

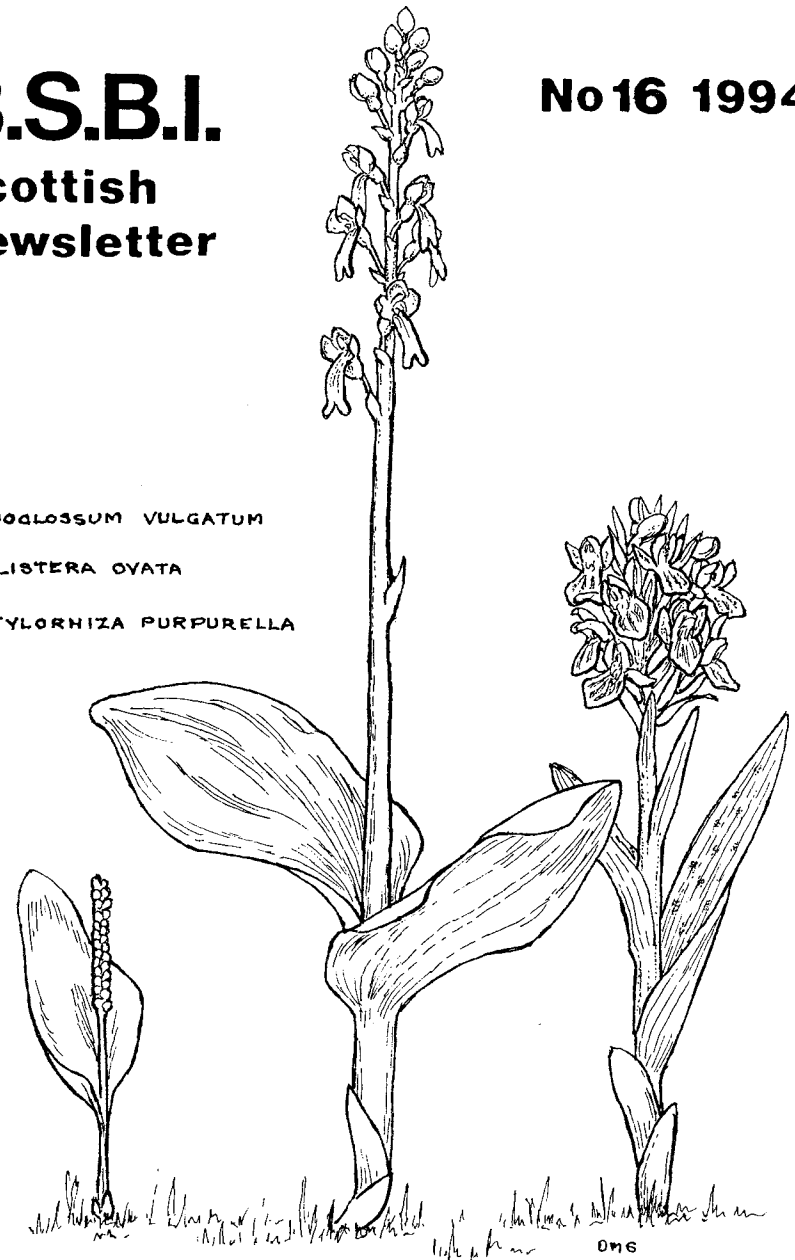
B.S.B.I.
Scottish
Newsletter

No 16 1994

OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGATUM

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BSBI SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER

Number 16

Spring 1994

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Editorial

We are delighted that this year so much copy has been submitted spontaneously and that all has been considered worthy of publication.

In addition, in view of the ever increasing number of bodies connected with conservation and the amalgamation or splitting up of existing bodies with resultant proliferation of unfamiliar acronyms, we have invited contributions from organisations and individuals. We appreciate that the exercise is in no way exhaustive and would be pleased to receive further related items for the next issue.

Every *Scottish Newsletter* has had a cover illustration drawn by Olga Stewart. We have always asked for a specific subject, either related to Scottish botany or to complement an article. This year we considered it appropriate to invite Mrs Stewart to do a drawing, of her own choice, to illustrate her own paper.

In our continuing efforts to improve the quality of the newsletter, facilities will be available for the 1995 issue to enable us to reproduce illustrations and graphics. Contributors are therefore encouraged to keep this in mind when preparing articles for submission.

As a result of the recent "advertisement" in *BSBI News* we welcome a number of new subscribers from furth of Scotland and hope that they will find our Newsletter of interest.

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Chairman's Remarks

RWM CORNER

Winter is the time for browsing through Floras and extracting records which can be followed up in the summer. I came across this old reference which I think will interest readers. It is from "The New Botanist's Guide to the Localities of the Rarer Plants of Britain" by the famous H C Watson, published in 1837. Under "Edinburghshire" the present day Midlothian. There is this reference to *Linnaea borealis* "Banks of the Esk at Dalhousie. Br Fl. (This locality is erroneous, but we learn from the Excursions that there is another, and however averse to the concealment of botanical stations in general, I must allow it to be justifiable when the herbivorous rapacity of Dr Graham's regiment of botanists comes in question)". Dr Graham was the Professor of Botany at Edinburgh at that time and "the regiment" his students.

There was obviously little thought for conservation then, even by those who should have known better. The *Linnaea* has gone from Midlothian probably due to habitat destruction rather than excessive collecting.

Habitat destruction continues to the present day due to economic and business pressures. I was sorry to see that the Auchencorth Moss, to the south of Penicuik, is now being exploited for peat, in spite of being an SSSI. Destruction of raised bogs always seems particularly sad, as there is such a treasure house of post-glacial information locked away in the peat, and the specialised bog flora on the surface has a true boreal feel to it.

It is up to us as members to report potentially damaging plans and activities to Scottish Natural Heritage, Plantlife, or the local BSBI recorder so that the whole situation can be assessed.

Phil Lusby, who is in charge of The Scottish Rare Plant Project would welcome help from local botanists for the long-term monitoring of species. I also hope that members will support The Save the Cairngorms Campaign by taking up the recently publicised individual membership offer.

While there is as yet no commitment with regard to funding, it now seems likely that the "New Atlas" project will go ahead. New field cards have been prepared with the help of the regional co-ordinators and are available for use. I understand that the Scottish Field Cards relate particularly to the area north of the Glasgow/Edinburgh line and that those in the south of Scotland may find the north of England cards more appropriate. We encourage recorders and others to collect appropriate records.

We have another good Summer Field programme ahead, which I hope will be well supported.

Have a good season.

Scottish Annual Meeting

MARK WATSON

The Exhibition Meeting

On a typical early-winter's day in Edinburgh nearly 100 people braved the rather uninspiring weather to attend the Annual Meeting held jointly with the Botanical Society of Scotland, at the Royal Botanic Garden (by kind permission of Prof Ingram, the Regius Keeper). Botanists from all over mainland Scotland, the Hebrides and the Shetland Islands, came to share their experiences and discoveries from a year's field excursions. Although concentrating on Scottish Botany, it is wrong to assume that those south of the border would not be welcome or would not find the event both interesting and enjoyable. This is far from the case, and I was particularly pleased to see people from as far as Aberystwyth and Cambridge attending the meeting. I hope that in the future more botanists will venture north for the Meeting.

