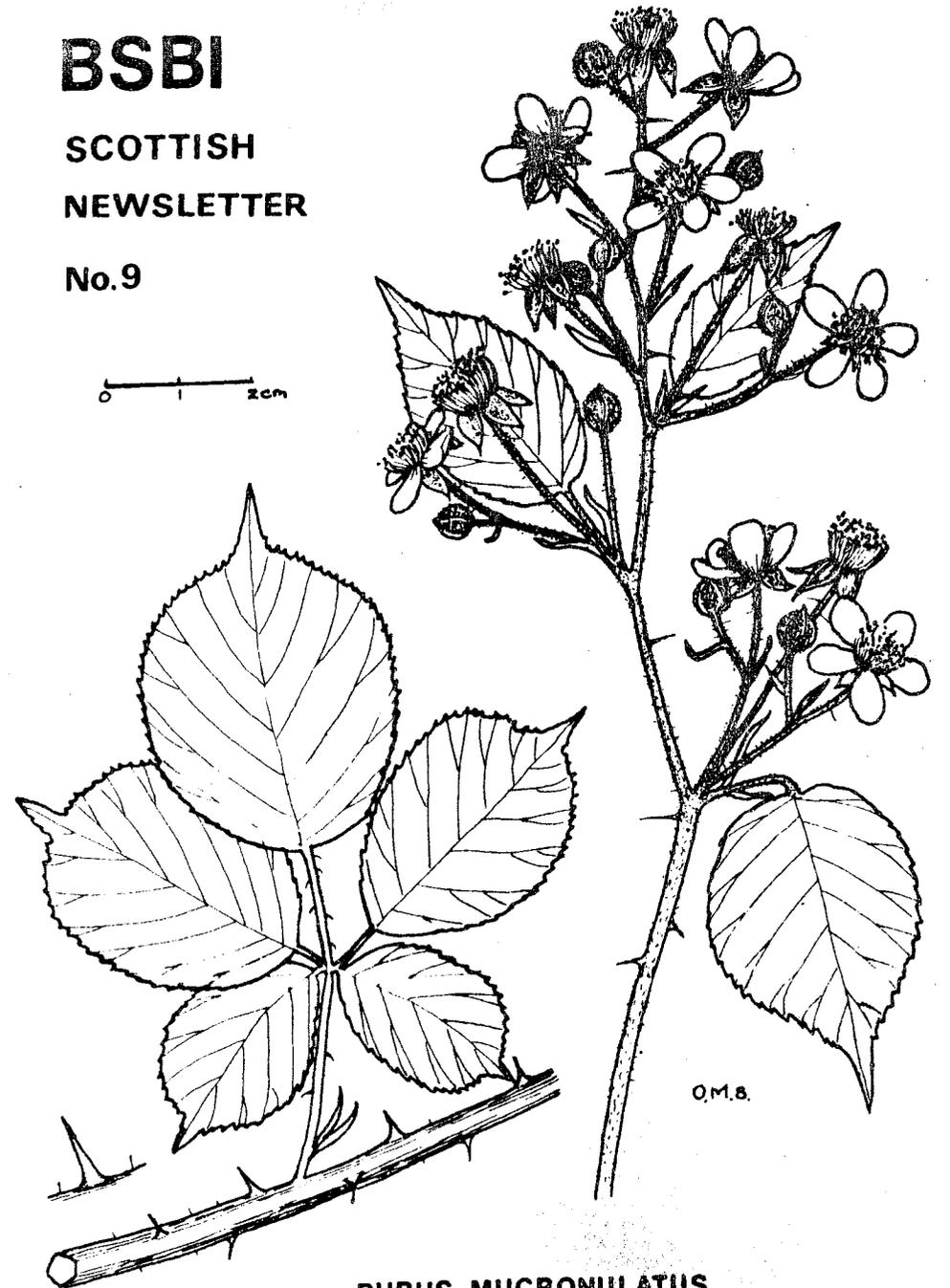
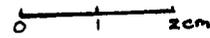


BSBI

**SCOTTISH
NEWSLETTER**

No. 9



RUBUS MUCRONULATUS

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EDITORIAL

Once again we are pleased to report that no difficulty has been experienced in filling the current number. We must apologise however for the News Letter reaching you rather later than is usual.

