



# Kent Botany 2010

*Helianthemum nummularium* at Queendown Warren. Photo: © Liam Rooney, 2010.

Kent Botany compiled by Geoffrey Kitchener, February 2011

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## Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to let you know what has been happening in Kent plant recording during the year. This is the web version of Kent Botany, maintained on the Kent page of the Botanical Society of the British Isles website, <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/>. A hard copy version is also being published by the Kent Field Club, as part of its Bulletin (2011).

It is a report by the Botanical Society of the British Isles vice county recorder for East and West Kent for the year's recording undertaken for the BSBI<sup>1</sup>. It is also an account of finds made by the Kent Botanical Recording Group or reported by its members. In addition, this publication is the successor to annual plant reports issued by the Kent Field Club, beginning with *Some Recent Kentish Botanical Records* (Kitchener, 1995) and *Interesting Plant Records* (No. 1) (Palmer, 1996) and continued as a series by John Palmer and Geoffrey Kitchener in the Kent Field Club Bulletin until *Interesting Kent Plant Records* No. 15 (Kitchener, 2010).

The year was a significant one in two respects. The first was the publication of Eric Philp's remarkable survey, *A New Atlas of the Kent Flora* (Philp, 2010). With more than 250,000 records covering over 2,500 taxa for the period 1991-2005, this sets the benchmark of our knowledge of the flora of the administrative county of Kent. It also enables a comparison to be made with the previous Atlas (Philp, 1982), so as to identify trends in plant distribution.

The second event was the formation in March 2010 of the Kent Botanical Recording Group, to provide a focus for botanical recording within Kent, and to feed records through to the BSBI and

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<sup>1</sup>. The botanical vice county of East Kent lies east of the River Medway upstream as far as Yalding at the junction with the River Beult, and the boundary passes through Staplehurst and Cranbrook to the Sussex border. Its boundary with East Sussex is broadly co-incident with the administrative county boundary, but there are departures in places. The botanical vice county of West Kent differs substantially from the administrative county of Kent, not least in including metropolitan south east London, as far north as Deptford.

the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre. Membership of the KBRG numbered 61 by the end of the year and the group held five field meetings (reported in KBRG newsletter no. 2).

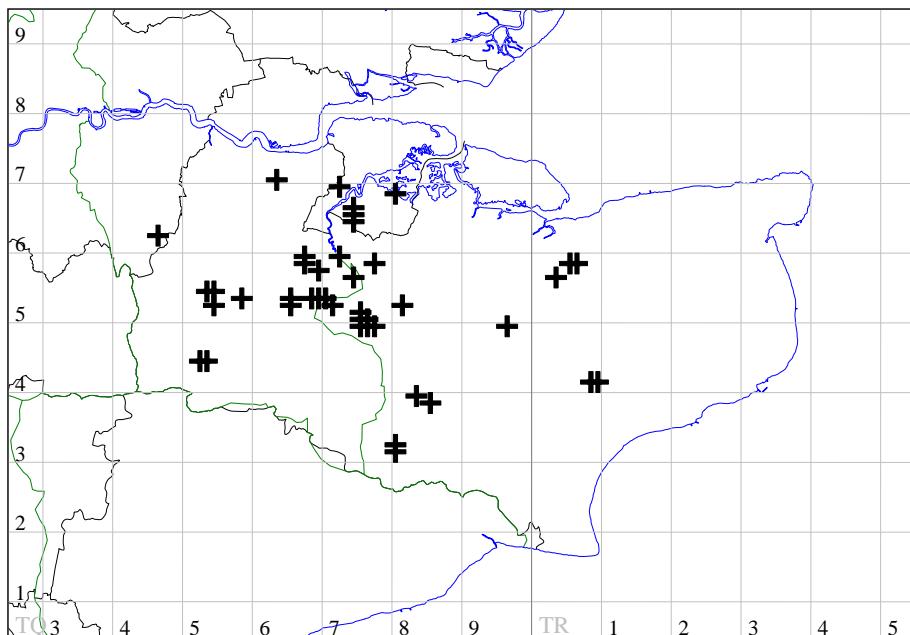
Following a consultation as regards the proposed establishment of a Kent rare plant register, a draft list was issued and data gathering to assess current status of the listed plants has begun, in order to enable individual species accounts to be prepared.

By the end of January 2011, over 12,000 records for 2010 had been input to the vice county recorder's Kent database (held on MapMate). There was also a dataset of some further 16,000 records for (primarily metropolitan) vice county 16 which was kindly made available, but which has not been absorbed into the database, in part due to lack of compatibility of recording criteria. Plant details were received, directly or indirectly, from over 50 recorders, mostly KBRG or KFC members. Thanks are due to all of them, and especially those who, with others determining specimens or otherwise involved, have contributed to entries in the following reports for East and West Kent.

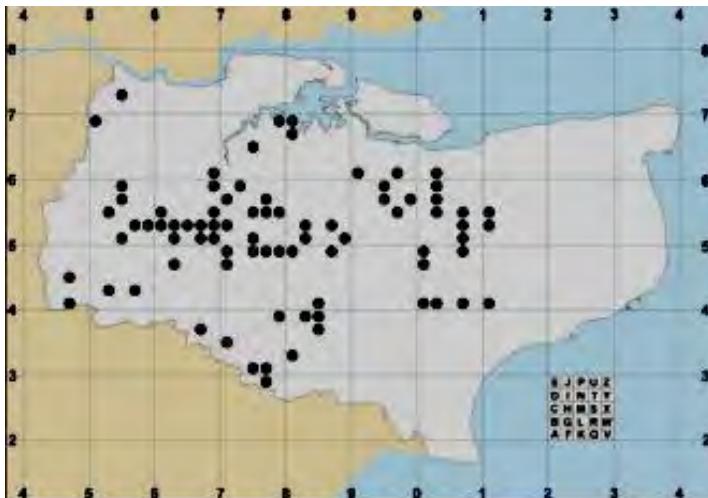
### Recording coverage

The general coverage of recording may be indicated in two ways. The first is the recorded distribution of *Viscum album* (Mistletoe), for which KBRG members were invited to make a special recording effort.

**Viscum album (Mistletoe) 2010**



This shows a concentration in the centre of the county, and some clusters of recorded 1km squares which are likely to be related to the activity of local recorders, rather than Mistletoe's distribution. The relative absence of records for the part of vice county 16 which lies in Greater London reflects recording policy not to ignore the metropolitan area, but to allocate lesser priority to it, given that the Greater London Flora project is likely to provide an increasing focus for this area in any event. The relative absence of records in eastern Kent appears genuinely to reflect the plant's absence – corroborating the species map in Philp (2010).



*Viscum album* distribution map reproduced from Philp (2010) with kind permission of Eric Philp and the Kent Field Club. The dots are for tetrad, not monad, records and its coverage (for the period from 1991 to 2005) is more comprehensive; but the general pattern of finds is broadly similar.

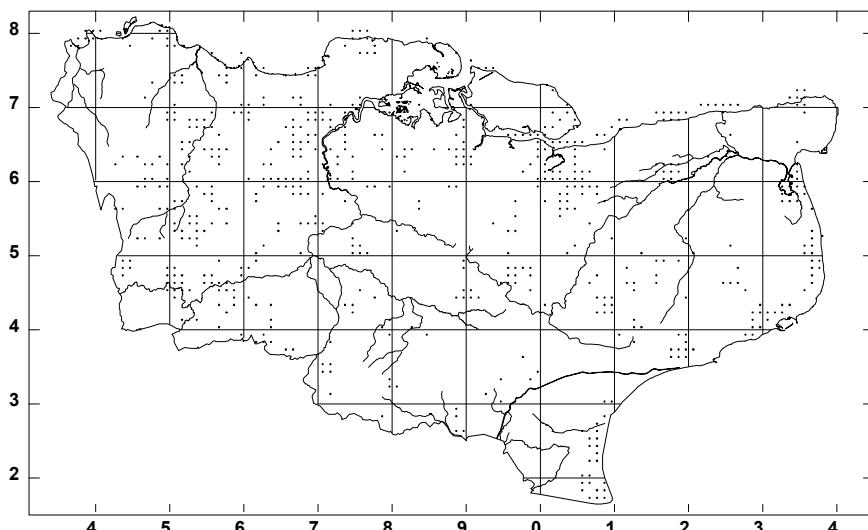
Mistletoe host trees were generally apple or *Tilia* sp. (Lime), but the parasite was also noted on *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse-chestnut), *Alnus* sp. (Alder), *Populus* sp. (Poplar), *Quercus petraea* (Sessile Oak), *Sorbus aria* (Common Whitebeam) and *Sorbus aucuparia* (Rowan).

One remarkable sighting was of Mistletoe growing at ground level, on an apple tree at Fairview Road, Istead Rise.



*Viscum album*. Photo: © Ian Sapsford, January 2010

General coverage of recording is also shown by the following map, which shows all 1 km squares from which 2010 records entered up by the end of January 2011 have been made. This should not be taken as indicating intensity of recording, since the individual sites may represent one record or 100. But in general terms it shows wide coverage, with less attention paid to metropolitan West Kent, inland south Kent and (except for Faversham, Canterbury and the coast) north east Kent.

