingsley (SJ5576) and in hedges at Threapwood (SJ4445).

### Sparganium natans L.

Least Bur-reed Extinct

The one site in Newton (1971) in a spring fed pond in SJ28 is now lost. Historical sites were at Seamann's Moss, Hatchmere, New Ferry, Bebbington, Thurstaston, Little Sutton, Wybunbury and Rudheath.

#### Spergularia rupicola Lebel ex Le Jol.

#### Rock Sea-spurrey

One of few species not depleted by time, being still in abundant on Hilbre Island (SJ1887) where de Tabley records it. It now occurs at Hoylake as well (SJ2088).

#### NT *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall. Autumn Lady's-tresses Extinct

Only certainly found on the Wirral at Rock Fort, Leasowe, and Hoylake and last seen in 1917 at Caldy.

#### Teesdalia nudicaulis (L.) R. Br. NT Shepherd's Cress

A spring annual which used to be fairly common on sandy commons as at Lindow, Withington, Hale, Bowdon,, Timperley, Knutsford, Overton, Delamere, Peckforton, Little Budworth, Oakmere, Tranmere, Bidston, Prenton, Storeton, West Kirby, Broxton, Bickerton, Congleton, Goostrey, Brereton, etc. Newton (1971) gives Storeton, Wybunbury, Sound, and unlocalised sites in SJ56 and SJ67. By 1990, only Wybunbury (SJ7049) and Sandiway (SJ6071) remained. Since then it has been found in Carden Park (SJ45) in 1996.

#### Thalictrum minus L. Lesser Meadow-rue

As a native, Lesser Meadow-rue has always been confined to the Dee coast where it is ssp arenarium (Burkh.) Clapham and it can still be found there today on Hoylake dunes (SJ2087) and on the Leasowe system (SJ2290). Elsewhere, it is usually introduced garden forms and has been seen in Stockport, Storeton, Hooton and Bromborough.

#### Thelypteris palustris Schott Scarce

Marsh Fern

Always a rare fern from wet habitats, found by de Tabley at Knutsford, Rostherne Mere, Newchurch Common, Petty Pool, Bar Mere and Wybunbury Moss. Recently it has only been recorded from Wybunbury Moss (SJ6950), Quoisley Mere (SJ5445) Norley Mere (SJ5549), Marley Moss (SJ5745) and Knutsford (SJ7579). Newton (1990) reports its unconfirmed survival at Petty Pool.

#### Thymus polytrichus A. Kern ex Borbás ssp. britannicus (Ronninger) Kerguélen Wild Thyme 3

As a native, virtually confined to the coast as at Hoylake (SJ2088) and Meols (SJ2290). De Tabley also reports it as very rare in the eastern hills at Lyme Park, Disley, and Kerridge, Bollington. A recently discovered colony on the road verge by

the Cat & Fiddle (SK0071) is more likely to have arrived with limestone chippings. De Tabley also knew a large colony in Mobberley, and some in the Norley area.

### Torilis nodosa (L.) Gaertn.

**Knotted Burr-parsley** 

9

Another Wirral plant no longer found. De Tabley gives Little Sutton, Parkgate, Burton Point, Bidston Marsh, Chester and Thornton Grange. Last seen at Burton Point in 1910. Refound in 2012 on disturbed ground in the Chester area. May not survive.

### *Trichomanes speciosum* Willd.

Killarney Fern

2

A new species recorded by Dr. Des Callaghan (county bryophyte recorder)in 2013 in a hollow on sandstone cliffs near Marple (SJ9489) (conf A O Chater). This was the gametophyte form. Dr Callaghan has now found a colony on Alderley Edge (SJ8676).

### Trifolium ornithopodioides L.

Bird's-foot Clover

1?

This inconspicuous plant used to occur in various spots along the Dee shore: Parkgate, Ness, Bidston Hill, Grange, and Caldy. Newton (1971) gives the last record as 1942 at Thurstaston. Several plants appeared at Leasowe (SJ2491) in 1986 where they were last seen in 1994. It was also found on Hilbre Island in 1994.

