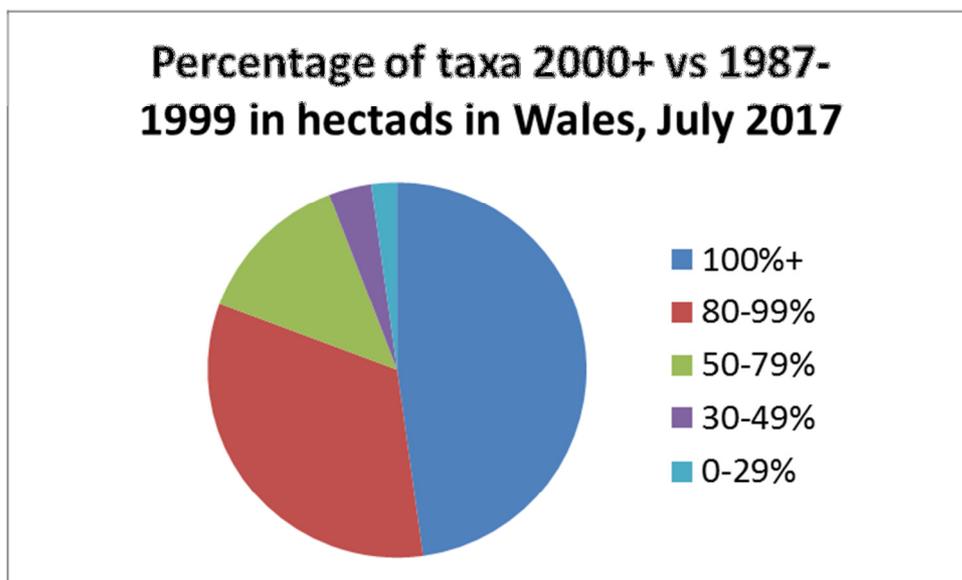


Atlas 2020 coverage and dataflow to the DDb

There are (as I write) 22,000 records from 2017 on the DDB. The number of “Smarties” (unique taxa-hectad combinations) has increased from 150,000 last December to 161,000 now. This is partly due to major uploads from Carmarthenshire, Flintshire and Breconshire – and we must thank the recorders for the mammoth task involved in preparing these datasets. As the total in 1987-1999 was 168,000, we are now getting close to matching this – but we have immensely more detail within that (The total number of records in 1987-1999 was 650,000 while in 2000-2017 it is 1.7 million).

In terms of hectad coverage, we now have around 50% of hectads with more taxa recorded since 2000 than in 1987-1999, and well over 75% of hectads have 80% plus. This shows we are well on track for the end of 2019, but everyone needs to be aware if you have hectads in your county which are still not well-recorded. In many counties almost all hectads are reasonably covered and the main emphasis is now on improving tetrad or monad (either is fine) coverage. However, there are a few hectads that are under-recorded, and now is the time to think about targeting them – even a few autumn visits could make a difference (many of the least-recorded squares are coastal or boundary squares).



Please also look at the *Urtica dioica* tetrad coverage maps below, which show the massive improvement in coverage on the DDB since last December. However, they do also emphasize the areas still needing either recording or data upload/ digitisation.

Atlas 2020 – verification

Many of you attended a workshop in March this year either in Brecon or Coed y Brenin, looking at the increasing number of tools available to look for problems with data. Whether you attended a workshop or not, I really hope that this is something everyone will be able to start looking at through the winter. When you come to start this, I hope that I will be able to provide support – over the phone, or with home visits, depending upon your needs. Taking a look at the “My County” page on the DDB to check for vice county/ grid-reference mis-matches, and starting to look through the lists of records to target – checking species listed as Rare and Scarce in the Rare Plant Register would also be a good idea.

Recorders' workshops/ training

Just a heads up – the next Recorders' Conference has now been postponed from March 2018 to September 21-23, 2018, and will be in Shrewsbury again.