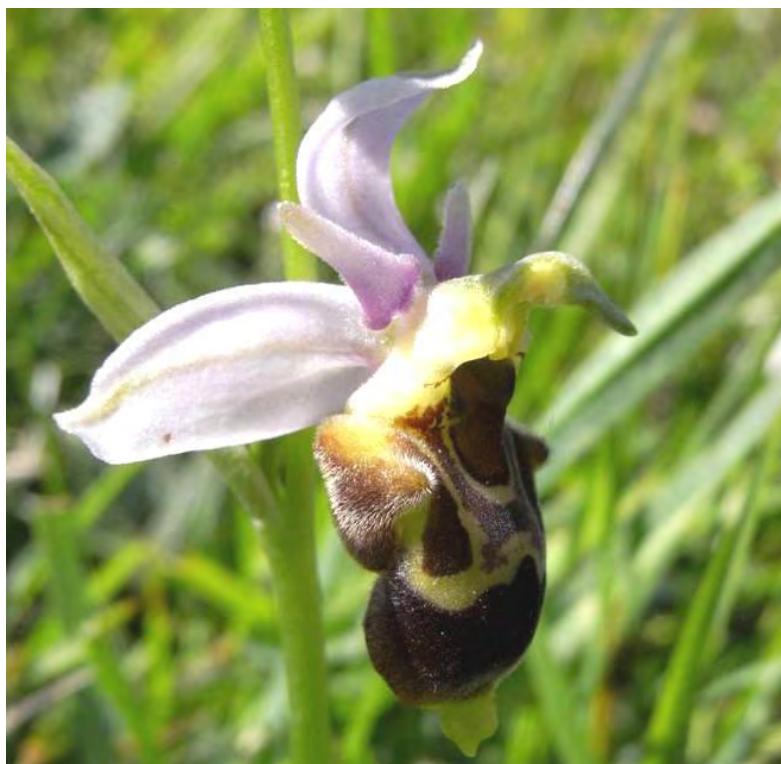


**Distribution of site records  
for 2010**

## Rare plant register

There has not been any particular drive towards general county coverage, and the majority of "routine" records (ubiquitous weeds and so on) have been made by the writer. Some site lists came from Kent Field Club meetings and other surveys. So far as concerns KBRG recording, the policy approach has been to encourage detailed records of plants on the draft Kent rare plant register (RPR plants). These records will build towards the individual species accounts for the register, which will be issued as working draft versions. A total of 889 RPR plant records (against a list of 257 taxa) have been input as at the end of January 2011; it is likely that more remain to be notified. Some of these represent duplicate sightings by different recorders, but duplicates can still be helpful in providing independent assessments of population size, habitat and threat data.

The "most recorded" plant by far was *Orchis anthropophora* (= *Aceras anthropophorum*, Man Orchid), with 50 records, followed by *Cephalanthera damasonium* (White Helleborine, 40), *Poa infirma* (Early Meadow-grass, 37), *Inula crithmoides* (Golden-samphire, 31), *Orchis purpurea* (Lady Orchid, 26), *Ophrys insectifera* (Fly Orchid, 25), *Peucedanum officinale* (Hog's Fennel, 24) and *Hordeum marinum* (Sea Barley, 22). One conclusion could have been anticipated, and this is that orchids are popular recording subjects!



*Ophrys x albertiana* (hybrid between Bee and Late Spider-orchids) near Wye. Photo: © Fred Rumsey June 2010.

## Highlights

Highlights of the records overall are the finding of large populations of the scarce arable weeds, *Scandix pecten-veneris* (Shepherd's-needle) and *Silene noctiflora* (Night-flowering Catchfly); new locations for *Suaeda vera* (Shrubby Sea-blite) and several *Carex* spp, and a sighting of *Anagallis tenella* (Bog Pimpernel); an inexplicable inland colony of *Euphorbia portlandica* (Portland Spurge); an excellent chalk grassland site with *Galium pumilum* (Slender Bedstraw), *Cuscuta epithymum* (Dodder) and *Polygala amarella* (Dwarf or Kentish Milkwort); and the publication of a report of the return of *Myrica gale* (Bog-myrtle) from supposed „extinction”.

## Plant records: selection criteria and recorders

The criteria for selection of records are flexible, but in general they focus on plants which are unusual in Kent, or where the plant's location, habitat or population characteristics are unusual. Preference is given to new finds, particularly those which do not correspond with a tetrad recorded in Philp (2010). Records of known populations of rare plant register species will in general be carried through for publication in the draft rare plant register, and not necessarily in these records. In West Kent, preference is generally given to records in the non-metropolitan area, given that an annual report is already published in The London Naturalist for discoveries within the area of coverage by the London Natural History Society.

Nomenclature follows the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Clive Stace's New Flora of the British Isles (Stace, 2010). Plant names commonly in use but replaced by that edition are given in italics with an "equals" symbol (=).

### Recorders and other persons mentioned in reports

AG Alfred Gay	GJ Geoff Joyce	LH Lorna Holland	OL Owen Leyshon
BG Bob Gomes	GT Gill Tysoe	L&DH Lorna & Derek	QG Quentin Groom
DG Doug Grant	HS Heather Silk	Holland	RB Professor Richard
DJ David Johnson	IF Ian Fraser	LM Dr Lesley Mason	Bateman
DM Daphne Mills	IJ Imogen Joyce	LR Liam Rooney	RE Dr Ruth Eastwood
EGP Eric Philp	JA Jan Armishaw	MB Margot Birkbeck	RH Richard Haynes
FB Fred Booth	JB John Badmin	MC Professor Mick	RR Rosemary Roberts
FC Dr Fiona Cooper	JP Joyce Pitt	Crawley	SB Sue Buckingham
FO Fred O'Hare	JS Judith Shorter	ME M. Easterbrook	SC Steve Coates
FR Dr. Fred Rumsey	JW Jo Weightman	MH Margaret Holdaway	SL Stephen Lemon
GH Georgina Hopkins	GK Geoffrey Kitchener	MP Mike Porter	SP Sue Poyser

Thanks to all these; and to Laurence Clemons for comments in the course of editing the hard copy version and to Charmian Clay for comments on the presentation of the web version.

### Other abbreviations or notation

- comm. = communicated by, or communication
- conf. = confirmed by
- det. = determined by
- KBRG= Kent Botanical Recording Group
- KFC = Kent Field Club
- KWT = Kent Wildlife Trust
- LNHS = London Natural History Society
- WFS = Wild Flower Society
- Plant records which are marked <sup>R</sup> represent plants on the draft Kent rare plant register (2010 version).



## Plant records for East Kent (vice county 15)

*Abies grandis* (Giant Fir). Kenardington, Pond Wood, TQ9532, occasional seedlings in woodland from planted trees, a couple c.40m from the nearest mature tree. 06 July 2010, GK.

*X Agropogon lutosus* (=*X Agropogon littoralis*. *Agrostis stolonifera* x *Polypogon monspeliensis* – the hybrid between Creeping Bent and Annual Beard-grass). Warden, TR02490 71460; several plants with parents in a semi-open damp saline grassy area behind beach. 05 August 2010, GK.

*Allium neopolitanum* (Neapolitan Garlic). Littlestone, on road verge at TR08422 24839. 05 June 2010, KBRG meeting.

*Allium subhirsutum* (Hairy Garlic). Greatstone, a clump on shingle west of Derville Road, TR0821. A weedier white *Allium* than *A. neopolitanum*, although it has been sold as that species in the past. 20 April 2010, GK.

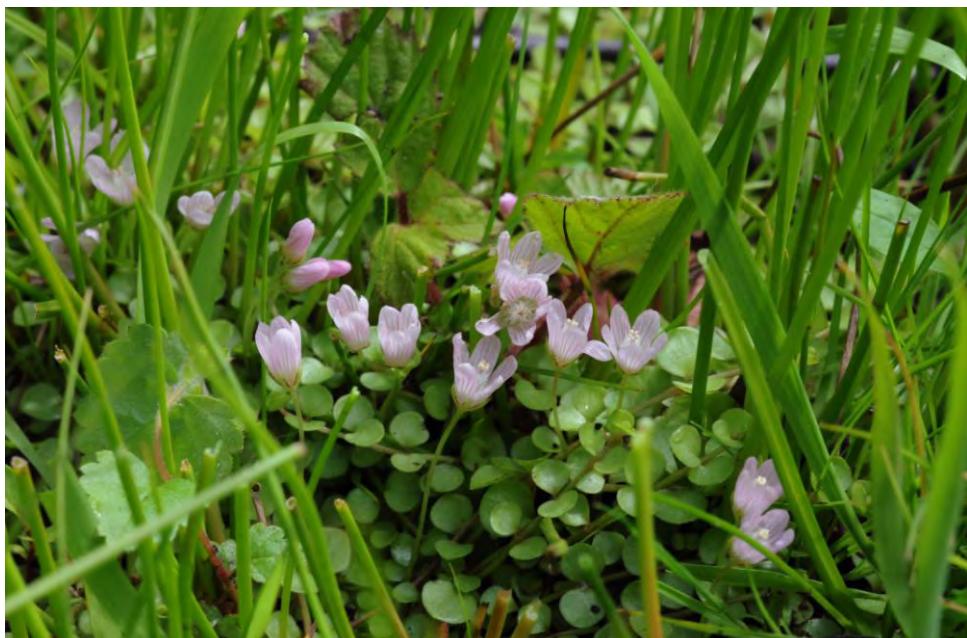
*Alopecurus bulbosus* <sup>R</sup> (Bulbous Foxtail). Bayford Farm, north of Upchurch, TQ841695, abundant and widespread on two areas of grazing marsh divided by a track. Found in monitoring Local Wildlife Site SW46 for KWT. 12 June 2010, JW, conf. JP.

*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Ragweed):

- (1) Sheerness Blue Town, TQ9166 7508, one plant on footings of bridge at Bridge Road. 18 May 2010, GK.
- (2) Sheerness Marine Town, TQ9274, one plant in middle of railway track at station, only visible when train not in platform. 18 May 2010, GK.

*Anacamptis morio* (= *Orchis morio*, Green-winged Orchid). Sandhurst Cross, TQ79045 27319, one plant (a second had been damaged) in churchyard of St Nicholas, where cared for locally. 05 June 2010, SB.

