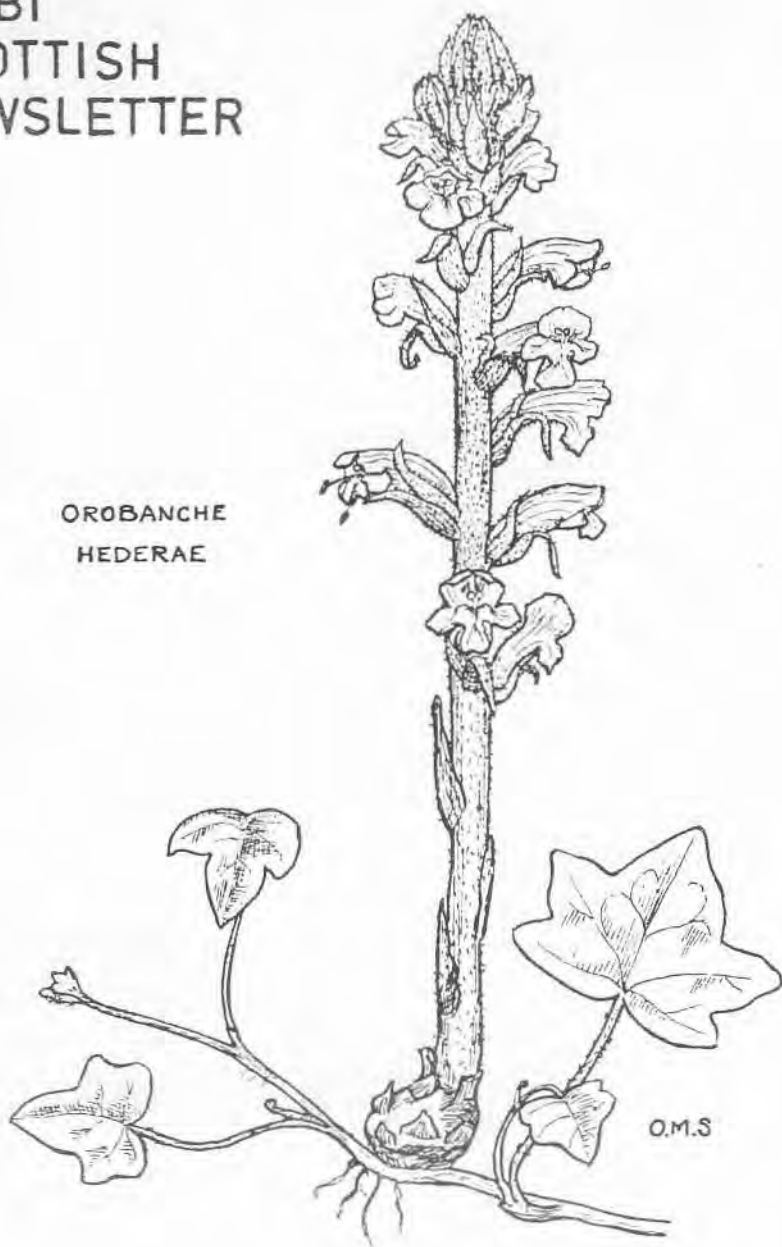


BSBI  
SCOTTISH  
NEWSLETTER

OROBANCHE  
HEDERAE



# BSBI SCOTTISH NEWS LETTER

Number 7

Spring 1985

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Cover Illustration - Orobanche hederæ

By Olga M. Stewart

## EDITORIAL

Once again we are able to go to press with a News Letter for which ample contributions have been available, and we hope that the various items prove of interest to members. We can only assume your approval if contrary comment is not forthcoming, so please do not hesitate to let us know if the content is not to your liking or if you feel some aspect of our activities is being neglected.

Sadly, we have to record the passing of two prominent Scottish members during the past year. Ursula Duncan, who was for so many years to the forefront in Scottish field botany, will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Professor Kenneth Braid, a member of long standing, though perhaps less well known personally to most of today's members, will be remembered by many for his contribution to the study of the bracken problem on Scottish hill farms, and one of your editors will always be in his debt for his kindling of a lasting interest in our native flora.

Activities in 1984 followed the familiar pattern of field meetings and the annual exhibition meeting, with the addition of the second residential weekend for recorders on Loch Tay-side. We believe all these were well received and well attended by members, and we look forward to an equally successful programme in 1985.

We should like to thank all who have contributed to this News Letter. Next year however please let's have some offerings from those of you who have not previously contributed.

With best wishes for your botanical activities in 1985.

P. MACPHERSON

A.McG. STIRLING

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Those who attended the AGM of Scottish members in Glasgow last November will know that conservation issues were the main subject aired. The particular issue sparking the discussion was the planning application to afforest some lower slopes of Creag Meagaidh, but the discussion centred on the more general question of whether the BSBI was widely recognised as an effective body with an interest in conservation.

In so far as the Creag Megaidh application was never formally brought to the attention of the BSBI Scottish Committee to my knowledge, a lack of communication somewhere must be admitted. Whether a timeous discussion would have resulted in a BSBI objection I am not sure. I personally feel that objection to this particular application was more appropriately lodged by bodies with a general ecological, ornithological and aesthetic concern, such as the Scottish Wildlife Trust (of which all of us should be members), than by this botanical body, though I have since learned of one plant species in the area to be planted which is not known elsewhere in Westernness. Now however the Secretary of State for Scotland has settled the issue by granting permission for partial afforestation.

