

DERBYSHIRE FLORA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

EDITED: ALAN WILLMOT (County Recorder) & NICK MOYES (Derbyshire CC)

Number 21 – WINTER 2011/2012

1. EDITORIAL (AW)

As far as I am concerned Flora matters have at last settled down after Nick's departure from Derby Museum and I am able to make progress with editing the on-line accounts. However, other botanical work in the county continues. Last year's records have been forwarded to the BSBI and plans are given below for collecting this year's records. Please consider taking on an extra hectad for the date class five exercise. Section 6 indicates hectads that require more work.

2. RECENT PLANT RECORDS v.c. 57 (AW)

As usual I include here some of the more interesting plant records I have come across over the year. As this is a personal selection, I may have omitted records you think I should have included. If this is so, please let me know and I will endeavour to include them in the next newsletter.

Anemone x hybrid (Japanese Anemone) a new county record was found by Grace Wheeldon in August 2011 at Moss Rake on Bradwell Moor (SK1480). It is interesting to speculate how this garden plant became established there as it is even difficult to get it to establish in gardens.

Atriplex littoralis (Grass-leaved Orache) was recorded early last year by me on the side of the A38 where it separates from the A61 at Breadsall (SK3639). This is yet another of the

seaside plants that are moving inland along salt-treated roads.

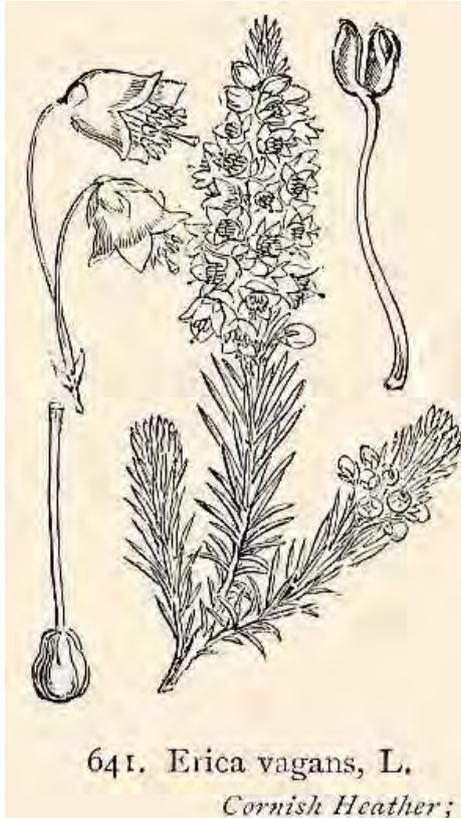


Atriplex littoralis

X Dactyloglossum x mixtum One plant of this rare hybrid between Frog and Common Spotted-orchid was found in flower by D Mallon in June 2011 on the Tissington Trail north of Hartington Station. The flowers are distinctive but not particularly attractive being half way between both parents in form and colour.

Erica vagans (Cornish Heath) Tony Mundell, the county plant recorder for North Hampshire (VC12), found a patch of this growing amongst *Calluna vulgaris* alongside a path from Edale to Kinder

Scout (SK1186). He noticed it in mid-October as it was still in flower and the surrounding *Calluna* had finished by then. It was growing with double-flowered and white-flowered varieties of *Calluna* so undoubtedly planted. One wonders how long it has been there, probably overlooked because it was growing amongst a mass of common Heather.



641. *Erica vagans*, L.
Cornish Heather;

Erigeron karvinskianus (Mexican Fleabane) is increasingly being recorded as an established alien locally. Roy Smith recorded it from the front of Swanwick Hall School Art Department in 2010 (SK403532) and we recorded it on our trip last summer to Kelstedge at Easton Lane (SK3264).

Fallopia sachalinensis I had not realised quite how giant Giant Knotweed was until I was shown a patch at Gamesley Siddings (SK016940) last autumn. There it grows well over three metres tall. It is possible to walk amongst the stems like trees in a small forest. Thankfully it is generally much

rarer than its smaller cousin, Japanese Knotweed.

Gymnadenia conopsea (Chalk Fragrant-orchid) I was shown a single plant of this growing in Ticknall Limeyards last year. This was an exciting discovery since this was the first record of the orchid in the county south of the White Peak since the 1950s.

Oenanthe aquatica (Fine-leaved Water-dropwort) I came across this last year at Hilton Gravel Pits whilst surveying the plants of the reserve for the Wildlife Trust (SK250313). It is a very rare plant with us of the Trent Valley. This particular population is especially valuable as it is on a protected site.

