

Plants in Vice-County 104: A Review of January - June 2020

For obvious reasons, plant recording has been on something of a hold this year. A single day in February along the River Chracaig in Portree added three or four new vice-county records (depending on how one counts them):

- *Galanthus plicatus* subsp. *plicatus* (Pleated Snowdrop)
- A hybrid swarm of *Galanthus x valentinei* (*G. nivalis x plicatus*)
- *Cryptomeria japonica* (Japanese Red-cedar)
- *Crocus neapolitanus*, though *Crocus vernus* had been recorded previously from elsewhere on Skye and *C. neapolitanus* is what used to be *C. vernus* subsp. *vernus*.

Thirty *Hieracium* specimens were taken on Raasay in June (and on July 1st) for expert determination. David McCosh found that there eight species were present:

H. anglicum (3 sites), *H. hebridense* (6), *H. oxybeles* (3), *H. pollinarioides* (1), *H. praesigne* (1), *H. shoolbredii* (8), *H. silvaticoides* (2) and *H. triviale* (previously *H. vulgatum*) (6). David says "*H. silvaticoides* is rare in Scotland, probably reflecting the rarity of limestone, but is quite common on limestone in the north of England". These records are the first for Raasay and indeed, for northwest Scotland. More work is planned on Hawkweeds this year.

Other highlights have included the first record for *Carlina vulgaris* (Carline Thistle) in NG41 and the first record this century for *Pseudorchis albida* (Small-white Orchid) in NG36.

Thanks are due to the ten folks who, in addition to myself, have contributed to the records that were made.

Stephen J Bungard
July 2020

Meanwhile, Lee has found an extraordinary number of *Orobanche alba* (Thyme Broomrape) spikes – over 300 – near Coaire, and Seth followed by Keith have reported *Alstroemeria aurea* (Peruvian Lily) as garden escapes.