A more recent outline planning permission application was brought to the Committee's attention at the AGM - for a ski-tow near Glenshee which would enter the Caenlochan National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest. This whole area was classified a Grade 1 site in the Nature Conservation Review on account of its wealth of alpine flora, and the ski-tow corrie itself possesses some of these alpine rarities. Following the AGM I passed information ably provided at short notice by Mr A.G. Payne to the BSBI Conservation Committee in time for an objection to be lodged with the relevant District Council and later with the Secretary of State. By the time you read this his decision, which could be to hold a Public Enquiry, should be known. While skiing itself on a good snow cover may do little damage, other aspects, for example the construction phase, the inevitable litter and derelict ironmongery, the erosion when cover is thin or patchy, combine to make this application for this site unacceptable to botanists.

That the BSBI is a body concerned with conservation (though not primarily a conservation body) is further demonstrated by its proposal, in conjunction with a number of other national botanical societies, to appoint a full-time Conservation Officer shortly. This officer will have as his chief task the collation and presentation of botanical evidence in defence and protection of sites of major botanical importance. That evidence could come from you. The BSBI's effectiveness in conservation is underpinned by the local botanical knowledge of its members and their detailed

records. If you hear of a threat to a Scottish site which you think has botanical value please bring it to the attention of the Scottish Committee without delay.

In a lighter vein, the Scottish field cards reprint has been promised 'imminently' for the last three years. My bet is only evens that they will arrive by, say, early May. Is anyone more sanguine?

RICHARD THOMAS

#### THE CAREX MURICATA GROUP IN SCOTLAND

OLGA M. STEWART

The Carex muricata group has five taxa. Only one of these is fairly common in Scotland - C. muricata subsp. lamprocarpa. In Kirkcudbrightshire we have records of this from half of the 10km squares, mostly growing on dry grassy banks. C. muricata subsp. muricata is a very rare plant in the British Isles, only once found in Scotland near Lauder, Berwickshire, by R. Brotherston in 1878. Mrs Anna Younger attempted to re-find this site in June 1975 but was unsuccessful, finding instead however the first modern record of Carex divulsa subsp. leersii for Scotland. There were three plants of the latter, at least one of which was growing out of a fallen tree. Another site was discovered two years later by Helen Jackson and John Winham by a track in open woodland at Newbattle near Edinburgh. There were only a few tufts. In 1984 this plant was discovered for a third time by Mrs Persis Aglen while she was recording 1km squares for the Flora of the Lothians. Together we revisited the site and found the sedge was growing profusely over a small area on a road embankment where it passes over a disused railway. When it was sent to R.W. David for confirmation he said that the further north it grows in the British Isles the bigger and better it is, and more like the eastern and Asiatic plants. The other subspecies of Carex divulsa - subsp. divulsa, has not so far been found in Scotland. In Britain it grows mainly in the south of England, reaching north to Yorkshire, also as far as the north-west of Ireland.

The last of the group is Carex spicata which has a scattered range in Scotland. In the last few years I have seen it growing in a damp area in Lanarkshire, and in 1982 it was found during the BSBI meeting on waste ground in the dock area at Grangemouth. It also occurs in at least two places on similar habitat in Dunbartonshire.

It is with deep regret that the death of Ursula K. Duncan of Parkhill is noted. As a full obituary will appear in Watsonia, a short note of a more personal nature seems appropriate for this Scottish News Letter. Ursula was perhaps the most distinguished Scottish amateur botanist of her generation and her achievements demonstrate that this status need impose few limitations in the hands of one so able and dedicated. However, the amateur-professional distinction was one of which she was deeply conscious, being both scrupulously accurate and modest to the point of diffidence.

Her academic achievements (B.A. and M.A. in Classics), as her botanical ones, were the result almost entirely of self-teaching made possible by her sharp and penetrating intelligence together with remarkable powers of thoroughness and persistence. Although greatly flattered by her honorary doctorate from the University of Dundee, it was characteristic that she preferred not to use the title.

The two great loves of her life were botany and the running of her estate, Parkhill near Arbroath, which she inherited from her father in 1943. She devoted the rest of her life to serving it, one of her particular joys being to keep the farm accounts. To these she applied the same meticulous standards as to her botanical work.

Ursula began her botanical studies as a child, with encouragement from her father, and far from becoming idle amusement, these led to important work in the field of bryophytes, lichens and flowering plants. In the latter field she was an active member of the BSBI, being for many years 'unofficial' Recorder for Angus and 'official' Recorder for East Ross. Her Flora of East Ross was the culmination of her work in this remote and little-known vice-county, a great part of the field work being done single-handed. Failing eyesight compelled Ursula to give up botanical work several years ago, having little patience with infirmity and people 'who go on too long'. This was typical of her sometimes almost off-putting frankness, but enabled her to hand over her life's work (her collections and records) while still in her prime.