No apology is made however for the emphasis on 'monitoring'. The importance of this exciting scheme will, we hope, have been obvious to all, and much field work will already have been undertaken. The task in Scotland is particularly challenging for a number of reasons - remoteness of recording squares and availability of recorders to cover them being perhaps the most important.

This year it is our turn to host the Recordors' Conference which will be based at Jordanhill College, Glasgow, on 4th to 6th September. We look forward to welcoming members from the other regions on this occasion which we have planned to be as interesting and enjoyable as possible.

Good luck with your botanising in 1987.

P. MACPHERSON

A.McG. STIRLING

E.C. 'Ted' WALLACE

News of the death of Ted Wallace will have saddened his many Scottish friends. The Scottish flora, especially that of the mountain areas, had held a fascination for Ted since 1932 when he first made the acquaintance of his great friend Bob Mackechnie. Some impression of the two friends exploration of the highland hills and elsewhere may be gained from Ted's reminiscences of Bob Mackechnie in our very first number published in 1979. Ted served the Society well over the years, on both Council and on various committees, and for many years he was editor of 'Plant Records'.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

My first full year as Chairman has been a busy year for the Scottish Committee. The coming year promises to be even busier, not only for the Committee but for all of us, with the Monitoring Scheme. This is probably the most important task the Society has taken on since the Atlas recording and will be a most valuable comparison with the results of the Atlas, as well as providing a more detailed baseline for monitoring changes in the British Flora. I hope everyone will give the scheme their full support by getting in touch with their local Vice-county Recorder and offering their help with recording - if you're not sure who your local Recorder is, ask the Scottish Secretary. The scheme will be reviewed at the National Recorders' Conference in Glasgow in September - details are given elsewhere in this News Letter. (See also BSBI News No. 45).

An up-to-date list of Nature Conservancy Assistant Regional Officers (NCC ARO's) is in this number of the News Letter. I hope every Recorder and also every member know the local ARO. They are an invaluable contact - and I am not just saying this wearing all my hats as it were - as BSBI member, VC Recorder and ARO! ARO's spend quite a bit of time either organising or doing botanical survey work and thus probably have a lot of records of interest to local botanists. You may also be of invaluable help to them - suggesting areas of possible botanical value, or reporting when they are being damaged. So if you don't already know your local ARO make contact now.

All the best to everyone for the season's botanising - watching the snow fall as I write (this is the end of March) it doesn't seem possible that Spring will ever come, though officially it has just arrived!

ROSALIND SMITH

VC RECORDERS CONFERENCE 1987

The conference has a Scottish venue this year - Jordanhill College of Education, Glasgow. This provides an excellent opportunity for those resident in Scotland to participate in an event which they may often have to

miss due to the distances they are required to travel. The conference programme will include a number of talks, with emphasis on the Monitoring Scheme, critical species 'workshops' and a field excursion. Details may be had from Dr T.C.G. Rich, Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE17 2LS. The dates for your diary - 4th - 6th September.

EAST COAST BRAMBLES
(DUNDEE TO ABERDEEN)

G.H. BALLANTYNE

It is well known that the further north one goes, the fewer the brambles there are, and it is now apparent that this is especially true of most of the east coast of Scotland. Those areas which are most exposed to the North Sea are particularly affected, including parts of Berwickshire and the Lothians, the East Neuk of Fife, most of eastern Angus and almost all of Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire, especially Buchan. Further north, Caithness is equally as barren as the last.

During 1986 a few detailed explorations were made in Angus (VC 90) and in Kincardine (VC 91) together with more superficial checks in Aberdeenshire (VCs 92 and 93). The decrease in brambles northwards may be expressed dramatically in terms of taxa seen - in Angus, 18; in Kincardine, 10; in South Aberdeen, 5; and in North Aberdeen, 2. It should be noted, however, that Aberdeen City should provide a further 2 or 3, while 1 or 2 more are present further north.

The most remarkable phenomenon occurs in the Dee Valley and the ground to its north and south. Here one can go for literally miles and miles and be sure of seeing one species only - R. mucronulatus. Occasionally R. echinatoides crops up to relieve the monotony, but it is almost confined to Kincardine. This paucity of variety was strikingly brought home to me on 13 August 1986, when 85 miles were travelled and only these two species were observed, which, coupled with the 170 miles round trip from Kirkcaldy, a total of 255 miles, makes for expensive batology!

