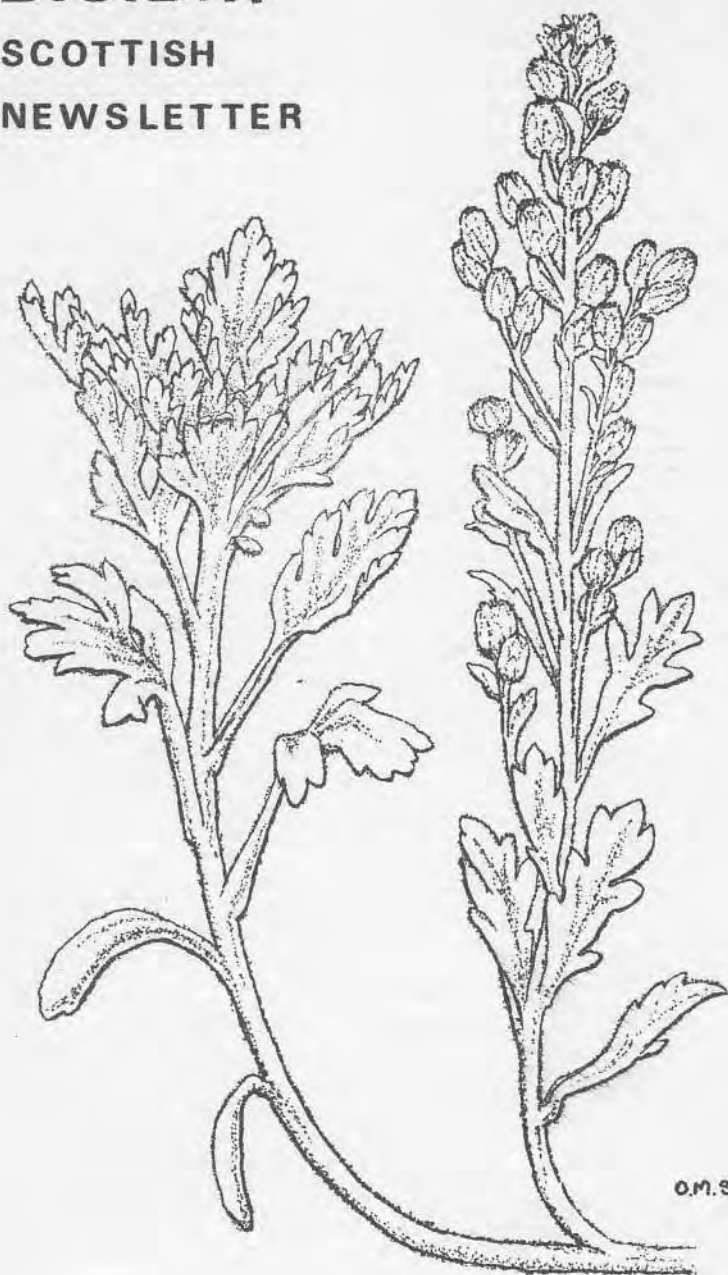


B.S.B.I.

SCOTTISH

NEWSLETTER



O.M.S.

BSBI SCOTTISH NEWS LETTER

Number 5

Spring 1983

CONTENTS

Editorial	2
M.S. Campbell - An Appreciation.- H.A.P. Ingram	3
The Inverness Survey - B.S. Brookes	6
Another site for <u>Artemisia stellerana</u> - O.M. Stewart	7
Scottish Exhibition Meeting 1982 - R.E. Thomas	8
Yellow-flowered <u>Euphrasia rotundifolia</u> - a correction	12
- A.J. Silverside	
Progress towards a Modern Census Catalogue of Scottish Vascular Plants - A.J. Silverside	12
BSBI Committee for Scotland	15
Scottish Recorders' Weekend	16
Scottish Field Meetings - 1983	17
Plant Records - A.McG. Stirling	18
BSBI Churchyard Survey	19
Vice-county Recorders - Perthshire	19
Western Isles Integrated Development Programme	19
Flora of the Outer Hebrides - R.J. Pankhurst	20
BSBI Individual Species Cards	20

Cover Illustration - Artemisia stellerana
by Olga M. Stewart

EDITORIAL

This, our fifth Newsletter, is composed for the most part of articles which the editors have specially requested from the authors concerned. Two of these give up to date reports of projects which have been in hand for some time and about which little information has hitherto been made available to members. We are indebted to Brian Brookes and Alan Silverside for providing these very competent and informative accounts, and the results of their efforts will be eagerly awaited. It is perhaps fortunate that little space has remained for original contributions from other members, for only two were received! We are sure you will not wish this trend to continue, and we look forward to more members' contributions for the next issue.