### Trifolium subterraneum L.

**Burrowing Clover** 

**Extinct** 

Another Dee Shore plant now no longer with us. De Tabley gives Parkgate and West Kirby and it was discovered at Meols along with T. Ornithopodioides, but the site was destroyed. It occurred in Congleton (SJ8564) in 1984, but was gone by 1988.

Trifolium suffocatum L.

Scarce

**Suffocated Clover** 

Extinct

A specimen in LIV collected by J Dickinson from SJ27, labelled T. subterraneum has been redetermined as this species.

#### Trollius europaeus L.

Globe-flower

Extinct

De Tabley gives only Great Wood, Staley "in great quantity".

Tulipa sylvestris L.

Wild Tulip

Extinct

A small colony on a sandy stream bank at Coddington (SJ4555) was reduced to 2 leaves in 1989 and its survival is doubtful.

An easily overlooked aquatic found in bog pools which used to be more common (Lindow, Hale Moss, Carrington, Tabley, Thornton Marsh, Hatchmere, Newchurch, Brookhouse Moss, and Rudheath), but is now known only from Abbott's Moss in 2 peaty pools (SJ5968/9).

#### Utricularia vulgaris agg Greater Bladderwort

Again, more common in the past with sites in de Tabley for Seamann's Moss, Mobberley, Moore, Tabley, Knutsford, Thornton Marsh, Frodsham, Dunham, Woodside, Meols, Saighton, Irby, Brookhouse Moss, Lower Peover, Edge and Wybunbury. Newton (1971) gives 6 sites of which 2 in SJ37 & 88 were lost by 1990. Recent sightings have been at Wimbolds Trafford (SJ4372) and at Prenton (SJ2985), Hooton (SJ3477) and Leasowe (SJ2491) in ponds.

# Vaccinium x intermedium Ruthe Scarce Intermediate Bilberry 2

The hybrid between Bilberry and Cowberry is confined to moors in Staffs, Derbys, Yorks and Cheshire. It has been found on Congleton Edge (SJ8760) and Bosley Cloud (SJ9063) in small quantity.

### Verbascum lychnitis L. Scarce White Mullein Extinct?

Newton (1971) gives Malpas and Frodsham as locations for this plant which is not native in Cheshire. The Malpas site is now gone and its seems likely that the Frodsham site will not survive the recent change in topology. A magnificent colony at Dewsnap sidings (SJ9397) was lost when the site was developed.

### Verbascum virgatum Stokes Twiggy Mullein

Casual

Although nationally scarce, this species also occurs widely as an introduction, as in Cheshire. De Tabley records it from Bredbury, Aston, Plumley, and Delamere. The year 2000 saw a reappearance after many years with sitings at Parkgate (SJ2478), Bromborough (SJ3582), Wallasey (SJ2993), on a rubbish heap at Tabley Superior (SJ7279) and on an old wall at Sutton (SJ9271). Surprisingly, the Tabley colony was thriving in 2010.

# Vicia lathyroides L. Spring Vetch 4

This spring annual is mainly to be found on coastal dune systems, but with the occasional inland site. De Tabley has it from Macclesfield Common, Newton (1971) gives it from Beeston Castle (SJ5359). Recently, it has been seen on Hilbre Island (SJ1887), Hoylake (SJ2088), Leasowe (SJ2793) and Wallasey (SJ2893).

Present in Cheshire only as a result of introduction with grass seed. The Stockport colony (SJ9090) has now died out, ashas the one at Tarvin (SJ4966) where it was first found in 1991. De Tabley records it as found at Caldy in 1862, but the habitat was destroyed by a storm in 1986!

#### Vicia sylvatica L. Wood Vetch

3

De Tabley gives Bramhall, Cotterill, Vale Royal, Over and Lower Wych, to which Newton (1971) adds an unlocalised site in SJ86. It is still present at Lower Wych (SJ4844) and in abundance at Winsford (SJ6468) and Wharton (SJ6567/6568). A small colony was found in Bowshott Wood, Twemlow Green (SJ7867) in 1993. The Bollin Valley plants have not been located recently and the new runway may have sealed their fate. A flourishing colony at Swallowswood Reserve, Hollingworth is presumed introduced.

