

Plant Records, 2019.

The *Flora of Staffordshire* dealt with records made up until the end of 2011. (Further matters relating to that time period are dealt with in a series of supplements.)

This short account is the eighth annual report listing some of the more interesting results of later fieldwork.

Dates are all 2019, unless stated otherwise.

New records for VC39

Anthemis austriaca, SJ8845, one plant in a reseeded area by the side of a path, Fenton. I.J. Hopkins.

Capsella rubella, SJ7930, a couple of patches, field near Sugnall Wood: the field was scarified in 2018 and put down to what was thought to be silage, M.F. Godfrey.

Carduus acanthoides s.s., SK1210, several plants, waste ground, about twenty feet from the side of Curborough Brook, rear of St. Chad's Church, Stowe, Lichfield: very webby/hairy stems, spines on stem wings 5mm+, capitula about 35 mm across, D. Hall.

Cerintho major 'Purpurascens', SJ8246, by boundary fence of Silverdale cemetery; no planted species nearby; graves more than 50 metres away, J.E. Hawksford.

Crataegus rhipidophylla, SJ8743, introduced by shrubs close to the path by the River Trent, Hanford, IJH.

Crococsmia paniculata x pottsii, SJ8945, single plants in a couple of places on waste ground, Fenton, IJH. (See note on the genus, below.)

Ficaria verna 'Brazen Hussy', SJ8645, *flore pleno*, bushes introduced in a couple of places by the side of the track near Ash Green, IJH.

Genista hispanica, SP0189, several, roadside, West Smethwick; garden outcast, or escape, or relict of Council planting, P. Newton.

Lamium garganicum ssp. laevigatum, SJ9939, pink-flowered form increasing over twenty years on banks of former railway cutting and colonising its sides. IJH.

Mimulus cupreus x smithii (= *M. x hybridus*), SO9186, drive of St. Mary's R.C. Church, High Street, Brierley Hill, J. Hough.

Oryzopsis miliacea, SJ8744, clump growing from the crack in a paving slab, street near Stoke town centre, IJH.

Rumex sanguineus var. sanguineus, SJ8645, introduced in Hartshill Park, IJH.

Schizostylis coccinea, SK0449, roadside verge, near Park Nook, E. Radford.

Yushania anceps, SJ8741, thicket under trees by track by the Longton Brook, near Ash Green, IJH.

Species seen again after a gap of several years

Centaurea solstitialis, SO8792, of bird seed origin, Wombourne, A. Ferguson, det. C.B. Westall. Last seen SJ8541, Trentham, 1979.

Galium parisiense, SO8592, with bald fruits and forward directed prickles, Wombourne, CBW. Last seen SK0813, Longdon Green, 1993.

Lythrum hyssopifolia, SP2099, east scrape on Jubilee Westlands, lying exactly on the border with VC38, Warwickshire: there are more plants elsewhere in the Reserve, RSPB Middleton Lakes. Last seen SK2322, Maltings, Burton & SJ8343, garden, Newcastle, in 1971.

Pinus peuce, SJ9509, Four Crosses churchyard, J.D. Shanklin. Last seen SJ8244, Keele University grounds, 1986.

Rosa micrantha, SP0194, large bush, flowering and fruiting, waste ground above canal, Stone Cross, PN. Last seen SO88, Kinver Edge, 1977.

Verbascum pulverulentum, SP0493, two large plants to rear of garden of Eastwood Road, Gorse Farm Wood Nature Reserve, Great Barr, M.W. Poulton. Last seen SO9387, seed-mix, Saltwells Nature Reserve, 1994.

New tetrads for rarer taxa

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

Abies alba, SO8689, small sapling in hedge, with woodland behind, west of Kingswinford, A.P. Daly, J. Hough & J. Ellis.

A. nordmanniana, SJ8709, planted, Shutt Green, JDS.

Berberis wilsoniae, SJ8741, one small bush, by track adjacent to the Longdon Brook, near Ash Green, IJH.

Brachyglottis x jubar, SJ8744, one plant on bank of drive, Stoke, IJH.

Brassica elongata, SP0689, waste disposal area, off Mayfield Road, Lozells, M.E. Smith & D. Wall, conf. JEH.

Buddleja alternifolia, SO8693, sandstone gully, Ounsdale, Wombourne, CBW.

Clarkia amoena, SP0195, single plant, disturbed soil, roadside, Stone Cross, PN.