By chance rather than design this issue places considerable emphasis on 'recording'; in fact, it could almost have been called a 'Special Recording Number'! However, it is perhaps not to be wondered at, since the BSBI has always had a strong tradition of this type of activity, both at the local and national level, and as examples of its practical value we have the 'Atlas of the British Flora' and its 'Supplement', to mention only two. The basis of BSBI recording lies in the countrywide network of vice-county recorders, and the ideal towards which one would like to strive would be the existence of an active recorder in each division, but this is probably not practically possible. However, considerable improvement can, we hope, be achieved on the current level of activity (see the statistics quoted on page 18).

Though for many years an infrequent visitor to Scotland, Maybud Campbell will be remembered by many members with affection and respect. We are much indebted to Hugh Ingram for his competent and extremely informative appreciation.

Finally, to all who have contributed to this News Letter we extend our thanks, not least to Olga Stewart for once again producing an attractive and topical cover illustration which complements her own article on Artemisia stellerana.

With the death of Miss Maybud Campbell, Scottish field botany has lost one of its most colourful and generous devotees; a personality cast in a unique and many-sided mould, on a scale not now to be contemplated, and polished by an almost legendary set of circumstances.

May Sherwood Campbell was born into a junior branch of the Campbells of Inverary and spent her childhood in Essex. In youth she trained as a pianist and singer, but the greatest of her numerous interests were field botany and horticulture. Her experience of both of these was unusual, in that her life was spent partly in Britain and partly on the Cote d'Azur in S.E. France, where the native and introduced floras are enormously rich compared to ours, and where even the garden weeds are different.

Maybud's father was a noted Francophil. In the earlier years of this century a thriving colony of British expatriots became established on the Cote d'Azur and, as a medical practitioner, he realised that a useful and congenial career could be made by ministering to their ailments. He knew the Alpes Maritimes intimately and settled in Menton, in a villa on the former sea-front a short distance from the border with Italy. This became the centre from which Maybud explored the province, gradually acquiring her remarkable knowledge of its flora.

If France provided the opportunity, Britain formed the motive. Maybud used to claim that it was through the influence of Dr G.C. Druce that she first perceived the fascination of the pursuit of wild plants, and that he had achieved her conversion during the 1920's. He must have found her a remarkable disciple, for she combined great intellectual power with a phenomenal memory and outstanding good looks.

In Scotland, Maybud's botanical interests were centred in Perthshire and the Outer Hebrides. In the years before and after the Second World War she botanised extensively in the Long Island with the late A.J. Wilmott and other colleagues from the British Museum (Natural History), sometimes in the company of her brother the late Dr W.J. Campbell, co-editor of the Scottish Naturalist.

Distances were great and petrol scarce in the post-war period, so they formed an arrangement with the local medical man and, just as in the Alpes Maritimes, plants were discovered where patients conferred the opportunity. Wilmott was Curator of Botany at the British Museum which became, for many years, the focus of Maybud's botanical work. By this time she had become Honorary Secretary of the Botanical Society and Exchange Club, forerunner of the B.S.B.I., and for this it was helpful to have a base in London. From the Blitz she sought distraction in music and gastronomy. At a gathering of De Gaulle's Free French in the Albert Hall she found herself the only person present who could remember the second verse of the Marseillaise; and a parcel of smokies from Arbroath was delivered by post each week of the duration of the war, mainly as a treat for her friends.

The earlier results of her work in Lewis were published in her Flora of Uig (Arbroath, 1945). She hoped that it would become the prolegomena of a Flora of the Outer Hebrides. That scheme remains unrealised; the more sadly because all concerned with the impact of current development proposals on the wildlife of the islands must acknowledge its author's foresight. It gave Maybud great satisfaction to know that the Flora of Uig was again on the market, following the recent adroit detection (by another eminent Scottish lady botanist) of the remaining stock, which had mistakenly been included in the assets of Messrs T. Buncle.