Due to the rearrangements at the Royal Botanic Garden in preparation for the new Herbarium extension, the usual laboratory facilities were not available, and the Exhibition was housed in the top floor of the Herbarium. Unfortunately the characteristic spectacular view across the Edinburgh skyline from the herbarium was masked by the low cloud and mist, however, the quality of the 21 exhibits (listed below) and the Perrings' Natural History bookstall were more than enough to occupy one's attention. Douglas McKean presented several displays covering notable plants; eg *Apium inundatum*, *Linnaea borealis*, and *Festuca altissima*, uncovered during a year's fieldwork for the Botany of the Lothian project, and New-Zealand weeds naturalised at the RBGE (discovered during his lunch breaks?) Amid the other posters of interesting vice-county records, were other exhibits on particular plant groups such as ivies, bird seed aliens and orchids. The smallest (but not to say the least interesting) exhibit was Richard Gulliver's pot of *Chamaemelum nobile* (Chamomile). This is a nationally scarce plant, collected from its only Scottish locality, growing by roadsides and tracks on the Isle of Colonsay (Inner Hebrides).

The Scottish Recorders' Meeting

Before lunch, the meeting of the Scottish vice-county recorders was particularly well attended, as 32 out of the 38 recorders listened to Martin Wigginton (JNCC) talk on the preparation for the third edition of the *British Red Data Book*. He circulated a list of candidate plants for inclusion and exclusion. Martin noted the paucity of data for Scottish rarities, and made a plea for new field records. Phil Lusby presented a progress report on the Scottish Rare Plants project, and Chris Sydes (SNH) stressed the importance of amateur organisations in the monitoring of rare plant populations, a point taken up strongly by Frank Perring the new President of the BSBI.

David McCosh gave an update on the new "Atlas" and Chris Preston on the Monitoring Scheme and the Scarce Plant Project.

AGM of the BSBI Scottish Section

In the afternoon 55 members were present at the Scottish Region Annual General Meeting, where the resurrection of a Scottish Recording Conference (to alternate with the biennial BSBI Recorders Conference) was discussed. Although thought to be a good idea, the problems of timing and lack of firm commitment from possible participants meant that further planning would be deferred to future years. Mrs Joan Clark was thanked for compiling a list of Gaelic plant names for inclusion in the BSBI Data Base, as was Bernard Thompson for having carried out so well the duties of Field Meetings Secretary. During the meeting Mrs Olga Stewart and Mrs Barbara Hogarth were elected on to the Scottish Committee. A short meeting of the Scottish Committee followed where the officers and representatives were detailed, Dr Rod Corner was re-elected Chairman and Dr Peter Macpherson as Secretary.

Lecture

After tea 70 people were welcomed by Jackie Muscott, President of the BSS, who invited Allan Stirling to talk on his vice-county of Ayrshire. As well as talking on the history of plant recording and splendidly illustrating the local plant rarities and specialities of Ayrshire, Allan discussed the varied geology and topography that dictate the habitats in which these plants are found. Particular attention was drawn to the flora of Ailsa Craig, included, perhaps surprisingly in VC 75 rather than with the other Clyde Isles. Interesting local species illustrated included *Minuartia verna* (Spring Sandwort), a feature of the serpentinite of Lendalfoot, *Crithmum maritimum* (Rock Samphire), a coastal species near the northern limit of its British distribution and *Atropa belladonna* (Deadly Nightshade), from sandy waste ground at Stevenston where white-flowered forms of *Epilobium angustifolium* (Rosebay Willow-herb) and *Centaureum erythraea* (Centaury) also occur.

Supper / Slides

In the evening 51 stayed on to participate in the Buffet supper and slide show. This year we were fortunate in being allowed to hold the supper in the RBGE Exhibition Hall. As the Hall has a permanent display of posters, demonstration materials and "Hands-on-Plants" exhibits, diners could be both mentally and physically nourished. After supper we returned to the lecture theatre for the usual light-hearted review of the year, the slides and comments hosted by myself. Over 100 slides were shown, a good mixture ranging from field meetings and personal experiences of the Braer Oil Disaster in the Shetlands to *Sedum villosum* in the Borders. Many people were taken by the

Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) on Rannoch Moor, but the Oyster Plant (*Mertensia maritima*) from the Ayrshire coast must take the prize for the most illustrated plant of the evening.

As organiser I am very grateful to all those who helped to make the event a success; particularly Douglas McKean for his help with the exhibits and Sabina Gardner for providing the vital mid-afternoon refreshments on behalf of the Botanical Society of Scotland.

List of Exhibits

M. Bates	Scottish Wild Orchids
M Braithwaite	Berwickshire Botany 1993
P Cochrane	Botany of the Lothian project
R W M Corner	Hybrids and Other Plant Records from Southern Scotland
J H Dickson & K J Watson	<i>Fallopia x bohémica</i> near Glasgow
M Dougall	Ancient Woodland of Garscadden
J Edelsten	<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i> A new County record for VC 94
I M and P A Evans	Assynt Field Meeting, June 1993
R Gulliver	One Small Plant [<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i> (Chamomile)]
J Lamond	Tomorrow to Fresh Woods and Pastures New
M Little	Bird Seed Aliens
P Lusby	Scottish Rare Plants Project a report on <i>Monesis uniflora</i>
P Macpherson	Hydrotherapy for Herbarium Material
D R McKean	Interesting Lothian Plants
D R McKean	Naturalised New-Zealand Weeds at the RBGE
D R McKean	Nationally Scarce Plants in Midlothian
D R McKean	Some exotic aquatics naturalised in the Lothians
R R Mill & A Rutherford	A New Subspecies of Common Ivy
O M Stewart	Paintings of Shoddy Aliens from Yorkshire
O M Stewart	Interesting Plant Records from VC 73
A McG Stirling & A Rutherford	Distribution Maps of Introduced Plants in Dunbartonshire

Slides

The following were the contributors:

ME Braithwaite, RWM Corner, JH Dickson, J Edelsten, L Farrell, H Lang, MEP Little, K MacKay, J Muscott, FH Perring, AA Slack and A McG Stirling.

Thermophilous Plants on the coast of NE Scotland DAVID WELCH

Thermophyles in this article are taken to be warmth-loving species in the context of the temperature variation within Britain.

The occurrence of these species at or near the coast in NE Scotland has received little attention in comparison to the many studies on the oceanic species of NW Scotland. This is partly due to the distributions of the required habitats. Sites where thermophiles can thrive are sparsely spread since for ground to be specially warm and free from severe frosts needs the juxtaposition of south-facing slopes or dry soils with closeness to the sea. In contrast, the habitats of oceanic species occur widely in the zone of heavy rainfall and freedom from drought along the Atlantic coast.

It has long been known that several species reach the northern limit of their British range at St Cyrus in Kincardineshire eg *Campanula glomerata*, *Silene nutans*, *Trifolium scabrum* and *T. striatum*: the south-facing braes and cliffs formed of base-rich lava are especially favourable here. But quite a few thermophiles extend further north along the coast, some such as *Juncus inflexus* to Aberdeenshire, others having scattered localities around the Moray Firth.

Examples of thermophilous species that are widespread inland in southern Britain but confined to the coast of NE Scotland include *Allium vineale*, *Apium inundatum*, *Berula erecta*, *Carex otrubae*, *Carlina vulgaris*, *Ranunculus sceleratus*, *Saxifraga tridactylites*, *Tragopogon pratensis* and *Veronica anagallis-aquatica*. These species are all considered to be native in NE Scotland.

But other thermophiles have been judged as introduced (*Foeniculum vulgare*, *Lythrum salicaria* (Trail 1902 and 1904)] or as erroneous records [*Dianthus deltoides* (Trail 1904)], and the status of certain plants found in recent years is doubtful eg *Osmunda regalis* near Peterhead, *Apium nodiflorum* at Hatton north of Aberdeen, and *Lathyrus japonicus* at Nigg just south of Aberdeen.