*Anagallis tenella* <sup>R</sup> (Bog Pimpernel). Gibbin's Brook, near Sellindge, TR116384. A tiny patch, about 10cm square, growing in an area of peat bog which appeared to have recently been cleared of *Salix* scrub. It was growing in quite closely grazed and recently disturbed, bare, peaty ground with various *Juncus* species, *Potentilla erecta*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and *Galium palustre*. Given the apparent decline of this rare Kentish species and the relatively well botanised nature of the site, this is an exciting discovery. 28 June 2010, AG.



*Anagallis tenella*. Photo: © Alfred Gay, June 2010.

*Anemone x hybrida* (Japanese Anemone). Boughton under Blean, TR05821 59424; growing in School Lane from a gap in the base of a wall. Reported as definitely not planted or even escaped from a nearby garden. It is surprising that there are so few Kentish records, given its wide cultivation, fertility and persistence. 29 November 2010, LR.

*Bassia scoparia* (Summer-cypress). See **Plant Records for West Kent** (below).

*Berberis gagnepainii* (Gagnepain's Barberry). Highsted, Sittingbourne, TQ9035 761945; a large fruiting bush growing on the vertical chalk face of the south western corner of a disused pit (the northern one of two pits). First record in vc15 for this Barberry, introduced into cultivation from China in about 1904. 23 March 2010, GK.

*Bergenia crassifolia* (Elephant-ears). Walmer, TR37918 49441; established on shingle beach. 07 October 2010, SB.

*Briza maxima* (Greater Quaking-grass). Faversham, TR0160; street weed escape from gardens and landscaped areas. 12 July 2010, GK.

*Carex elata* <sup>R</sup> (Tufted-sedge).



Dungeness, TR072182; five tussocks, one perhaps a multiple tussock, on peaty substrate in a wet area of pit no. 8 subject to variable inundation (seasonally and from year to year). The area also has much *Iris pseudacorus* present, and *Salix* clearance has taken place. The plants have been long known, but were supposed not to have been this species. Material was forwarded by BG to GK, and confirmed by MP (BSBI referee), May 2010. A significant extension of the known Kentish distribution, which otherwise has always been confined to dykes in the Sandwich-Worth-Hacklinge area.

*Carex elata*. Photo: © Bob Gomes, 2010.

*Centaurea cyanus* <sup>R</sup> (Cornflower). Sarre, TR26127 65526; extensive patches along one side of cornfield nearest the road between Sarre & St Nicholas at Wade. 09 July 2010, JA.

*Cicuta virosa* <sup>R</sup> (Cowbane). Sheldwich, TR011565; 10-15 plants around the school pond, which was constructed about 20 years before. No local knowledge of planting, but well established. 16 September 2010, HS. First vc15 record.

*Clematis montana* (Himalayan Clematis). Boughton-under-Blean, TR06175 59279; one plant on steps of a walled embankment leading to the pavement on the north side of the Street. 10 August 2010, LR.

*Cotoneaster bullatus* (Hollyberry Cotoneaster). Greatstone, TR07828 21733, one large bush and numerous seedlings / saplings on shingle bank by gravel pit lake. 20 April 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster dielsianus* (Diels' Cotoneaster). Dover, TR3134 4105; three seedlings on a semi-bare chalk slope above North Military Road. Likely to be under-recorded in East Kent. 02 March 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster divaricatus* (Spreading Cotoneaster). Fordwich, TR17974 59864; numerous seedlings under a wall from an overhanging garden plant. Subject to status as only just outside garden, this appears to be the first vc15 record. 24 August 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster franchetii* (Franchet's Cotoneaster). Walmer, TR3751; a seedling in stonework of tomb at cemetery, the parent bush being c.25m away. 13 April 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster lacteus* (Late Cotoneaster). The late flowering of this widely grown shrub does not seem to inhibit fruit production. Its presence on walls is clearly indicative of spread by birds.

- (1) Faversham, TR01710 60883; growing on railway wall at Station Road near footbridge. 13 May 2010, GK.
- (2) Sheerness Blue Town, TQ9170 7509; two plants present on old wall top. 18 May 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster salicifolius* (Willow-leaved Cotoneaster). Dover, TR3134 4105; a seedling on a semi-bare chalk slope above North Military Road. Appears to be first vc15 record. 02 March 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster x suecicus* (Swedish Cotoneaster). Sittingbourne, TQ9063; pavement seedling near planted bush in landscaped area. 03 October 2010, GK.

*Crocus chrysanthus* (Golden Crocus). Sturry, TR1861; at least four plants present in woodland near access from St Nicholas Close, appearing to originate as garden throw-out, not as part of any planting scheme. No other vc15 records have been traced, although this is a frequently grown crocus (not all yellow crocuses should be assumed to be *C. x stellaris*). 16 March 2010, GK.

*Cuscuta epithymum* <sup>R</sup> (Dodder). Kemsley Street, Purple Hill, TQ812621 to TQ813621; the plants were scattered in the open turf, but often where shaded by Hawthorns and other shrubby plants spread over the hill slope to the east and above an old chalk working. (The scrub will eventually destroy the site's interest if left unchecked.) They start about half way up the slope and continue to near the top of the field. There were one or two patches in the adjacent more heavily grazed field to the east not far from the fence line above the east top edge of the old chalk working. A welcome find, given Dodder's decline in Kent (and nationally), and the absence of record from this area in Philp (1982) and Philp (2010). 16 June 2010, FR.

[*Dittrichia viscosa* (Woody Fleabane). Record for Kingsdown, 2008, given in Kitchener (2009), is withdrawn as incorrect.]

*Echinops sphaerocephalus* (Glandular Globe-thistle). Kingsdown, TR38024 48563; one plant beside a wall. 07 October 2010, SB.

*Epilobium* hybrids. The records below, with those reported for vc16, indicate that hybridization is not an uncommon event, but is generally reliant on the existence of a disturbed habitat which is generally transitory. In most cases, no more than one or two hybrid plants are present, but occasionally, as at Chiddingstone (vc 16 below), where numerous species plants are present, hybrids are a recognisable component of a willowherb population, with more than one hybridization event having taken place. Later generation hybrids may be present in those circumstances, but none was identified as such in these records.

*Epilobium x vicinum* (*E. ciliatum* x *obscurum* - the hybrid between American and Short-fruited Willowherbs). Trundle Wood, TQ88752 58762; a large plant amidst brambles, parents absent. 24 June 2010, GK.

*Epilobium x mentiens* (*E. tetragonum* x *ciliatum* – the hybrid between Square-stalked and American Willowherbs):

- (1) Stalisfield Green, Codling Wood, TQ9752; two plants in felled woodland. 12 August 2010, GK.
- (2) Sturry, TR171604, two plants in a neglected sandy field with much *Epilobium*. 24 August 2010, GK.
- (3) Tutt Hill TQ9732 4711; in an open, disturbed field corner. 06 July 2010, GK.

*Epilobium x floridulum* (*E. parviflorum* x *ciliatum* – the hybrid between Hoary and American Willowherbs):

- (1) Sturry, TQ171604; 1 plant in a neglected sandy field with much *Epilobium*. 24 August 2010, GK.
- (2) Tutt Hill, TQ97322 47112; one plant in an open, disturbed field corner. 06 July 2010, GK.

*Epilobium x palatinum* (*E. parviflorum* x *tetragonum* – the hybrid between Hoary and Square-stalked Willowherbs). Stalisfield Green, Codling Wood, TQ9752; one plant in felled woodland. 12 August 2010, GK.



*Epipactis palustris* var. *albiflora* Luscher (Marsh Helleborine). Sandwich Bay, T3559; a very rare white variety, lacking even the purple veining on the interior of the hypochile which would normally be found in white variants (often cited as either forma or var. *ochroleuca*). Believed to be the first occurrence identified as such in Kent. Located in a damp, *Salix*-bordered depression in part of the golf course, beside a public footpath and a small drainage channel. 17 July 2010, DM, FB & JS, det. DJ.

*Epipactis palustris* var. *albiflora*. Photo: © Daphne Mills, July 2010.

*Eranthis hyemalis* (Winter Aconite). Brogdale, TR00640 59786; at least 91 plants appearing unplanted, unlike a nearby roadside scattering. 16 February 2010, GK.

*Erigeron glaucus* (Seaside Daisy). Walmer, TR37914 49372; one plant on shingle. 07 October 2010, SB.

*Erodium moschatum* <sup>R</sup> (Musk Stork's-bill). The first record below appears to be of the nature described in Philp (2010), as perhaps originating from where wool shoddy was used; but the others (in the report for vc16 as well as vc15) seem to be of a different character. The new finds for 2010 over the county are sufficiently numerous that the criteria for inclusion in the Kent rare plant register (in this case, 10 or less sites) are no longer met, and it is likely that this species will be withdrawn from the list.

- (1) Boughton Street, Bushey Close, TR059588; 18 plants on edge of hop rows next to an *Alnus* windbreak and entering into a tractor path. Also from TR058590 to TR058589, there were 600+ plants on one side of a trackway through hop garden. There probably would have been more but for herbicide spraying. 05 May 2010, LR. Another patch (13+ plants), at TR05805 59163, was recorded by LR on 04 October 2010 for the same hopgardens, luxuriant large plants where the hops meet the grass verge around the gardens.
- (2) Sheerness Blue Town; frequent in mown grassy amenity strip from TQ91686 75083 to TQ91723 75246 and neighbouring grassy areas. 18 May 2010, GK.

*Eruca vesicaria* (Garden Rocket). Herne Bay, TR1620 6823; one plant on grassy coastal slope, first vc15 record. 27 April 2010, GK.

*Escallonia macrantha* (Escallonia). Sandgate, TR1935, established on wooded coastal cliff; and TR2035, seedlings on roadside bank. Both 09 March 2010, GK. Surprisingly, there appear to be no other vc15 records, and although a conservative view may have been taken previously as regards recording garden escapes, these sightings appeared to represent good examples of spread which is well represented in other, predominantly coastal, parts of the British Isles.

