An Introduction to the BSBI Distribution Database (DDb)

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BSBI Scottish Officer

The Amazing DDb!

The BSBI's main database:

Retains and makes accessible all available details for records imported from external databases

The Amazing DDb!

Includes powerful on-line tools to:

- Search the database for records

- List or map records

- Check, Correct & Update records

- Download records

- Produce Reports & Summaries

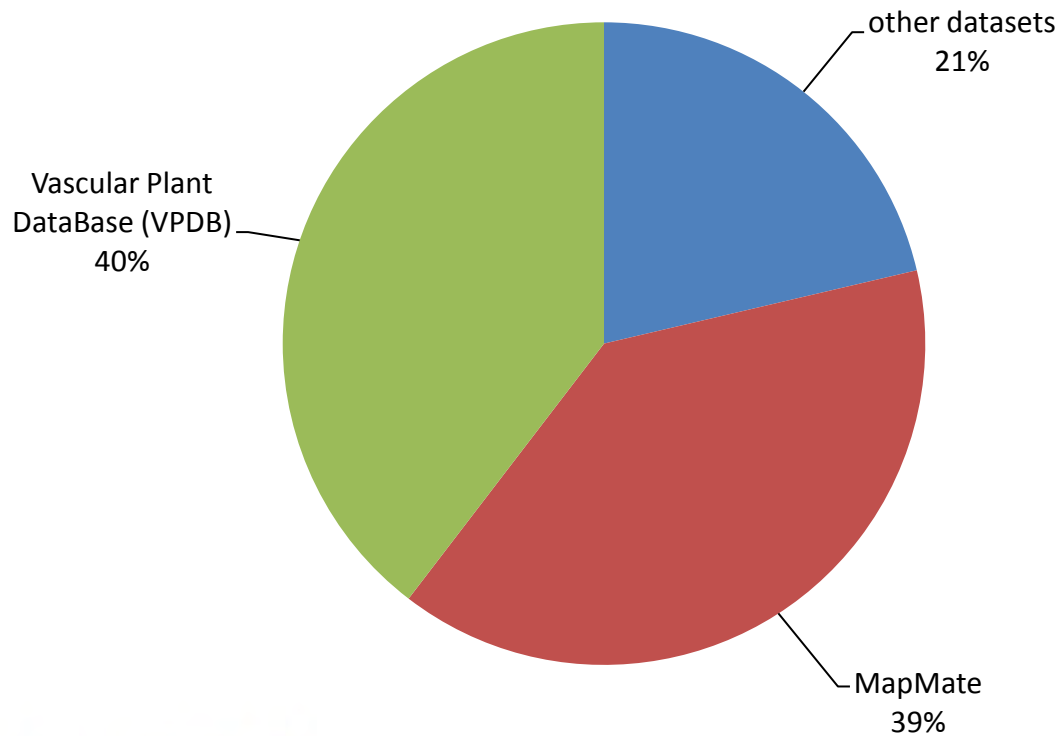- Enter new records?