I believe that some at least of these latter species are native, either having long existed as tiny populations in very favourable positions or having moved north in recent years unassisted by man. For instance *Lythrum salicaria* grows in a marsh at Cruden bay within 400 m of the sea; this is probably Trail's locality (in Cruden by a mill lade) since a ruin and a lade are near. With the other species of the marsh being normal for the area, one would not think *Lythrum* an introduction were it not known that the nearest population is probably 100km away.

For both *Apium nodiflorum* and *Lathyrus japonicus* recent colonisation is the most likely explanation of their occurrence. Both plants are conspicuous and their sites are near roads, the *Apium* being dominant alongside a small stream

bridged by the Aberdeen - Peterhead main road, surely previous Aberdeen Botanists would have noticed it. Perhaps waterfowl and seabirds bring propagules north and with milder winters in the past decade, establishment has become more permanent.

Certain answers to these questions and status can come only from the finding of pollen or plant fragments in dated peat deposits. As yet there are no such studies in the coastal areas of NE Scotland dealing in detail with recent centuries. But *Lythrum salicaria* has been recorded in a peat bed radiocarbon-dated to 34000- 39000 years BP just six kilometres from Cruden Bay. (Whittington *et al* 1993)

References

- Trail, JWT (1902). Additions to the flora of Buchan *Annals Scott, Nat. Hist.* 45 -50.
 Trail, JWT (1904) The flora of Buchan - its distribution, origin and relations to man. *Trans. Buchan Field Club* 8, 2-56.
 Whittington, G, Hall, AM & Jarvis, J (1993). A pre-Late Devensian pollen site from Camp Fauld, Buchan, north-east Scotland. *New Phyt.* 125, 867-874.

E.D.E.N. A New Educational Reserve on the Outskirts of Dumfries

O M STEWART

On the western outskirts of Dumfries is the large Imperial Chemical Industries' factory. It came into existence at the beginning of the war to produce Nitric and Sulphuric acids and gun cotton for munitions for the war effort. In 1939 50 acres of farming land were bought from a Mr James Nodwell. From his displenishing sale it is clear how the land had been used previously. To be sold were eight stacks of oats, two stacks of hay, 40 pits of turnips, four Clydesdale horses, 70 Cheviot sheep and 50 Bullocks - a good example of mixed farming. After the factory was built and commissioned in January 1941, the output for the war effort kept the factory busy, but at the end of the war it closed down, until in 1946 the Olein (Sulphuric acid) plant was recommissioned for nitrocellulose for the making of celluloid. Since then the ICI plant has expanded, many more factory and office buildings have been built and now one of their many products is Propafilm, a fine stable clear film used for food packaging.

An area of five acres on the site has never built on and a few of the factory workers noticed that unusual plants were growing there, so three years ago I was approached to tell them whether they had any flowers of special interest.

I found that there were a lot of Northern Marsh Orchids (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*) growing in fairly dry grassland and I also found several Common Twayblades (*Listera ovata*), a scarce plant in the county VC 73. There were other meadow flowers, Oxeye Daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Meadow Vetchlings (*Lathyrus pratensis*), as well as thistles and knapweeds. The Environmental Manager of the factory, Chris Boston, and the Regional Environmental Education Forum (REEF) got together and approached ICI and persuaded them to allow the area to be used as an educational reserve for local schools. This came into effect last May, and was officially opened by Magnus Magnusson. The local schools were involved even before the opening and the name EDEN - Educational Deeds for Environmental Needs was chosen from the many suggestions produced by the school children. The REEF committee had made plans how to vary the habitat, but still keep its natural wilderness. A slope up to the railway embankment has been planted with native trees donated by local businesses; others gave their expertise and help to the children in planting the trees, which bear their names on the one they have planted.

Before the opening Chris Boston decided he would place a stick beside every Twayblade and during the month the numbers went up from 200 till by the opening there were over 600 plants marked. While we were counting the orchids we discovered a patch of 10 Adder's-tongues (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), only the second extant record in VC 73. This was shown to Magnus Magnusson who confessed that he hadn't seen the fern before.

In EDEN, besides the grassland with the orchids, there are other habitats. There is a small damp area with willows, where they hope to encourage tadpoles and frogs. A bed has been set aside for plants to be propagated and acorns grown. There is a concrete shed with Hart's Tongue (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*) growing on it and it is hoped that bats may be persuaded to make their home there. The railway embankment has a good population of wild roses. There are plenty of rabbits which keep down rank vegetation and in the bare areas annuals such as Parsley Piert (*Aphanes inexpectata*), Wall Speedwell (*Veronica arvensis*) and Changing Forget-me-not (*Myosotis discolor*) have room to grow. There is a mound from previous work which has a good population of Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) as well as Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa ssp nigra*) and in a small part of the grassland one can find Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*) and occasional plants of Prickly Sedge (*Carex muricata ssp lamprocarpa*).

It is a pleasant surprise to find such a collection of interesting plants within the bounds of a large industrial giant factory buildings, and encouraging that the company has gladly sponsored the use of the area for educational purposes.

***Saxifraga aizoides* in Southern Scotland**

ALLAN STIRLING

The Yellow Saxifrage, although a familiar plant north of the Forth-Clyde valley and also occurring locally in the north of England, is extremely rare in the intervening area. The only vice-county on the south Scottish mainland from which it has recently been recorded is Ayrshire where it is distinctly rare.

Druce, in his *Comital Flora* (1932), records it from Dumfriesshire. I have been unable to find any confirmation of its occurrence in that vice-county, and recent check lists (Milne Redhead (1972); Martin (1985)) do not include it, even as a doubtful record.

Roger Hennedy, in his *Clydesdale Flora* (1865), gives Gourock, Renfrewshire (VC 76), as a locality, and this record has been quoted by subsequent authors (Ewing, 1899; Lee, 1933). The occurrence of *Saxifraga aizoides* in the Renfrewshire hills is a possibility, they attain over 500 metres on the boundary with north Ayrshire, though not more than 300 metres above Gourock. Careful search of this upland area of heather moor and basalt crags may yet confirm Hennedy's record.

Yellow Saxifrage was first found in Ayrshire by James Smith of Monkwood, Maybole, in the late 18th or early 19th century 'near Heads of Ayr on ground about 6 feet above sea level, astonishing Watson of "Cybele Britannica" by its lowly habit (sic)'. It still grows there, on a low cliff by a small waterfall just above the shore, apparently an ancient relict site. The other area from which *S. aizoides* has occasionally been reported is the hill country lying inland from Largs and Skelmorlie where it seems to be quite rare. The most recent record is from the Rowantree Hill area west of Brisbane Glen in 10km square NS26.

References

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 Ewing, P (1899) *The Glasgow Catalogue of Native and Established Plants*. Glasgow.
 Lee, JR (1933) *The Flora of the Clyde Area*. Glasgow.

***Corynephorus canescens* in Moray (VC 95)**

JOHN EDELSTEN

On 24th July 1992, David Law showed me two colonies of Greyhair-Grass near Lossiemouth. One was on sandy heathland east of the caravan site (GR NJ/239.699), and the other at Sunbank Park (GR NJ/231.695). Sunbank Park is a new site for this plant. Each colony contains over 2,000 plants.

Sunbank Park is a disused sand and gravel quarry with a few ponds created by gravel extraction. It is leased by Moray District Council and used for

recreational purposes. There has been some controlled dumping designed to reduce the area and depth of the largest pond which is considered to be unsafe for children. A lot of garden refuse has also been dumped there, including *Crassula helmsii* (*New Zealand Pigmyweed*), which is now spreading rapidly and needs controlling. *Corynephorus* is confined to the top and sides of a sandy hillock which appears to be natural, and not created by gravel extraction.