### Viola canina ssp. canina L. NT Heath Dog-violet 2

Although possibly once found on inland heaths (de Tabley cites Hale Moss, Bowdon, Mouldsworth, Budworth, Newchurch and Delamere), there may have been some taxonomic confusion with *V. riviniana*. Nowadays, true *canina* is only to be seen on sand dunes at Hoylake (SJ2088) and Leasowe (SJ2792) where it is rare.

### Viola tricolor L. ssp curtisii (E. Forst.)Syme Seaside Pansy Extinct

Once known from the sand-hills at New Brighton and last seen in 1924.

# Vulpia fasciculata (Forssk.) Fritsch Scarce Dune Fescue 3

De Tabley records this as very abundant at Wallasey and Hoylake, making it curious that it was not seen for the 1971 Flora where it is recorded as extinct after 1908. It was refound at Leasowe (SJ2792) in 1988 and has since been found at Hoylake (SJ2087) and Meols (SJ2289). The hybrid with *Festuca rubra* (*xFestulpia hubbardii*) has been found in several places at Leasowe.

### Wahlenbergia hederacea (L.) Rchb. NT Ivy-leaved Bellflower 4

De Tabley records it from by the R Etherow, and at Snidley, Frodsham, but neither is known to survive. He also mentions Woodhead in which area most colonies are now found. There are good colonies on Holme Moss (SE0903) and Pikenaze Moor (SE1100) with a small colony near Tintwistle (SK0398).