Why mucronulatus should be the species here, and

why there is only one other present, is a matter for conjecture. Obviously climate, exposure and low winter temperatures come into it - but at the opposite end of the country, both geographically and climatically, in Wigtown and Galloway, mucronulatus is virtually absent.

Another unusual feature is the absence of R. radula north of the River North Esk. This species is abundant (and will grow at 900') in central and south Scotland and occurs locally throughout Angus. But cross into Kincardine and it is replaced by echinatoides, while it is yet to be recorded in Aberdeenshire. Much the same is true of R. latifolius, so often the partner of radula; however it has penetrated into each of 91, 92 and 93 but only in small quantity. Other species, very common in central Scotland but which are all but non-existent are erranbundus, leptothyrsos and nemoralis. The only sub-erect bramble found was scissus although the 3 others do occur in Angus.

It is strange that R. septentrionalis is absent north of the Sidlaws. This robust bramble is a feature of the coast right round the north of Scotland (it is one of the few in Caithness), yet it shuns the whole sea-line from Monifieth to Fraserburgh (and probably west to Buckie). Odd too that R. furvicolor does not come further south-east from Moray and Nairn, especially as Alan Newton has found it in Buchan.

Five other species are worthy of mention. Dasyphyllus was found in scattered stations, even into Buchan, so that it is distributed right up the whole east coast from Berwick. R. conjugens, a close relative of latifolius and not at all frequent in Scotland, may be encountered in Angus. Polyanthemus, very common in the west, seems to like the North Esk Valley and crops up here and there, particularly in both VCs 90 and 91 around Edzell. Another two western species, rufescens and ulmifolius, grow in Dundee; significantly, both occur by the railway, which must have been responsible for quite a number of introductions throughout the country.

THE BOTANY OF THE LOTHIAN

In early 1982 the Botanical Society of Edinburgh inaugurated a project known as 'The Botany of the Lothians', to survey the plant life of the 3 Lothians vice-counties. The aims of the survey are twofold: first to obtain an up-to-date and comprehensive list of plants; second, and perhaps more important, to obtain ecological data about land use, habitats, frequency and distribution of the plants (at a 1 x 1 km square level).

Nothing like this has been attempted in the Lothians before. Early floras concentrated on Edinburgh and its immediate surroundings, only gradually extending their range into the neighbouring countryside. It was not until 1927 that the Edinburgh Natural History Society published its 'Field Club Flora of the Lothians', the first (and only) attempt to cover the whole region. Copies of the 1934 edition are still obtainable, and are worth reading, but inevitably it is out of date; it relied a good deal on previous records, and confined its attention largely to sites of known botanical interest. This type of approach is no longer adequate. We now have a fair idea of what plants grow in each VC; what we now need to know is the frequency, the where, the why, and whether they are increasing or decreasing.

There are over 2000 1 x 1 km squares in the Lothians and it was decided that it was not possible to survey them all in detail, even allowing for an estimated 10 years to completion. A one-in-four sample was therefore chosen. The map was covered by a 2 x 2 km grid and from each tetrad a single 1 x 1 km square was chosen at random. This process ensured uniform cover of the region and resulted in a total of 559 squares being chosen for detailed study. Complementary site studies should ensure a complete plant list.

1982 was treated as a 'pilot' year, and recording proper started in 1983. There has been a lot of enthusiasm locally, and there are even a few ex-Edinburghers and others from south of the border who like to do a bit of recording when they come 'home'! Altogether there are nearly 200 recorders on the books, about 250 squares 'taken', and 50 of these completed. The next important stage will be to get the data on to computer, and to start checking and analysing it. Ultimately the aim is

to produce species and vegetation maps as well as a more traditional Flora.

Recording involves trying to make a complete list of the plants in the square, with a note of their habitats and an estimate of their overall frequency on a 4-point scale. The record so far is 423 species, an impressive total even allowing for subspecies. It is a challenging business, but an excellent way of improving one's botany - with a judicious choice of squares one can include a good variety of habitats. One may even come to know and love a few different types of dandelions and brambles, though personally I was not too disappointed to learn that the Euphrasias in East Lothian are so interbred it is not considered worth while trying to separate them.