Trist (1991) mentions "The Hillocks" where the plant was well established in the 1930s. This was an area of sandhills south of Lossiemouth now covered by a housing estate. Trist also mentions that in view of proposed development *C. canescens* was transplanted to dunes on Lossiemouth golf course and to gravel flats west of Kingston. "The Hillocks" was 600m NNE of Sunbank, and 700 NW of the caravan site. It would appear that 60 years ago there was a large area of sandy heathland south of Lossiemouth extending for several miles. Most of it is now covered by conifer plantations, housing estates, a caravan park or invaded by whins. Only two small areas remain which are suitable for *Corynephorus*.

On 30th August 1992, I went to Lossiemouth with Eddie Bruce to look at the two sites. At Sunbank there were other interesting plants, including *Hordeum murinum* (*Wall Barley*) and *Descurania sophia* (Flixweed). We also went to the golf course west of Lossiemouth, but were unable to find any *Corynephorus*. We then went to see Roland Richter, and asked him for his account of the translocations in 1974. He said that the plants had been taken from the colony by the caravan site; it was the only one he knew. He had been involved with the introduction on the Lein, west of Kingston, and had been back on two occasions to monitor progress. However, the plants had neither increased nor decreased. He had not been involved in the planting on Lossiemouth golf course.

The two colonies were recorded under the Scarce Plants' Project. I sent a specimen to John Trist who thanked me for it.

On 28th September 1993 I went to Sunbank Park with David Law, now area officer with SNH, and with officials from Moray District Council and members of Lossiemouth Community Council. After a tour of the site it was agreed that the District Council would prepare a management plan which would take account of the botanical interest, including protection of *Corynephorus* and control of *Crassula helmsii*

Reference

- Trist, J (1992) *Corynephorus canescens* (L.) Beauv. in Scotland. *BSBI Scottish Newsletter* 14, 13-15.

Conservation**1. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)**

This body was formed on 1.4.92 by the amalgamation of the Countryside Commission for Scotland (CCS) and the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland (NCCS). SNH is the government body whose aims are to secure the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural heritage and to foster understanding and enjoyment of it. Specific functions include designating and caring for areas to protect habitats, wildlife, and landscape (National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Scenic Areas, Designed Landscapes), promoting the conservation and public enjoyment of the countryside and providing advice to government and others. SNH is organised into four Regions, (NW, NE, SW, SE) based in Inverness, Aberdeen, Clydebank and Perth (Battleby) respectively.. Each Region has a number of Areas, each with an Area Manager and several Area Officers (AO's) responsible for a geographical area. AOs are broadly equivalent to the former NCCS Assistant Regional Officers. (AROs).

2. Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)

The voluntary conservation body financed by public subscription. Organised on a Branch basis in Scotland related in general to old Counties in the more lowland areas of Scotland, and on a Support Group basis in the highlands. Have Reserves and designate Listed Wildlife sites (LWS) and road verges.

3. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Voluntary body for bird conservation. Organised on a regional basis with Conservation Officers with Assistants covering smaller areas. Have Reserves and Local Members' Groups.

4. Woodland Trust

Voluntary body for woodland conservation. Have HQ in Edinburgh and main activity is acquisition and management of Reserves.

5. Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS)

A voluntary body concerned with safeguarding Scotland's countryside. Edinburgh HQ.

6. Biological Recording in Scotland Campaign (BRISC)

Voluntary body who aim to promote and co-ordinate biological recording in Scotland. Operated via SWT HQ in Edinburgh.

7. Scottish Conservation Projects Trust (SCP)

Formerly , British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). A Charity who involve young people in doing practical conservation work. Organised from HQ in Stirling.

8. Friends of the Earth Scotland

Voluntary body which campaigns for conservation. Have local groups.

9. Historic Scotland (HS)

Agency of the Scottish Office. It looks after and lists monuments of architectural and historic interest. HQ in Edinburgh.

10. Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (ITE)

Part of the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) with two Research Stations in Scotland. (Bush, Edinburgh and Brathens, Banchory).

11. National Trust for Scotland (NTS)

Charitable body which aims to promote the preservation of historic or architectural interest or natural beauty. Owns over 100 properties including areas of wild country. Edinburgh HQ and members groups.

12. Scottish Field Studies Association (SFSA)

Educational charity providing field courses based at Kindrogan Field Centre, Strathardle.

13. Scottish Landowners Federation (SLF)

Voluntary federation representing the interests of landowners in Scotland Edinburgh HQ.

14. Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link (SWCL)

Umbrella body for liaison between voluntary organisations to do with the environment in Scotland. HQ in Perth.

15. Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT)

Formerly the Wildfowl Trust. Charity which aims to protect waterfowl in the world. HQ at Slimbridge, Scottish Centre at Caerlaverock.

16. Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Charity which aims to promote conservation of nature. HQ in Aberfeldy and network of supporters groups. Formerly World Wildlife Fund.

*Agriculture***1. Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department (SOAFD)**

This was previously the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland (DAFS). It oversees award of Agriculture grants schemes including those of the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). It is also responsible for Scotland's sea and freshwater fishery industries. Has local offices.

2. Farming and Forestry Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

A voluntary organisation which gives advice to farmers on enhancement of wildlife and landscape. Has a series of 14 advisers mainly appointed on a county basis working for local branches.

3 Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (MLURI)

Independent Institute funded by SOAFD, located in Aberdeen and carrying out research on land use.

4 Scottish Agricultural College (SAC)

Charitable company which organises the agricultural advisory service in Scotland and further education and research in agriculture.

Forestry subject of a separate item.

Others

1 River Purification Boards (RPBs)

Organised on a river catchment basis, they are responsible for pollution control.

2. Scottish Office Environment Department

Formerly the Scottish Development Department (SDD). A Government body and department of the Scottish Office. HQ in Edinburgh.

Forestry Commission *

B H THOMPSON

Since April 1992 its functions have been performed by two bodies. Educational charity providing field courses based at Kindrogan Field Centre, Strathardle.

The Forest Authority - Headquarters at Portcullis House, 21 India Street, Glasgow G2 4PL.

Responsible for training, research, felling, licensing and the administration of the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) for private landowners. It pays supplements for planting native pine in certain areas and for planting community woodlands.

Forest Enterprise - Headquarters at 231 Corstorphine Road Edinburgh EH12 7AT

Responsible for the management of forests and woodlands owned by the nation.

Divided into two conservancies; North (Head Office, Inverness) and South (Head Office Dumfries), each of which is subdivided into Forest Districts (FD) each with its own manager (FDM).

While the primary objective is the commercial production of timber (largely soft-wood) increasing emphasis is being placed on :

- identifying and conserving those areas of particular wildlife value, such as remnants of natural or semi-natural woodland, wetland etc.
- improving existing plantations for visual appeal, for wildlife and for public recreation. This latter objective involves long-term planning to improve the variation in age-structure, the planting of more hardwoods, the removal of conifers planted too close to lochs and streams and the provision of facilities to encourage wildlife such as bird and bat boxes.

* in a Scottish Context

The John Muir Trust - Conserving the Wild

Britain's wild places are under threat, from inappropriate forestry and agricultural activities, bulldozed roads, and the sheer weight of human recreational activities. Little by little each year there is less of the wild.

The John Muir Trust is committed to practical action to conserve our remaining wild places, for their own sake, for the wildlife that depends on them, and for the enjoyment of future generations.

Since its launch in 1988 on the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Scots-born conservationist John Muir, the Trust has:

- Bought over 20,000 acres in three of Scotland's finest wild areas - Knoydart, the Isle of Skye and Sutherland.
- Carried out woodland regeneration projects and mountain footpath repairs on these properties, research surveys into their ecology and archaeology.
- Initiated co-operative conservation projects with local communities and landowners over wider areas of the West Highlands.
- Campaigned for the protection of Britain's remaining wild land and for restoration of native Woodland.