After the war, Maybud's time was mostly spent in Menton and in Perthshire. At Menton she had purchased Val Rameh, a gem among Riviera villas, built in 1905 by a former Governor of Malta in Moorish style, with a low-pitched roof of dark red tiles and buttressed walls of orange-yellow plaster. On the extensive terraces round the house she set about curating and extending a remarkable garden full of plants, including many trees, which belong to sub-tropical regions but flourish in the sheltered local climate of that district. Her Perthshire abode was at Tegarumuchd near Keltneyburn. It was her habit to commute between these residences in a beautiful maroon Bentley, accompanied by the formidable

mountain of luggage which became the mascot of all her expeditions. Both homes took on something of the character of field centres. Many British botanists, young and old, well-known and obscure, first discovered the delights of the Mediterranean seaboard or the Perthshire hills as her guests and identified their finds using her extensive library. In Perthshire she attended the celebrated but abortive transplantation of Schoenus ferrugineus at Loch Tummel, made in the hope of saving it from the hydro-electric scheme, and was glad that she lived to hear first-hand accounts of its recent re-discovery as a native in other Perthshire localities. She also encouraged the early work of Professor Duncan Poore in Breadalbane; work which did so much to revive interest in the scientific description of British plant communities. Her own work on local botany bore fruit in the introductory chapter to the N.T.S. publication Ben Lawers and its Alpine Flowers (Edinburgh, 1972), which was an early essay on what we should now call 'historical ecology'.

During the 1960's Maybud's interests in British and Continental botany were happily united in a single venture, for the Flora Europaea project made an immediate appeal both to her love of plants and to her sense of scale, and she assisted financially to keep the work going in its infancy. She sold Tegarmuchd and moved for a time to Switzerland, seeking a cure for circulatory difficulties which increasingly plagued her, but Switzerland was not a success and she returned to Menton where she was loved by emigre and native alike for her warmth, originality and force of personality. Here, her crowning achievement was to persuade the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle to accept the Villa Val Rameh as an exotic botanical garden, to be maintained by the French state as a public memorial to all the great villa gardens which flourished on the Cote d'Azur in the early decades of this century. She herself retired to the converted garden pavillon, accompanied by the remnant of Val Rameh's army of cats - all of them black, but each a different and individual responsibility.

In the later 1970's Maybud's regular summer visits to

Scotland were resumed and she made, with the help of several other botanists, a series of field expeditions to Harris which would have daunted many people decades younger. At the Kenmore Hotel she revived the spirit of earlier years by entertaining old friends and making new ones. In France, instability became apparent in the foundations of the pavillon, forcing her to move to Le Rouret near Grasse, but she found the inland winter uncongenial and moved back to the coast at Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, where she died on 11th August, 1982, aged 79. Those who were privileged to know her - and they are many - will greatly miss her warmth, her generosity and her lively intelligence which embraced so much. As her family motto has it, 'NE OBOLIVISCAT'.

THE INVERNESS SURVEY

B.S. BROOKES

The labours of those who contributed to the Inverness Survey are about to bear fruit. Started in 1970, the first five years of the survey concentrated on recording in the field and to this end most of the Scottish field meetings during these years were held in the vice-counties of Easternness and Westernness, covering as much as possible of the survey area which coincides very roughly with mainland Inverness-shire. Records from these meetings were combined later with other printed and herbarium records and stored on field record cards. With the help of a grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, newsletters and reports of progress were produced and, most importantly, a stock of maps was printed showing the survey area and the grid squares on which the records were to be mapped.

Unfortunately the early stages of collating the records into a report were interrupted at the time of the dissolution of the Committee for the Study of the Scottish Flora which was the body responsible for the initiation of the survey and which had formed the organising committee. At this time the two parent societies of the CSSF (the BSE and the BSBI) assumed joint responsibility for the continuation and completion of the work of the Inverness Survey Committee and the lengthy, time-consuming and sometimes tedious task of preparing the

report for printing.

This preparation is now almost complete, every one of the 25,000 or so records having been painstakingly transferred from the marked cards as inked dots on the maps and most of the supporting material having been written. The report will be A4 size, comb-bound, with approximately 20 pages of text and 100 of maps. The introductory chapters and figures are general and descriptive, covering the topography, geology, climate, vegetation and land use of the area with a brief botanical history and summary of the survey. There are almost 800 maps of plant records shown as dots in a grid of 5 Km x 5 Km squares (quadrants) followed by a bibliography and index. There is an attractive cover designed by Olga Stewart.

If all goes well, the report will be available later this year. I hope that all BSBI members in Scotland will wish to purchase a copy, and it is in this expectation that decisions concerning the number of copies to be printed and price will be decided. I hope too that you will find the report a publication worthy of the effort of so many members and a fitting tribute to the initiative of those who embarked on the survey 13 years ago.