What about the results so far? Well, recorders vary in experience, so there has been a series of field trips and evening 'workshops' which give people a chance to get together, exchange notes and learn something new. We hope to end up with a local pool of keen and experienced field botanists - always assuming that over-exposure has not cured them of botany for life by the end of the project! Then there is the new information which is coming in. Douglas McKean at the RBG herbarium has been handling 'unknown' and critical specimens and reports that a number of species have turned out to be much more widespread than was previously thought - Fallopia convolvulus for example, and others have turned up after long years unrecorded (Salix repens, Polygonum viviparum, Scleranthus annuus); while new records include Polygonum boreale (Inchkeith), Salix acutifolia and S. myrsinifolia (Midlothian), Catabrosa aquatica (West Lothian), and a large number of Bromus species (carinatus, erectus, inermis, rigidus and secalinus). Another 'spin-off' is the publication of interim plant lists. These are intended primarily for Lothians recorders, but they will be made more widely available. Alan Silverside and Helen Jackson have been working on East Lothian for some time now, and their list, which includes notes on frequency and some site information, should be published later this spring. It might have appeared earlier had they not shown it to various interested parties who promptly suggested additions and alterations - so it's already had its first revision! I understand that Douglas McKean has a similar list well under way for Midlothian, and I am about to get going on West

Lothian.

West Lothian seems to be the Cinderella county as far as interest and records are concerned. However Nick Stewart did a lot of work there for the NCC, so there is a substantial amount of information to be added to the records. I fear publication will have to be delayed until next spring however. A new botany season looms and the BSBI Monitoring Scheme is upon us. At least the Botany of the Lothians BSBI schemes fit together fairly well, with a 'Lothians' square conveniently embedded in each BSBI quadrat. But there's a lot of work ahead, so I'm looking forward to a busy, but I hope enjoyable, summer.

(Jackie Muscott is the new West Lothian BSBI Recorder)

Anyone interested in recording for the Botany of the Lothians should contact :-

Dr P.M. Smith, Department of Botany, University of Edinburgh, The Kings Buildings, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JH.

The Field Club Flora of the Lothians is obtainable, price £1.50 (plus postage), from the Edinburgh Natural History Society - contact :-

Mrs A. Gillespie, 11 Drylaw Crescent, Edinburgh EH4 2AU

The East Lothians Plant List will be published at around £2.00. Anyone interested should contact :-

Miss J. Muscott, 69 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh EH9 1ES

POA COMPRESSA IN THE GLASGOW AREA P. MACPHERSON & A.McG. STIRLING

We have been informed (P.J.O. Trist/personal communication) that Poa compressa (Flattened Meadow-grass) is now very scarce in East Anglia, the reason being that its former habitat of old flint walls with lime mortar fall down and are seldom repaired. He considers that the grass may become very rare in the British Isles

before very long.

As it was our impression that P. compressa was of frequent occurrence in the Glasgow area (e.g. having seen it 8 adjacent 1 km squares on either side of the Clyde in the past three years), we decided to pool the records for the Vice-counties of which we have been Recorders (Lanark, VC 77 and Dunbarton, VC 99) and/or for the rectangle being surveyed for the projected 'Flora of Glasgow' (Dickson 1984). In addition we have included other records compiled for the Flora (mostly by J.H. Dickson and K. Watson) as at December 1986.

Within the past four years, the grass has been recorded in 21 of the 90 tetrads which make up the Glasgow rectangle. In some tetrads there is only one site, but others have 2 to 4 colonies in different 1 km squares and in different habitats.

Tetrad habitats, singly or in combination, have been as follows :- Disused railways 9, motorway verges 5, coal bings 4, dock/quayside 4, waste ground 4, roadside 2, farmland 1 and refuse tip 1. Hubbard (1968) states that P. compressa is widespread in the British Isles, except for north Scotland, Ireland and Wales; in some districts of frequent occurrence, in others uncommon to rare; in poor thin grassland, dry banks and on waste ground, mostly on shallow, well drained soils, and commonly on old walls and ruins.

Hennedy (1865) and Lee (1933) both considered the plant to be very rare in the Clyde drainage area on walls and bare places. On the other hand, Grierson (1931) considered it to be frequent and well established on dry waste ground around Glasgow and as a casual on coups.

In the Atlas of the British Flora (1962), records are concentrated in England with only 18 for the whole of Scotland and with only one pre-1930 record for the Glasgow area. During 1986 we found that our sites from previous years had persisted with two exceptions - that on the refuse tip and that on Queens Dock on which the Scottish Exhibition Centre is now built.