The Trust's 2,700 members are central to its activities. Many of them join in practical conservation work, attend local meetings and lectures and help to purchase wild land. Others are less active, but know that their membership of the Trust helps to safeguard the country's wild land, now and in the future.

Further information available from FREEPOST JOHN MUIR TRUST, Musselburgh, Midlothian EH21 7BR.

**PLANTLIFE - Britain's new Charity
for Conservation of Plants.**

TIM RICH

Plantlife was established in 1989 as an independent charity dedicated to protecting wild plants and their habitats. In essence, it is the "RSPB for plants". The President is David Bellamy and the Director, Jane Smart.

From small beginnings, Plantlife now has 12 staff and a headquarters in the Natural History Museum, London. There are many projects underway and there are numerous ideas for more. We desperately need more members and more funds.

The Peatlands Project has highlighted the plight of bogs as increasing amounts of peat are extracted for horticulture. We are actively promoting alternatives.

The Great Hedge Project initially aimed at linking the west coast of Wales to the east coast of England with one long hedge. The response has been so widespread that we will probably end up with a network of hedges all over Britain!

Research is also being carried out into the effects of global warming on plants in Britain, and another project this year is examining the effects of acid rain.

In Ireland, Plantlife has put up strong opposition to the construction of the new visitor centre at Mullaghmore in the Burren. This unnecessary development will probably result in degradation of one of the prime turloughs and limestone hills by increased visitor pressure.

My "Back from the Brink" project aims to rescue critically endangered plants by research and habitat management. In England, the work is concentrating on three groups which are declining: plants of commons and old ponds (eg Starfruit), mediterranean annuals (eg Hairy Mallow) and plants of woodland glades and edges (eg Green Hound's-tongue). We hope to extend the project to Scotland with Young's Helleborine and Sticky Catchfly.

Membership of Plantlife costs £15 per year. Details can be obtained from PLANTLIFE, the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, LONDON SW7 5BD, or phone 071-938-9111.

Last Call for *Flora Britannica*

PETER MARREN

As many of you know, the *Flora Britannica* project is collecting what survives of our folk culture of wild plants, superstitions, local names, herbal remedies, plants for the dye-pot and the kitchen, historic trees, and anything that adds to the distinctiveness of a particular parish or town.

I have gained a great deal of information about the state of Scottish herbal lore from correspondents in Scotland, from interviews and from library searches, and all this help will be gratefully acknowledged in the book by Richard Mabey, due for publication in 1995/96. The overall impression is that the popular culture of wild flowers and trees is shrinking, but still very much alive among some people and in certain parts of Scotland.

If you are intending to send in stories about wild plants (of whatever kind however "trivial" so long as they concern links between people to-day and wild flowers, trees and ferns), now is the time to do so. Richard Mabey has already started writing the *Flora*, but can continue to incorporate new stories provided they are sent expeditiously.

If you hadn't heard about the project and would like to learn more, please contact me at the address below and I will send you a copy of the colour booklet on the project.

Thanks to all of those who have contributed (and a gentle nudge to all those other county recorders who haven't yet returned their pre-paid envelopes).

Newtown Lodge
Newtown Road
Ramsbury
Marlborough
Wilts SN8 2QD

Phone / ansaphone 0672 21091
Fax 0692 20654

(Yes , but I used to live in Scotland)

Glasgow Garden Festival Site P MACPHERSON & E K LINDSAY
Re-visited

A previous paper (Macpherson 1993) reported on the plants present at the Glasgow Garden Festival site (VC 77) in 1991, three years after the event. During the subsequent two years we have paid regular visits and made additional records.

At the extreme east and west of the site there has been housing development and part of the south landscaped but retaining the waterfall and pond features. There has also been infilling of the south end of the canting basin. There are a few residual artificial banks but the bulk of the area is flat waste ground apart from a number of soil heaps.

Some of the more interesting plants which had arrived by natural dispersal or unintentional introduction are still present eg *Carex buechananii*, *Erigeron canadensis*, *Herniaria glabra* and *Lepidium virginicum*, as well as some which have spread from planted material eg *Ranunculus lingua*.

As before, plants have not been recorded if growing only on banks at the site of original planting.

Plant recording

We have classified additional records into the same six categories as used in the original report.

Plants of the Scottish Field Card

We have made an additional 10 records in this category (Table 1) to bring the total to 204. Most may be regarded as having arrived by natural dispersal. One plant of Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) was noted in a plot of planted shrubby trees; Spring Beauty (*Claytonia perfoliata*) on a soil heap and presumably brought in with the soil; a Bay Willow (*Salix pentandra*) just under four feet in height and growing on waste ground (this species has been seen also on grassy waste ground elsewhere in the city at sites where it is apparently self sown); Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) was an unexpected find, there being a small patch on a grassy bank and another, 400 yards away on stoney waste ground.

Plants presumed to have arrived by natural spread but not on the field card.

An additional six taxa (Table 2) bring the total to 42. Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*) is the only one in which there is doubt about its mode of introduction. Other *Anthyllis* subspecies have been recorded recently in the

Glasgow area. In some the introduction has possibly been with seed but in other cases plants have simply appeared on waste ground. The festival site plant also was growing on stoney waste ground.

Table 1 - Additional records of plants on the Scottish Field Card.

<i>Arctium minus</i> -	Lesser Burdock
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> -	Hairy Bitter-cress
<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i> -	Spring Beauty
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i> -	Broad-leaved Helleborine
<i>Gallium mollugo</i> -	Hedge Bedstraw
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> -	Ribbed Melilot
<i>Poa pratensis</i> -	Smooth Meadow-grass
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> -	Lesser Celandine
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> -	Yellow-rattle
<i>Salix pentandra</i>	Bay Willow

Table 2 Additional plants presumed to have arrived by natural spread.

<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch
ssp <i>carpatica</i> var <i>pseudov.</i> -	White Melilot
<i>Melilotus alba</i> -	Wild Mignonette
<i>Reseda lutea</i> -	Creeping Yellow-cress
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i> -	Bramble
<i>Rubus latifolius</i> -	Willow hybrid
<i>Salix caprea</i> x <i>S. cinerea</i>	

Table 3 Additional records of plants spread from planted material

<i>Alnus incana</i> -	Grey Alder
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> -	Buck's beard
<i>Astrantia major</i> -	Astrantia
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Thunberg's Barberry
cv <i>atropurpurea</i> -	American Hazel
<i>Corylus americana</i> -	Foxglove cultivar
<i>Digitalis</i> cv -	Foxglove cultivar
<i>Digitalis</i> cv -	Himalayan Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium himalayense</i> -	Armenian Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium ?psilostemon</i>	Rose-of-Sharon
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i> -	Hidcote's Tutsan
<i>Hypericum</i> x 'Hidcote' -	Wilson's Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera nitida</i> -	Red Bistorte
<i>Persicaria amplexicaulis</i> -	Van Houtte's Spiraea
<i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i> -	Garden Tulip
<i>Tulipa gesneriana</i> -	

Plants presumed to have spread from planted material.

The addition of 15 species in this category (Table 3) brings the total to 77. Some will have spread and are still spreading by seed, whereas others were probably bulldozed into their present locations. There were 11 plants of Grey Alder (*Alnus incana*) all between 1.5 and 2 ft tall and the single American Hazel (*Corylus americana*) was in the same height range.