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There are also

- Useful Tools - including a grid reference to VC convertor and a data validation system
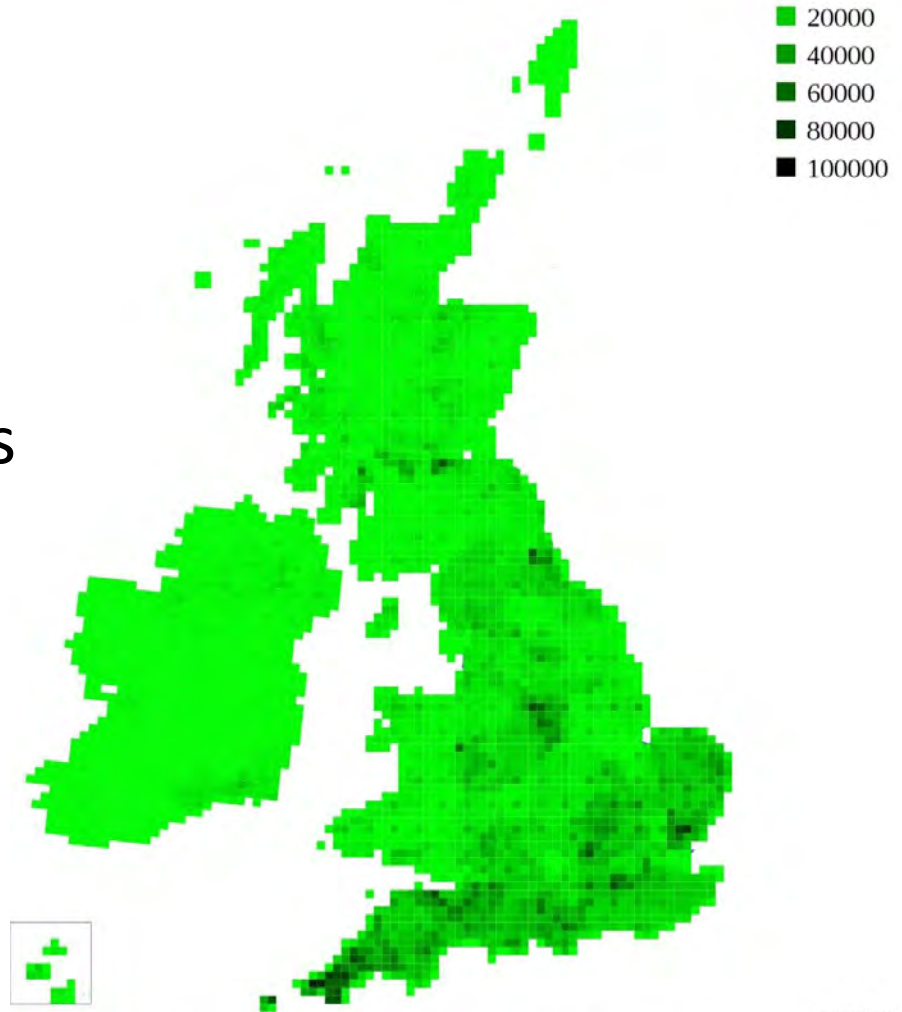- And an interactive Message Board or forum

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Records in the DDb

Contains c. 29 million records in total

Records in the DDb

- Mapped at hectad resolution.
- The shade of each hectad indicates the total number of records present.
- You can see the regular pattern of monitoring scheme squares.

20000
40000
60000
80000
100000

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vice-counties: VC1-VC113 or VCH1-VCH40 and grouped by hectad

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Records for Scotland in DDb*

- 5.2 million records (all data classes)
- 1.9 million are post 2000

Of these:

- 1.55 million are from MapMate and
- 1.50 million records tetrad or better resolution
- 1.0 million records monad or better resolution