ANOTHER SITE FOR ARTEMISIA STELLERANA

OLGA M. STEWART

When I found Artemisia stellerana in three places in Kirkcudbrightshire in 1980, I was interested to know if there were any other sites where it grew in the British Isles. It used to grow near Dublin and at Marazion, Cornwall, but the plant is now extinct in both places. At the exhibition meeting in Glasgow in 1980, an unidentified specimen was shown, but no one could name it; later, Henry Noltie brought to my attention that it was very possibly Artemisia stellerana. I therefore wrote to Mrs A.H. Somerville, the recorder for Arran, to find out if she knew of its existence there. She sent me a specimen of a plant first found in 1976 in Brodick Bay, which I confirmed as A. stellerana. Mrs Somerville wrote ... 'There are at least 13 well established plants growing among the Lyme and Marram grasses on the beach. A number of the plants are growing in a precarious position on a spit of sand, and liable to be inundated by the sea at times'.

This habitat is similar to that of the Kirkcudbrightshire site; also to that shown in a nature documentary programme on TV recently where the Artemisia was growing on the coast of Maine, USA. The question was whether the Arran plants were outcast from the Brodick Castle gardens, so I wrote to Mr Basford, the Head Gardener, for information. In his reply he said that it did not grow in the gardens, nor had it grown there for the past 25 years. He did not know that the Artemisia grew on the Brodick shore, but he had seen Senecio bicolor there, though he thought it had now gone.

Strangely, though A. stellerana is a very easily propagated plant, it is now seldom grown. Senecio bicolor with very similar foliage is much more common. From the size and number of plants, it is possible that the two sites, in Arran and S.W. Scotland, were established about the same time. If anyone knows of any other places where this Artemisia grows I would be most interested to hear about them.

(Mrs Stewart's address is :- 14 Church Hill, Edinburgh.)

SCOTTISH EXHIBITION MEETING 1982

R.E. THOMAS

The 1982 Scottish Exhibition Meeting, arranged by the Glasgow Natural History Society, the BSBI Committee for Scotland and the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, was held on Saturday 6th November at the Department of Botany, University of Glasgow.

The BSBI recorders for Scottish vice-counties met at 11.30 a.m. to hear Derek Wells, NCC Huntingdon, speak about plant recording. A new Scottish field recording card (promised last year) should at last be available early in 1983. The chief topic was a scheme, already piloted in four English vice-counties and now launched nationally, to record the number of sites of each plant species in each vice-county where these are three or fewer. A site is defined as a population within a square of side 1 kilometre. The 62 nationally rare plants listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act are excluded.

The Exhibition opened at noon, and a list of the

varied and interesting exhibits is appended.

The AGM of the Scottish BSBI membership was held at 2.30 p.m. with 43 members present. Mr A.McG. Stirling gave his first report as Chairman. He congratulated his predecessor Mr B.S. Brookes on the award of the MBE, and thanked Miss E.R.T. Conacher, who was retiring from the Committee, for all her efforts over the past years as Meetings Secretary. The other two retiring Committee members and Mr N. Stewart were then elected to the Committee unopposed. After the AGM the new Committee met briefly to elect its officers.

Later in the afternoon Dr Geoffrey Halliday gave a most interesting talk to an audience of 70 on the plants of N.E. Greenland illustrated with a selection of attractive colour slides taken on a number of visits he has made to the area. The audience clearly appreciated seeing such plants as Saxifraga hirculus photographed in an open habitat and with a remarkable depth of field.

The day was concluded with a buffet supper and a show of members' colour slides, mostly on the theme of Scottish field meetings and plants.

Colour slides shown at the meeting :-

Miss M.McC. Webster	- 1)a new <u>Mimulus</u> , 2)Guess who? (name the botanist)
Dr R.A.H. Smith	- Pitroddie field meeting
Miss J. Muscott)	
A.A.P. Black)	- Glen Feshie field meeting and
Dr H. Lang)	other plants
Dr R.E. Thomas)	
B.S. Brookes	- Kindrogan Dandelion meeting
J. Mitchell	
N. Stewart	
Dr P. Macpherson	- Various plants
Dr A.J. Silverside)	

Exhibits at the meeting :-

J. Bevan & the Hieracia group - Hieracia of Peebles and Selkirk. Hawkweeds discovered during the field meeting held from 10-12 July 1982 were exhibited. Species new to v.c. 79, Selkirk, were H. iricum, previously known

from N. England and the Highlands, H. anguinum, a local endemic, H. caesiomurorum and H. rubiginosum. A further 8 species were confirmed in Peebles, already well searched by David McCosh. H. vulgatum was recorded from all 10 squares visited, despite many Atlas blanks.

Dr R.W.M. Corner - Some Scottish plants from Spitzbergen.
- Plant records from Selkirkshire.

