

## Plant Records, 2014.

The *Flora of Staffordshire* dealt with records made up until the end of 2011. This short account is the third annual report listing some of the more interesting results of later fieldwork.

Dates are 2014, unless stated otherwise.

### New records for VC39

*Adiantum raddianum*: in a warm retail house on warm bricks, Ashwood Nursery/Garden Centre, SO8687, C.B. Westall, 2012.

*Aesculus indica*: planted on golf course, Beacon Park, SK1009, Beacon Park Recording Group, 2013.

*Akebia quinata*: Bridgnorth Road, nr Sainsbury's, Wombourne, SO8692, CBW.

*Allium scorodoprasum*: fifty spikes on a rank grassy verge, NW corner of the junction of a side road and the A53, Royal Cottage, SK0263, J.E. Hawksford. This is a well botanised area and it is astonishing that the species has not been recorded here, before: presumably the verge has been more thoroughly strimmed in previous years.

*Cardamine raphanifolia*: in a little soft, silty mire with *C. amara*. One in flower, plus quite a lot of leaves, Dimmingsdale, SK0443, M.F. Godfrey.

*Ceratophyllum submersum*: at the edge of Chillington Pool, SJ8505, S.R. Moore.

*Cyclamen repandum*: a one square metre patch with other plants within 3m, long established and seeding, under trees by broken-down fence line, with newly-constructed brick building on one side and open public green space on other, just off Sandy Lane, Newcastle, SJ8546. A new fence was erected across the site later in the year, IJH.

*Picea mariana*: planted in woodland near Chillington Hall (with *P. spinulosa*), SJ8606, SRM.

*Trachyspermum ammi*: single plants in two places at the junction of house walls and paving between Shelton and Stoke, SJ8845, IJH.

*Viburnum x rhytidophylloides* (*V. lantana x rhytidophyllum*): by the side of the former railway line in an overgrown section near to Joiner's Square, SJ8946, IJH.

### Species seen again after a gap of several years

*Euphrasia x glanduligera* (*E. officinalis* ssp. *anglica x nemorosa*): eight plants, with the parents, in damp grass on and immediately adjacent to the east end of a broad ride through Seckley Wood, SO7778, IJH. (Last record is from there, in 2004.)

*Plantago arenaria*: along the base of a wall, in a carpark, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill (with *Lactuca sativa*, *Phalaris canariensis* & *Avena sativa*), SO918.7, J. Hough. (The only other record is from SJ8343, in 1971.)

*Puccinellia rupestris*: field (former salt marsh), Ingestre, SJ9823, D. Cadman & V. Brooks. (The only other records were from this general area, the last in 1923.)

*Sedum dasyphyllum*: over a dozen flowering plants in an area of partially broken up concrete that may have been a car park, close to an industrial estate, Stafford. Rather obviously self-seeding (with several seedlings about) rather than relics of former cultivation, SJ9225, IJH. (Only seen otherwise, in Upper Arley, SO7680, in 1909.)

*Trifolium scabrum*: on a dry, grassy bank, Wombourne, CBW, in 2012. (The only previous records were from Burton, SK22-, 1901; and from two other sites in the Wombourne area: SO8592, in 2002 & SO8693 in 2003.)

### New tetrads for rarer taxa

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

*Acaena anserinifolia*: pavement, Beacon Street, Lichfield, SK1109, D. Wall.

*Allium carinatum*: long persisting by a bridge, under Hawthorn, Wombourne, SO8792, CBW, 2012.

*Ammi majus*: one in flower, edge of scrub at the margin of waste ground, near a paved footpath, between Cliff Vale & Etruria. Probably from bird seed, SJ8646, IJH.

*Anacamptis morio*: a few shoots (later eaten by deer), west of Furnace Coppice, Cannock Chase, SK0114, J. Fleming.

*Aurinia saxatilis*: pavement/wall interface, Common Road, Wombourne, SO8792, CBW, 2012; high up on retaining wall, E side of A53, Leek, SJ9856, JEH.

*Betula utilis* var. *jaquemontii*: introduced at Beacon Hill, SJ9425, IJH.