### MONADS WITH SCARCE SPECIES

1887 Asplenium marinum, Cerastium arvense, Limonium 4372 Utricularia vulgaris celticum, Myriophyllum alterniflorum, Silene uniflora, Sper-4878 Cotula coronopifolia gularia rupicola, Trifolium ornithopodiodes, Vicia lathy-4977 Bromus commutatus roides 4978 Ranunculus baudotii 2971 Linum bienne 5045 Carex muricata ssp. pairae 2974 Allium oleraceum 5046 Carex hostiana 2087 Blysmus rufus, Equisetum variegatum, E. x trachyo-5047 Rosa micrantha don, Eryngium maritimum, Salsola kali, Salvia verbenaca, 5445 Cirsium dissectum, Thelypteris palustris Thalictrum minus, Vulpia fasciculata 5549 Rosa micrantha 2088 Crithmum maritimum, Spergularia rupicola, Salvia 5549 Thelypteris palustris verbenaca, Silene uniflora, Thymus polytrichus, Vicia lathy-5745 Thelypteris palustris roides, Viola canina 5844 Potamogeton pusillus 2285 Crithmum maritimum 5848 Salix triandra 2289 Vulpia fasciculata 5944 Impatiens noli-tangere 2383 Adiantum capillus-veneris, Eleogiton fluitans 5255 Asplenium trichomanes ssp pachyrachis 2482 Crambe maritima, Eryngium maritimum 5358 Clinopodium ascendens 2484 Drosera intermedia, 5053 Asplenium trichomanes ssp pachyrachis 2485 Scutellaria minor 5054 Asplenium trichomanes ssp pachyrachis 2486 Saxifraga tridactylites 5264 Rosa micrantha 2584 Rosa x margerisonii 5669 Cerastium arvense 2880 Linum bienne 5767 Calamagrostis stricta, Persicaria minor 2985 Utricularia vulgaris 5968 Andromeda polifolia, Rhynchospora alba, Utricularia mi-2290 Equisetum x trachyodon, Thalictrum minus, Thymus nor polytrichus 5969 Eleocharis multicaulis, Rhynchospora alba, Utricularia 2390 Rosa x hibernica minor, Andromeda polifolia 2490 Hippuris vulgaris 5077 Bromus commutatus Carex viridula ssp viridula, Centaurium pulchellum, 2491 5170 Filago minima, Scleranthus annuus Trifolium ornithopodioides, Utricularia vulgaris 5174 Scutellaria minor 2492 Eleocharis quinqueflora 5378 Allium oleraceum 2591 Eleocharis quinqueflora 5379 Centaurium littorale, Epipactis palustris, Gymnadenia 2592 Cotula coronopifolia densiflora, Linum bienne 2792 Coincya monensis, Eryngium maritimum, Sedum an-5477 Allium oleraceum glicum, Viola canina, Vulpia fasciculata, xFestulpia hubbar-5572 Andromeda polifolia, Myrica gale, Nuphar pumila? dii 5576 Eleocharis uniglumis, Sorbus torminalis 2793 Vicia lathyroides 5776 Dipsacus pilosus 2893 Coincya monensis, Equisetum variegatum, Salsola 5977 Paris quadrifolia kali, Vicia lathyroides 5785 Calystegia sepium ssp roseata 2993 Equisetum x trachyodon 5080 Eleogiton fluitans 2994 Asplenium marinum 5383 Rosa agrestis 3858 Myosurus minimus 5584 Calystegia sepium ssp roseata 3958 Myosurus minimus 5785 Filago vulgaris, Cerastium arvense 3861 Bromus racemosus 6148 Eleogiton fluitans 3074 Carex muricata ssp lamprocarpa 6444 Lepidium latifolium 3075 Euphorbia exigua 6446 Brachypodium pinnatum 3470 Sorbus torminalis 6448 Bromopsis erecta 3476 Hypericum elodes 6058 Lathyrus nissolia 3477 Utricularia vulgaris 6152 Bromopsis erecta 3681 Mentha pulegium 6750 Mentha pulegium 4248 Myosurus minimus 6950 Andromeda polifolia, Carex lasiocarpa, Carex limosa, 4445 Sorbus torminalis Rhynchospora alba, Thelypteris palustris 4448 Eleogiton fluitans 6959 Eleogiton fluitans 4749 Gagea lutea 6069 Potamogeton pusillus 4844 Vicia sylvatica 6169 Andromeda polifolia 4252 Dipsacus pilosus 6264 Serratula tinctoria 4258 Myosurus minimus 6269 Scleranthus annuus 4352 Lathyrus nissolia 6462 Sorbus torminalis 4356 Serratula tinctoria 6468 Vicia sylvatica 4952 Asplenium trichomanes ssp pachyrachis, Scleranthus 6567 Vicia sylvatica, xAgropogon littoralis annuus 6568 Lathyrus nissolia, Vicia sylvatica 4067 Lepidium latifolium 6966 Juncus compressus? 4163 Clinopodium ascendens 6074 Bromus commutatus 4661 Clinopodium ascendens 6076 Colchicum autumnale 4966 Vicia lutea