Although extremely shy and nervous by nature, her love of botany enabled her to overcome this and most of her friend-



ships were made through this common interest. She was extremely generous to visiting botanists and was particularly keen to encourage children's interest in plants. In this context her long association with the Wild Flower Society was important. Ursula disliked ostentation of any kind. This was reflected in her life style, which was almost spartan, as much as in her choice of favourite plants which were always among the less showy groups, from mosses to Potamogetons. Trips with Ursula were always a joy, since one was always sure of seeing the desired plants - the result, not of chance, but of meticulous planning and checking the site before the visit. She loved showing the botanical treasures of Angus to interested people, and saw it as a duty to share them with others, striding up hills, scrambling along rock ledges or plunging through reed swamps with an agility that left the unfit far behind. At the end of a day, a return to Parkhill was equally memorable; excitedly poring over herbarium specimens and books followed by the almost ritual tea, always taken at the dining room table, rather than in the beautiful drawing room in which she did not feel at ease.

#### PROFESSOR K.W. BRAID O.B.E.

Kenneth Braid, who died on 29th August 1984 at the age of 97, had been a member of the BSBI since 1926. He was for many years head of the Department of Agricultural Botany at the West of Scotland Agricultural College, retiring from this post in 1952. An acknowledged expert on the bracken fern, much of his academic life was devoted to the study of this plant and investigating methods for its control.

Professor Braid was a keen and knowledgeable field botanist. He conducted many field excursions for the Andersonian Naturalists of Glasgow and addressed that society on several occasions - usually on his favourite subject 'Bracken'. From 1949-51 he was President of the ANG and was later elected an Honorary Member of the Society. Professor Braid's latter years were spent at Skene in his native Aberdeenshire.

#### ELATINE HYDROPIPER AT THE CARRON RESERVOIR

J. MITCHELL

The exceptionally dry summer and consequential low water levels experienced in 1984 presented yet another opportunity to examine the drawn-down edges of Scotland's lochs and rivers on the off chance of turning up one or more of the

less frequently seen small ephemeral aquatic plants of mud and sand.

The Carron Reservoir in East Stirlingshire was amongst several water bodies visited by the writer during the late summer, the exposed shore-line of its north-east side (NS 684851) producing a local abundance of the nationally rare Elatine hydropiper. Most of its usual associates were present - E. hexandra, Lythrum portula, Eleocharis acicularis etc. - in a patchy sward of Littorella uniflora, although the two co-dominant plants covering much of the drying-out reservoir bed were Gnaphalium uliginosum and Juncus b. fionius. Of additional interest, E. hydropiper was also noted growing on the silt-strewn metallised surface of the stretch of the B818 Fintry-Denny road which was submerged when the Carron Valley was flooded on completion of the two dams in 1939.

From the number of stations for E. hydropiper on record in the central belt of Scotland since its first discovery in 1968 around the south-east corner of Loch Lomond, there can be little doubt that the species is steadily extending its distribution along the Midland Valley, dispersal of seed almost certainly assisted by commuting wildfowl.

#### EPIPACTIS HELLEBORINE IN GLASGOW GARDENS

J.H. DICKSON

At the end of 1984, the most active field season yet in the project to study the flora of Glasgow, there had been recording in 68 of the 90 tetrads to be surveyed. The large mass of data which is building up includes many records of Epipactis helleborine.

This orchid has been known around Glasgow for a long time - there is an 18th century record from Hamilton and several 19th century localities much nearer the city. The recent recording has produced 24 localities so far, in 17 tetrads. It is very evident that the orchid is widespread in the Glasgow rectangle. It grows within 100m of the Botany Department and at several other places near Glasgow University including the Botanic Gardens. However, the precise habitats are the focus of interest.

The Epipactis inhabits shrubberies and gardens where deep digging is an infrequent occurrence. Often, but far from exclusively, it grows in shade and, though large, it may be inconspicuous. Apart from the occurrences in Glasgow I know



of discoveries in gardens at Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Newmilns, Ayrshire, and Barnton, Edinburgh. I would very much welcome any additional information about similar habitats of this weedy orchid.

#### THE HARRY SLACK MEMORIAL COLLECTION

YVONNE BOWMAN

This biological collection was set up in 1983 at the Glasgow University Field Station, Rowardennan, Loch Lomond. The aim of the project, funded by the Manpower Services Commission, is to promote further interest in the studies of Loch Lomond and surrounding area. In 1983 two botanists and one zoologist were employed to collect and present a comprehensive range of aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna, mainly from sites most frequented by students and research workers.

In the first year over 200 plant species were collected and identified. The collection is housed in two parts; 1) The Reference Collection (stored in taxonomic order) and 2) The Teaching Collection (stored by habitat type). Specimens are indexed on Computer and Standard Index cards and Species Lists and a Bibliography are available. The collection is named after the first Director of the University Field Station, the late Dr H.D. Slack, to commemorate his work on freshwater ecology of Loch Lomondside.

Access to the collection is available to anyone with an interest in the Flora and Fauna of Loch Lomondside and details about the project can be obtained from: Dr Roger Tippet, University Field Station, Rowardennan, Glasgow, G63 0AW. Tel. Balmaha (036087) 271.