*Brassica juncea*: on a disturbed earth bank near to Aston Marina. (At least two forms, one with leaves curled at the margins, the other with purple-tinged leaves.) SJ9131, IJH.

*Calystegia x howittiorum*: by Council Offices, Kingswinford, SO8888, APD.

*Carex arenaria*: several plants growing on the bank between the road and a railway bridge, with the characteristic shoots trailing down over the stonework of a retaining wall, Stoke SJ8844, IJH.

*Consolida ajacis*: seed-mix, small grassy area by A52 (with *Linum grandiflorum*), NE of Basford, SJ8946, IJH.

*Crocus sieberi*: St Peter's Churchyard, Harborne, SP0283, Birmingham & Black Country Flora Group.

*Cyclamen coum*: SO90528544, one under hawthorn and bramble on verge by railway, off Kirkstone Way, Withymoor, Amblecote, SO9085, APD.

*Erigeron annuus*: several dense stands on broken waste ground, Hanley, SJ8747, IJH.

*Euphorbia dulcis*: persistent weed, Jeffcock Road Allotments, Wolverhampton, SJ8920, CBW.

*E. x pseudovirgata* (*E. esula x waldsteinii*): on lower slopes adjacent to a large grassy open area at N end of long-abandoned workings. Shoots coming up over an area of about 5 x 7m (probably due to spread of rhizomes), W of Huntington, SJ9712, IJH.

*Galanthus elwesii*: St Peter's Churchyard, Harborne, SP0283, Birmingham & Black Country Flora Group.

*G. nivalis* x *plicatus*: St Michael & All Angels Churchyard, Tettenhall, SJ8900, Birmingham & Black Country Flora Group.

*G. woronowii*: St Bartholomew's Churchyard, Penn, SO8995, Birmingham & Black Country Flora Group.

*Herniaria glabra*: on soil of *Bonsai* imported from Netherlands, Ashwood Nursery/Garden Centre, SO8687, CBW, 2012.

*Hypericum elodes*: edge of Chillington Pool, SJ8505. Possibly extending into SJ8506, but inaccessible, SRM.

*Hypericum olympicum*: on a wall in mortar (not cement), top of Copthorne Road/Penn Road, Wolverhampton, SO9097, CBW, 2012; single plant, apparently self-sown, at edge of small area of mown grassland adjacent to main road near Stoke, SJ8845, IJH.

*Leucanthemella serotina*: (pavement side), Finchfield Road, Bantock Park, SO8998, CBW, 2012.

*Ophrys apifera* var. *trollii*: one plant on the steep slopes of one of the 'amphitheatre-like' features at Cannock Chase Country Park, amongst 500 of the 'basic' species, SK0014, IJH.

*Parentucellia viscosa*: behind the enterprise centre on the old workings of Cannock No 5 colliery, V. Worrall. The area was seeded with low maintenance grass seed c. 1994. Also, about 30 plants, slopes of 'amphitheatre' area, Marquis Drive, Brindley Heath, independently by IJH & MFG: all SK0014.

*Paris quadrifolia*: The Alders, Charnes Estate, W of Eccleshall, SJ7824, A. Maxwell, DC and VB.

*Persicaria mitis*: very wet arable field, Wrottesley, SJ8502, SRM.

*Plantago major* ssp. *intermedia*: a persistent and abundant weed, Jeffcock Road Allotments, Wolverhampton, SJ8920, CBW, 2012.

*Prunus serrulata*: street tree, May Bank, SJ8547; planted tree by small car park near to canal between Shelton & Etruria, SJ8746: both IJH.

*Pyracantha rogersiana*: a very large specimen (var. *flava*) on N side of canal, near Tame Bridge Parkway, SP0194, JEH.

*Quercus x crenata* (*Q. cerris x suber*): one large mature tree, roadside, Compton, SO8898, P. Newton.

*Rosa ferruginea*: by the fence at the back of Cherry Trees School & elsewhere, Wombourne, SO8692, CBW, 2012; established along fence line by track adjacent to sports field near to Joiner's Square, SJ8946, IJH; a bush on waste ground at Huntington, SJ9713, IJH.