Agrostis gigantea was a new record. An attractive very pale specimen of Alopecurus alpinus was shown.

Dr J.H. Dickson and Univ. of Glasgow Honours students - Plant remains from Late Glacial deposits in Dubh Loch, Rowardennan. Species included many familiar arctic-alpines and dwarf arctic shrubs.

E.C. Wallace - Scottish and Canadian plants.
Herbarium sheets of Equisetum hyemale, E. sylvaticum var. capillare, Thelypteris palustris and Ophioglossum vulgatum from Scotland were shown.

Dr P. Macpherson - Mentha species. These included the tiny Corsican mint Mentha requienii.

Miss A. Rutherford - Increasing and diminishing species in Dunbartonshire.

- Plants in an undisturbed garden.

Parentucellia viscosa was instanced as a diminishing species.

A.McG. Stirling - Living Lemna miniscula and other British Lemna species. L. miniscula was shown as more translucent than L. minor, but the three-veined character of the latter was not easily demonstrated.

Mrs J.W. Clark - Naias flexilis from Uist, Pilularia and Elatine hexandra from Tiree.

H.V. Corley, M. Gibby and A.C. Jermy - Dryopteris sarvelae from v.c. 101, Kintyre. This hybrid between D. carthusiana and D. expansa (assimilis) was first found in S. Finland in 1966. It was discovered in Kintyre in 1978 as the first British record.

H.J. Noltie - Senecio cambrensis new to Scotland. Long known from a number of Welsh sites, this species has now been recognised in Western Dock, Leith. Living material

was shown. 3 theories for its origin were proposed :- long distance dispersal, dispersal from more local cultivation and independent evolution.

Mr & Mrs J. Martin - Dumfriesshire records. A red petalled Oxalis acetosella was shown.

Miss M.McC. Webster - Scottish Plant Records. These included two interesting species of Gilia from Nairn, Odontites litoralis from Loch Fleet, Hypericum calycinum new to v.c. 96, Easternness, and Agrostis scabra from Grangemouth Docks.

Mrs O.M. Stewart - New records from v.c.s 73 and 83.
- Drawings and paintings of flowers, particularly Hieracea and Taraxaca.

Stellaria pallida and Spiraea douglasii were first v.c. records.

Dr G. Halliday - New plant records from Cumbria. Senecio vernalis was shown - also known from Dalgety Bay, Fife.

Dr A.J. Silverside - Euphrasia heslop-harrisonii, an overlooked saltmarsh taxon. The species has large, curved fruits and a distinctive leaf and bract shape.

D.J. McCosh - Recent discoveries in v.c. 78, Peeblesshire. Arctostaphylos uva-ursi and Genista anglica are new records.

G.H. Ballantyne, N. Stewart and S. Leach - Plants from Fife and elsewhere. These included Eriophorum latifolium, Carex spicata, C. muricata subsp. lamprocarpa, C. limosa and C. magellanica from v.c. 85, and Utricularia australis and Potamogeton praelongus from v.c. 87.

J.R. Lyth - Plants from Loch a Mhuilinn, Arran.

Dr F.H. Perring - Local Floras and other publications.

Also featured were photographs of the inter-generic orchid hybrid x Pseudanthera breadalbanensis McKean from v.c. 88, Mid Perth, and an exhibit on the scheme for mapping the flora of the Lothians.

YELLOW-FLOWERED EUPHRASIA ROTUNDIFOLIA - A CORRECTION

ALAN J. SILVERSIDE

In my note on page 11 of No. 4 of this News Letter (Spring 1982) the type locality of Euphrasia rotundifolia on cliffs near Melvich, was attributed to Caithness. The locality is, of course, in West Sutherland. What I regard as 'good' E. rotundifolia, i.e. closely corresponding to the type material, has however occurred in Caithness; there are old herbarium specimens from Reay. I am not aware that satisfactory material has been seen there recently. I should perhaps emphasise that the pale yellow colouration of the flowers of some E. rotundifolia plants does not correspond to the vivid straw- to orange-yellow flowers seen in a very few populations of E. confusa on Exmoor.

(The geographical inaccuracy mentioned above was not the fault of the author. The responsibility lies with one of the editors (AMcGS) who proffers his apologies.)