Our researches have confirmed that P. compressa is of frequent occurrence in Glasgow. Although some sites are at risk from land development this grass is likely to persist as long as suitable habitats remain.

References

Grierson, R. (1931). Clyde Casuals 1916-1928. Glas.Nat.

9, 5 - 51

Lee, J.R. (1933) The Flora of the Clyde Area. Glasgow.

MARY McCALLUM WEBSTER'S BOTANICAL PARAPHERNALIA

Mrs Olga Stewart has contributed the following notes.

'The botanical specimens remaining in Mary's cottage at the time of her death went to the RBG Herbarium in Edinburgh. They already possess a very large collection that she gave them through the years. Cambridge, Kew, the British Museum and Aberdeen University are the other main holders of her specimens, though there were many other recipients - Leicester University and the University of Natal for example. Her slide collection has been divided into three. From Mary's photographs Edinburgh were able to fill in a large number of British plants that were missing in their collection. Kew received all her African slides, to join her collection of grass specimens there. The remainder, a few British and a large number from her other expeditions abroad - Switzerland, U.S.A. Australia etc., went to the Botany School at Cambridge. Her field cars were sent to the recorders. Although she had kept them informed, there were still records of interest. Her annotated copy of the 'Atlas' was given to the BSBI and her botanical books are being sold by Perring Publications for her niece, her next-of-kin.

Mary's friends will be interested to know that the dried flowers, flower arrangements, drift wood etc - everything in her attic, were sold in aid of the Hospice at Inverness and realised £600 for their funds!.

BSBI MONITORING SCHEME IN SCOTLAND

TIM RICH

The Monitoring Scheme is already off and rolling, and will no doubt gather more momentum as soon as Spring arrives. Although the botanical seasons are always somewhat later to start in Scotland, I've been surprised at just how much some recorders have already been able to do - Bernard Thompson leads the country at the moment for completed cards sent in. I also hear snippets about excursions - Alison Rutherford managed about 50 species in 26/47 in poor weather on 3 January. The Murrays have been busy in Skye, the spectacular views more than compensating for the unspectacular botany so early in the year -

they await the first flowers and larks of the season. Elsewhere reconnaissance has been the order of the day; Mary Martin has already investigated many of her selected tetrads.

Scotland has many problems with access and terrain for recording, ranging from the Dutchman's Cap (VC 103) and the west Flannan Isles (VC 110) to one of Alf Slack's squares which is miles from the nearest road. The areas where help is particularly needed are shown on the accompanying map (please use in conjunction with BSBI News 45) and we would be delighted if any botanists can help. As Scotland has fewer botanists, coverage will not be anywhere as extensive as in the south, so go for quality not quantity! Lists of Squares in Scotland are available on request to me.

We have just reprinted the species record card with larger type. If anyone still has problems in the field, would they please let me know and I'll see what I can do to help. Meanwhile, look after yourselves, and happy recoding - it would be nice to find yet another species 'new to Britain' during the Survey!

HELP NEEDED FOR MONITORING SCHEME

HENRY NOLTIE

As readers will know from Tim Rich's article and from the latest issue of BSBI News, the Monitoring Scheme gets under way this summer. Since it is based on only a sample of 10 km squares, it is important that all these are covered adequately. Obviously coverage of some of the larger and more remote vice-counties is going to require a special effort. Help is needed in particular with the following VCs : 72 (Dumfries), 91 (Kincardine), 95 (Moray), 97 (Westerness), 98 (Argyll), 103 (Mull, Coll and Tiree), 105 (Wester Ross), 106 (Easter Ross), 108 (West Sutherland), 109 (Caithness), 110 (Outer Hebrides), 111 (Orkney) and 112 (Shetland).

I would be extremely grateful to hear from anyone who intends holidaying in any of these areas, or who would be prepared to make special recording trips. I can then put volunteers in touch with the appropriate VC Recorder who can say where help would be most useful. In this way we can ensure full coverage for Scotland and not let the side down!

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(Tim Rich and Henry Noltie are National Organiser and

Scottish Co-ordinator (respectively for the Monitoring Scheme).