*Euphorbia characias* subsp. *characias* (Mediterranean Spurge):

- (1) Rochester, TQ74355 68853; one plant on gravelly bank of industrial road, Acorn Wharf Road, no plantings present. Identification to subspecies was undertaken later by DG & SP. 08 April 2010, GK.
- (2) Oare Marshes, TR0119 6408; west side of road to Oare Marsh, one plant in grassland. 27 May 2010, DG.

*Euphorbia oblongata* (Balkan Spurge).



Romney Warren, Littlestone, TR08826 26524; a well established colony on sandy bank at The Warren, not near roads or buildings. Appears to be first vc15 record. KBRG meeting, 05 June 2010.

*Euphorbia oblongata*. Photo: © Geoffrey Kitchener, June 2010



*Euphorbia portlandica* (Portland Spurge). Faversham, west of Brenley Corner. A colony of 238 plants by a hedge adjoining the footway alongside the A2, about 10m long, from TR03722 59984 to TR03712 59987, well established with numerous seedlings. The plants lie about 2m from edge of the carriageway, apparently not within the zone of saline influence from highway de-icing salt, so this occurrence is not on a par with the well-recognised roadside invasion by saltmarsh plants such as *Puccinellia distans*. Our usual Kentish maritime spurge is *Euphorbia paralias* (Sea Spurge), and the nearest naturally occurring *E. portlandica* is as far away as Hampshire, except for three Dover records for the 1970s/80s inputted to the BSBI maps database (and resulting in two hectad dots on the online map for this species) which remain unconfirmed and doubtful. The Faversham record is therefore a remarkable one, with no readily explicable origin for the plants. 11 May 2010, LR; surveyed by LR and GK 13 May 2010.

*Euphorbia portlandica*. Photo: © Liam Rooney, May 2010



*Fuchsia magellanica* (Fuchsia). Walmer, TR37895 49694; established on shingle ±20 yards from planted hedge. 07 October 2010, SB. No other records for vc15 have been traced.

*Fumaria capreolata* (White Ramping-fumitory). Littlestone, TR0824; patch outside garden along coast road. 20 April 2010, GK.

*Galeopsis angustifolia* <sup>R</sup> (Red Hemp-nettle). Dungeness, TR0775 1657; on shingle near Power Station wall, c.150-200 plants in full flower, covering 2m<sup>2</sup>. 05 August 2010, DJ. As this species is nationally Critically Endangered, and now restricted in Kent to the Dungeness area, it is encouraging that it is found in a 1km square where unlisted in Philp (1982) or Philp (2010).

*Galium pumilum* (Slender Bedstraw). Kemsley Street, Purple Hill, TQ812621; a very healthy population on the chalk grassland of upper hill slopes and with the odd plant in the adjacent field to the west. 06 June 2010, FR. The species was not placed on the first draft of the Kent rare plant register, on the basis that it was probably no longer to be found. This was particularly in the light of specific searches at all the previously known localities (Philp, 2010), although EGP remarked presciently that “an area or two of chalk grassland within the county might just still hold this species”. The quality of this site is also indicated by the records for *Cuscuta epithymum* (above) and *Polygala amarella* (below).



*Galium pumilum*. Photo: © Fred Rumsey, June 2010.

*Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (Heath Cudweed). Atchester Wood, TR160486; c.25 plants in a recently cleared area of woodland (a private area visited with permission). 20 July 2010, HS.

*Hebe x franciscana* (Hedge Veronica). Greatstone, TR0822; a seedling in car park, putative parent not near. 20 April 2010, GK.

*Hippuris vulgaris* <sup>R</sup> (Mare's-tail). Faversham-Oare, TR0048 6259, Gunpowder Works; two small patches, six spikes in each. 27 May 2010, DG. There have been a number of other vc15 sightings in 2010, but these correspond with sites published in Philp (2010), and so are not included here.

*Hordeum marinum* <sup>R</sup> (Sea Barley). This attractive grass of barish, often disturbed, saline coastal ground has been recorded in 2010 at various places along the verge and central reservation of the A249, in the vicinity of Bobbing and Iwade (TQ8965, TQ9066 and (twice) TQ9067). It was apparent that these were merely samples of extensive and often continuous populations. Ironically, the recorder was only using this road in order to visit a remote part of Sheppey so as to record a few plants in an old site for the BSBI Threatened Plants Project! 05 August 2010, GK.

*Hyoscyamus niger* <sup>R</sup> (Henbane):

- (1) Faversham, Stone, TQ99127 61280; 10+ plants on arable land on the path to Stone Chapel off the London road (A2). 30 September 2010, LR.
- (2) Westwell, TQ996479; two plants on the edge of a maize field. 14 September 2010, HS.

*Iris orientalis* (Turkish Iris). Dungeness, TR06461 19097; a clump by road to visitor centre. 15 June 2010, GK.

*Lepidium latifolium* <sup>R</sup> (Dittander). Whilst nationally scarce (albeit without any significant threat status), Dittander is not uncommon in north Kent, and was identified in two new 1km vc15 squares in 2010:

- (1) Cleve Marshes, TR0564. 10 June 2010, LR.
- (2) Seasalter, TR092637; on dual carriageway of A299. 28 June 2010, JB.

*Linaria repens* <sup>R</sup> (Pale Toadflax). Barham, TR213497; 40 plants at roadside nature reserve. A known site, but mentioned here because different from the only one given by Philp (2010) for the county, and because the population appeared to have increased. 28 August 2010, FB, DM & JS.

*Medicago minima* (Bur Medick). Shellness, TR0514 6832 - TR0504 6856; distributed along length of grassy bank. 30 May 2010, SP & DG.

*Melampyrum pratense* subsp. *commutatum* (Common Cow-wheat). Elsted, east of Spong Wood, TR12797 45234 to TR12772 45252; on open chalk grassland bank, south west facing. This subspecies, which favours calcareous soils, was not recorded separately in Philp (2010), although it may be inferred from the mapping that it is much less common in Kent than ssp. *pratense*. 22 June 2010, AG & GK.

*Myrica gale* (Bog-myrtle) was reported in Wild Kent: the Magazine of Kent Wildlife Trust (Winter 2010) as having been found, as a small patch, in one of the Hothfield bogs (TR94), having been unrecorded in Kent since 1960.

*Neottia nidus-avis* <sup>R</sup> (Bird's-nest Orchid):

- (1) Perrywood, TR045555; mature spikes either side of the road near Perry Wood car park. 22 May 2010, LR.
- (2) Trundle Wood, TQ88602 58672; in woodland shade, near *Fagus sylvatica*. 24 June 2010, RE & GK.
- (3) Perrywood, TR0555; one spike in Perry Wood. 21 May 2010, LR.

*Nepeta cataria* (Cat-mint). Wye, near Coombe Farm, TR082462; one plant in a gateway. 15 August 2010, HS.

*Nicandra physalodes* (Apple-of-Peru):

- (1) Sturry, TR1761; street weed in Sweechgate. 24 August 2010, GK.
- (2) Selling, TR0469 5600; disturbed ground, soil heaps from drainage ditches on former chicken farm. 12 September 2010, LR.

*Ophrys x albertiana* (*O. apifera* x *fuciflora* – the hybrid between Bee and Late Spider-orchids). Near Wye, TR04 [full details redacted]. One plant on chalk grassland slope. 16 June 2010, FR, conf. by RB from photo. There was another sighting of a putative hybrid in TR13, 22 June 2010, AG & GK.

*Ophrys apifera* var. *chlorantha* (Bee Orchid). Lydden Hill, TR257455; a single white bee orchid found whilst monitoring a roadside nature reserve. 06 July 2010, GT.

*Orobanche elatior* <sup>R</sup> (Knapweed Broomrape). Westwell, TQ98387 47898; one spike just starting to flower at chalk bank of roadside nature reserve, perilously close to the road. 08 June 2010, GT. It eventually succumbed to passage of traffic, as the spike had been broken off when later seen by GK.

*Panicum miliaceum* (Common Millet). Walmer - Kingsdown, TR37938 49467; seeded from a patch of well rotted garden waste on beach. 07 October 2010, SB.

*Papaver pseudoorientale* (Oriental Poppy). Littlestone, TR0824; one plant by coastal wall, not near gardens. 05 June 2010, KBRG meeting (also in similar location 20 April 2010, GK).

*Persicaria bistorta* <sup>R</sup> (Common Bistort). Little Chart Forstal, TQ95821 45877; one plant at roadside, edge of Coldham Wood. 25 May 2010, GK.

*Peucedanum officinale* <sup>R</sup> (Hog's Fennel). The general parameters of Hog Fennel's Kentish distribution, in the Faversham / Whitstable and Reculver areas, have long been known. Recording in 2010 has thrown up a few locations within these areas which extend the coverage recorded by Philp (2010). Additional 1km squares are:

- (1) TR0464, Cleve Marshes; one plant behind sea wall in front of marshes. 15 July 2010, LR.
- (2) TR2269, Reculver; one plant on landward slope of sea wall at each of TR22278 69428 and TR23778 69430. 29 July 2010, SB.
- (3) TR2369, Reculver; one plant on landward slope of sea wall at each of TR23993 69429 and TR23432 69426. 29 July 2010, SB.

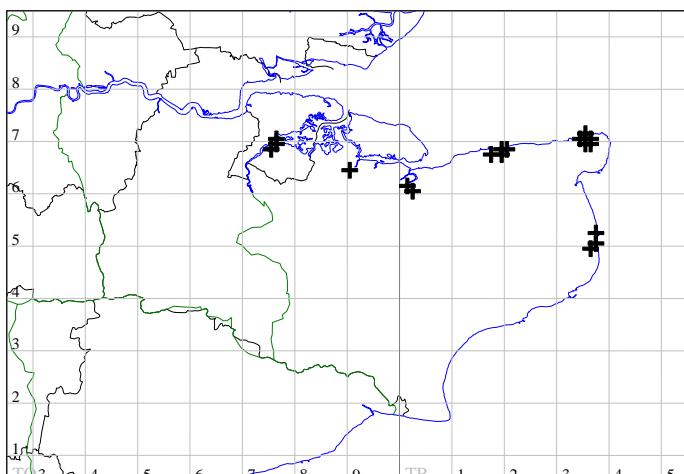
*Pinus nigra* (Austrian Pine / Corsican Pine). Dover Western Heights, TR31369 40770; seedling on roadside bank within 20m of two planted trees. 02 March 2010, GK.