PROGRESS TOWARDS A MODERN CENSUS CATALOGUE OF SCOTTISH VASCULAR PLANTS

ALAN J. SILVERSIDE

A little over a hundred years ago, the botanist Hewett Cottrell Watson developed a system of recording units that he termed 'vice-counties'. The system was based primarily on the existing counties of that time, with some adjustment towards equality in size by dividing the large counties (e.g. Perthshire into three vice-counties) and by amalgamating small counties with their neighbours. In 1873 he privately distributed his work 'Topographical Botany', the first full census of British Vascular plants and based on his vice-comital system. In 1883 a revised 2nd edition was posthumously published, becoming for many years the basis of knowledge of plant distributions. Supplements, edited by Arthur Bennett and others, appeared in the Journal of Botany in 1905 and 1929. Around the turn of the century, Professor J.W.H. Trail serialised a 'Topographical Botany of Scotland' in the Annals of Scottish Natural History and in 1899 Peter Ewing summarised west-Scottish records in the 2nd edition of his 'Glasgow Catalogue of Native and Established Plants'. 1932 saw the

publication of G.C. Druce's 'The Comital Flora of the British Isles'. Druce's death shortly afterwards was the end of an era in British field botany and although new vice-county records have continued to be published, currently in Watsonia, we have no modern census catalogue, either for Scotland or generally for Britain, though Wales and Ireland are better served.

In 1962, the Atlas of the British Flora provided far more accurate plant-distributions, on the basis of the 10km squares of the national grid. With changes in county boundaries and the more fundamental revision of administrative boundaries in recent years, the vice-comital system has declined somewhat in importance. Nevertheless, the system of vice-county recorders, initiated by the BSBI in 1947 (though not extended to all Scottish vice-counties for some years) has remained a useful way of maintaining local records. Vice-county recorders are required to maintain records on behalf of the BSBI and encouraged to publish new vice-county records in Watsonia. Unfortunately, a number of current vice-county recorders have not received the expected accumulated records from their predecessors and in several cases it is likely that no such sets of records have ever existed. In such circumstances the vice-county recorder is often unable to pass judgement on potential new vice-county records.

In 1977 a meeting of Scottish v.c. recorders, inspired by Dr Franklyn Perring, agreed that there was a need for a new Scottish 'comital flora'. After further consultation with recorders, the newly formed BSBI Committee for Scotland embarked on the project in 1979. It was quickly apparent that, for ease of editing and of interchange of information with recorders, the new 'comital flora' (or 'census catalogue') should be developed on a computer. As, at that time, the only committee member with access to a computer, albeit little experienced in its use, I was foolhardy enough to take on this task..

It is hoped that the census catalogue will stimulate further recording sufficiently to render it rapidly out-dated. A cheaply produced 'disposable' paper-bound publication seems most suitable. Possible models are

provided by the moss and liverwort census catalogues produced by the British Bryological Society and by the Census Catalogue of the Flora of Ireland by Scannel and Synnott. However, the number of Scottish taxa may substantially exceed 2,000 - an inconveniently high number. It is intended to include all native species and subspecies, microspecies and hybrids where feasible, naturalised aliens, perhaps if naturalised in three or more vice-counties, and casual aliens where these are native elsewhere in Britain. It is also intended to include information on known extinctions and species not recorded from a vice-county since 1950. The simplest approach would be to take Druce's Comital Flora and update the Scottish records from the lists of corrections and new records in Botanical Exchange Club reports and BSBI publications and from recently published county check-lists and floras. However, Druce's publication is, unfortunately, not entirely reliable; the sources of many of his records are in doubt and many historical records hidden in old journals have never appeared in any of the aforementioned works. It is unrealistic to hope that the new census catalogue will be totally comprehensive, but the aim is to produce a reasonably reliable basis for future recording, with the source of all records, if too expensive to publish, deposited as archive material.

I am steadily accumulating records on this basis, though recently I have been more concerned with increasing the efficiency of the computer-storage of the information. Simple editing commands were efficient at first, but as the size of the stored data-set increased, so did the time required to find and edit any line within the data. I have, therefore, now developed a suite of suitable programs written in the language FORTRAN 77. Problems of methodology are thus, I hope, solved, but more fundamental problems remain.

Professor Trail, introducing his own labours, summarised one such problem: "Doubtful records have been confirmed, and some errors in former records have been discovered and corrected. To determine whether a record should be excluded as erroneous is, however, far more difficult than to ascertain whether a new record may be

securely added to our lists, since a rare species may not be again detected in its habitat, even when sought for; or it may have become extinct from some cause that is not apparent to us".

It may be noted that in the case of erroneous records, the finders are often more reluctant to publish a retraction than they are to publish the original 'find'.