Nursery Site

As explained previously, adjacent to the Garden Festival site there was an area in which plants were stored, either in containers or shoughed into the ground, while other sites were being prepared. It is still fenced off but as before we were able to find a gap where someone had cut a way in! During our re-survey period we noted only two additions, bringing the total of plants which did not occur elsewhere on the site, to 13. In late 1993 there was a little patch of Narrow-leaved Pepperwort (*Lepidium ruderale*) just inside the gap in the fence and may well have been a bird seed contaminant. *Stephanandra incisa* was also noted for the first time in the autumn of 1993. It is presumably a left-over which has persisted on its own on almost bare waste ground.

Doubtful Status

We have so classified an additional four taxa bringing the total to 19. Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) was growing on a spoil heap with which it was presumably brought. Fox-and-cubs (*Pilosella aurantiacum* ssp *carpathicola*), Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*) and Alison (*Alyssum alyssoides*) are frequently seen in the Glasgow area and possibly spread by natural means, though they could have been features of formal or wild gardens at the time of the festival.

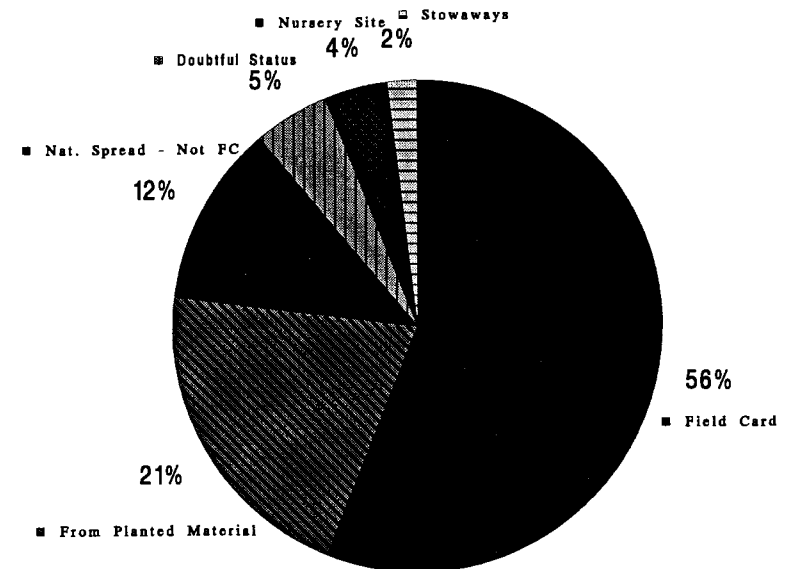
We have allocated only one taxa to the **Stowaway** category increasing the total to eight. The additional plant is Lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius*) which is the subject of a separate report.

Many of the plants listed in the previous report are no longer present but in the subsequent two years a further 38 have been identified. Between three and five years after the event a total of 363 taxa have been recorded in a 'wild state' at the site of the Glasgow Garden Festival (Fig 1).

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the following for help with the identification of plants. JA Ackroyd, EC Clement, J Fryer, D McClintock, DJ McCosh, DR McKean, RD Meikle, TCG Rich, NKB Robson, OM Stewart.

Fig 1 The results of plant recording during the period 1991 - 93 on the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival site. 363 taxa were recorded in all.



Macpherson, P (1993). Colonisation of the Glasgow Garden Festival Site three years on: implications for recording. *Watsonia* 19, 169-179.

Scottish Field Meetings 1994

The following have been arranged. Full details will be found in the BSBI Year Book.

June 11-12	Innerleithen, Peeblesshire [DJ McCosh]
June 18-19	Ardnamurchan, Westernness [IR Bonner]
June 26-July 3	The Uists, Western Isles [RJ Pankhurst & IS Angus]
July 9-10	Kintail, Wester Ross [JHC Fenton]
July 23	Arbroath, Angus [Mrs BG Hogarth]
July 30-Aug 6	Kindrogan Field centre "Sedges and Rushes" [Tutor - AC Jermy]
Aug 6	Coast, Berwickshire [ME Braithwaite]

Leymus arenarius in the Glasgow Area

P MACPHERSON

In 1991 at the site of the Glasgow Garden Festival three clumps of a plant with long broad leaves were seen but not identified. They were noted again in 1992 but it was not until June 1993, when one of the clumps flowered, that it was realised that the plant was Lyme-grass.

In July 1993 two further plants (in flower) were seen at the edge of a disused lorry park in a run-down industrial estate in Rutherglen, Glasgow.

Both sites are in Lanarkshire (VC 77). Being a grass of coastal sandy ground it is not surprising that no other sites are known in the vice-county, or in those parts of Glasgow which are in adjacent vice-counties. Reference to the Glasgow Garden Festival brochure showed that the part on which the Lyme-grass grows was a play area for children at the time of the festival. It is therefore very likely that seed came with sand. An attempt was made to enquire at the industrial estate as to possible source but the firm which had used the lorry park was no longer in business.

The only other occasion on which I have seen *Leymus arenarius* at an inland site was in July 1979 at the side of the A9 north east of Kincaird, VC 96 (GR 843070⁵).

Scottish Rare Plant Project

PHIL LUSBY

Over the last two field seasons the Scottish Rare Plant Project has set-up monitoring schemes and carried out monitoring for the following species.

Lychnis viscaria, *Monesis uniflora*, *Polygonatum verticillatum*, *Saxifraga hirculus*, *Carex norvegica*, *C. buxbaumii*, *Rorippa islandica*, *Ononis reclinata*, *Lychnis alpina* and *Artemisia norvegica*.

Re-monitoring of these populations on a regular 1-3 yearly basis is essential. Anyone who could help re-monitor populations of any of the above species would be greatly appreciated. Full site training in the methods used could be given.

Those interested please contact me at:

Scottish Rare Plant Project office, Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR, Telephone 031-552-7171.

A Sojourn in Shetland

LYNNE FARRELL

On 25th June 1993 I just made the ferry from Aberdeen to Shetland (owing to the non-existence of ferry signposts in the city), to take up a 6-month secondment as Area Manager, Northern Isles, whilst Ruth Briggs was on maternity leave. I'm not a stranger to Orkney or Shetland, having first visited there in 1976. Although late June misses the early flush of growth, it is possible to botanise all year if you have the wish, and some of my best records were found on Fair Isle in October.

Most of the botanising was undertaken at the weekends and in the long summer evenings, as my job involved running the Kirkwall and Lerwick offices of Scottish Natural Heritage and I was often commuting between Aberdeen, Kirkwall and Sumburgh airports. Not quite the Bermuda triangle, but I sometimes ended up at the wrong destination, due to the amazing weather conditions.

In both Orkney and Shetland there are active Field Clubs, and visitors are always encouraged to join outings and evening lectures. Both BSBI recorders, Elaine Bullard, Orkney, and Walter Scott, Shetland, are keen fieldworkers and I was able to tap into their unique and thorough knowledge of their patches.

Being based in Lerwick meant that much of my botanising was in Shetland, although we did have a major success in Orkney when we were able to show the SNH Chairman, Magnus Magnusson, the Scottish Primrose in flower on Westray. We did also visit several meadows which might be suitable for Plantlife to purchase with the financial backing of Timotei.

Just to give you a flavour of the north, I'll relate a few of my outings.

One of the first was a visit to Foula, reached by a four-hour ferry crossing, or ½ hour flight. The latter is recommended. July 14th was a particularly clear, sunny day and as we approached the island, the pilot asked if we wanted a tour - yes, definitely, so we had magnificent views of the western cliffs. Coming in to land wasn't so smooth - just as we approached the landing strip, two sheep ran across and we had to pull up quickly and come in for a second time. The Arctic Terns will nest near the strip and unfortunately several met the propeller blades.

There are no nationally rare plants on Foula, but one of the most interesting species is *Carex paniculata* (Greater Tussock Sedge), which grows in a flattened state and is difficult to distinguish in the surrounding vegetation in the wet, well-grazed marsh at the NE end. 147 'tussocks' were counted, which Mrs Holbourn, the owner's wife thought was a definite increase. A plant that, surprisingly, has not increased was *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese Knotweed), in a croft garden near the harbour.