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*As at 1 March 2015

BSBI Data Flow Diagram
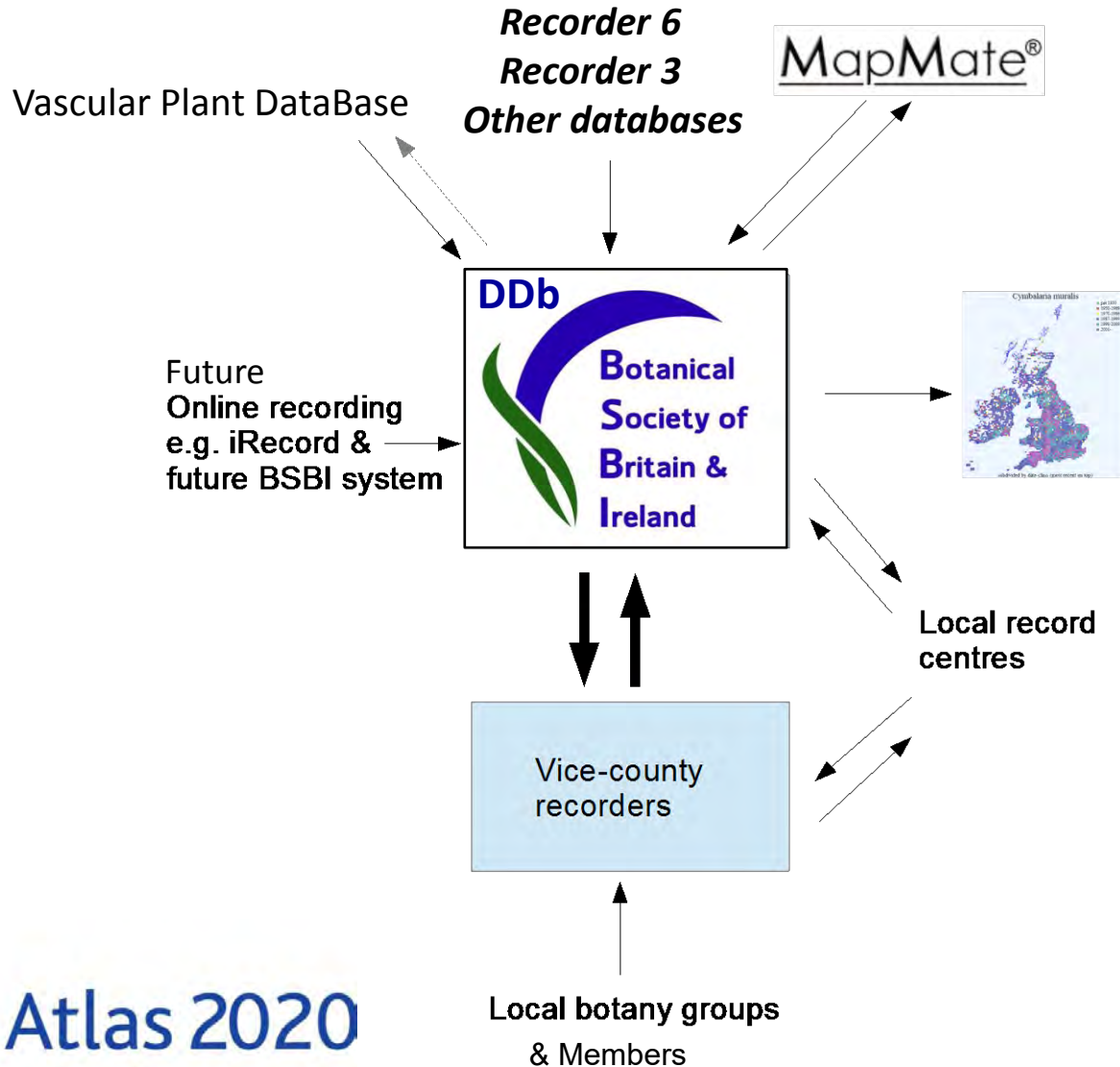
Use of the Database

- The DDb is primarily intended as a research tool for Recorders, Referees & other specialists

- Because it's research-level, live data it is not suitable for the general public or consultancies

- Access to detailed records is limited to VC Recorders and taxon Referees

- Access for other users and organisations is **only** via data sharing agreements or considered case-by-case

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Use of the Database

Summary data & a few other features are publically available without registration or password.

These are:

      Maps – can produce dot maps similar to the Maps Scheme for hectads and tetrads

      Tools – a great grid reference to VC convertor

          – access to taxa designation checklists

          – a powerful validation tool

      Message Board - but with read only access

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Search & Listing Records

All records of *Cymbalaria muralis* in Hectad O13 in Co. Dublin (VCH21)

View details for a single record

Finding Records

To find and list all records of *Sorbus hibernica*

Mapping Records

Click here on zoomable map

And pan across to Ireland

Select "dataset partitioning", and Partition by "date class" here.