More fundamental still is the problem caused by uncertainty over vice-county boundaries. Taking the separation of Mid Perth and East Perth, Watson's original map in his 'Cybele Britannica' and his written definitions differ fundamentally from the map in the second edition of his 'Topographical Botany' and from the wholly unreliable map in Druce's 'Comital Flora'. The maps in books of the 'New Naturalist' series and Ewing's definitions of some vice-counties in his 'Glasgow Catalogue' also contain serious errors. We have, now, the very carefully prepared maps published by the Ray Society, attempting to provide the best possible interpretation of Watson's original concepts, but who is to say on what basis past unlocalised vice-comital records have been published? Regrettably, even the excellent Ray Society maps are not perfect; Mr J. Bevan has recently discovered a further clear error in Perthshire v.c. boundaries, which he will publish elsewhere.

BS.I COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND

The following is the composition of the Committee, November 1982 to November 1983 :-

Chairman - A.McG. Stirling; Vice-Chairman - Dr R.E. Thomas; Secretary/Treasurer - Dr P. Macpherson; Field Meetings Secretary - Dr R.E. Thomas; Members of Committee - G.H. Ballantyne, Mrs C.W. Murray, R. McBeath, Dr A.J. Silverside, A.A.P. Slack, N. Stewart, Mrs O.M. Stewart.

Representing the Nature Conservancy Council - Dr R.A.H. Smith; Representing the Botanical Society of Edinburgh - D.R. McKean.

At the AGM on November 5th 1983, three members will be elected to the Committee. The retiring members,

R. McBeath, Dr P. Macpherson and A.McG. Stirling, are not eligible for re-election. Nominations, signed by two members of the Society normally resident in Scotland or who are Recorders for a vice-county in Scotland though not resident, and with the written consent of the candidate who must also qualify as above, should reach the undersigned at 15 Lubnaig Road, Glasgow G43 2RY by October 7th 1983.

Peter Macpherson, Hon. Secretary, Committee for Scotland.

SCOTTISH RECORDERS' WEEKEND

A Recorders' Weekend, including field meetings, will be held at Kindrogan Field Centre, Perthshire, on 4th/5th June 1983. It is hoped that this event will attract as many recorders as possible, not only those who find the more distant recorders' conferences difficult to attend but also those who do enjoy the biennial national events. While preference will be given to Scottish recorders, some places may be available to other members. The cost from Friday evening to Sunday lunch-time will be £27.00. For those arriving on Saturday morning the cost will be approximately half that amount. For further details and bookings apply with S.A.E. before 20th May to :- The Warden, S.F.S.A., Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 7PG.

Provisional Programme for the Recorders' Weekend

Saturday 4th June

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| 10 a.m. | Introduction by the Chairman | A.McG. Stirling |
| | The Wildlife Act | Dr R.A.H. Smith |
| | Tea/Coffee Interval | |
| 11 a.m. | A Thorny Problem - Brambles
in Scotland | G.H. Ballantyne |
| | Progress towards a Modern Census | Dr A.J. |
| | Catalogue of the Scottish Flora | Silverside |
| | Packed Lunch | |
| 2 p.m. | Recording excursion in connection with the
Flora of Perthshire | |

Sunday 5th June

- 9.30 a.m. Experience in recording the
Flora of Peeblesshire D.J. McCosh
Researching older records for
a local Flora A. McG. Stirling
Tea/Coffee Interval
- 11.30 a.m. Flora of the Tay Shingles N. Stewart
Packed Lunch
- 2.30 p.m. Excursion to river shingle beds near
Ballinluig. A joint meeting with the
Perthshire Society of Natural Science.
Members are invited to bring items for
exhibition during the weekend.

SCOTTISH FIELD MEETINGS - 1983

- Sat. 21st May Spring Flora in the Lothians
Sun. 5th June Ballinluig, Perthshire
Sat. 18th June Campsie Hills, Stirling
Sat. 25th June Cam Creag, Bridge of Orchy, Argyll
Sat. & Sun. Lauderdale and Cockburnspath,
2nd & 3rd July Berwickshire
Tues. 5th to Tomintoul, Banffshire
Sun. 10th July
Mon. 11th to Golspie, East Sutherland *
Fri. 15th July
Wed. 27th July to
Wed. 3rd August Kindrogan, Perthshire

* Note The closing date for applications for this meeting is 11th June not 11th July as printed in the BSBI list of Field Meetings 1983, which should be consulted for details of the above meetings.

