

## EASTER ROSS (VC 106) BOTANICAL RECORDING IN 2011 Brian Ballinger

This was my first year as sole recorder in VC106 for the Botanical Society of the British Isles since the death of my wife. I have very much missed Barbara's company and expertise but have nevertheless had an enjoyable time. I have managed to visit at least a corner of all the 10km squares in the vice-county during the last two years apart from two remote shared squares. A total tetrad coverage of Easter Ross is not a practical proposition given its geography, but I am trying to get at least a few records from most of the more accessible tetrads.

I succeeded in relocating 4 out of 5 *Pseudorchis albida* (Small White Orchid) sites for the BSBI Threatened Plants project and also surveyed sites for *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain), *Polystichum lonchitis* (Holly Fern) and *Sibbaldia procumbens* – I am very grateful for the help I received from local Highland Biological Recording Group, Inverness Botany Group and BSBI members in these endeavours.

I was invited to join the Morrich More Bombing Range conservation committee and helped to preserve a *Corallorhiza trifida* (Coralroot Orchid) site there. I reviewed the wild plants on the 12 quiet local railway stations and noted a probable slight decline over the last 10 years. New vice-county records included *Lemna trisulca* (Ivy-leaved Duckweed), with the first recent records for *Hypericum hirsutum* (Hairy St. John's Wort), *Potentilla reptans* (Creeping Cinquefoil) and *Elodea nuttalli* (Nuttall's Waterweed).

In 2012 I aim to continue to update the Rare Plants Register and VC Checklist (a never-ending task), build up records in the new date class and continue to work with members and local groups and societies.