*Salvia verbenaca*: two groups, edge of field along footpath near Whittington Barracks, SK1406, J.Harris.

*Scilla forbesii*: scattered patches, grassland, Tettenhall, SJ8840; extensively spreading, roadside grassland, Compton, SO8900: both PN.

*Senecio x ostenfeldii* (*S. aquaticus x jacobaea*): flanked by parents, edge of ditch, S verge of minor road, W of School House, Royal Cottage, SK0263, JEH.

*S. x subnebrodensis* (*S. squalidus x viscosus*): a single plant growing from the midst of wood chippings covering a flower bed adjacent to Hanley Bus Station, SJ8847, IJH.

*Sisymbrium loeselii*: two tall plants on S side of track bordering gravel pit, N of Barton Turn, SK2019, JEH & D.P. Blowers.

*Smyrniolum olusatrum*: by canal feeder, Harper's Gate, SJ9557, S.R. Hinsley.

*Sorbaria tomentosa*: old railway walk, Wombourne, SO8792, CBW.

*Spartium junceum*: planted amongst scrub on a bank overlooking a footpath at Sideway, SJ8743, IJH.

*Sutera cordata*: blue-flowered form, seeded from previous year's hanging basket, pavement/wall interface, outside George & Dragon pub, Beacon Street, Lichfield, SK1109, DW; white-flowered plant established between paving at Fenton, SJ8944, IJH; purple-flowered plant at foot of a wall, Kinver High Street, SO8483, IJH.

*Trifolium resupinatum*: a well grown plant in a re-seeded grassed-over area adjacent to car parks, Staffordshire University Campus, Leek Road, Stoke, SJ8845, IJH.

*Tristagma uniflorum*: sizeable clump, pavement/gatepost, Giggety Lane, Wombourne, SO8692, CBW, 2012,

*Tulipa saxatilis*: garden throwout: a few in a grass verge, Wombourne, SO8693, 2012.

*Vicia villosa*: at least 7 plants scattered about the slopes by the path adjacent to St. Peter's Academy, SJ8845, IJH; extensive over 200 yds, hedgebank by road, Compton, PN, SO8899.

#### **A selection of other observations concerning rarer taxa**

IJH notes that *Cardamine bulbifera* continues to lose ground to increasing *Allium ursinum* near Longton Brook, SJ8740.

Ian also writes, further, concerning a site of particular botanical interest in tetrad SK01C. In the vicinity of former workings, which have in the past received a lime treatment, there is a large area with thin or broken turf. Here has developed, in addition to acid-loving species typical of the general area of Cannock Country Park, a number of species such as the *Blackstonia*, referred to earlier, together with *Carlina*, *Plantago media* and *Erigeron acris*, with large numbers of *Ophrys* (as above), nearby. He also comments about sites for *Catapodium rigidum* by the Caldon Canal between Shelton and Etruria. SJ8747. A series of rails line the canal wall on the towpath side, either protecting the canal side or preventing canal boats from mooring. These stretches of rail run parallel to the canal sides and have a longitudinal groove along their upper side, where soil and moss have accumulated. Masses of *Catapodium* plants occur along these grooves for many metres, with more plants along the grooves of further rails in SJ8647.

JEH has re-visited the four Staffordshire sites for *Bidens connata*. All have suffered from maintenance work at canal locks. No plants were seen at Stockton Brook, SJ9181; the large Denford population at SJ9553 was more than halved; and only single plants were noted at each of SJ9752 and SJ9851. *B. frondosa*, on the other hand, is thriving, particularly by Black Country canals, where some very large plants were seen: five new tetrads in 2014. *Picris hieracioides* is also increasing in the Black Country, on disturbed and waste ground, and it and *Conyza floribunda*, a recent addition to our flora, have each provided a similar number of new records. *Filago vulgaris* and *F. minima* continue to astonish, with more new sites every year, in gravelly places: and yet they are both deemed to be "Near Threatened" in "A Vascular Plant Red List for England".

#### **Sad News.**

We were very sorry to hear of the death, in November, of Dr. J.V. Tranter, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. John was a regular and enthusiastic recorder throughout the preparation of "The Flora of Staffordshire".