Members will read with interest the article in this issue by Alan Silverside on plans for an up-dated Scottish census catalogue. Much of the basic information on vice-comital plant distribution for this projected new publication will have been derived from the feature 'Plant Records' in Watsonia and its various predecessors. The value of this medium for the publishing of new records will be obvious, but much depends on the diligence of individual vice-county recorders in submitting the relevant records to the editors. As far as Scotland is concerned, the activity of recorders in this respect is not very impressive, wide variation being evident from vice-county to vice-county, and from recorder to recorder. This is shown in the following tables, compiled from an analysis of all the records published in Watsonia during the years 1973 to 1982 (Vol. 9, part 3 to Vol. 14, part 2)

First, the 41 Scottish vice-counties were categorised according to the regularity with which records were submitted over the ten year period analysed, with the following result :-

Very regular - 5, Fairly regular - 11, Recently regular - 2, Recently fairly regular - 1, Occasional - 1, Recently occasional - 1, Very occasional - 7, Almost nil - 6, Nil - 7.

The regularity with which records were submitted by the 37 Scottish vice-county recorders was then analysed as follows :-

Very regular - 4, Fairly regular - 5, Recent regular - 1, Occasional - 11, Never or hardly ever - 16.

It will be appreciated that the two sets of data show a degree of dissimilarity due to the fact that v.c. recorders may submit records from other than their own vice-county. In fairness, it must also be pointed out that, of the 16 recorders in the 'never or hardly ever' category, about half are quite recently appointed. Nevertheless, the situation can hardly be described as satisfactory, and we hope that the statistics presented may give at least some recorders food for thought and perhaps spur them to greater efforts than hitherto in submitting plant

records for publication. The projected new census catalogue should also provide an additional incentive.

BSBI CHURCHYARD SURVEY

We understand that this project has so far produced little response from Scotland. Members' attention is once again drawn to the notice in News Letter No. 4, and we commend this as a useful and interesting form of field work for the 1983 season.

VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS - PERTHSHIRE

Following the death of Mr Allan Robson, the vacancy in v.c. 88 was filled by Dr R.E. Thomas moving from v.c. 87, West Perth. In turn, this vacancy has now been filled by the appointment of Mr N. Stewart.

WESTERN ISLES INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland has recently received EEC approval for an Integrated Development Programme for the Western Islands of Scotland. This contains measures to support and improve agriculture, fisheries, fish farming, the planting of windbreaks and related infrastructure. For approved development schemes very large sums are being made available.

Certain land improvement measures could be potentially harmful to wildlife habitats, and the BSBI, together with other conservation bodies, is keeping a close watch on developments, particularly where machair and in-bye land may be affected by drainage, spraying with herbicide or re-seeding with modern grass mixtures. At the same time it must be emphasised that we are not, in principle, opposed to these efforts to improve the standard of living in the Isles. Our concern about the Programme has however highlighted the fact that information as to the sites of botanical importance is incomplete. Accordingly, we appeal to members of the Society, who may be visiting the Isles this summer, to do some useful field work.

We suggest that volunteers should contact Dr Pat Doody, Nature Conservancy Council, P.O. Box 6, Godwin House, George Street, Huntingdon PE18 6BU, for advice on areas

about which it would be most useful to have further information. We ask also that members who have botanised in the Outer Isles send a copy of their records and/or their opinion as to the location of important botanical sites to Dr Doody. This information would also be welcomed by Mr Andrew Currie, the Recorder-designate for v.c. 110. Mr Currie's address is :- Glaseilean, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9AQ.

FLORA OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES

R.J. PANKHURST

The British flowering plant section at the British Museum (Natural History) has begun a project to write a Flora of the Outer Hebrides (v.c. 110). It is hoped that it will be published by the Museum and will cover only flowering plants and is intended mainly to bring together all the existing records. Work has begun at the BM on a card index of herbarium records beginning with our own collection which includes over 10,000 specimens from the area, collected by Wilmott & Campbell, and others. We would like to hear from members who have records or private herbarium specimens from v.c. 110 so that these can be added to the index. The BM will forward information to the vice-county Recorder and vice versa.

BSBI INDIVIDUAL SPECIES CARDS

Dr R.A.H. Smith has been given for distribution to Recorders in Scotland a supply of 8" x 5" BSBI Individual Species Cards (type to fit into a card index box).

Cards will be available at the Kindrogan Recorders' Weekend in June, and at the Exhibition Meeting in Edinburgh in November. By arrangement they may also be uplifted from Dr Smith either at her private address : 84 West Savile Terrace, Edinburgh 9, or at the office of the Nature Conservancy Council, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh 9. Failing this, they may be obtained by post, though a contribution towards postage may be requested. It is likely also that the recipient will be asked to sign a slip stating that the cards remain the property of the BSBI and that they will be passed on to a successor.