#### A STRANGE FORM OF CARDAMINE AMARA

OLGA M. STEWART

Last year, when recording for the Flora of the Lothians, I was botanising in a marsh near Crichton Castle, VC 83, where I found two plants of Cardamine amara with deep pink petals. This year I returned to the same area and again found similar flowers. Mary McCallum Webster brought to my attention an article by F. Buchanan White in the Scottish Naturalist, 1889-90, in which he said he had 'found a large patch of Cardamine flowers of a purplish lilac by a tributary of the River Earn in Perthshire'. He also says that in Flore de France (Grenier & Godron) it is stated 'Besides white flowers are ones that are 'rarement violettes'', so the colour variation seems not to be unknown. Buchanan White's plant is not

the colour of Viola odorata, which Grenier and Godron called var. violette, but rather that of peach blossom. He also says 'Apart from the colour, there is little difference between the variety and the type. The leaflets of the upper leaves are similar in outline to those of the lower (i.e. both are subrotund and not so oblong as in the type) and the style appears to be comparatively shorter, but whether these characters are constant remains to be seen'. In the meantime he thinks the form is worth distinguishing as 'var. lilacina'. There is a specimen from his locality in the BM, but it is not like those from near Crichton Castle, being pale lilac and a bigger plant. In looking through the British collection at the BM, besides the var. lilacina specimen there is one other called var. erubescens from Lincolnshire, with coloured petals. In the European collection are three more, each given a different varietal name. 1. Cardamine amara var. umbrosa 'floribus violaceus' - alpine rills in Upper Moos Thal near St. Anton, Austria. 2. Cardamine amara coerulea (in pencil, f. minor var. erubescens). Vastergotland Toarp Sn Statthult. 1909 Coll. A.O. Olsen. 3. Cardamine amara var. erubescens. Ditch Schlosslitz near Bamberg. May 1910 Coll. K. Harz. Underneath was printed in Latin which I have translated 'Petal tips pale violet, rarely pink all over, or red or deep violet'. Under that a note in German by I. Dorfner of which the following is an extract:- 'var. erubescens has been thought to be a hybrid of C. amara and C. pratensis because of the colour which is not typical of C. amara, but the pollen is normal, so it should be considered that C. amara var. erubescens is merely a colour form'. My specimen is very similar to that from Vastergotland, and the flowers are like the ones from Bamberg, so var. erubescens seems to be the appropriate varietal name. As there were only five specimens with coloured petals at the BM and none in the herbarium in Edinburgh it appears to be a rare colour form.

A FORGOTTEN FIFE FLORA WRITER -  
CHARLES HOWIE

G.H. BALLANTYNE

What do you think it took three ounces of the juice of to kill a dog in three minutes? What common weed used to be called the cock-rose? Which plant tends to make one turn up one's nose? What happens to St. John's Wort on August 24th? Which flower when dried and put among clothes will deter any

both from having a tasty bite? The answers to these posers may be found in a manuscript flora which was completed a century ago. The compiler was Charles Howie, who for all of his long life was interested in plants and their folklore, qualities, attributes and the like. In the early 1880's he began to put together all the information he had collected, and on finishing the volume, he penned his name and the date '1884'. It is therefore appropriate one hundred years later to dip into his work, and in particular where Fife is concerned, to acknowledge his contribution to discovering its flora.

Howie must have spent a great deal of time reading both practical and imaginative books to have been able to include so much detail in his entries. These comprise the generic name and its derivation, e.g. 'Saxifraga L., from saxum, a store, and frango, to break, in allusion to the roots penetrating into the crevices of the rocks'; followed by specific and common names. Next comes a note of distribution in Fife and Kinross, with specific localities often given, then whether annual or perennial together with flowering period. In many instances there is additional information, usually notes from old herbals or gardening books and/or quotations from poems. For example, in his entry for the common stinging nettle, there is quoted:

Tender handed touch a nettle  
And it stings you for your pains.  
Grasp it, like a man of metal  
And it soft as silk remains.

Howie goes on to tell us that the nettle was used medicinally as a pot herb in early spring, that it was applied to stop bleeding at the nose by pressing the leaves against the roof of the mouth, and that the fibre may be dressed as hemp for cordage, cloth or paper. This amount of detail is common.

The answers to the questions at the beginning are further examples of the fascinating facts contained in the manuscript. The juice which was deemed to kill a dog in such a short space of time came from Corn Buttercup (Ranunculus arvensis); "cock-rose" was a local name for Corn Poppy (Papaver rhoeas); plants that are reckoned to offend your nasal organ belong to the genus Nasturtium (from the Latin "nasus tortus"); "according to the teaching of a past age, the red spots which were seen on the dotted-leaved St. John's Wort appeared on 24th August, the day on which St. John was

beheaded, this being the day the plant was gathered"; and the moth-repeller is Water Pepper (Polygonum hydropiper).

Regarding brambles, a group I treat of elsewhere (News Letter No. 6), Howie says "The Boys always enjoy a foray among the brambles in autumn when out for a day's adventure, as Elliot keeps it in remembrance:-

Scorned bramble, of the brake once more,  
Thou bidd'st me be a boy,  
To gad with thee the woodland o'er  
In freedom and in joy."