JUNCUS SUBULATUS AT GRANGEMOUTH VC 86 OLGA STEWART

Juncus subulatus was first found at Grangemouth by Nick Stewart in 1983 in an extensive area of reclaimed land east of the docks. It was then a 2 ft square patch which has now extended to 6 ft by 8 ft. Since 1966 (the date of the O.S. map) an embankment has been built along where the Grange Burn flows into the River Forth. The sides have been built up by boulders and stones and infilled. I don't know with what material, but certainly the upper surface is alluvial mud.

The area where the Juncus grows has three shallow pools and the rush grows in one of them in an open space 4 yards square bounded by Phragmites. Agrostis stolonifera and Agropyron repens surround it, and Scirpus maritimus and Triglochin maritima are other associates. Aster tripolium is present in muddy hollows. The drier ground has Calamagrostis epigeios in plenty, this having spread from other areas in the docks where it is abundant. It also grows elsewhere in the Grangemouth and Bo'ness district. Other species in the vicinity included Cochlearia officinalis, Juncus gerardii, J. maritimus, Puccinellia distans and Ranunculus sceleratus in dampish areas, with Carduus acanthoides and a number of commoner waste ground species on drier areas near the road. On the reclaimed land on the east side of the Grange Burn the dominant plant is Atriplex littoralis. I also found, on the west side of the road, Hieracium strumosum, a native in England but an introduction in Scotland.

It is difficult to decide how Juncus subulatus originally arrived at Grangemouth. It is not close to where ships dock, and for a bird to bring seed from the Mediterranean, where it is native, is improbable. The only other locality where it grows in the British Isles is in a marsh near the sea at Berrow in Somerset.

(For an account of J. subulatus at Berrow, see Watsonia 4, 211-217. 1960)

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..... A giant cupboard, that is. My great green-painted example came from Rosneath Castle (now gone). My mother bought it for its original purpose - linen storage, but later it became surplus and found its way to our antique shop, and minus the doors was used as display shelves. It nearly got sold, but it occurred to me that it was too useful to part with.

The size is considerable; almost 6 feet high, with shelves nearly 18 inches deep and just under 5 feet wide. These stretch right across, and like the stout double doors are of thick, knot-free pine - they knew how to build in those days! The shelves are so sturdy they easily bear, without protest, a heavy old-fashioned typewriter being dumped down hard.

The cupboard houses a varied collection of botanist's paraphernalia - large- and small-scale maps, recording scheme field cards, files of non-native species, distribution maps for the county flora, 700 Hedera records, typewriter cleaning equipment and spare ribbons, drawing and wrapping paper, envelopes, etc. etc. The insides of the two doors serve as useful 'notice boards' - a marked map of VC 99 on the left and programmes of horticultural and botanical societies on the right.

I often wonder how the voluminous note-writing Victorian botanists coped with space (or lack of it) and admire people who are able to contain their findings in a little box, or who have the sort of modern decor which allows a 'working corner' as depicted in glossy magazines, with a purpose-built desk with only the necessary tools on it - typewriter, paper, pens, and adjustable lamp all neat and ready; but how many of us function like this, or are lucky enough to have a room like a study or library where everything may be left out, and be able to heat it?

Nowadays do we need more space? Electronic typewriters occupy more table area than an office manual; those moving on to a word processor or computer find they need a 'work station' to accommodate them. And the way papers of all kinds expand when you take them out of packets to use them is alarming! The Monitoring Scheme will add to the volume. How do you store your papers? I'd like to learn how others cope with things like computer recoding schemes or even multi-paper ones - are they spread over several houses, or stored in a convenient university? Are some

schemes really not suited to family life unless there is an east wing to spare? Or are only batchelors or women of a somewhat bohemian outlook likely to remain unruffled by the expansion. Do they only suit untidy families who live in an organised guddle - papers, dogs, plants, ironing and offspring happily mixed?

Having a place for everything and everything in its place doesn't mean you won't occasionally lose, sometimes for ever, vital things like letters, pressed voucher specimens, handbooks, stamps, envelopes or biros, but it helps to feel you might be super-efficient.

ORKNEY PLANTS - A CORRECTION

ELAINE R. BULLARD

An extract from Bull. Orkney Field Club 1985 (1): 16 (1985) appears in BSBI Abstracts Part 16, July 1986. Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding, all the plants mentioned in the Bulletin article are taken as possibly extinct. In fact, at least two species - Arctostaphylos alpinus and Ajuga pyramidalis were merely mentioned 'in passing', the first in a possible case of mistaken identity, and are not extinct. A correction will be included in the next issue of BSBI Abstracts, but as at least one member has expressed anxiety it seems advisable to give some reassurance in advance. Incidentally, Potamogeton praelongus, also included as possibly extinct, has since been refound. It is nice to know that members are concerned about the flora of Orkney, but the lone Recorder would appreciate a call when they are in the Islands!