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Mapping Records

Sorbus hibernica

Mapping Records

Sorbus hibernica

14
28
42
56
68

Galway (VCH15,16,17) - number of records

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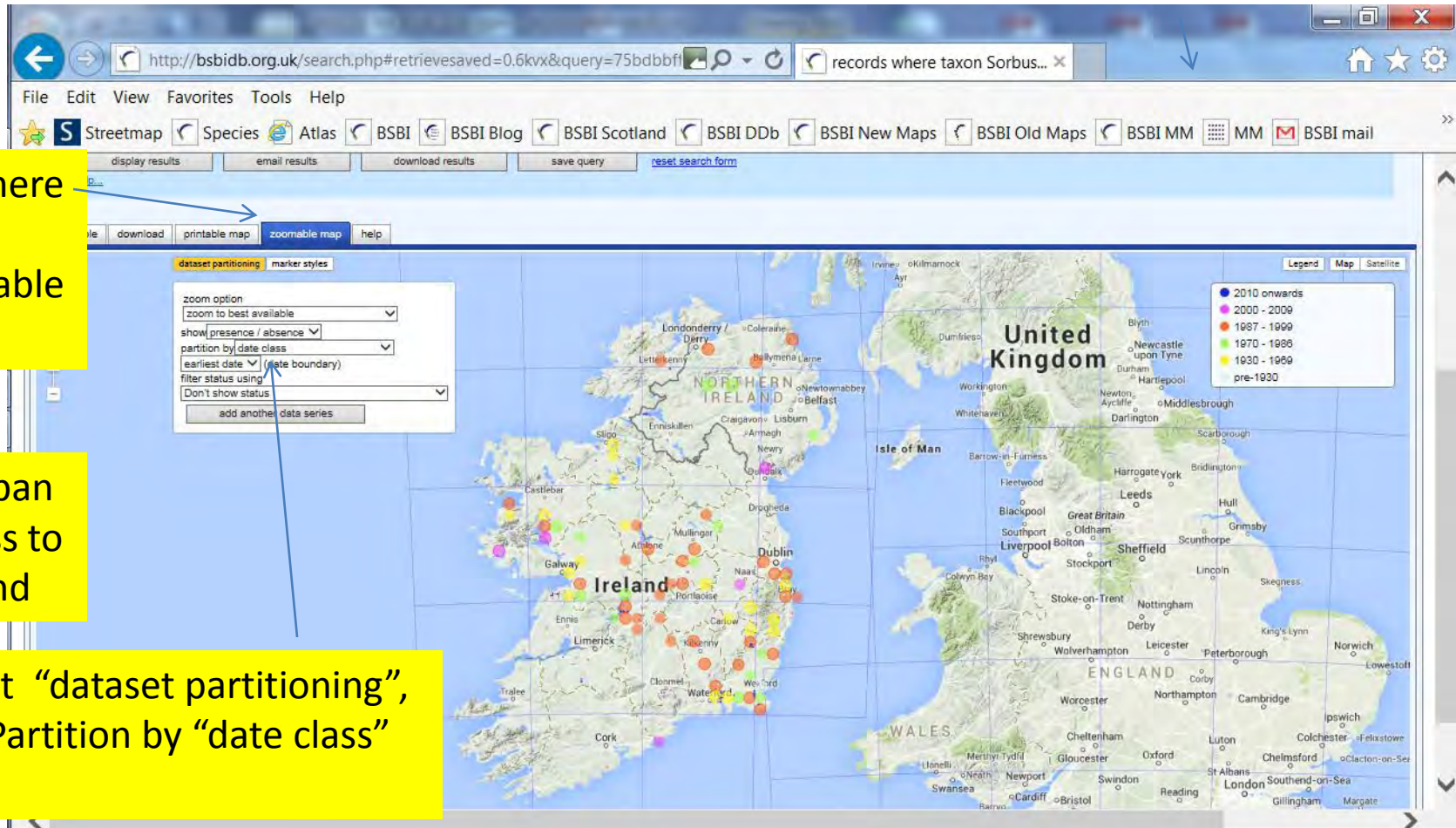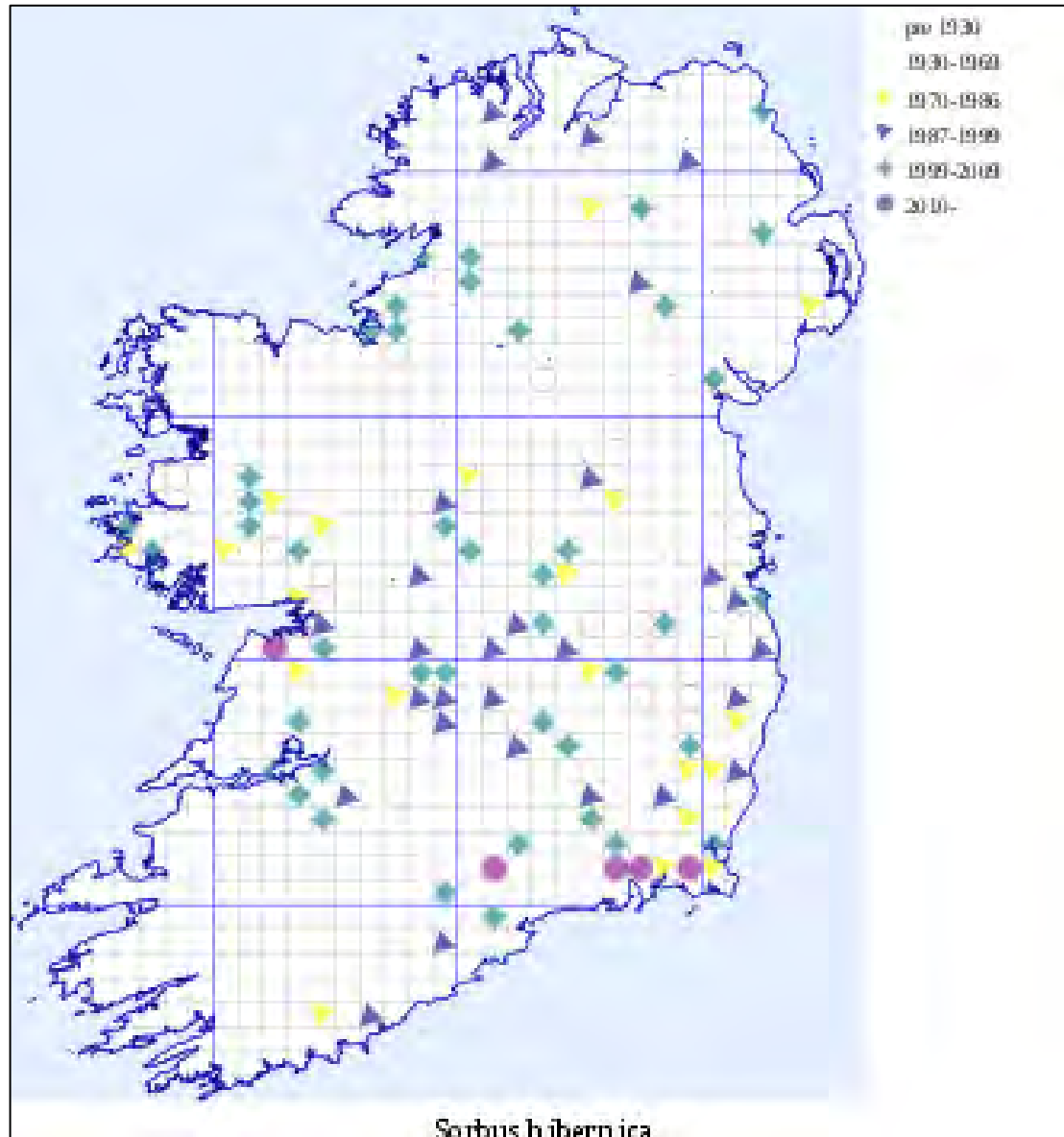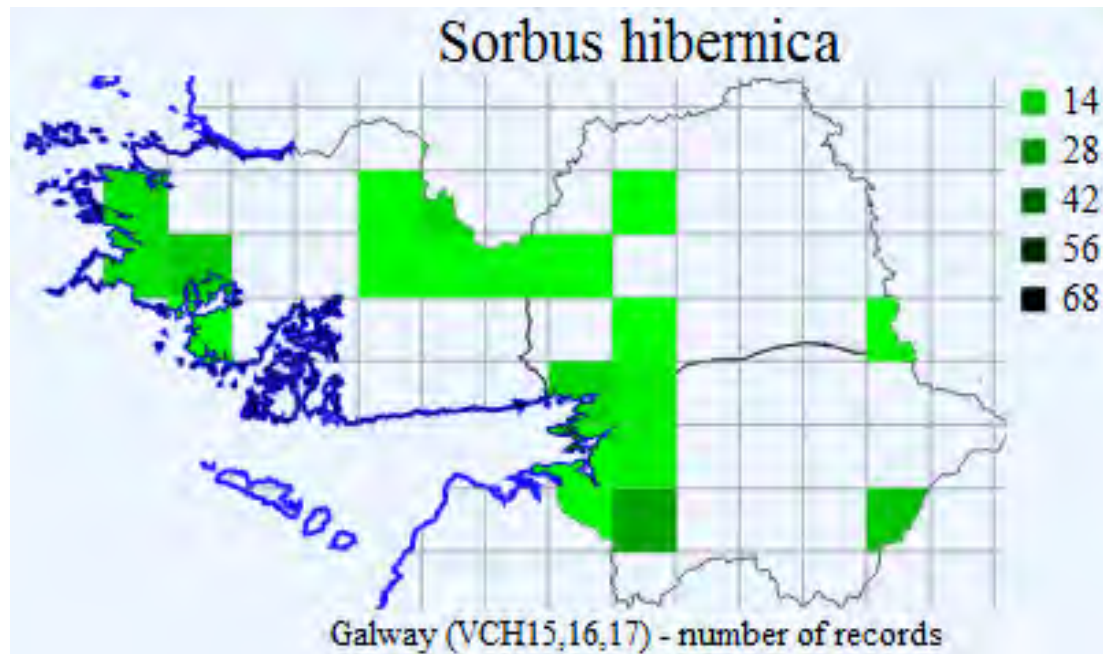
BSBI Maps Scheme