Cotoneaster conspicuus, SK1110, grassy bank near entrance to Catholic School on Dumbles Hill, Lichfield: known there for several years, DW, det. JEH.

Crococsmia masoniorum, SK0218, Etching Hill, D. Cadman & R. Fryer. (See note on the genus, below.)

Deutzia scabra, SJ8741, bushes by the side of the track in two places near Ash Green, IJH.

Euonymus japonicus, SP0792, in a nomans land on a ramp up to a bridge, Planks Lane, Wombourne, CBW.

Euphorbia elongata, SP0189, single plant, roadside hedge, West Smethwick, PN.

Geranium nodosum, SJ8744, plants by entrance to drive, Stoke, IJH.

G. psilostemon, SJ8741, patch by track, adjacent to the Longdon Brook, near Ash Green, IJH.

Hyacinthus orientalis, SO7982, single plant, hedgerow, Brittles Farm. Also SO7881, two clumps in hedgerow, fifty yards from the nearest garden, Shatterford, both relicts of planting, PN.

Inula helenium, SO8792, streamside, Wombourne, AF, det. CBW.

Linaria maroccana, SO9791, two, canal towpath; further plants about 1km away, Tividale, PN.

L. purpurea x repens (= *L. x dominii*), SJ8744, several plants by shaded drive uphill from Stoke, towards Penkhill. Both parents grow elsewhere in the tetrad, but these seem a garden escape, IJH.

Lonicera involucrata, SJ8642, coming thickets by wall adjacent to footway by A500, Hanford, IJH.

Nassella tenuissima, SJ8845, several plants between paving, near Science Centre building, Staffordshire University. Presumably seed-sown from nearby flower borders where it had been cultivated in previous years, but not 2019, IJH.

Nectaroscordum siculum, SJ8500, two clumps on opposite sides of River Penk, Perton; also SO8899, Valley Park Nature Reserve, Tettenhall: both S.R. Moore.

Nicotiana alata, SJ8845, several plants amongst reseeded ground adjacent to a path, Fenton, IJH.

Ononis spinosa, SO9689, small colony (with *Campanula rotundifolia*) in a small area of mown grassland on a bank, MWP.

Panicum capillare, SJ8846, two plants, edge of waste ground, north side of sharp bend of Pelham Street, Hanley, JEH.

Papaver pseudoorientale, SJ7520, single plant, probable relict, hedgerow, entrance to drive, Forton, PN.

Persicaria campanulata, SJ8645 & SJ8745, numerous patches introduced as low-growing cover (reaching up to metre high by autumn), Hartshill Park, Stoke. IJH.

Philadelphus group 'Lemoinei Group', SJ8744, one shrub by the side of a track, Stoke, IJH.

Plantago major ssp. *intermedia*, SO78W, Brittles Farm, PN.

Potentilla erecta x reptans (= *P. x italica*), SJ8845, flowering abundantly, but not fruiting amongst turf at foot of elevated brickwork supporting railway, Fenton, IJH.

Pratia pedunculata, SO9689, completely covering small front lawn of garden of house on Darbys Hill Road, MWP.

Pyracantha rogersiana, SJ8741, one bush introduced by the side of a track, Ash Green, IJH.
Rumex conglomeratus x *sanguineus* (= *R. x ruhmeri*), SK1244, by stream on both east and west sides, Ousley Lane, MES.

Salix acutifolia, SO8688, probably planted, Ashwood Marina, west of Kingswinford, APD, JH & JE, det. CBW.

Santolina chamaecyparissus ssp. *chamaecyparissus*, SP0195, several roadside bushes, garden relict/outcast, Stone Cross, PN.

Saxifraga x arendsii, SK04J, retaining wall of a garden, roadside, near Town Head, ER.

Scilla luciliae, SP0188, several small clumps, grass by pavement, West Smethwick, PN.

Sedum anglicum, SO7680, several plants, river bank and roadside, Upper Arley, PN.

Silene armeria, SK1544, waste ground used as equipment store, Mayfield Yarn Mills, MES.

Sison amomum, SP0089, a few, canal towpath, West Smethwick, PN.

Spartium junceum, SP0189, about twenty plants, relict of planting, but probably spreading, roadside hedge, West Smethwick, PN.

Symphytum asperum, SO8488, Highgate Common east, APD, JH & JE, conf. JEH.

Verbascum virgatum SO8792, grassy, unused gate entrance, Wombourne, CBW.