WINTER 'MONITORING' IN SKYE

CATRIONA MURRAY

The report of 'An Early Start' in the far south prompts me to let you know what was going on at the other end of the country - in the Isle of Skye (VC 104). Nothing happened on 1st January - no, we hadn't overdone New Year celebrations. Here it was raining and blowing a gale.

The 'luck of the draw' has given us some very dull 10 km squares, or squares with large chunks of sea. Anyone combining a holiday with recording on Skye won't get near the Cuillin, the Storr-Quirang ridge or the limestone are at Suardal. 17/59, Point of Sleat, is two miles from the nearest motorable road. On Rum, 17/29 is a tiny piece of inaccessible cliff.

We began, when the sun came out and the wind abated,

with a visit to 18/52J on 7.1.87. This is a stretch of bleak moorland intersected by a main road and rising on the west side of the tetrad to Beinn Dearg Mhor (2,401 feet, one of the Red Hills). We got as far as Coire nan Laogh (c. 1200 ft), by which time the snow was several inches deep. The circuit of about two miles had raised the magnificent total of 25 recognisable plants, none of them remarkable.

We did better just over two weeks later (24.1.87) on the eastern side of 18/55A (total 70), avoiding until later more bleak moorland to the west, between the coast and Storr Lochs. There was more variation - steep grass slopes, a small wooded ravine which produced a possible new square record (Veronica montana?) and dripping coastal cliffs (Jurassic) covered in Saxifraga aizoides and the remains of Equisetum telmateia. 18/55 is mostly sea, with the Sound of Raasay between the coast of Skye and two tetrads (W,V) on north Raasay where Fladday can only be reached with a boat, or over a causeway at low tide - a challenge for summer visitors! 18/55 has the distinction, in spite of the limited area of land, of having every possible Equisetum species on the card (8) plus one of Chris Page's hybrids.

On 28th January more bleak moorland in 18/25W produced only 25 species in recognisable condition, though this tetrad had a different sort of reward. From Beinn Creagach (1075 ft), an undistinguished hill on the Vaternish peninsula, there was a view in all directions, on a clear sunny day, to the snow-covered Cuillin, and beyond them to Rum, Canna and Ardnamurchan, even to the Outer Isles. Better visibility than on many days in summer!

The latest expedition was to 18/55J on 7th February. This presents problems, as the way south along the base of the cliffs from the Lealt gorge is barred by a 'nose' jutting into the sea, with no way round even at low tide. A possible approach is down very steep grass (my husband has a theory that if a slope is grassy then it's climbable, but sometimes I'm not convinced!) - to the shore at Eaglais Bhreagach (= False Church - a big rock on the shore with a wave-worn hole for a door!). This offers some scrub woodland with, from the evidence of dead leaves blown up to the cliff top, Salix caprea, but it's not worth the effort in winter, and we admired the snow covered peaks of Wester Ross instead. Total species

recorded - 55.

The highest point to be investigated in VC 104 is not even a major summit - the tetrad 18/52W includes no less than seven named corries of the Beinn Cailleach (Broadford) group, but not the most north-eastern section (and top) of Beinn Cailleach itself. We shall keep that tetrad until the snow leaves the north-facing ridges clear for another hunt for possible Loisleuria procumbens.

Eric Philp wasn't the only one to break the rules for recording cards. The print on the blue card (and on the new 'Scotland' 10 km square card) is far too small for reading (even with glasses) in poor light, and I am using 'old' Scottish cards in the field, to be transferred later! The same card can be used for more than one visit if different colours are employed for different dates.

NCC ASSISTANT REGIONAL OFFICERS

BSBI vice-county recorders should get to know their local AROs (see Chairman's message). These individuals are the NCC's representatives in the field at district level and can be valuable contacts in numerous ways.