Pedicularis sylvatica (Lousewort) David Jackson of Natural England reported this species growing in a small pasture near Stydd Hall (SK1740) in June last year, along with Devil's-bit Scabious and Tormentil. This is an unusual record so far south in the county.

Platanthera chlorantha (Greater Butterfly-orchid) Records of this attractive species appear to have been increasing over the last few years. Two new sites were discovered last year. Rebekah Newman of the Peak Park reported it growing in hay meadows near Hollins Hill south of Buxton (SK06); and Robert Payne told Nick Brown of plants he had found near Calver New Bridge (SK27).

Potentilla erecta* ssp. *strictissima This upland subspecies of Tormentil was reported for the first time locally by Penny Anderson in 2010 from Totley Moor (SK2878) and Leash Fen (SK2874). It is more robust and with more coarsely toothed leaves than the far commoner lowland subspecies (ssp.

erecta). Note however both subspecies can and do occur in the uplands.



Pyrola rotundifolia (Round-leaved Wintergreen) Glyn Lomas a ranger with DCC reported what he thought was this plant growing at Gamesley Sidings (SK005938) in late 2011. A quick visit confirmed his suspicions and found the plant flowering in a number of places on the old marshalling yards for the cross Pennine trains. How it reached the site is unknown but it did not appear to be growing in places where it might have been planted by horticulturally inclined railwaymen.

Spiraea x brachybotrys (Lange's Spiraea) This was identified on our trip to Williamthorpe Ponds last year growing in a hedge on restored land in High House Farm monad (SK4367). Initially I thought it a new county record but on reflection it seemed too obviously planted to be counted as established yet.

Stellaria pallida (Lesser Chickweed) had not been recorded locally since 1974 when Ken Balkow reported it

growing at Dronfield on the bridge over the A61 (SK3577) with *Erophila verna*. It is a very rare winter annual with us and would be worth looking out for in March when Ken found his plants.

Verbascum densiflorum (Dense-flowered Mullein) I was square bashing along the southern bank of the Derwent east of Derby last year when I came across a large area of restored land near Alvaston (SK3933). Amongst the range of species that had been planted or sown to reclaim the area, there were several tall spikes of a mullein similar to Great Mullein but with larger flowers. This turned out to be Dense-flowered Mullein. It will be interesting to see if the plant survives in the area especially as some of it is due to become a nature reserve once a vegetation cover has been re-established.

3. COMPUTERISATION OF OUR RECORDS (AW)

Until Nick was made redundant by Derby City Council all our plant records were housed on the Derbyshire Biological Records Centre (DBRC) database at Derby Museum which used an early version of the Recorder program. As far as plant records went, Nick and I kept this up to date with all records donated up until the end of 2010, since then it has not been possible to enter new records on to the system. I have therefore set up on my home computer a new database for Derbyshire plant records using the Mapmate program that the BSBI use as their standard system. All records for 2011 are on this system and my plan is to add all further plant records for the county to this system. I also have details of all our higher plant records entered onto the old system but it is not possible as yet to produce a single database due to the work that would be involved in entering the old data onto the new database. All the pre-

2011 records have also been sent to the BSBI and are visible on their current on-line maps. An extra advantage of the Mapmate system is that I can send all records entered onto it direct to the BSBI at the touch of a button. This means that all 2011 records have already been passed onto the BSBI and can be seen now on their maps.

5. DCC FLORA WEBSITE (AW)

As some of you will have realised, the web-based version of our draft Flora which had been available for sometime on www.derby.gov.uk/flora is no longer available there. However, it has not been completely lost and may yet resurface, though we do not now know where or when or in what form.

5. PROGRESS WITH FLORA PROJECT (NM & AW)

The loss of Nick's post at Derby Museum has affected work on the Flora Project this year. However, some progress has been made. All records received for and up to the end of 2010 were computerised on the old Recorder system at Derby Museum. Details of all of these have been passed onto the BSBI for their national schemes, and have been used by Nick to produce a new set of maps showing records collated up to the end of 2010. Alan is currently using the new maps to update the draft accounts that were on the old DCC website. When this has been done, it is hoped to have some sort of final Flora product covering records collected up to the end of 2010 produced this year. Exactly what form this product will take is not known at present but it is hoped that it will be at least a new website or stand alone CD/DVD.

6. NATIONAL BSBI PROJECTS (AW)

Threatened plants project 2012 (TPP)

We are asked to try and refind only three records locally this year for the project. These are: *Anacamptis morio* at Weston Field Farm, Chellaston; *Persicaria minor* at Anchor Church Repton (SK339273); and *Ranunculus arvensis* in SK37 which appears to refer to the Cutthorpe area. There appears to be no public access to the *Anacamptis* site so I will try and refind that one but if anyone can help by looking for the other two records I should appreciate the help. Note however that there is a specific TPP form to complete for each record so please let me know of any discovery in good time so I can visit the site myself as well.