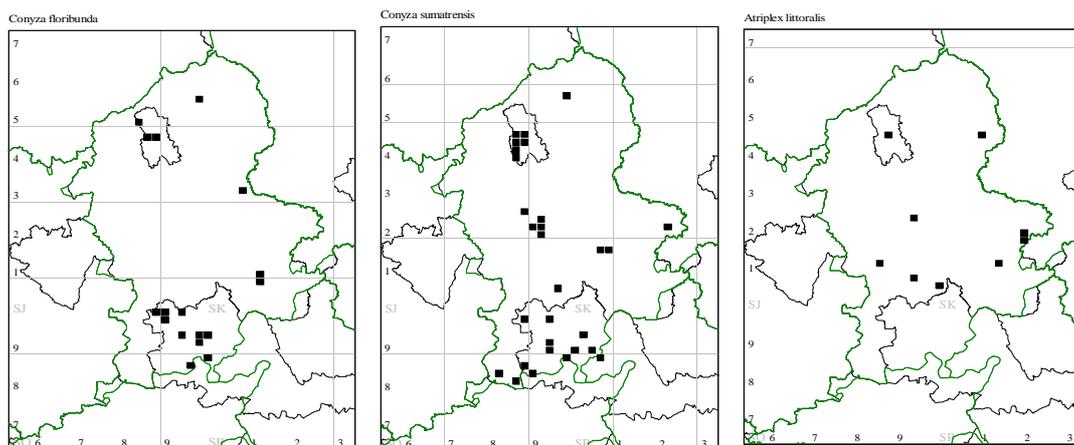
Further observations

The native of sandy coasts, *Carex arenaria*, is very occasionally found on English inland sites as a colonist of railway clinker. The 2011 *Flora of Staffordshire* lists four such sites from 1989 onwards. One of these was on sandy ground adjacent to the railway line, at Fenton, SJ8844, where IJH saw it in 2002. In August, Ian noted that it persists there, in a non-flowering, state amongst rough grass between the railway and a car park.

Conyza sumatrensis was already common and *C. floribunda* frequent in the London area in the 1990s. They occupied the same habitats as the much longer-established *C. canadensis*, sometimes rather more aggressively.

Both species have since spread into urban habits through much of urban England and South Wales. The maps indicate Staffordshire records for the period 2014 to 2019.

Atriplex littoralis has spread from its native sandy, saline coastal sites to occur along the major road system of much of Britain. The map again shows our 2014 to 2019 records. It is likely to be very under-recorded as it is thought to be commonest on the edges of trunk roads and motorways, where botanising is hazardous.



Ian Hopkins writes:

I seem to encounter *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora* quite frequently in the Stoke area, and more rarely, other forms here as elsewhere in VC39. I think we have at least four categories of plants:-

a) *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora* - Much the most frequent at the base of hedges, in open woodland/plantations, by roadsides and on waste ground. This is the familiar orange-flowered, old-fashioned "Montbretia" - I've never seen the larger-flowered cultivars such as "Emily McKenzie" outside of gardens, and the same is true for the yellow-flowered cultivars.

- b) *Crocasmia masoniorum* - I've only seen this once outside of cultivation, by a roadside ditch on Ipstones Edge in 2010. My plant had orange flowers, somewhat pleated and ribbed leaves, but otherwise was not greatly taller than a). Appears not to be much cultivated in gardens in this part of the world (from my past experience it seems not to persist). A yellow form certainly exists and is sometimes offered by bulb merchants.
- c) *Crocasmia paniculata* x *C. pottsii* (old hybrid) - a form with orange flowers (individually the flowers are smaller than in a)), pleated and ribbed foliage, rather earlier flowering and at least twice the height of a). Sometimes encountered on waste ground in particular. If some of the images on the Web are correctly named (a big IF) true *Crocasmia paniculata* is seldom, if ever cultivated in the UK, this old hybrid doing duty for it.
- d) *Crocasmia* cv. '**Lucifer**' - still rare, but probably increasing outside of cultivation. Said to come reasonably true from seed, but I have no experience of this. Currently usually in suburban and urban settings, as obvious clumps, often near to gardens, flowering at much the same time (late July-early August) and usually even taller and larger-flowered than c) with more reddish flowers and with pleated and ribbed leaves. Other hybrids of relatively recent origin (certainly post WW2!) exist and are sometimes encountered in gardens and garden centres (e.g. cv. 'Emberglow') but all plants in the "wild" that I have seen in flower resemble *Crocasmia* cv. Lucifer which seems to be the most vigorous of the group.