Progress towards a third Atlas of Britain and Ireland

Pete Stroh
Scientific Officer, Atlas Coordinator, ‘England Officer’

Atlas records - Ireland

891, 064 = number of records since 2000

113, 871* = records collected in 2015

141** = number of BSBI members in Ireland

*albeit 80,000 are from Wexford!

**England (1,793), Scotland (299), Wales (190)
Atlas 2020 - the basics

- Third atlas of the British & Irish flora
- Systematic recording at tetrad precision or better across GB and Ireland
- Updated distribution maps for native and introduced taxa
- How has our flora changed?
- Why has our flora changed?

What is required by 2020?

- Minimum sample coverage of 3 tetrads (Ireland) or 12 monads per hectad, although note this is a minimum!
- National and county rare/scarce/threatened species recorded at ≤100 m resolution
- Data uploaded to DDb – little and often is preferable if at all possible, but if there is a backlog we’re not fussy! tom.humphrey@bsbi.org
- Verification of records in the DDb – automated whenever possible
What will the Atlas look like?

• Personal preference is for a book (inc. CD) & online maps

• Book to focus on our changing flora– telling the story using example species, maps (not just hectad), photos, etc.

• Online ‘dot’ maps (fixed at the end of 2019) + potential for relative abundance (tetrad frequency), tetrad maps for Atlas date class, recorder effort, abundance for rare, etc.

• Discussions with CEH next week to start developing methods and running test analyses

• Options to Council in April, followed by wider discussion with VCRs, members and stakeholders

Guidance for recorders

• Atlas 2020 web page
• Updated Atlas 2000 booklets

1. An instruction booklet for members and VCRs
2. A beginners guide to recording
3. Where and what do we record
4. Notes on identification works and difficult or under-recorded taxa

• Also to follow...’Fern Crib’, and Handbooks on Oenothera, Viola and Euphrasia
• Updated coverage maps by VC
2000+ coverage maps (QGIS)

- Map of H37 Armagh

2000+ coverage maps (QGIS)

- Map of H12 Wexford
2000+ coverage maps (QGIS)

1987-99 vs. 2000+
no. species/hectad

N.B. If records are not in the DDb they won’t appear on the map!
Four years to go...

- Data entry/submission
- Coverage maps – focus on ‘empty’ hectads
- WFS – Paul Green
- Cross-county meetings – sharing expertise and botanists!
- Think about planning BSBI field meetings in under-recorded areas
- Complementary projects – County Flora or Rare Plant Register
- Individual projects – single species or groups
- Rough Crew – see Maria

But most important of all....

thank you and have fun!