Foula is dominated by the three summits of The Kame, The Sneug and Hamnafield, reaching 418 metres at the highest point. The eastern slopes are luxuriantly covered with *Luzula sylvatica* (Great Wood-rush) and *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* (Wilson's Filmy Fern) is frequent on the stepped grassland. It is an ideal habitat for fulmars and bonzies (Great Skuas) so you have to watch your head.

The first Shetland Field Studies Group outing I attended proved exciting as we watched a pod of eight killer whales feeding and playing about 200 metres offshore on the west coast in St Magnus Bay. The second trip, utilising the salmon fisherman's boat, took us across to the north shore of Ronas Voe. We then walked the 2½ miles back along the shore at low tide led by Walter Scott, who explained the differences between at least six *Hieracia*, of which *H. breve* was the rarest, scattered along the cliffs. Perhaps the best find of the day was *Isoetes echinospora* (Spring Quillwort) found floating on a brackish lagoon, which was briefly visited by an otter whilst we watched from the slopes above.

As you may have gathered by now, life in Shetland is inseparable from the sea, and as I like messing about in boats, I took every opportunity to reach the smaller islands. One of the most photogenic plants in Shetland is *Aster tripolium* (Sea Aster). The first week in September was a little late to see it in full flower, but with the help of one of the Whalsay fishermen, Arthur Walter and I landed on Isbester Holm and estimated the population to be about 5,000 plants. We then cruised around the east side of Whalsay and located a further 500 plants in small colonies on these cliffs. These are its only location in Shetland, and therefore, the most northerly in Britain. They are rather different from the more usual saltmarsh habitat further south.

Finally, a long weekend trip to Fair Isle in October saw me twitching four bird rarities in passing, and exploring many of the small lochans, as the aquatic vegetation was still green and visible. My most significant find may well be a tangled green mass carefully extricated from other thin green leaves whilst standing up to my thighs one cold Sunday morning in Golden Water. Chris Preston tells me it is *Nitella translucens*, previously recorded from a loch in West Mainland by Druce in 1920! A new locality for *Apium inundatum* (Lesser Marshwort), and *Eleogiton fluitans* (Floating Club-rush), reconfirmed near the airstrip were also part of that productive day. Whilst the birders went to pursue the Black-throated Thrush, I, having been the first to see it with Nick Riddiford, set off to the cliffs and successfully re-found *Ophioglossum azoricum* (Small Adder's-tongue). Can it really be this species fruiting at this time of year?

The moral of the story is there's always something of interest to find, provided you are prepared to get out and about. It has been suggested that I lead a field meeting in Shetland in 1995 and I hope that this can be arranged.

.....

Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve
The Reserve Record
PtII The Flora of the Reserve 91pp.

P MACPHERSON
 (Review)

This Scottish Natural Heritage Research, Survey and Monitoring Report brings together the known botanical interests of the reserve.

The survey comprised Flowering Plants - John Mitchell; Ferns and Fern Allies -Allan McG Stirling; Bryophytes - Allan McG Stirling; Fungi - Roy Watling; 6 Lichens - Brian J Coppins.

In each case the authors have given the historical background to recording in the area, ecological notes on individual species and communities, and comments on the UK/Scottish distribution of the uncommon species. Each contribution concludes with a species checklist of the five islands and the two sections of mainland comprising the reserve.

- **Flowering Plants.** 374 native species, 40 named microspecies, 18 hybrids and 15 introductions have been recorded. Of the natives and introductions 12% are confined to the islands and 33% to the mainland. Four are so restricted in national distribution as to be included in the *British Red Data Book* of endangered vascular plants.
- **Ferns and Fern Allies** Of the 29 taxa presently recorded, 82% occur on the islands and only 54% on the mainland portion. Two horsetails, one fern and one fern hybrid occur only on the mainland area, while 12 taxa are found only on the island section.
- **Bryophytes.** 172 mosses and 68 hepatics have been recorded.
- **Fungi.** A total of 627 species, including over 380 larger fungi are so far known from the reserve, but it is interesting to note that 98 other larger fungi are known from the Loch Lomond area.
- **Lichens.** During the course of a survey 1974 - 1984, a total of 357 species was recorded (21.5% of the British Lichen flora).

The authors are to be congratulated. The surveys have all been extensive and detailed and the information has been presented in an interesting fashion. Further, each section is well referenced. The only disappointment is that the work of this survey has been produced only as an internal report. However, a copy has been deposited in the libraries of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and of the Glasgow Natural History Society.

Roses of Great Britain and Ireland

GEORGE BALLANTYNE

In November 1993 the BSBI published its latest Handbook (no.7) with the above title, written by Gordon Graham and Tony Primavesi. It is apt that they begin thus: "Roses are among the most familiar and ubiquitous of plants, yet their identification is notoriously difficult and their taxonomy has always been very confusing". I'm sure that every field botanist has found this to be the case: I certainly did when I attempted to use the 2nd edition of CTW (1962). It was not until 1978 after attending a course at Kindrogen under Gordon Graham, that I began to make some sense of the genus. By that time, of course, hybridity had at last become widely accepted, and this is the key to understanding roses.

For the, until now, perplexed local botanist the publication of this Handbook offers the opportunity to get to grips with your own roses. My advice is to take to heart the authors' observation that "the species in any one area are usually so few that a thorough acquaintance with them will help the local recorder to recognise the great majority of hybrids or putative hybrids as competently as a national referee". With the aid of these new descriptions, drawings and advice (especially in the section of morphology, ecology and collecting and pressing), most people ought to be able to establish what their local species are. In lowland Scotland most VCs will contain *canina*, *caesia*, *mollis* and *sherardii* in fair quantity, a sprinkling of *pimpinellifolia* and *rubiginosa* (sometimes introduced) and perhaps an odd (always planted) *arvensis*. *Rugosa* too will occur, if only as an obvious landscape plant, but liable to spread in time. Most northern counties should also have their quota of these species although *canina* seems to diminish northwards.

It should not take long to find out what species you have locally, especially if at first you do not wish to differentiate the four *canina* groups and the two *caesia* subspecies. Then it will become pretty obvious that when you have two or more species growing in the same vicinity, there will also be intermediates. But beware! There is a great range of variation and while it is fairly easy to postulate the parents of a number of plants, several will have question marks over them, and not a few will defy all attempts at identification (the same is true of brambles). This fact must be accepted, ie it will be impossible to name every bush; similarly, it must be recognised that roses cannot be named in flower - hips are essential. But this is to your advantage for it means that you can concentrate on roses from late August to early November when there is not a great deal else to see.

Although I've yet to use the book in the field, I've few criticisms of it. I'm a great fan of dot maps but those included (for all native species and several hybrids) are as yet not very informative - they mostly show distribution of a handful of recorders and those species that the authors have been able to identify from herbaria. It is a pity that a map of *canina* itself has not been

included as well as its groups, because this would have given a truer picture of its occurrence, in Scotland at least. But they are a start and should act as a stimulus for all recorders to get out this autumn and commence to fill in the gaps in their VCs. It would be a great help too if one of the authors could be persuaded to lead a three day course in Central Scotland in the autumn of (say) 1995.

The appearance of this volume deserves at least three hearty cheers, so if the editors will permit a pun with which to end, HIP,HIP,HIP,HOORAY!

Flowering Plants and Ferns of Kirkcudbrightshire - Olga Stewart

ALLAN McG STIRLING
(Review)

[Reprinted from the Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, 3rd ser. vol. LXV (1990)].