It would be rather stretching a point to pretend I was still a boy, but the second couplet aptly captures my feelings when out in the wild.

Howie's knowledge of horticulture is constantly revealed, with frequent references to a plant's worth or to a particular species' aberrant growth, and to experiments carried out. For example, of Mountain Pansy (Viola lutea) he says "of late years this mountain violet has undergone much improvement...it is thus found to be a great acquisition to the cultivator". He also describes an experiment with a dandelion he dug up and grew - "for dressing up a spring salad few vegetable productions are more wholesome or more beautiful than the light rose tinted leaves of this dandelyon" (what species does this refer to?).

Although the word 'conservation' does not appear in the manuscript - it did not take on its present connotation until comparatively recently - Howie was all too conscious of the damage done by collecting. The non-flowering plants were his first love, particularly the ferns, and he laments the disappearance of several species - "a considerable quantity of Beech Fern was stretched along Kenly Den (near St. Andrews) where it presented a striking effect...when the station was visited several years after, every vestige of it was gone, to satisfy the craze of some merciless fern hunter". Again, alluding to Shield Fern plants, he attacks the collectors who "carry them home to dwindle away under ignorant treatment".

Howie was conscious too of the variety of Fife's coastal flora and he mentions two species in particular which are no more. The Oyster Plant (Mertensia maritima) he bemoans as having practically gone by 1884, taken by persons "who generally dig it up, to convey it home to die, so the less

published about stations the better" and he quotes the old adage "Sin word is thral, and thought is free, keep weel thy tongue, I council thee". (Howie deliberately omits the stations for some rare species). The other maritime flower which vanished from Fife was the Sea Holly (Eryngium maritimum), the last specimen of which he saw in 1876 before discovering it "had been plucked by some individual to satisfy the impulse of morbid curiosity". However, there are other instances of rare plants being mentioned, some with specific localities, which happily may still be found where Howie admired them.

Occasional mention is made of how changes in agricultural methods affected some plants, and it is revealing to learn the number of weeds he considered common that are now scarcely seen, including Shepherd's Needle, Corn Cockle (or Blawwort), Venus's Looking-glass, Corn Gromwell and Silky Bentgrass. In addition, other flowers have virtually disappeared altogether owing to habitat loss, for instance the club-mosses, several orchid species (including lesser twayblade and marsh helleborine), some sedges, the Bur Marigolds, Petty Whin and so on.

Little has come to light about Charles Howie's personal life save that he was born in 1811 and lived a long 88 years. He died in 1899 at St. Andrews where he practised as a nurseryman and seedsman. Earlier he was connected with the Largo area, where he was for a time the secretary of the local field naturalists' society. His first major published contribution was to "The Shores of Fife" issued by the engraver William Ballingall in 1872. This chapter was the first attempt at a Flora of Fife, and it is evident that the notes he compiled for it were utilised when he wrote the manuscript described in this article. (Much of the information is repeated in A.H. Millar's "Fife: pictorial and historical" published in 1895). He was also the joint author, with John Jeffrey, of a folio volume entitled "The Trees and Shrubs of Fife and Kinross" in 1879. His work on cryptogams resulted in two items, the first a limited edition termed "Musci Fifensis", comprising collections of 113 pressed mosses with printed details, the second called "The Moss Flora of Fife and Kinross" in 1889, a more conventional work listing some 300 species.

Despite his evident scholarship, the manuscript discussed



here contains numerous orthographic and syntactic errors. One off-putting feature is his attempt to justify the right hand margin of every page, i.e. to have each word end immediately below the one above. This has resulted in numerous words being split quite inappropriately (and without hyphenation); e.g. ma/ny, w/here, jui/ce! But despite these shortcomings his writings are an invaluable - and highly individual - account of the flora of 19th century Fife, especially the area now embraced by North East Fife District. Let Howie's final quotation, added in different ink probably not long before his death, sum up his outlook on both life and things botanical:-

Lowly plants so peaceful in there native soil,  
They neither know to spin or care to toil.  
Yet with confest magnificence deride,  
The vile attire and impotence of pride.  
(Matthew Prior)

#### OROBANCHE HEDERAE - A RARE PARASITE ON IVY

ALISON  
RUTHERFORD

Broomrapes are herbaceous, sometimes annual, root parasites, confined to one or two host species, mostly of local distribution. They are chiefly found in warmer parts of the Old World from Britain to Asia Minor, across central and southern Europe to N. Africa; some occur in S. Africa and the Himalaya. They are leafless and devoid of chlorophyll, the flower-tubes are arranged in a spike like their relations the Scrophulariaceae, where the Antirrhinum or Snap-dragon belongs, but without their showy petals.

In Britain and Ireland broomrapes thin out northwards, Scotland having fewest and the south of England the greatest number of species. So it was a discovery of some significance to find an old pressed specimen, not the Red but the Ivy broomrape, hitherto not known beyond Leicester on the British mainland (and an introduction at that) or in Donegal which is about 80 miles further north than Wigtownshire's southern coastline near Burrow Head, Scotland's second most southern place, known for its rare plants and butterflies. Independently of the herbarium find, a botanist discovered it living on coastal ivy on the cliffs there. I saw it in SW Ireland with a friend in 1975, and he saw it in the Generalife Gardens in southern Spain, presumably on Hedera aff. canariensis 'Spanish Canary' which is the ivy of the Gardens.