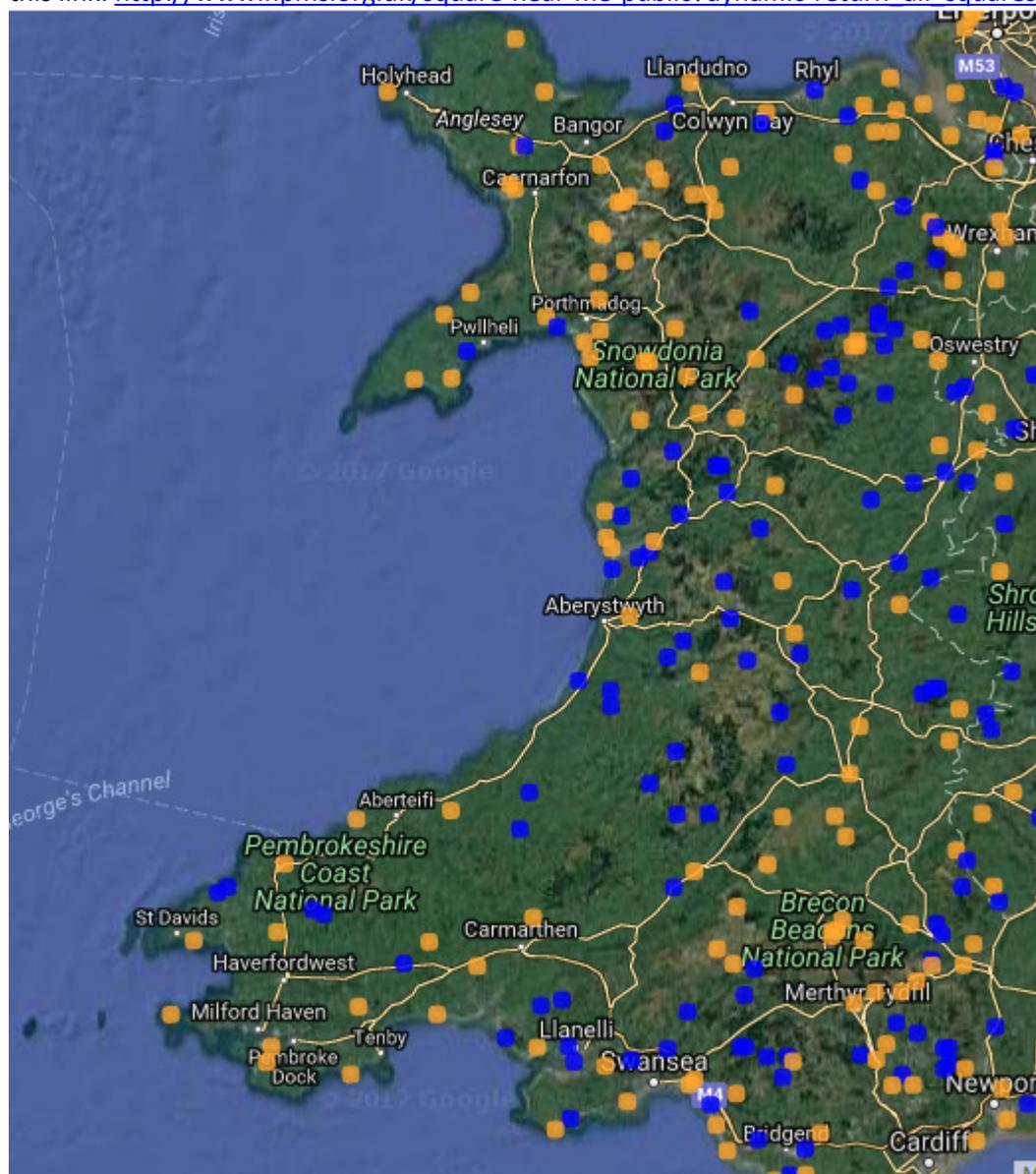
The second Dryopteris workshop with Fred Rumsey is fully booked and will take place in September at Rhydycreuau.

Rare Plant Monitoring

This has continued, with more records coming in for *Antennaria* and *Trollius*, just to begin. As always, TPP forms for rare plants are received gratefully.

National Plant Monitoring Scheme (NPMS)

The NPMS is our flagship collaboration with Plantlife, CEH and JNCC. It is really very much in the BSBI's interest to make it a big success, so if you haven't taken on a square, perhaps you might look to see if there is an unallocated square near you – there are plenty marked in blue in the map below – for more detail see this link: http://www.npms.org.uk/square-near-me-public?dynamic-return_all_squares=true



Website

Please let me know if you would like anything updated on your county webpage. Changes to local field meetings, photographs or reports, would all be welcome. Rare Plant Registers for six of thirteen counties are currently available as pdfs to be downloaded; I am hoping to get most of the rest available by March next year.

Funding/ NRW matters

We now know that NRW will be making funds available for a new round of grants next year, and we assume we will be eligible to apply – we will of course be putting together a bid/ application and hopefully this will secure the Welsh Officer position for another 3 year period.

Andy Jones, who was the Higher Plants Specialist, retired at the beginning of June. The good news is that the position has now been advertised internally so in time it will be filled.

Calystegia in Wales – note from Mike Wilcox

Following some correspondence, Richard Pryce has forwarded me the following note from Mike Wilcox, who encourages you all to look for subspecies of *Calystegia* and *Sparganium erectum*.