It is now some years since we last published a list of AROs in Scotland with their districts, addresses and telephone numbers. The following is, to the best of our knowledge, the current situation :-

NORTH EAST REGION

Badenoch and Strathspey Districts, Nairn District, Moray District (Kirkmichael Parish)

N.E. Buxton, Achantoul, Aviemore, Inverness-shire
Tel. 0479-810477

Shetland

M.G. Richardson. 1 ab Alexandra Wharf, Lerwick, Shetland
Tel. 0595- 3345 and 3020

Orkney

P. Reynolds, Government Buildings, Old Scapa Road, Kirkwall, Orkney. Tel. 0856-5302

Kincardine and Deeside District, Aberdeen City, Gordon District (except coastal zone and Huntly area)

P.I. Rothwell, Wynne Edwards House, 17 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen AB1 1XE Tel. 0224-642863

Banff and Buchan District, Moray District (except Kirkmichael Parish), Gordon District (coastal zone and Huntly area), entire Culbin SSSI.

S.G. North, Highfield, Stephen Avenue, Dufftown, Keith, Banffshire. Tel. 0340-20505

NORTH WEST REGION

Caithness

Miss L.V. Cranna,
Old Bank Road, Golspie, Sutherland KW10 6RS
Tel. 040-83-3602

Sutherland

T.H. Keatinge (South East)

MS K. Scott (North East)

Address as Caithness

Lochaber

Miss R. Scott, Governor's House, The Parade, Fort William, Inverness-shire. Tel. 0397-4716

Skye and Lochalsh

A. Currie, Glaiseilean, Broadford, Isle of Skye
Tel. 047-12-344

Western Isles

I.S. Angus.

Western Isles (south)

Miss M.M. Elliott
16 West Geirinish, South Uist. Tel. 087-05-227

SOUTH EAST REGION

Lothians

Dr F. Symonds, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh EH9 2AS
Tel. 031-447-4784

Tayside (Perth and Kinross District)

Dr R.A.H. Smith, Cleeve Gardens, Oakbank Road, Perth
PH1 1HG Tel. 0738-39746

Tayside (Angus and Dundee District)

N.L.R. Gubbins, 9 Castle Street, Forfar, Angus
Tel. 0307-68313

Borders

C.O. Badenoch, 38 Gala Park, Galashiels. Tel. 0896-56652

Central Region

D.M. Bayne,

Clackmannan and Falkirk

Ms C. Crawford

Airthrey Castle Annex, University of Stirling, Stirling
FK9 4LA Tel. 0786-75679

Fife

Dr I.M. Strachan, 46 Crossgate, Cupar, Fife KY5 5HS
Tel. 0334-54038

SOUTH WEST REGION

North Argyll (north of Crinan Canal), Cowal, Bute, islands of Coll, Tiree, Mull, Lismore, Luing, Scarba and Colonsay.

P. Wormell, NCC Office, Barcaldine, Argyll. Tel. 063-172-363

Knapdale, Kintyre, Islay, Jura

Miss M. Hughes, Quinhill, Clachan, Tarbert, Argyll
Tel. 088-04-272

Ayrshire and Clydesdale

J.P. Burlison, 2 Beresford Terrace, Ayr. Tel. 0292-261392

Dumfries and Galloway Region

Miss A.G. Carstairs, (Dumfries and Galloway)

Dr L.V. Fleming (Dumfriesshire)

Mrs D. Reed (Wigtown District)

106 High Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire DG5 4HB
Tel. 0556-610086

NORTH WEST REGION

S. Payne (Inverness-shire)

Dr A.J. Watson (Ross & Cromarty)

9 Culduthel Road, Inverness IV2 4AG Tel. 0463-239431

BSBI COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND

The following is the composition of the Committee from November 1986 to November 1987 :-

Chairman - Dr R.A.H. Smith; Vice-Chairman - A.McG. Stirling
Secretary/Treasurer - Dr P. Macpherson; Field Meetings
Secretary - H.J. Noltie; Minutes Secretary - Nrs M.
Barron; Meetings Secretary - Miss J. Muscott. Members
of Committee - Dr J.H. Dickson; Dr H.A. Lang; S. Payne;
M.M. Scott; A.A.P. Slack and Miss H. Stace.

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

At the AGM on 7th November 1987 three members will be
elected to the Committee. The retiring members will be
Dr H.A. Lang, Dr R.A.H. Smith and A.A.P. Slack, the first
two being 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 although not resident there, 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 30th September 1987.

Peter Macpherson, Hon. Secretary, Committee for Scotland