On a hazy day, when the scorching sun was not at full strength, though the unprecedented drought had not yet broken, I went with three botanists to explore some parts of the botanically rich and scenically beautiful Wigtownshire and some of southern Ayrshire. As we headed south the ivies became noticeably more profuse, curving in thick mats over the dry-stone walls, clothing the trees and old buildings, and when we reached the coast between St. Ninian's Cave and Burrow Head, the sight would have gladdened a hederophile's eye. The raised beach of oval stones piled several feet thick, had dark green, thick, wavy ivy leaves instead of shadows between the stones, a thing I had never seen before, while further back, towards the cliff base, where the stones lay smoother, the ivy took over completely. In a cove of the cliffs I went nearer to look at a fern and saw dried, pale brown flower spikes about a foot high. The others had walked on to the Cave, but on the way back, the finder of the pressed broomrape asked - had I seen the Orobanche? We entered the cove, and on looking up, saw in silhouette several taller spikes on a shoulder of rock, then more on the opposite side. The photographers got busy, and it was then we noticed the whitened 'bones' of a vast old ivy, one branch of which had woodworm holes. Ever wondered what furniture beetles ate before humans so kindly provided? Beside this skeleton, in fact, we realised, a host to some of the broomrape, was a magnificent ivy, whose many trunks were as thick as a human thigh, and we reckoned to be at least 60 feet where it met the top of the cliff.

So far all the ivy samples gathered that day have turned out to be the Atlantic Ivy (Hedera hibernica) though some of them are still being sprouted in water, as they were bereft of scale hairs at the end of a dry summer. It was interesting that, going through a wood on the way to the Cave, we saw Garden Irish Ivy (H. hibernica 'Hibernica') near the garden of an old house, but also, seeming quite wild and unplanted, not quite 100% Garden Irish Ivy. This ties in with old stories of it being wild in Scotland. These plants were very similar, if not identical, to the ivies Allan Stirling and I rejected as 'not quite right', but very like the Irish, for the BSBI Irish Ivy Survey (see Ivy News Letter No. 3, Feb. 1980, pp 15-16). This type of 'missing link' ivy has now been found in several places along the SW coast of Scotland mingled with more ordinary ivy of the Atlantic species. As

it takes a lot of driving to reach the northernmost outliers of it from Central Scotland. it may be some years before the full extent of its range is known, as sympathetic day-tripping botanists take in another section of that lovely coast.

Later, at home, I looked up the characters of Orobanche. I had not fully understood how the underground parts of it looked, despite Teyl de Bordes' useful note in Ivy News Letter No. 1, Vol. 5, p. 5. It has a creeping rhizome covered in fleshy scales, like certain Liliums, and where these meet the host roots a sort of scaly bulb is formed. The scales continue up the flower stem, thinning out to look like tiny leaves among the creamy white lilac-veined flowers.

It will be interesting to find out if, in the south of England where the Ivy Broomrape is much commoner, whether it favours the Atlantic rather than the Common Ivy, for its distribution more or less follows that of Hedera hibernica. It can however be successfully introduced to H. helix, as the Leicestershire and some other inland English records are known to be introductions, and I saw some years ago pots in the Botanic Gardens at Glasgow, of Common Ivy complete with Broomrape!

(Reprinted from 'The Ivy' Journal of the British Ivy Society, Vol.7, No.2, Winter 1984, by kind permission of the B.I.S.)

#### WESTERN ISLES INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR RECORDING ELSEWHERE

A. CURRIE

Although there have been a number of surveys and publications of the flora of the Outer Hebrides, when the I.D.P. project was announced, conservationists were caught without adequate information from which to formulate a reasoned response. At that time there were two NNRs as well as several SSSIs on the machair and an RSPB Reserve in N. Uist. I assembled what information was available and prepared a classification of 20 of the best sites. This data was passed on to the BSBI Council from whom a report was sent to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland.

In 1983 NCC organised specific surveys in order to assess more fully the wildlife interest of the Uists. Some were related to land use and to birds, but there was a substantial botanical programme concentrating upon existing SSSIs,

sites rated highly by ITE and myself, plus those recommended by the BSBI. In addition, other organisations carried out fresh and brackish water surveys and machair sites were also surveyed. Meanwhile a Flora of the Outer Hebrides is under way, planned by the British Museum, with the cooperation of the BSBI Recorder for VC 110.

The outcome of all this work is a much clearer understanding of the botanical interests, and a re-assessment of the SSSIs is under way. Looking to the future, an ADP for the Scottish Highlands is a real possibility. The BSBI can prepare for this by assembling on a VC basis the best available botanical information. If important sites can be recognised and listed now, this will lead to a better response when plans for an ADP (or whatever emerges) are announced. Habitats most under threat are those low-lying areas capable of drainage/reclamation/reseeding/herbicide application/afforestation/felling. This would be a realistic contribution which is well within the capability of the BSBI in the Scottish Highlands.