*Plantago major* subsp. *intermedia* <sup>R</sup> (Greater Plantain). Harty Ferry (Sheppey), TR0165; present near shore. This subspecies of coastal areas, with three to five leaf veins and undulating teeth to the leaf base, is seldom recorded, and is perhaps overlooked. 05 August 2010, GK.

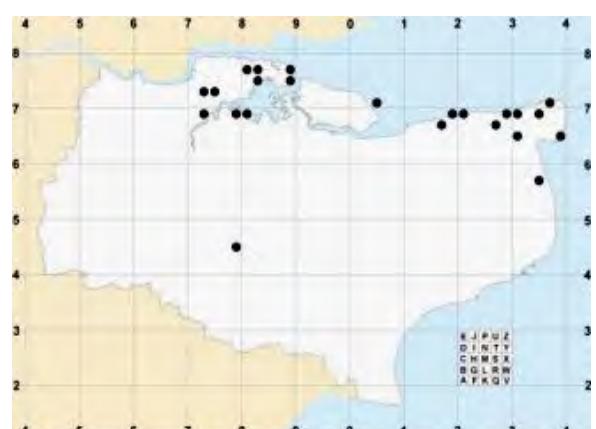
*Platanthera bifolia* <sup>R</sup> (Lesser Butterfly-orchid). Trundle Wood, TQ8858; several locations in Ash/Hazel or Ash/Hornbeam woodland with north west aspect and little understorey except *Mercurialis perennis*. 24 June 2010, RE & GK.

*Poa infirma* <sup>R</sup> (Early Meadow-grass). 37 records were made in 2010 for this newcomer (as from 1999) to Kent, covering 19 different 1km squares, as shown by the first map. The second map shows the previously recorded position as given, for tetrads, in Philp (2010) – reproduced by kind permission of Eric Philp and the Kent Field Club.

**Poa infirma (Early Meadow-grass) 2010**



**Poa infirma (Early Meadow-grass) 1991–2005**

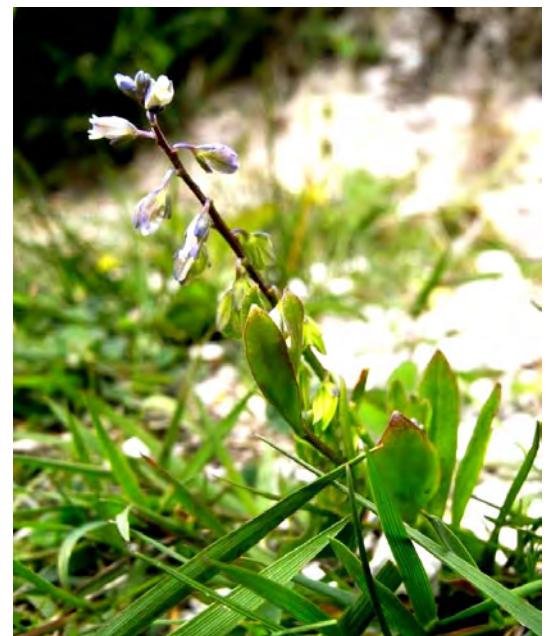


Clearly, the 2010 surveys recording *Poa infirma* did not get to all the places recorded for 1999-2005, although they did get to many new ones; but this is an early flowering grass, where the window for recognition is quite short. It was found, sometimes in large quantities, primarily as a coastal street weed, on pavements, pathsides, gravelly areas, and in parks. At Margate, in April, there was more *Poa infirma* in the streets than *Poa annua*!



*Poa infirma* at Faversham. Photo: © Liam Rooney, May 2010.

*Polygala amarella* <sup>R</sup> (Dwarf or Kentish Milkwort). Kemsley Street, Purple Hill; 18 individuals counted on chalk grassland slope - 14 in a smallish area at c.TQ8129 6209, with individual plants at TQ8128 6212 (2 plants); TQ8127 6213 and TQ8129 6213. 16 June 2010, FR. The discovery of this colony is particularly welcome, given that it had otherwise appeared reduced in Kent to populations at Magpie Bottom near Shoreham and (Philp, 2010) at Godmersham (where five plants were recorded by AG on 18 June 2010). The national importance of southern populations has had limited recognition while their subspecific designation (ssp. *austriaca*) has fallen into disuse. However, this might be about to change now that the subspecies (not recognised in Stace, 2010) is being moved into the Waiting List of the Vascular plant Red Data List, for re-examination of its threatened status pending further taxonomic study (Leach & Walker, 2011).



*Polygala amarella*. Photo: © Fred Rumsey, June 2010.

*Polygonum oxyspermum* subsp. *rai* <sup>R</sup> (Ray's Knotgrass). The following records extend the three sites given in Philp (2010) for the county:

- (1) Cleve Marshes, TR05372 64867; one plant on sandy shore. 12 July 2010, GK & LR.
- (2) Seasalter, TR0965; on shingle beach. 09 October 2010, LR.
- (3) Cleve Marshes, TR04220 64840; 20 plants on shore. 18 August 2010, JA.
- (4) Tankerton, TR12208 67340; 16 plants in a square metre of beach. 18 August 2010, SB.

*Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent), a southern European grass spreading increasingly:

- (1) Hamstreet, TR00133 33400; several plants on pavement near Dukes Head pub. 02 November 2010, SB.
- (2) Egerton, TQ90565 47008; base of wall in Egerton main street. 24 November 2010, SB.

*Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia* (Black Poplar). New Romney, TR066255; a female (which is unusual) tree outside the corner house on the junction of Cockreed Lane and Rolfe Lane. Heavily pruned by the owner several years ago. 15 June 2010, OL (known to him for some years, but det. by BSBI referee FC in 2010).

*Prunus x fruticans* (*P. domestica* x *spinosa* – the hybrid between Wild Plum and Blackthorn):

- (1) Sturry, TR1860; Westbere Lane, in roadside copse, globose fruit 16mm, stone flattened (10mm), tree not particularly spiny. 24 August 2010, GK.
- (2) Oare, Uplees Marshes, TR0065; several bushes with few spines in fenced area near estuary, blue/black globose fruit to 19mm, stone flattened (11mm). 05 Oct 2010, GK & LR.

*Pseudosasa japonica* (Arrow Bamboo). Sandgate, TR19855 35186; several clumps in woodland, lower part of cliffs. 09 March 2010, GK.

*Puccinellia rupestris* <sup>R</sup> (Stiff Saltmarsh-grass). Cleve Marshes, TR04202 64796 to c.TR04241 64802; scattered along gravelly surface and margins of vehicular access behind sea wall. 12 August 2010, GK & LR.

*Ranunculus parviflorus* <sup>R</sup> (Small-flowered Buttercup). Burham Down KWT reserve TQ73429 62336, a patch of c.55 plants in area of about 1m<sup>2</sup>, close to fence at southern end of reserve. 24 May 2010, SP & DG.

*Rumex x sagorskii* (*R. crispus* x *sanguineus* – the hybrid between Curled and Wood Docks). Trundle Wood, TQ88786 58748; one plant in open area with brambles, parents present. 24 June 2010, GK.

*Rumex x schulzei* (*R. crispus* x *conglomeratus* – the hybrid between Curled and Clustered Docks). Harty Isle, TR017663; one plant with parents in coarse vegetation, by Park Farm access. 05 August 2010, GK.

*Sagina maritima* (Sea Pearlwort). Faversham, TR0374 5997 and TR02954 60178; inland records, along the saline verge of the A2. 13 May 2010, GK & LR.



*Salicornia pusilla* x *ramosissima* (the hybrid between One-flowered and Purple Glassworts). Oare, Uplees Marshes, TR007652; five plants found by LR on 02 October 2010, and more on 05 October 2010, LR & GK. Scattered putative hybrid plants grew amongst both parents on the upper drier part of the salt marsh, just below the sea wall-associated vegetation. They were growing where there was a dense population and mixture of the two parents, sometimes on slightly raised areas. Hybrid plants were slightly taller or more bushy than parents, bearing cymes of variable numbers of flowers, one and three on same plant, rarely two. Variation occurred on terminal spike (often three-flowered below and one-flowered above, all flowers mature), or on branches. Plants could be predominantly one-flowered, with occasional flowers in threes, or the other way round, or a mixture. Both types of flower could be found on a single fertile segment.

*Salicornia pusilla* x *ramosissima*. Photo: © Liam Rooney, October 2010.

*Salix x reichardtii* (*S. caprea* x *cinerea* – the hybrid between Goat and Grey Willows). Rother Levels - west of New Bridge, TQ9025; bushes by watercourses; this appears to be the usual *Salix* taxon in this area. 21 August 2010, KBRG meeting.

*Securigera varia* (Crown Vetch). Dover, Whinless, TR2941; two colonies. 25 July 2010, SC.

*Sedum spectabile* (Butterfly Stonecrop). Walmer, TR3749; on shingle beach. 07 October 2010, SB.

*Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort). The spread of this species into Kent, largely from Essex, but also from mainland Europe (see Kitchener, 2001) continues; and it is now apparent that it is moving eastwards across the north of the county. East Kent records were made in 2010 at (1) Sheerness (TQ9274, on railway ballast at station, 18 May 2010, GK); (2) Boughton under Blean (along the A2 in TR0658, 19 October 2010, and TR0659, 06 October 2010, both LR); (3) Walmer (on shingle beach at TR3759, 07 Oct 2010, SB); and (4) Dover docks (port wasteland at TR3341, 25 July 2010, QG – the species is common at Calais, so this is most likely to be an example of spread from France).