Date class 5 (2010-2019) and Atlas 3

This project involves resurveying all the hectads in Derbyshire during the years 2010-2019 inclusive, so as to update the distribution maps on the BSBI website and ultimately produce a third edition of the Atlas of the British Flora in the mid 2020s. Overall progress on this project was good last year with some 30,000 records collected, computerised and passed onto the BSBI. These included

over 950 species. The results of all this work can be seen on the hectad maps on the BSBI website. At the level of hectads progress was patchy, only 14 out of our 29 hectads have been adopted by individuals so far and the number of taxa recorded last year for all hectads can be seen on the attached diagram. If there are any volunteers to take on further hectads please let me know so I can co-ordinate the work. I can also provide lists of plants recorded per hectad in 2011 to people who have taken on tetrads or wish to do so. Ultimately I should be able to provide hectad lists for all records i.e. all previous years but am leaving this until the Flora Project is out of the way due to the extra work involved.

7. STACE 3 NAME CHANGES (AW)

The county cards on the BSBI website have been updated to use Stace 3 names and I am trying to find out when the Mapmate program I use will be updated in the same way. In the meantime I would prefer records to be sent to me on old cards as it is much easier for me to check these records once entered onto Mapmate. However, I can work with cards containing the new Stace 3 names, and I will change over to using them as soon as possible. During this interregnum I am only providing recording cards with Stace 2 names on but when I am clear about what is happening to Mapmate I intend to provide cards using the Stace 3 names.

SJ98	SK08 219	CMS SK18 466	SK28	SK38	SK48	
SJ97	SK07 528	CMS SK17 336	SK27 213	KB SK37 468	SK47 250	GC SK57 151
	SK06	SK16 250	SK26 367	IW SK36 350	SK46 303	SK56
		GH SK15 294	SK25 321	MH SK35 255	RS SK45 77	
		SK14 276	SK24 242	SK34 191	BG SK44 303	
	SK03	SK13 204	CH SK23 419	AW SK33 434	MS SK43 292	SK53
		SK12	SK22 235	SK32 323	SK42	
		SK11	NL SK21 91	SK31		

Number of Taxa Recorded in 2011 for Each Tetrad

Note that where a tetrad has initials in it that square is being recorded by that person.

SJ99	DM SK09 107	SK19 1				
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8. OUTDOOR MEETINGS 2012 (AW)

All meetings are held on Saturdays and start at 10.30 am. They generally last till around 4.30 pm. Carry lunch.

March 31st Clough Wood and area

Meet in car park on Wensley Road just east of Winster at SK246606 for general woodland flora, suggested by A Willmot.

April 28th Crich Chase and area meet in lay-bye on A6 between Ambergate & Whatstandwell at SK339530 for general woodland flora, suggested by K Huston.

May 19th Glapwell/Doe Lea area meet in Stockley Trail car park (SK467663) off Stockley Lane which is off the A617 at Doe Lea for woodland, wetland & possibly Magnesian Limestone plants, suggested by K Huston.

June 9th Drone Valley, Unstone meet in lay-bye on eastside of B6057 (SK366777) halfway between Unstone & Dronfield for *Pyrola minor*, *Hypericum maculatum* & possibly *Lycopodium clavatum*, suggested by K Balkow.

June 30th Rowthorne Trail meet in car park for the Rowthorne Trail (SK476647) between Rowthorne & Ault Hucknall for Magnesian Limestone flora, suggested by K Balkow.

July 28th Carr Vale/Bolsover area meet in the car park for the Peter Fidler reserve (SK461706) off the A632 between Duckmanton & Bolsover for wetland & grassland plants including

Frangula alnus & *Serratula tinctoria*, suggested by K Balkow.

August 18th Cromford Wharf area

meet in car park at Cromford Wharf (SK301571) for wetland plants of canal and marshes, suggested by B Gough.

September 15th Upper Derwent Valley

meet in car park at head of Ladybower Reservoir for general upland flora of SK19, suggested by A Willmot.

Meetings organiser is Dr Alan Willmot, 2 Kedleston Close, Derby, DE22 2RA. Mobile 0794 121 4977.

Anyone interested in botany is welcome on these meetings but please contact the organiser beforehand if you have not attended one of our meetings previously.

9. ENQUIRIES (AW)

Any enquiry concerning the Flora scheme in general can be sent to either of us. Ideally, questions about plant determinations, areas to record, requests for recording cards and new records to computerise should be sent directly to Alan Willmot.

My contact details are:

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