#### THE INVERNESS-SHIRE SURVEY

A.A.P. SLACK

(Abstract of the paper read at the Scottish Recorders' Weekend, 1984)

It must be stated at the outset that a full flora was never contemplated, the aim being to produce a Map Flora. To put this into perspective, text dealing with the environment and a few particular habitats was added. The index, by including the rarer unmapped species, became an approach to a check list.

The area involved is mainland Inverness, i.e. VC 96 and VC 97, minus the Nairn part of VC 96 and the Argyll part of VC 97. There are 109 10km squares in the area, and the plan was to divide each into four 5km quadrants and organise visits to one quadrant in each square. In fact 335 quadrants were visited.

Difficulties with regard to recording the 60,000 dots on the maps were encountered, as were queries regarding accuracy of identification and location of records.

The final achievement can be thought of as a skeleton with some flesh on the bones, and some co-ordinating nervous tissue. The skeleton is the index, the scientific names following CFW

and the common names following Dony, Robb and Perring. The flesh is the text which fits a selection of the indexed taxa into typical habitats. The co-ordination is the map section which illustrates the fit suggested in the text.

Mainland Inverness is by far the most mountainous county in the British Isles and has far more deep lochs than any other county. It extends from the Atlantic to the North Sea with resulting considerable climatic range. Apart from critical species, it has 19 nationally rare taxa. The Map Flora will not do justice to such a fine county, but will at least help a little on the way.

#### EXHIBITION MEETING - GLASGOW, 3rd November 1984

The 1984 Scottish Exhibition Meeting arranged by the Glasgow Natural History Society, the BSBI Committee for Scotland, and the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, was held in the Botany Department, University of Glasgow by courtesy of Professor M. Wilkins. Prior to the opening, a meeting of BSBI Scottish Recorders took place at which the national Secretary, Mrs Mary Briggs, gave much useful information and advice.

The exhibition itself provided the usual very welcome opportunity to exchange notes with botanists from many parts of Scotland and beyond. 18 exhibits filled the space available. It is regretted that, owing to lack of space in this News Letter, only the following brief descriptions can be given:-

Mrs O.M. Stewart - Flower paintings and new records from Kirkcudbright and the Lothians.

Drs P. & A.C. Macpherson - Intermediates between Saxifraga hirsuta and S. spathularis from Co. Kerry.

Dr R.W.M. Corner - Plants new to VCs 79 and 80.

G.H. Ballantyne - Berwickshire brambles.

D.R. McKean - Herbarium specimens including an alpine adventive, Silene alpestre.

Dr J.H. Dickson - Progress in the Flora of Glasgow Project.

Dr G. Halliday - Flora of Cumbria Project, illustrated by distribution maps of some montane species.

Miss M. McCallum Webster - Scottish plant records.



E.T. Hunter-Blair - An early-fruiting and weeping variety of Ilex aquifolia.

B.S. Brookes - Scottish Field Studies Association leaflets.

J.K. Butler - Plants from N. Scotland, including Dactylorhiza majalis from VC 109.

J. Bevan - Hawkweeds of the section Cerinthoidea seen in VCs 92 and 110.

Mr & Mrs D. Parrish - two new books on flowers and their habitats.

Dr D. Robinson - Remains of Lycopods from a mediaeval source.

S.J. Leach, G.H. Ballantyne and N.F. Stewart - Phile's disappearing Potamogetons, and Carex maritima at St. Andrews.

Miss A. Rutherford - Is some apparently wild 'Ionicera periclymenum' in fact a horticultural variety?

Mrs C.W. Murray - News from VC 104, e.g. Carex aquatilis, Carum verticillatum and others.

P.J.B. Woods - Orchis morio in southern Scotland.

At 2.30 p.m. a BSBI Scottish Regional Meeting elected replacements to the Committee for Scotland and discussed several topics, particularly the machinery for notifying threats to the flora, of which the proposed forestation of the flanks of Creag Meagaidh was singled out.

At 4.30 p.m. Lynne Farrell of the NCC gave a spirited, illustrated talk about Rare Plant Surveying to a crowded audience.

By 6 p.m. the company had moved to the University College Club to enjoy a buffet supper followed by a show of colour transparencies of which the following is a (necessarily brief) account:-

Dr R.W.M. Corner - Viola canina in the Tweed basin.

Dr R.A.H. Smith - Recorders' Weekend at Firbush; Bridge of Gaur field meeting.

J.R.S. Lyth - Allium scorodoprasum at Bothwell Castle.

Dr. H.A. Lang - Creag Meagaidh field meeting.

A.McG. Stirling - Some Wigtownshire plants; Brambles course at Kindrogan

A.A.P. Slack - Arctous alpina in VC 88, and Hammarbya paludosa at Creag Meagaidh.

M. Scott - Saxifraga rivularis and Diapensia observed in New Hampshire, USA, and a strange Rubus in Shetland.

J. Bevan - Hieracium hunting in the Hebrides.

Miss J. Muscott - Lichens that look like lichens!

Dr R.E. Thomas - A fine colony of Cystopteris montana in Breadalbane.