*Senecio x subnebrodensis* (*S. squalidus* x *viscosus* – the hybrid between Oxford Ragwort and Sticky Groundsel). North of Cleve / Nagden Marshes, TR0364; one plant in shingle depression, upper beach, with both parents present. 12 August 2010, GK & LR.



*Senecio x subnebrodensis* (with *S. viscosus* to the right). Photo: © Geoffrey Kitchener, August 2010.

#### *Silybum marianum* (Milk Thistle):

- (1) Tunstall, TQ8961; scattered plants in and adjoining arable. 23 March 2010, GK.
- (2) Faversham, at least TR0188 6019 to TR0184 6028, abundant on field margin and under hedge alongside footpath leading to Salters Lane. 13 May 2010, GK.

*Solanum physalifolium* (Green Nightshade). Cooling, Northward Hill, TQ7676. 13 September 2010, SP & DG.

#### *Spiranthes spiralis*<sup>R</sup> (Autumn Lady's-tresses):

- (1) Littlestone, TR0773 2478; at least 180 flowering spikes in small park 50m x 50m, surviving trampling feet, dogs, etc. 25 August 2010, DJ.
- (2) Temple Ewell, TR2844; two plants by the footpath above allotments, and 10 plants on south facing slope under footpath. 04 September 2010, LR.
- (3) Kingsdown - Oldstairs Bay, TR380477; independently reported at rifle range by SC (21 August 2010) and SB (04 September 2010).
- (4) Kingsdown, TR372477 and TR374479; 44 and 150 spikes on two garden lawns. 21 August 2010, SC.

*Stachys byzantina* (Lamb's-ear). Kingsdown, TR38002 48458; established on part-vegetated shingle. 07 October 2010, SB.

*Suaeda maritima* (Annual Sea-blite). Boughton, TR06773 58713; about 40 plants in total in one cluster with some a couple of feet away, on the verge of the A2. 22 October 2010, LR. A remarkable inland record for this saltmarsh plant. It does not appear to have been recorded in this habitat in Kent before, nor is it one of

the recognised saltmarsh species colonising saline highway verges, although nationally, BSBI on-line maps show a very few inland records, which may be occurrences such as on sea-dredged shingle.

*Suaeda vera*<sup>R</sup> (Shrubby Sea-blite). Reculver, TR22278 69195; one plant, c.2m tall, on beach at foot of clay cliff. 29 July 2010, SB. Primarily an East Anglian coastal plant, it has only a toehold on Kent, and this significant new discovery adds to its presence at Lydd and Sheppey.

*Symphytum tuberosum* (Tuberous Comfrey):

- (1) Hastingleigh, Partridge Wood; in deciduous woodland, plentiful along old track from TR10071 43322 to TR10084 43372, with an outlier at TR10090 434320. 02 June 2010, GK.
- (2) Denstead Wood, TR0857; in the margin of woods just after a footpath crossroads. 06 May 2010, LR.

*Tristagma uniflorum* (Spring Starflower):

- (1) Burham Marshes – Eccles, TQ71614 61447; two plants by river in front of cement works. 13 April 2010, L&DH.
- (2) Margate, Dane Road, TR3670; junction of pavement and wall, seeded from adjoining garden. 01 April 2010, GK.
- (3) Greatstone, TR0821; on shingle west of Derville Road. 20 April 2010, GK.

*Tsuga heterophylla* (Western Hemlock-spruce). Kenardington, Bench Hill, TQ9532; self-seeded saplings within plantation. 06 July 2010, GK.

*Typha x glauca* (*T. angustifolia* x *latifolia* – the hybrid between Lesser Bulrush and Bulrush). Hothfield, TQ9646; in pond near Cowlees Alders. 25 May 2010, GK.

*Verbascum phoeniceum* (Purple Mullein). Littlestone, TR08376 23998; 3 plants on sand by beach hut. First vc15 record for this south east European plant. 05 June 2010, KBRG meeting.

*Vicia villosa* (Fodder Vetch). Westwell, TQ9647; 06 July 2010, GK.

*Viola palustris* (Marsh Violet). Foxearth Wood, TQ7939. 05 July 2010, JP.



## Plant records for West Kent (vice county 16)

*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Ragweed). Staplehurst, TQ7843; amongst runner beans in garden, presumed from bird-seed. 10 September 2010, MH.

*Anisantha madritensis* (Compact Brome). Grain, growing at the base of a sand mound at TQ88607 77285. 31 July 2010, KBRG meeting.

*Anthemis tinctoria* (Yellow Chamomile). Gravesend, Denton; two casual plants at TQ66515 73830, with several more over 19m at TQ66500 73844, in rough roadside vegetation. 23 June 2010, GK.

*Aucuba japonica* (Spotted-laurel). West Kingsdown, TQ5763; one bush just outside churchyard, two near west boundary of Church Wood, not appearing planted. 26 February 2010, GK.

*Barbarea verna* (American Winter-cress). Dartford Heath; a few plants in rough vegetation on soil bank by Denton Road, TQ51230 73189. 16 May 2010, KFC meeting.

*Bassia scoparia* (Summer-cypress). This species, which has only in recent years been noted as spreading in Kent on main roads and motorways (Kitchener, 2006), was recorded in 2010 on the A2 (TR0459<sup>15</sup>, TR0559<sup>15</sup>, TR0659<sup>15</sup>), A249 (TQ8663<sup>15</sup>, TQ8965<sup>15</sup>, TQ9169<sup>15</sup>); M20 (TQ5765, TQ5863, TQ6159, TQ6359, TQ6459, TQ6559, TQ6659, TQ6859, TQ6959) and the M25 (TQ5467, TQ5566, TQ5567, TQ5666). (Vice county 15 records are included in this list and marked accordingly.) It forms continuous stands along centre reservations in many places, or otherwise populates the saline verge. Although generally spreading, it was absent from some places where abundant in previous years and may be affected by the timing of highway cutting / spraying.

*Bromopsis inermis* (Hungarian Brome). Grain, TQ8976; recorded in KCC habitat survey, on top of fort (east of car park). 30 July 2010, LM.

*Bromus hordeaceus* subsp. *longipedicellatus* (Soft-brome). Lamberhurst, TQ6736; a tall, large-panicked grass found at a field margin. 09 July 2010, GK.

*Carex vesicaria* <sup>R</sup> (Bladder-sedge). The decline of this sedge in Kent, down from 15 tetrads in Philp (1982) to four in Philp (2010) is such that additional records are particularly welcome. Those four tetrads included Haysden, from which SB confirmed its continued presence in 2010 (LNHS meeting, TQ55722 46115). However, three further records demonstrated that it is still to be found in the Eden catchment area:

- (1) South of Chiddingstone Causeway, TQ52021 45934; a patch 3m x 4m amidst *Juncus* on a damp flushed slope above an alder-lined tributary of the R. Eden. 24 June 2010, GK.
- (2) West of Chiddingstone Causeway, TQ51114 47067, a patch c2m x 1m in a wet woodland clearing. 17 August 2010, GK. Site comm. by SL, who also reported a 10m x 4m patch.
- (3) Chiddingstone, north east of Vexour bridge, TQ516459; spread out tussocks in flooded grassland in an Eden valley field corner. 05 June 2010, SL, conf. GK.



*Carex vulpina*. Photo: © Stephen Lemon, May 2010

*Carex vulpina* <sup>R</sup> (True Fox-sedge). A similar pattern of decline is shown for this sedge by the record of three tetrads in Philp (2010), down from nine in Philp (1982), despite specific searches. However, a new site has been found by SL, and further investigation produced another, outlying plant:

- (1) Chiddingstone, north of Vexour bridge, TQ50973 45829; three mature plants in south side of meadow hedge with ditch beneath, by seasonally flooded depression. 05 May 2010, SL.
- (2) West of previous site, TQ51032 45847; one plant in south side of meadow hedge with ditch beneath. 10 June 2010, GK.

*Cerastium diffusum* (Sea Mouse-ear). A very glandular-haired coastal annual, whose occurrences below are reported on the basis of an extended distribution to inland saline road-verges:

- (1) Foothill Cray, TQ4770; north side of Edgington Way, a dense patch of c.1m<sup>2</sup> by inspection cover at foot of street furniture. 26 April 2010, RMB.
- (2) Dartford Heath; plentiful on A2018 centre reservation A2018 from TQ51969 73319 to TQ51901 73289. 16 May 2010, GK.

*Chenopodium glaucum* <sup>R</sup> (Oak-leaved Goosefoot). Swigsole, High Halstow; plants scattered along gravelly surface of Manor Way in TQ7877 and TQ7878. 29 July 2010, GK

*Cotoneaster bullatus* (Hollyberry Cotoneaster). Tunbridge Wells Common, TQ5736 3915; a seedling at the edge of a wooded common by Major York's Road. 25 April 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster franchetii* (Franchet's Cotoneaster). Stone TQ5874; a small (presumed bird-sown) plant at edge of scrub by Stone Castle footpath. 22 January 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster hjelmqvistii* (Hjelmqvist's Cotoneaster). Mill Hill Wood, TQ7067; a small plant by trackway in Mill Hill Wood, not near housing. 09 June 2010, LH & GK.

*Cotoneaster lacteus* (Late Cotoneaster). Stone, TQ58539 74011; one medium sized bush in scrub on chalk. 22 January 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster sternianus* (Stern's Cotoneaster). West Kingsdown, TQ5763; a young plant on verge behind street furniture in Southfields Road. 26 February 2010, GK.