There has been no previous checklist or flora dealing solely with the flowering plants and ferns of VC 73, although H Milne Redhead's checklist of 1972 included Kirkcudbrightshire along with Dumfries, VC 72 and Wigtown, VC 74. In this work only the presence or absence of species in each of the three divisions was recorded without any additional information.

The present work is an up to date account of the flora of the vice-county including all recorded native species and established aliens, and is the result of many years energetic work by the author who is the BSBI Recorder for the vice-county.

A short introduction describes the botanical features of the county and some of the main habitats. This is followed by a map indicating the vice-county boundaries and the 10km squares of the national grid, and there is a list of botanical recorders from the 18th century to the present day. The main body of the work consists of the plant list. The entries for each species indicate the earliest known record by date and recorder's initials, followed by information on more recent records for the scarcer species. In many cases a brief indication is given of habitat and frequency. The critical groups (*Hieracium*, *Rubus*, *Taraxacum* etc) are very thoroughly treated although, inevitably, further scope remains for recording in this area.

One would probably have appreciated a more extended introduction and perhaps a gazetteer and more use of grid references, but these reservations apart, this account of the local flora is certainly to be recommended to anyone interested in Kirkcudbrightshire botany.

An Annotated Checklist of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Main Argyll

Gordon Rothero and Bernard Thompson, 1994
Published by the Argyll Flora project,
132 pp, price £5.00

R J PANKHURST
(Review)

To quote from the introduction, "The aim of this small book is to draw together what information we have on the flowering plants and ferns of the botanical county of Main Argyll, vice county 98".

There is a ten page account of the geography, climate and geology, a map of the seven recording areas and notes on the botanical history of the area. Each species gets a concise but informative paragraph on habitat and known distribution.

I am pleased to see that the 'critical' genera such as *Rubus*, *Hieracium* and *Taraxacum* are not shirked and are up to date with the latest expert opinion. The gazetteer at the end is very welcome, since without it, it can be very frustrating trying to find place names on maps.

The only fault I can find is a minor one; the text shows the scars of word-processing in that headings sometimes appear on their own at the base of a page.

The purpose of a checklist as I see it is to stimulate further interest in an area prior to the publication of a definitive Flora. People who have records that they have not sent in are prompted to do so when they see that their contributions are not included. Also, Argyll is a large county and much of it rather inaccessible; there is plenty of scope for more fieldwork and new records. Has anyone seen *Rubus arcticus* in Scotland recently?

The Argyll checklist is an attractive little book at a very reasonable price, a must for all botanists in Scotland.

Flora of the Outer Hebrides

A reprint of the above Flora by Pankhurst RJ and Mullin JM will be available from the end of May. The publication now includes the indexes which were missing from the first printing, and a few minor errors have been corrected. It has a new front cover with a fine photograph of *Dactylorhiza incarnata* ssp *coccinea* by Sid Clarke.

It is available from the bookshop at the Natural History Museum, London, and from any HMSO bookshop eg Lothian Road, Edinburgh, price £22.95.

Dr K Mellanby CBE CBIol FIBiol

P MACPHERSON

Dr Kenneth Mellanby, a past President of the IOB (1972-3) and Director of the Nature Conservancy's Monks Wood Experimental Station (1961-72) died on 23rd December 1993. He was one of Britain's leading ecologists and author of such prestigious works as *Pesticides and Pollution* published in the 'New Naturalist' series. His connection with the west of Scotland and his early interest in botany are less well known.

He was born in Barrhead in Renfrewshire in 1908 and from 1911-15 lived in a flat in Glasgow.

His mother was a keen naturalist and encouraged him from the age of four to have an interest in wild flowers. Together they collected wild plants particularly in the Pollok Estate. In 1915 the family moved to Bridge of Weir in Renfrewshire which he described as an ideal area for a young naturalist.

For his seventh birthday he was given Edward Step's *Wayside and woodland blossoms* in two volumes. These contained a total of 252 coloured plates together with a two-page description of each species. He later described it as a somewhat old book for a 7-year-old but that he had not found any difficulty in using it.

When he went up to Cambridge it was his intention to take Part II of the tripos in botany. After taking Part I he went on an expedition with Professor Ruggles Gates to the Canadian Arctic, collecting plants for Kew, down the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean. He found it a fascinating journey but suffered much as a result of the tabanid flies and mosquitos. Further, he did not get on well with Gates and later wrote that whether it was his reaction to the professor or to the biting insects, on return to Cambridge he dropped botany and took his zoology tripos! however, his later career as an ecologist had been greatly helped by his early interest in the British flora.

I am grateful to John Mitchell for suggesting this piece and to the Institute of Biology, 20 Queensberry Place, London SW7 for permission to quote from an article in *Biologist* (1994) 41, 81; originally Mellanby's contribution to the 'Book that most. . . .' series.

Look Out For *Crassula helmsii* (New Zealand Pigmyweed)

John Edelston writes drawing attention to the alarm expressed about the rapid spread of the alien water weed *Crassula helmsii* at last year's Recorders' Meeting at York. An unwelcome invader to many bodies of water south of the border, *C. helmsii* is now known from ten sites in Scotland and there could probably be a lot more.

The new Stace flora gives the distribution as "many places in southern England and the Channel Isles, scattered north to Central Scotland". It certainly occurs even further north - John has observed it at a site, Sunbank Park, in his home area in Banffshire, where he was amazed at the extent to which it had spread in the course of just a year.

Members should be aware of this menace and be on the look out for it in their areas. It is most likely to originate in ponds, canals etc. where the contents of domestic aquaria tend to be discarded. The plant superficially resembles *Callitriche*; there is a drawing of it on page 379 of Stace's flora. Copies of a leaflet on *C. helmsii* can probably be obtained from The Institute of Freshwater Ecology, Wareham, Dorset.

Notes on *Crassula helmsii* can be found in *BSBI News* 45, 38-39; 49, 43 and 51, 46. The last mentioned deals with experimental control.

BSBI Committee for Scotland

The following is the composition of the Committee from November 1993 - November 1994:-

Chairman - Dr RWM Corner; Secretary/Treasurer - Dr P Macpherson; Field Meetings Secretary - GP Rothero; Minutes Secretary - Dr MF Watson; Meetings Secretary - Dr MF Watson; Members of Committee - Mrs BG Hogarth; Dr MGB Hughes; P Lusby; Dr RJ Pankhurst; Mrs OM Stewart.

Representing SNH - Dr RAH Smith; Representing the BSS - MM Scott

At the AGM on 5th November 1994, three members will be elected to the committee. D Donald has resigned and the retiring members will be GP Rothero and Dr MF Watson, both of whom are eligible for re-election.

Nomination, 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 undernoted at 15 Lubnaig Road, Glasgow G43 2RY by 30th September 1994.

P Macpherson Honorary Secretary

Vice-county Recordership changes in the past year

The Committee is grateful for the contributions made by those who have resigned, particularly to those retiring recorders who have been in post for many years.

The following are the new appointees.

VC 72	Dumfriesshire	Dr MGB Hughes
VC 76	Renfrewshire	KJ Watson
VC 86	Stirlingshire	Mrs EW Stewart
VC 87	West Perthshire	NW Taylor
VC 90	Angus	Mrs BG Hogarth
VC 91	Kincardineshire	Dr D Welch
VC 92	South Aberdeenshire	Mrs KM Fallowfield
VC 101	Kintyre	Mr & Mrs BD Batty
VC 102	South Ebudes	Dr RL Gulliver
VC 106	Easter Ross	PCH Wortham
VC 108	West Sutherland	Mrs PA Evans
VC 110	Outer Hebrides	Dr RG Pankhurst & IS Angus