#### SCOTTISH RECORDERS' WEEKEND - 1984

P. MACPHERSON

The Second Scottish Recorders' Weekend was held at the Firthush Point Field Centre, Loch Tay, on 16th & 17th June 1984. The Centre is a pine-log structure with residential accommodation for 40 people in one to four berth cabins. The dining room commands a panoramic view over Loch Tay to the mountains of Ben Lawers and the Tarmachan Ridge. There was an attendance of 17 Recorders and five other members.

On the first morning the participants were welcomed by the Chairman, Dr R.E. Thomas, and papers were presented as follows:- 'Inverness-shire Survey' - A.A.P. Slack; 'Micro-computers in Recording' - J. Clayton; 'Local Plant Habitats' - D. Bayne.

In the afternoon small groups were sent to specific locations on the south side of Loch Tay in order to record for the Flora of Perthshire.

On the second morning the following talks were given:- 'Western Isles Integrated Development Project' - A. Currie; 'What do we know about Eyebrights?' - A.J. Silverside; 'Ben Lawers' - D. Marden; 'Vice-county recording' - N. Stewart.

In the afternoon the party split into two main groups. One explored the lower slopes of Ben Lawers from the National Trust Car Park to the ground above the Lawers Hotel. The other group set out to (and did) refind Arctous alpina between Glen Lochay and Glen Lyon, and recorded in neighbouring squares.

#### BSBI COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND

The following is the composition of the Committee from November 1984 to November 1985:-

Chairman - Dr R.E. Thomas; Secretary/Treasurer - Dr P. M. Macpherson; Field Meetings Secretary - N. Stewart; Meetings Secretary - Miss E.R.T. Conacher; Minutes Secretary - Mrs M. Barron; Members of Committee - G.H. Ballantyne, M.E. Braithwaite, Dr J.H. Dickson, Dr H.A. Lang, S. Payne, A.A.P. Slack

and Dr R.A.H. Smith.

Representing the NCC - Miss R. Scott; representing the Botanical Society of Edinburgh - D.R. McKean.

At the AGM on November 2nd 1985, three members will be elected to the Committee. The retiring members will be Mr Ballantyne, Mr Stewart and Dr Thomas. Only Mr Stewart will be 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 5th 1985.

Peter Macpherson, Hon. Secretary, Committee for Scotland.

REVIEW Wild Flowers of Kinross. G H. Ballantyne. 2nd Ed'n 1985. pp.111. Scottish Wildlife Trust, Fife & Kinross Branch. Price £4.00 (incl. p & p) payable to SWT per Mrs Edith Cormack, 58 Buchanan Gardens, St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 9IX.

A Check List of the Flowering Plants of Kinross 1977, by the same author quickly went out of print. The new work incorporates the field work carried out since that time, including 35 new entries. The format has been changed to large A5 and several pages of line drawings included, thereby justifying the inclusion in the title that the book is a second edition.

The introduction highlights the fact that Kinross-shire is a small natural area, more or less encircled by hills and dominated by the Loch Leven NNR. There follows geological information, a historical review of land use and of botanical recording. Details of habitat, status and frequency are given for each of the 827 species listed, along with historical records and at least one modern locality unless the plant is considered to be extinct.

Among the unusual species recorded, the author has drawn particular attention to Limosella aquatica (Mudwort) which has been spreading fast since its discovery in 1973; Nuphar x spennerana (a hybrid Water-Lily) which occurs in one of its few British sites; Carex limosa (Bog Sedge), C. paupercula (Tall Bog Sedge) and Equisetum pratense (Shady Horsetail).

P. MACPHERSON

## VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS

The following appointments have been made since the last update in News Letter No. 5:-

VC 86 Stirlings - D. Bayne; VC 98 Main Argyll - B.H. Thompson; VC 102 South Ebuies (Islay, Jura etc) - E.M. Bignal; VC 106 East Ross - P.S. Lusby; VC 110 Outer Hebrides - A. Currie.

Change of address:- N.J. Stewart & H. Stace - now (temporary) Lilac Cottage, Brunton, Nr. Luthrie, Fife.

## 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BSBI

The forerunner of our present Society was the Botanical Society of London, founded in 1836. Anyone with appropriate ideas for celebrating the anniversary is asked to pass them on to any committee member.

## RECORDING SURVEY

The new recording survey on a random 10km square basis, outlined by Mary Briggs at the November meeting, intended to begin in 1986, has been postponed until 1987.

## THREAT TO CREAG MEAGAI DH

Members will be relieved to learn that, since the Chairman penned his message in this News Letter, the threat of afforestation on the flanks of Creag Meagaidh has been averted by a purchase at considerable cost of a large tract of the area in question by the NCC.

## ARUM MACULATUM - NATIVE OR INTRODUCED IN SCOTLAND?

A.McG. STIRLING

In Dunbartonshire Arum maculatum (almost always in the unspotted form) occurs not infrequently, but always with some suspicion of having been introduced (e.g. around old castles) or as an established garden escape. I should be very interested to hear from other botanists on this subject, especially if genuine nativity is suspected. Arum italicum also occurs, well established, in two or three places in the vice-county. A.McG. Stirling, 17 Austen Rd., Glasgow G13 1SJ.