*Cotoneaster x watereri* (Waterer's Cotoneaster):

- (1) Rosherville, TQ6374; several plants on development site between London Road and Crete Hall Road. 07 April 2010, GK.
- (2) Northfleet, TQ6274; chalk bank above factories, one large bush. 08 April 2010, GK.
- (3) Polhill, TQ5059; one bush, 4m high, in scrub of Hangman Down Shaw. 24 February 2010, GK.

*Cyclamen coum* (Eastern Sowbread). Knockholt, Star Hill, TQ4958; one or two plants in woodland opposite houses, maybe of garden waste origin. 12 March 2010, GK.

*Datura ferox* (Angel's-trumpets). Edenbridge, TQ44365 46028; one plant in shrub plantings at supermarket car park. 01 October 2010, GK.

*Dipsacus pilosus* <sup>R</sup> (Small Teasel). Hartley Wood, TQ617678; a patch just inside the wood was estimated to cover an area of about 120m<sup>2</sup> whilst a patch on the field side of the wood covered about 250m<sup>2</sup>. 25 August 2010, RR.

*Elytrigia x acuta* nothosubsp. *obtusiuscula* (*E. atherica* x *junccea*). Grain, TQ88461 77422; the hybrid between Sea Couch and Sand Couch, with parents above the beach. 31 July 2010, KBRG meeting.

*Epilobium x vicinum* (*E. ciliatum* x *obscurum* - the hybrid between American and Short-fruited Willowherbs):

- (1) Ightham, Fish Ponds Wood, TQ58027 55034; one plant with parents present on damp sandy area by footpath. 04 July 2010, GK.
- (2) West of Chiddingstone Causeway, TQ51054 47144; one plant with parents present at edge of damp open area in woodland. 17 August 2010, GK.

*Epilobium x mentiens* (*E. tetragonum* x *ciliatum* – the hybrid between Square-stalked and American Willowherbs):

- (1) Chiddington, Weller's Town, TQ5044; one plant on roadside. 07 July 2010, GK.
- (2) Chiddington, TQ 5028 4554; 12 plants in formerly cultivated field by path to R. Eden, overgrown and with *E. parviflorum*, *ciliatum*, *tetragonum*, *hirsutum*. 10 August 2010, GK.

*Epilobium x dacicum* (*E. obscurum* x *parviflorum* – the hybrid between Short-fruited and Hoary Willowherbs). Fordcombe, TQ 5237 4092; one plant at edge of arable, parents present. 12 June 2010, GK.



*Epilobium x floridulum* (*E. parviflorum* x *ciliatum* – the hybrid between Hoary and American Willowherbs):

- (1) Chiddington, TQ5028 4554; four plants with parents in overgrown formerly cultivated field by path to R. Eden. 10 August 2010, GK.
- (2) West of Chiddington Causeway, TQ51051 47121; two plants on disturbed bank above pond in woodland amidst tall vegetation, including parents. 17 August 2010, GK.

*Epilobium x floridulum*. Photo: © Geoffrey Kitchener, August 2010.

*Epilobium x interjectum* (*E. montanum* x *ciliatum* – the hybrid between Broad-leaved and American Willowherbs):

- (1) Goudhurst, TQ7237; one plant in planted area by footpath. 06 July 2010, GK.
- (2) Penshurst Place, TQ5244; one plant in neglected area by wall. 30 June 2010, GK.

*Epilobium x limosum* (*E. parviflorum* x *montanum* – the hybrid between Hoary and Broad-leaved Willowherbs). West of Chiddington Causeway, TQ5146, one plant in woodland glade, parents present. 17 August 2010, GK.

*Epilobium x palatinum* (*E. parviflorum* x *tetragonum* – the hybrid between Hoary and Square-stalked Willowherbs). Chiddington, TQ5028 4554; one plant with parents in overgrown, formerly cultivated field by path to R. Eden. 10 August 2010, GK.

*Epipactis phyllanthes* <sup>R</sup> var. *degenera* (Green-flowered Helleborine). Several recorders viewed the well-known population opposite the Lodge, Lullingstone. GT undertook a roadside nature reserve survey with others, recording 78 plants to 10-figure grid references on 20 July 2010. DJ, on 07 August 2010, recorded 67 plants here between TQ5341 6457 and TQ5335 6426), but he is the first to point out (pers. comm.) the varietal status of this population. This is in contrast to the usual form, var. *phyllanthes*, to which (for example) he assigns the Foothills Cray Meadows population, on 03 August 2010 recorded by him as down to two plants at TQ4838 7204(-6).

*Erodium moschatum* <sup>R</sup> (Musk Stork's-bill):

- (1) Bessels Green, TQ50247 55646, about 60 plants over c.12m road-verge, also at the base of an adjoining wall. 12 April 2010, MB & RR.
- (2) Northfleet; from TQ62369 73471 to TQ62405 73499 along verge at roundabout, at the junction of Thames Way and Springhead Road, 400-500 plants in short grass or semi-bare ground, somewhat chalky. Perhaps associated with re-seeding the verge of this reconstructed junction. *E. cicutarium* (Common Stork's-bill) was also present. 30 April 2010, GK.

*Euphorbia characias* (Mediterranean Spurge):

- (1) Greenhithe, TQ58726 741087; seven plants established in scrubby area at foot of road bank off Bean Road. 22 January 2010, GK.
- (2) Polhill, TQ50591 59328; one plant on long embankment of dumped rubble/soil, another further north. 24 February 2010, GK.

*Euphorbia oblongata* (Balkan Spurge). Polhill, TQ5059; one plant on long embankment of dumped rubble/soil near motorway. 01 July 2010, GK.

*Euphorbia platyphyllus* <sup>R</sup> (Broad-leaved Spurge). Luddesdown, Henley Down, TQ6646 6664; one plant in arable stubble on chalk. 16 August 2010, GK.



*Herminium monorchis* <sup>R</sup> (Musk Orchid): This plant was the subject of a BSBI Threatened Plants Project survey in 2010, an outcome of which is that a number of former sites no longer appear viable for this species. These new records, however, indicate that the downs at the south west end of the Medway Gap provide a significant focus for its continued Kentish presence:

- (1) Crookhorn Wood, TQ6783 6291 to TQ6782 6291; eight spikes near footpath across a valley clearing in mixed deciduous woodland, opened up by access ways and tree/scrub clearance. Very thin soil over chalk. 28 June 2010, KBRG meeting, guided by DJ. (The meeting also visited another, previously known, site in the same 1km square, where five spikes were present on chalk grassland of the downs scarp slope below Birling Hill road.)
- (2) A similar location to the last [grid references confidential]; over 30 plants in each of two populations on private calcareous grassland cleared of scrub and fenced in preparation for grazing. A management / monitoring plan is under way, with monitoring to begin in 2011. 01 July 2010, RH.

*Herminium monorchis*. Photo: © Liam Rooney, June 2010.

*Hippuris vulgaris* <sup>R</sup> (Mare's-tail). Cooling Marshes. Found intermittently along the north margin of the brackish Hope Fleet, generally in the mud of shallower water, from TQ76392 78557 to TQ76913 78525, sometimes with *Rumex maritimus*. 23 June 2010, GK.

*Hypericum olympicum* (Mount Olympus St John's-wort). Sevenoaks, TQ5155; several flattened plants on sandy grass verge outside 106 Marlborough Crescent, having apparently seeded from garden and traversed the pavement to reach the verge. First record for vc16. 03 June 2010, GK.

*Lathyrus aphaca* (Yellow Vetchling). Gravesend, Denton, TQ66783 73603; small patch in disturbed ground between housing development and former marshes. 23 June 2010, GK.

*Lathyrus odoratus* (Sweet Pea). Gravesend, Denton, TQ6673; one plant on unplanted soil bank barrier sealing off end of housing development. 27 June 2010, WFS meeting.

*Lepidium latifolium* <sup>R</sup> (Dittander). Gravesend, Denton, TQ 66493 73833; a stand in coarse vegetation along road and dyke bank. 23 June 2010, GK.

*Luzula x borrei* (*L. forsteri* x *pilosa* – the hybrid between Southern and Hairy Wood-rushes). Badger's Mount, TQ49605 62766 to TQ49430 62882; at least eight plants with parents on shaded sandy banks of Chelsfield Lane through Hollows Wood. 20 May 2010, GK.

*Melilotus indicus* (Small Melilot). Cooling Marshes, TQ7679; gravelly track inside estuarial wall. 29 July 2010, GK.

*Neottia nidus-avis* <sup>R</sup> (Bird's-nest Orchid).

- (1) High Elms. At TQ4474 6248, a colony of 36 flowering plants within a 3m radius; and at and around TQ4473 6248, 11 scattered plants. 18 June 2010, FO, comm. DJ. This wood, in metropolitan vc16, is well known for its orchids, and the record is given here because of the size and quality of the population.
- (2) Hartley, Churchdown Wood, TQ595 681; one emerging spike through ivy. 10 May 2010, DJ.
- (3) Oldbury Hill, TQ5810 5596; a „clump' of about 10 spikes near car park. 15 June 2010, ME, comm. DJ.

*Oenanthe silaifolia* <sup>R</sup> (Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort). In Philp (2010) this umbellifer of damp meadows was treated as restricted in Kent to Seasalter and the Medway valley. It is now apparent that there are populations remaining in the catchment of the River Eden as well. Two colonies were discovered near Chiddingstone, between Vexour Bridge and Moorden:



(1) marshy field corner and surrounding pasture, with two plants at TQ51661 45886; one plant at TQ51662 45900; two plants in marsh at TQ51669 45918; three plants at TQ51662 45885; and at least 63 plants centred on TQ51713 45874 (a full count was constrained by the concurrent interest of a bull in the field). 14 June 2010, GK.

(2) large, low-lying meadow near Vexour Bridge with 43 scattered plants at TQ516458, TQ516459, TQ512457, TQ512477, TQ511457, TQ511458. 14 June 2010, GK.