6373 Saxifraga tridactylites

4276 Calystegia sepium ssp roseata

6575 Mentha pulegium, Puccinellia rupestris, Ranunculus circi-

natus. Hypopitys monotropa

6674 Epipactis palustris, Sagina nodosa

6972 Bromus commutatus

6979 Bromus secalinus

6382 Myrica gale

6981 Bromus secalinus

6982 Bromus secalinus

7360 Salvia verbenaca

7049 Filago minima, Teesdalia nudicaulis

7348 Salix triandra

7444 Circaea x intermedia

7757 Fritillaria meleagris

7161 Serratula tinctoria

7664 Serratula tinctoria

7867 Vicia sylvatica

7964 Scutellaria minor

7175 Bromus secalinus

7371 Hypericum elodes

7574 Salvia verbenaca

7579 Potamogeton pusillus 7772 Impatiens noli-tangere

7773 Bromus commutatus

7875 Myrica gale

7879 Carex muricata ssp. pairae

7082 Bromus secalinus

7381 Elatine hexandra, Potamogeton pusillus

7387 Potamogeton lucens

7888 Brachypodium pinnatum

7892 Juncus compressus

7992 Pilosella x stolonifera

8156 Rosa micrantha

8061 Andromeda polifolia

8669 Myrica gale

8760 Vaccinium x intermedium

8472 Hippuris vulgaris

8678 Scleranthus annuus

8971 Rosa mollis

8083 Anacamptis pyramidalis, Circaea x intermedia

8084 Hordelymus europaeus

8281 Andromeda polifolia

8283 Daphne laureola, Hordelymus europaeus, Tilia cordata

8191 Arabis hirsuta

9063 Rosa micrantha, Vaccinium x intermedium

9166 Myriophyllum alterniflorum

9266 Limosella aquatica, Luronium natans

9366 Carex hostiana

9667 Rosa mollis

9070 Myrica gale

9577 Rumex longifolius

9671 Persicaria minor

9772 Rumex pseudoalpinus

9876 Circaea x intermedia

9974 Huperzia selago

9973 Huperzia selago

9978 Rumex pseudoalpinus

9979 Chenopodium bonus-henricus

9089 Phegopteris connectilis

9485 Circaea x intermedia

9489 Trichomanes speciosum

9689 Rumex pseudoalpinus

9783 Myriophyllum alterniflorum

9588 Hypopitys monotropa

9880 Potamogeton alpinus

9884 Chenopodium bonus-henricus, Ribes alpinum

9885 Pyrola minor

9296 Luronium natans

9395 Potamogeton alpinus

9493 Sagina nodosa

9694 Daphne laureola

0069 Andromeda polifolia

0071 Sagina nodosa, Thymus polytrichus

0072 Rubus chamaemorus

0074 Sagina nodosa

0079 Myriophyllum alterniflorum

0096 Chenopodium bonus-henricus

0097 Vicia sylvatica, Luronium natans

0176 Phegopteris connectilis, Sagina nodosa

0198 Chenopodium bonus-henricus

0201 Rubus chamaemorus and most squares to N and E

0298 Carex hostiana

0398 Scutellaria minor, Wahlenbergia hederacea

0599 Hieracium vagense, Lycopodium clavatum

0901 Phegopteris connectilis

0903 Scutellaria minor, Wahlenbergia hederacea

1100 Wahlenbergia hederacea

### **EXTINCT SPECIES**

The following species are natives or plants of ancient introduction by man which used to occur in VC58, but are no longer believed to do so.

Alopecurus bulbosus Anacamptis morio Bupleurum tenuissimum Calystegia soldanella

Carex diandra Carex dioica

Carex viridula ssp brachyrrhyncha

Carlina vulgaris
Centunculus minimus
Cirsium eriophorum
Clinopodium acinos
Coeloglossum viride
Cryptogramma crispa
Dianthus deltoides
Drosera anglica
Dryopteris cristata
Epipactis phyllanthes

Genista anglica

Gentiana pneumonanthe

Gentianella campestris Geranium columbinum

Galeopsis angustifolia

Gnaphalium sylvaticum

Groenlandia densa

Gymnocarpium dryopteris

Hammarbya palustris

Hypericum montanum

Hypochaeris glabra

Lathyrus sylvestris

Lithospermum arvense

Lycopodiella inundata

Marrubium vulgare

Meum athamanticum

Moenchia erecta

Myriophyllum verticillatum

Neottia cordata

Orobanche rapum-genistae

Parnassia palustris

Pedicularis palustris

Pilularia globulifera

Pinguicula vulgaris

Polypodium cambricum

Potamogeton compressus

Potamogeton gramineus

Potamogeton praelongus

Pseudorchis albida

Pyrola media

Radiola linoides

Ranunculus arvensis

Ranunculus parviflorus

Ranunculus tripartitus

Sagina subulata

Saxifraga hirculus

Scandix pecten-veneris

Scheuchzeria palustris

Schoenus nigricans

Selaginella selaginoides

Sparganium natans

Spiranthes spiralis

Torilis nodosa?