I noted that on your recording week there was C sepium ssp roseata (Penrhyngwyn) and C silvatica ssp disjuncta (SN41J). I am interested in the complex group (even though they seem fairly straightforward they apparently aren't). The two mentioned, at least, I would be interested to see some photos if possible please. These can be the flowers in general then the bracteoles taken from their widest sides and from both sides of the flower to include a bit of the pedicel. It maybe that a bit of fresh material is needed too. If collecting they need to be fresh and cut 3-4cm either side of the axil of leaf petiole and pedicel of the flower (no need for long strings) of 3-4 sections to get some possible variation. Pressed plants are of little use really until characters have been looked at. I would be happy to see photos from anyone.

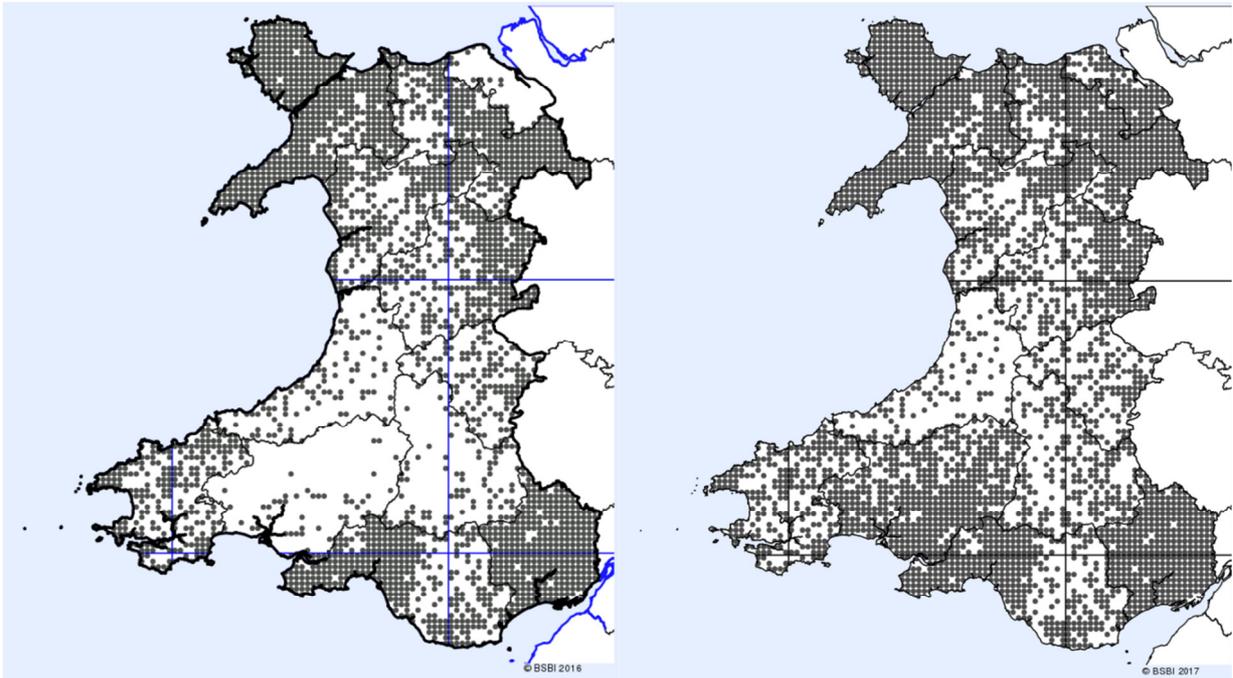
[PS in the next News I have put a note about recording sspp in Sparganium erectum (end of Aug onward) – these notes always fall on deaf ears and nothing ever comes of them via the BSBI News! But if you can encourage anyone to collect it might help with distribution of the sspp. Personally, I haven't seen ssp neglectum here or elsewhere that I have been (though never been south late in the year). They can be peeled off so as to go in small packets (so flattish) with details on them. I've been in touch with the referee and said I will try and encourage this and collate and liaise with him on this matter, the main problem is drumming up support, please pass on to any recorders in your area and where you can].

Finally

This newsletter is being sent to all Welsh Vice-County Recorders by email and hard copy. It will also be available on the [Welsh webpage](#). I'd be really pleased to have any feedback on the newsletter.

I'm always happy to have a chat on the phone, but if you would like me to visit you to discuss anything over the next few months do let me know by phone or email.

Polly Spencer-Vellacott, BSBI Welsh Officer



A. Records on DDB as at December 2016

B. Records on DDB as at July 2017

Figure 1. Tetrad coverage of *Urtica dioica* (Common Nettle) in Wales since 2000. This does give a good indication of areas which are lacking records **on the DDB** (though many of these areas are much better covered than this would indicate). This shows the huge amount of data that has been uploaded in several counties in the last six months.