

Plant Records, 2018.

The *Flora of Staffordshire* dealt with records made up until the end of 2011. This short account is the seventh annual report listing some of the more interesting results of later fieldwork.

Dates are all 2018, unless stated otherwise.

New records for VC39

Elaeagnus pungens SO8984, deserted industrial estate, Wharf Road & Canal Street. In a row of trees planted in a car park, years ago: it has since spread, A.P. Daly & J. Hough.

Fallopia japonica var. **compacta** SJ8640, two patches by the concrete track at the E endn bank between the A34 and the main Trentham Estate Shopping Village car park, I.J. Hopkins.

Ludwigia hexapetala SO8390, Highgate Common Daly, APD, JH & J. Ellis.

Narcissus moschatatus SP0397, amenity grassland, SE Walsall, P. Newton.

Philadelphus '**Lemoinei Group**' SJ9755, 'Lemoinei Group' introduced in roadside thicket, near Barnfields, Leek SW, IJH.

Salix x pontederiana (= *S. cinerea x purpurea*) SJ7900, by Patshull Pool, S.R. Moore, det. C.B. Westall.

Verbena hastata SJ8640, one plant of this garden ornamental on waste ground, Trentham, IJH.

V. rigida SJ8545, single patch on site of demolished building, Newcastle, IJH.

Zelkova serrata SJ8650, trees introduced by greenway footpath, near Burslem, IJH.

Species seen again after a gap of several years

Drosera anglica SK0511, valley mire, Gentleshaw Common. The area had been badly burned six weeks previously, H. Dorrington, in herb. **STO**. Only known, otherwise, from the Oldacre Valley, SJ9718; and last seen there in 1969. (Remarkably, several plants of *D. rotundifolia* were found, for the first time, in the same general area of Gentleshaw Common, in 2017, HD.)

Eriophorum latifolium SK0760, Spout Moss, Reap's Moor, R. Tratt & P. Eades. Last seen, at Penn Common, SO8994, in 1884.

Fallopia x bohémica (= *F. japonica* var. **compacta x sachalinensis**) SJ8000, by Patshull Church, D. Hall. Last recorded c. 1990.

Picea smithiana SO8489, Highgate Common, APD, JH & JE. Only otherwise recorded (in SK0743), in 1973.

New tetrads for rarer taxa

The following have been seen in a total of less than about seven tetrads, since 1994.

Acanthus spinosus SP1599, single large plant, hedgebank, Carroway Head. Probably a garden escape, PN.

Brunnera macrophylla SJ9251, clump by track from Bagnall to Stanley Pool, IJH.

Carex x leutzii (= *C. hostiana x demissa*) SK0760, Spout Moss, Reap's Moor, RT & PE.

Cedrus atlantica f. **glaucoissima** SP0297, two planted street trees, SE Walsall, PN.

Corylus colurna SO9791, two street trees, Tividale, PN.

Eleocharis quinqueflora SK0760, Spout Moss, Reap's Moor, RT & PE.

Euphorbia x pseudovirgata (= *E. esula x waldsteinii*) SO9791, waste ground by canal towpath, Tividale, PN.

Festuca filiformis SO8386, trackside, heathy woodland, The Million, Enville, M.E. Smith, APD, JH & JE.

Gaultheria shallon SJ9656, amongst scrub, margin of Cowhay Wood, adjacent to the canal feeder, Leek NW, IJH.

Helleborus orientalis SO8885, steepish slope between canal and river, NNW of Wollaston; APD, JH & JE; also SP0397, relict of planting by pond in amenity grassland, SE Walsall, PN.

Leonurus cardiaca SJ9223, path in Cotonfields Allotments, Stafford, seeded from an introduced plant in another part of the allotments, J. Gale.

Linum grandiflorum SP0195, roadside verge, Stone Cross, PN.

Lonicera henryi SJ9251, presumably planted, but both flowering and fruiting whilst growing over a stone wall by footpath near the drain at N end of Stanley Pool, IJH.

L. x italica (= *L. caprifolium x etrusca*) SJ9553, hedge, towpath of Leek Branch Canal, J.E. Hawksford.

Lycopodium clavatum SK0806, large patch, more open heathland, Muckley Corner Local Nature Reserve, V. Bunter & R. Middleton.

Mahonia japonica SP0397, relict of planting by pond in amenity grassland, SE Walsall, PN.

Narcissus poeticus SP0397, amenity grassland, probably relict of planting, SE Walsall, PN.

N. x boutignyanus (= *N. moschatus x poeticus*) SJ7520, hedgebank, and elsewhere, Forton; also SP0397, canal hedgebank, SE Walsall, both PN.

Picea pungens SO8489, Highgate Common, APD, JH & JE.

Pilosella praealta SJ8249, on a small reclaimed spoil mound, near Crackley, IJH.

Platanus orientalis SJ8000, edge of golf course, Patshull, SRM.

Sambucus nigra f. laciniata SP0095, single large tree, Stone Cross, PN.

Scilla forbesii SJ7999, on walkway, near boathouse, Burnhill Green, SRM.

S. luciliae SO9690, by fencing, Tividale, PN.

Sedum forsterianum SK0734, for 6m, with many more plants to the N, E pavement/wall interface of A522 where it flies over A38, N Uttoxeter, JEH.

Smyrniium olusatrum SK1109, under trees, just N of Cross Keys Car Park, Stowe Fields, Lichfield, D. Hall.

Sorbus thibetica SO8387, Enville Common, APD, JH & JE.

S. x thuringiaca (= *S. aria x aucuparia*) SJ8250, planted along verge, Dean's Lane; also SJ9755, planted by canal towpath, near Barnfields, Leek SW, both IJH.

Sutera cordata SK1419, pavement, Yoxall NE. Large ornamental plant pots nearby, but species not in them. Probably sourced from there in a previous year, JEH.

Tristagma uniflorum SJ7521, roadside verge, apparently not planted, probable garden escape, Forton, PN.

Verbascum blattaria SJ8640, several plants of this form, with white-cream flowers, on waste ground, Trentham, IJH.

Further Observations

Ian Hopkins points out that the *Drosea anglica* (Gentleshaw Common) together with *Eriophorum latifolium* and *Eleocharis quinqueflora* (both from Spout Moss, Reap's Moor) were recorded during the unusual weather of 2018. In both locations, from his experience, he would suggest that there are certain spots that are generally so wet and treacherous underfoot that it is normally somewhat impossible for a close search to be made safely by a botanist (particularly if alone: standard walking boots are certainly totally inadequate!). He wonders if the dry conditions that we experienced between May and early August meant that places could be reached and searched that are normally inaccessible? It also seems difficult to believe that the appearance of the *Drosera anglica* at Gentleshaw was the direct result of the fire six weeks previously (*D. anglica* surely takes longer than that to develop to the stage it was when it was found.) Probably, he writes, the fire rather indicated the very dry conditions that were being experienced locally and, at best, by the burning back of some of the surrounding vegetation it made the *Drosera* rather easier to see. (It had more likely been growing there for years unseen or unrecognised!)

The finds at Spout Moss were made by Ros Tatt and Phil Eades. They also recorded *Carex hostiana*, *C. x leutzii* (= *C. hostiana x demissa*), *C. pulicaris*, *Galium uliginosum* and *Valeriana dioica*. There were also good populations of some nationally rare bryophytes.

It is sad to report the death of Elfreda Woolrich, long-term Staffordshire Botanist, aged 96.