The Distribution Database has replaced the Maps Scheme (bsbimaps.org.uk)

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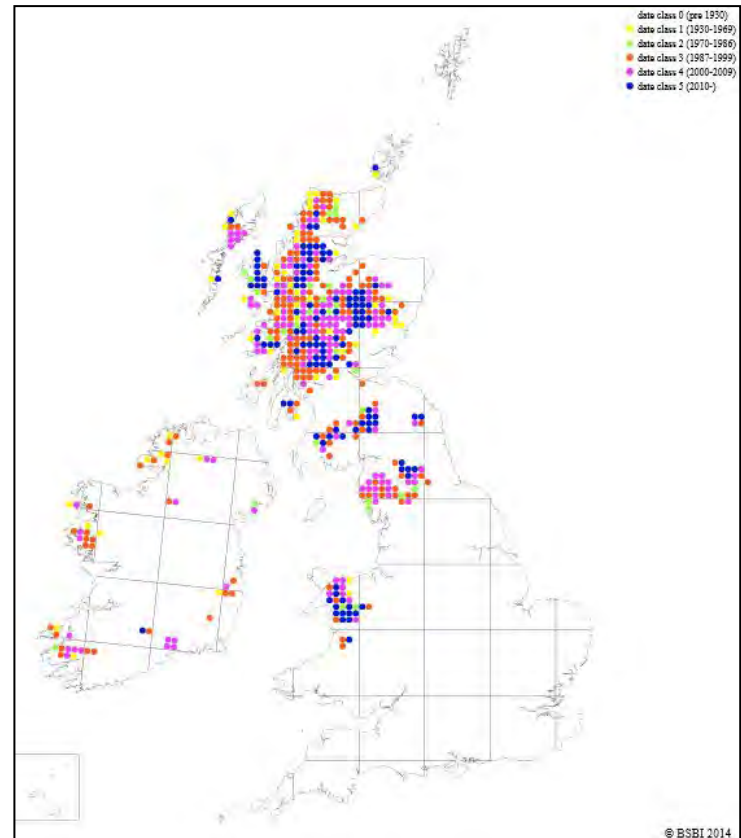
Can use the DDb to check records

For:

- Mismatched counties and grid-references
- Records that are outside known distribution
- Single records of a taxon in a VC or hectad

Can also use it to detect & hide duplicate records

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Correcting Records

Registered users can mark bad records & confirm good ones

Yellow: dubious

red (with strike-through): rejected

Blue: not classified (default)

Olive: confirmed

Also Grey = duplicate

Updating Records

Registered VC Recorders can edit records

Downloading Records

search for ❓ Records (specimens or observations) ▾

taxon ❓ [Groenlandia densa] ❌ ➕

grid reference ❓ [O13] 🔷 [grid square ▾] ❌ ➕

[more options ▾]

Current search-form filter
records where taxon *Groenlandia densa* (L.) Fourr. "Opposite-leaved Pondweed" and grid-reference O13

[display results] [email results] [download results] [save query] reset search form

help...

| results table | **download** | map | help |

Tabular data
Tabular data suitable for import into spreadsheets etc

optional additional columns to include:
☐ GIS bounded areas
☐ estimated mean altitude of grid square
☐ calculated vice-county based on grid-ref (where different)
☐ status (of taxon-hectad combination) from the BSBI 2000 Atlas

csv format download email
Excel spreadsheet download email
OpenDocument spreadsheet download email

For large result sets (> 30000 records) the email options are strongly recommended; CSV format reports are usually generated more quickly than Excel files.