*Oenanthe silaifolia*. Photo: © Geoffrey Kitchener, June 2010.

*Orobanche elatior* <sup>R</sup> (Knapweed Broomrape). Trosley Country Park, TQ 64721 61221; three dead spikes (same number as in 2009). 28 July 2010, L&DH.

*Parthenocissus vitacea* (= *P. inserta*, False Virginia-creeper). Goudhurst, TQ7237; one small plant on grassy slope, away from gardens. 06 July 2010, GK.

*Petroselinum crispum* (Garden Parsley). Northfleet, TQ6274; one plant by wall, path edge, remote from housing, leaves flat, not crisped. 08 April 2010, GK.

*Polypogon viridis* (Water Bent). This grass is spreading in Kent, but it may be that metropolitan vc16 holds particular potential for spread, given the extent of invasion in central London:

- (1) Erith, TQ5078; in front garden of 100 Riverdale Road. 18 September 2010, GK.
- (2) Deptford, TQ3777; street weed. 11 July 2010, GK (LNHS meeting).
- (3) Mottingham, TQ426729; suburban weed. 19 October 2010, MC.

*Portulaca oleracea* (Common Purslane). Farningham, TQ547669; 10 plants at west side of entrance to Manor Farm. "Common" Purslane is a misnomer for this introduced, and seldom recorded, species. 16 September 2010, RMB.

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir):

- (1) Knockholt, north of Ash Platt, TQ4758; two small trees apparently seeded from others planted. 22 March 2010, GK.
- (2) Bedgebury, TQ7234; many self-seeded saplings in Bedgebury Forest. 10 October 2010, GK.

*Pyrola rotundifolia* <sup>R</sup> (Round-leaved Wintergreen). Shorne Wood Country Park, TQ6869; two colonies found under *Salix* in dried up pond area. 03 November 2010, JP & IF.

*Ranunculus peltatus* <sup>R</sup> (Pond Water-crowfoot). Dartford Heath TQ51767 73128; small pond in woodland. A species subject to major decline in the county and now scarcely to be found in West Kent. 16 May 2010, FB & KFC meeting.

*Rumex x dufftii* (*R. obtusifolius* x *sanguineus* – the hybrid between Broad-leaved and Wood Docks):

- (1) Chiddingstone, TQ5047; two plants near parents at field margins. 09 August 2010, GK.
- (2) Goudhurst, TQ7237; one plant on grassy slope with parents, north west of village centre. 06 July 2010, GK.

*Rumex x sagorskii* (*R. crispus* x *sanguineus* – the hybrid between Curled and Wood Docks):

- (1) Hadlow, TQ62529 49175; one plant on rough grassy ditch bank / field margin, parents present. 09 July 2010, GK.
- (2) Penshurst Place, TQ52847 44143; one plant by pond with parents. 30 June 2010, GK.

*Rumex x schulzei* (*R. crispus* x *conglomeratus* – the hybrid between Curled and Clustered Docks). Halstow Marshes, TQ78275 78612; one plant with parents in disturbed grassy area by cattle trough. 29 July 2010, GK.

*Saxifraga granulata* <sup>R</sup> (Meadow Saxifrage). A species showing steep decline between the surveys in Philp (1982) and Philp (2010), but the following sites are additions to the latter:

- (1) Horton Kirby; one plant at TQ55727 67859, another at TQ55795 67871, both in unimproved pasture off Franks Lane. 26 May 2010, GK
- (2) Shoreham, TQ522616; c.40 flowering spikes in unmown western / north western part of churchyard. 21 May 2010, GH.



*Scandix pecten-veneris* <sup>R</sup> (Shepherd's-needle). Fishponds Farm, S W Tonbridge; extensive populations of this arable weed in two 1km squares. Prolific ± all around edge of wheat field, between TQ57036 45006, TQ57024 45142, and TQ57390 45057. Highest density of plants was in a 250m x 5m unsprayed stretch amongst the crop on the western field margin alongside a public footpath (at first grid reference given above). Plants were also present between TQ57141 44944 and TQ57321 44984, ± all around the sprayed southern edge of wheat field. They were tolerant of field edge spray but weaker. This is an important location, given the species' Critically Endangered status nationally, and its restriction to three other Kentish sites given in Philp (2010). 17 May 2010, SB.

*Scandix pecten-veneris*. Photo: © Sue Buckingham, May 2010.

*Senecio aquaticus* <sup>R</sup> (Marsh Ragwort). Fooths Cray, Hales Field, TQ47491 70528; several plants in horse-pasture by the River Cray across the A20 from Ruxley Lakes. 30 June 2010, RMB.

*Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort). All records received for 2010 are given here (and, above, for East Kent) to illustrate the spread of this species, and its predominance in north west Kent. It was found at (1) Belvedere (TQ4979 and TQ5079, 29 July 2010, GK); (2) Erith (TQ5078 and TQ5177, 18 September 2010, GK); (3) Dartford Heath (TQ5173, 16 May 2010, KFC meeting); (4) Bluewater (TQ5873, 22 January 2010, GK); and (5) Northfleet (TQ6274, 07 Apr 2010, GK).

*Silene noctiflora* <sup>R</sup> (Night-flowering Catchfly). Lullingstone Park, from TQ52542 63945 to TQ52595 64065; a large colony in arable stubble, estimated total of 1000 plants. This declining arable weed received only one Kentish mention, at Cuxton, in Philp (2010), but there may yet be scope for further rediscoveries, given that the Lullingstone site was known to the finder from 20 years previously (and seed from that site continues to give rise to unbidden plants in a garden at Kemsing, TQ5458). 13 September 2010, GK.

*Sisyrinchium striatum* (Pale Yellow-eyed-grass). Polhill, TQ5059; a couple of groups (seven and nine plants) on a long embankment of dumped rubble/soil near motorway. 24 February 2010, GK.

*Sorbaria kirilowii* (Chinese Sorbaria). Westerham Hill Park, TQ4355; several bushes on woodland slope by North Downs Way. 14 May 2010, GK.

*Sorbus x thuringiaca* (*S. aria* x *aucuparia* – the hybrid between Common Whitebeam and Rowan). Bitchet Common, TQ56565 53521; a small tree with parents by a woodland path on greensand ridge. 10 May 2010, GK. Said (as attributed to Francis Rose) to be locally frequent on the Lower Greensand about Ightham (Rich et al., 2010).

*Spiranthes spiralis* <sup>R</sup> (Autumn Lady's-tresses):

- (1) Trosley Country Park, TQ6458 6128; four plants at top of slope off Pilgrim's Way. 09 September 2010, DJ.
- (2) Birling Hill; TQ6717 6236, four plants flowering towards bottom of steep chalk slope; TQ6703 6241, 2 plants flowering at top; and at TQ6752 6238, a further eight plants scattered over a 20m area. 09 September 2010, DJ.

*Staphylea pinnata* (Bladdernut). Westerham Hill Park, TQ4355; alongside North Downs Way, status of mature shrubs unclear, but seedlings present. 14 May 2010, GK.



*Stellaria neglecta* (Greater Chickweed). Teston, TQ718531; by weir. 10 April 2010, GJ & IJ, comm. L&DH, WFS meeting.

*Stellaria neglecta*. Photo: © Lorna & Derek Holland, April 2010.

*Stratiotes aloides* (Water-soldier). Seal St Lawrence, Fish Ponds, TQ5755; plentiful in acid pond in woodland. 04 July 2010, GK.

*Tanacetum macrophyllum* (Rayed Tansy). Ranscombe, TQ7171 6737; one clump by car park. Long unrecorded in Kent. 09 June 2010, WFS meeting.

*Tellima grandiflora* (Fringecups). Westerham Hill Park, TQ4355; a scattering alongside woodland margin of North Downs Way. 14 May 2010, GK.

*Trachystemon orientalis* (Abraham-Isaac-Jacob). Edenbridge, Marlpit Hill, TQ44648 47649; in roadside hedge by copse in Swan Lane, one vigorous patch 3m x 2m, another smaller. 05 May 2010, GK.

*Tsuga heterophylla* (Western Hemlock-spruce). A timber tree fairly readily reproducing, e.g. at Church Wood, West Kingsdown, TQ5763 (abundant seedlings and saplings amongst and away from planted trees - 26 February 2010, GK) and Underriver, TQ5552 (seedling on woodland roadbank near planted trees - 29 March 2010, GK).

*Utricularia australis* (Bladderwort). Chiddingstone, TQ5097 4718; in woodland ponds, including one dug in the 1990s, in which the Bladderwort has flowered in every year since 2005. 07 August 2010, SL.

*Verbena bonariensis* (Argentinian Vervain). Polhill, TQ5059; one plant on a long embankment of dumped rubble/soil near motorway. 01 July 2010, GK.

*Vicia villosa* (Fodder Vetch). Gravesend, Denton, TQ6673; rough ground by housing development. 23 June 2010, GK.

*Viola canina* <sup>R</sup> (Heath Dog-violet). Sevenoaks, Knole Park; TQ54690 53389, a few plants along about 5m of pathside in short deer-grazed turf on acid substrate, with *V. riviniana* also present. Also at TQ54840 53250, a 10m x 5m patch on similar ground, where footpath crosses Chestnut Walk, with seed capsules forming and *V. riviniana* in vicinity. No hybrids detected. 09 May 2010, GK.

*Viola odorata* var. *sulfurea* (Sweet Violet). West Malling, TQ6857; a large quantity in Water Lane, on grass verge outside Abbey. Lateral petals slightly bearded; petals yellow for basal third, light yellow for the rest; some patchy light purple suffusion; spur purple. 29 March 2010, GK.

*Weigela florida*. Greenhithe, TQ5874; a bush on wooded slope below Bean Road, probably established from rooted garden waste. 22 January 2010, GK.



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