Trifolium subterraneum

Trifolium suffocatum

Trollius europaeus

Tulipa sylvestris

Verbascum lychnitis

Viola tricolor ssp curtisii

### SCARCE SPECIES IN VC58

The following species occur in 4 to 16 sites and should be regarded as potentially vulnerable

Alchemilla glabra
Alopecurus aequalis
Allium vineale
Ammophila arenaria
Anagallis tenella
Anthriscus caucalis
Apium graveolens
Apium inundatum
Armeria maritima
Artemisia absinthium
Asplenium ceterach
Atriplex glabriuscula
Atriplex littoralis
Berberis vulgaris
Botrychium lunaria

Beta vulgaris ssp maritima

Brassica nigra Cakile maritima

Calamagrostis canescens Calamagrostis epigejos Callitriche hermaphroditica Callitriche obtusangula Callitriche platycarpa

Campanula trachelium Carduus nutans Carduus tenuiflorus

Carex arenaria Carex binervis Carex distans Carex disticha

Carex divulsa ssp divulsa

Carex elata
Carex extensa
Carex laevigata
Carex lasiocarpa
Carex pallescens
Carex pulicaris
Carex spicata
Carex strigosa
Carex vesicaria
Catabrosa aquatica

Centaurea scabiosa Ceratophyllum demersum Ceratophyllum submersum

Chaenorhinum minus Chenopodium ficifolium

Catapodium marinum

Catapodium rigidum

Chenopodium polyspermum Chrysosplenium alternifolium Cladium mariscus
Clematis vitalba
Clinopodium vulgare
Cochlearia anglica
Crepis paludosa
Cystopteris fragilis
Dactylorhiza maculata
Dactylorhiza purpurella
Drosera rotundifolia
Dryopteris cambrensis

Echium vulgare Eleocharis acicularis Elytrigia atherica Elytrigia juncea Erigeron acer

Erophila glabrescens Erophila majuscula Euonymus europaeus Fumaria bastardii

Fumaria capreolata Galium mollugo ssp erectum

Galium uliginosum Gentianella amarella Geranium sanguineum

Geum rivale

Gymnadenia conopsea
Helichtotrichon pubescens

Hordeum secalinum Hottonia palustris

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae

Hypericum hirsutum
Inula conyzae
Juncus ambiguus
Juncus gerardii
Juncus maritimus
Juncus subnodulosus
Lathraea squamaria
Lavatera arborea
Lepidium campestre
Lepidium heterophyllum

Littorella uniflora Lythrum portula Melampyrum pratense Myosotis ramosissima Myosotis secunda

Leymus arenarius

Narcissus pseudonarcissus ssp pseu-

donarcissus

Narthecium ossifragum

Neottia ovata0

Oenanthe lachenalii
Ononis spinosa
Ophrys apifera
Orchis mascula
Orobanche minor
Osmunda regalis
Parapholis strigosa
Phleum arenarium
Poa angustifolia

Polygonatum multiflorum Polypodium interjectum Polypodium x mantoniae Potamogeton polygonifolius

Ranunculus lingua Ranunculus peltatus

Raphanus raphanistrum ssp mar-

itimus

Rhamnus cathartica

Rhinanthus minor ssp stenophyl-

lus

Rosa caesia ssp caesia Rosa caesia ssp vosagiaca

Rosa pimpinellifolia Rosa rubiginosa Rubus caesius

Rumex crispus ssp littoreus

Rumex maritimus
Sagina maritima
Samolus valerandii
Sanicula europaea
Saxifraga granulata
Schoenoplectus lacustris

Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Scirpus sylvaticus Spartina anglica Spergularia media Spergularia rubra Spirodella polyrhiza Stellaria nemorum Stellaria pallida Suaeda maritima Thalictrum flavum Tilia cordata

Trifolium fragiferum
Trifolium micranthum
Trifolium striatum
Triglochin maritimum
Vaccinium vitis-idaea
Valeriana dioica
Valerianella locusta

Veronica polita Viola lutea Viscum album Viola reichenbachiana Zannichellia palustris