Mapmate
To load records into MapMate please follow this link [opens in a new window]

Dmap
Export as DMap .dis file (for mapping using DMap)

To link to this search please copy this link.

Registered users can download data into Excel or (more quickly) into a .csv file.

Adding New Records

Preferred method is by MapMate

- MapMate records go from the hub on to the DDb automatically (every two weeks)
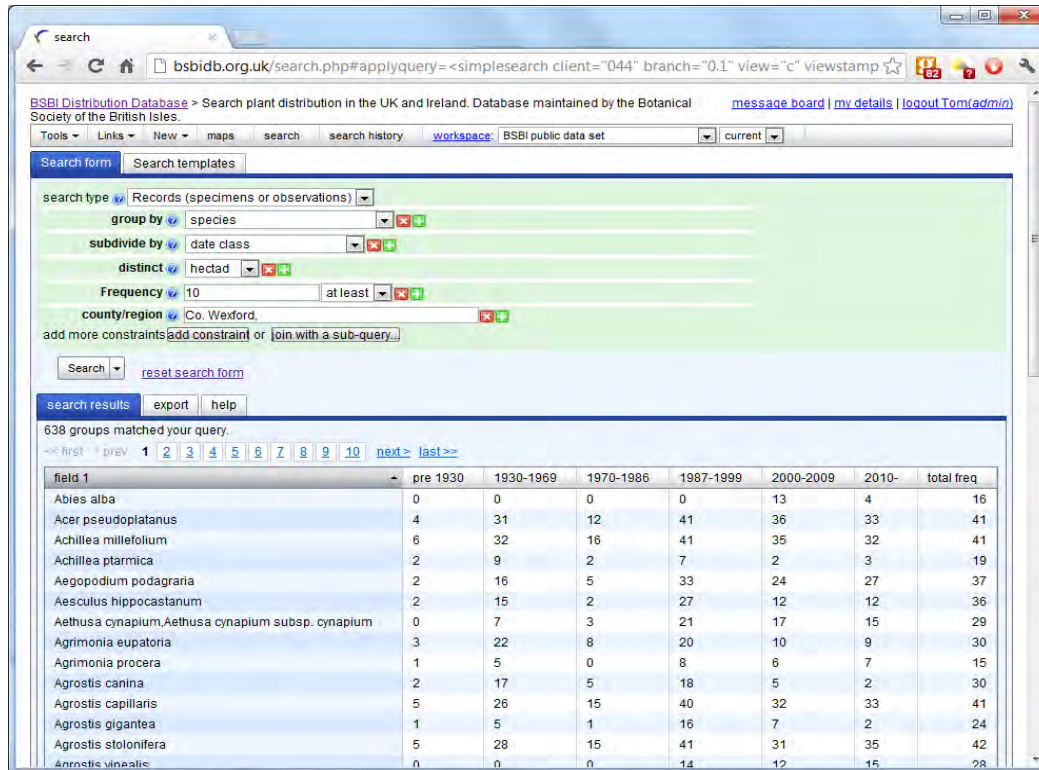- Subsequent corrections made in MapMate and synched to the hub will update DDb

Alternatively:

- Can send records in Recorder, spreadsheet or database format (preferably already validated)

Future proposal: Online entry, either to a linked website or to the DDb

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Reporting

Can view a large variety of summarised or grouped data queries.

Number of records by species for each dateclass in Co. Wexford

Getting Started

1. Type "BSBI DDb" into a search engine to find the BSBI DDb site http://bsbidb.org.uk

2. Register by clicking register link in top right corner

3. Your application will be approved within 2 or 3 days by email.

5. Meantime you can use and explore Tools, Maps and the Message Board - no login required

6. Try reproducing some of the above examples

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Getting Started

Once registered, try a few simple searches:

1. Search for all records of *Geum rivale* in your VC (enter VC name in the County/Region box, then return). Then click the display results button.

2. Or for all records of *Carex maritima* in Scotland. As above but enter Scotland as the VC name.

3. Then map *C. maritima* records by clicking on the Map tab.

4. Amend search, by adding "2000" in the Date Recorded box & select "From" in the adjacent box. Then display results.

5. Click the Map tab to map post-2000 *C. maritima* records.

The amazing DDb – try it out!
For help - use the Message Board

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