

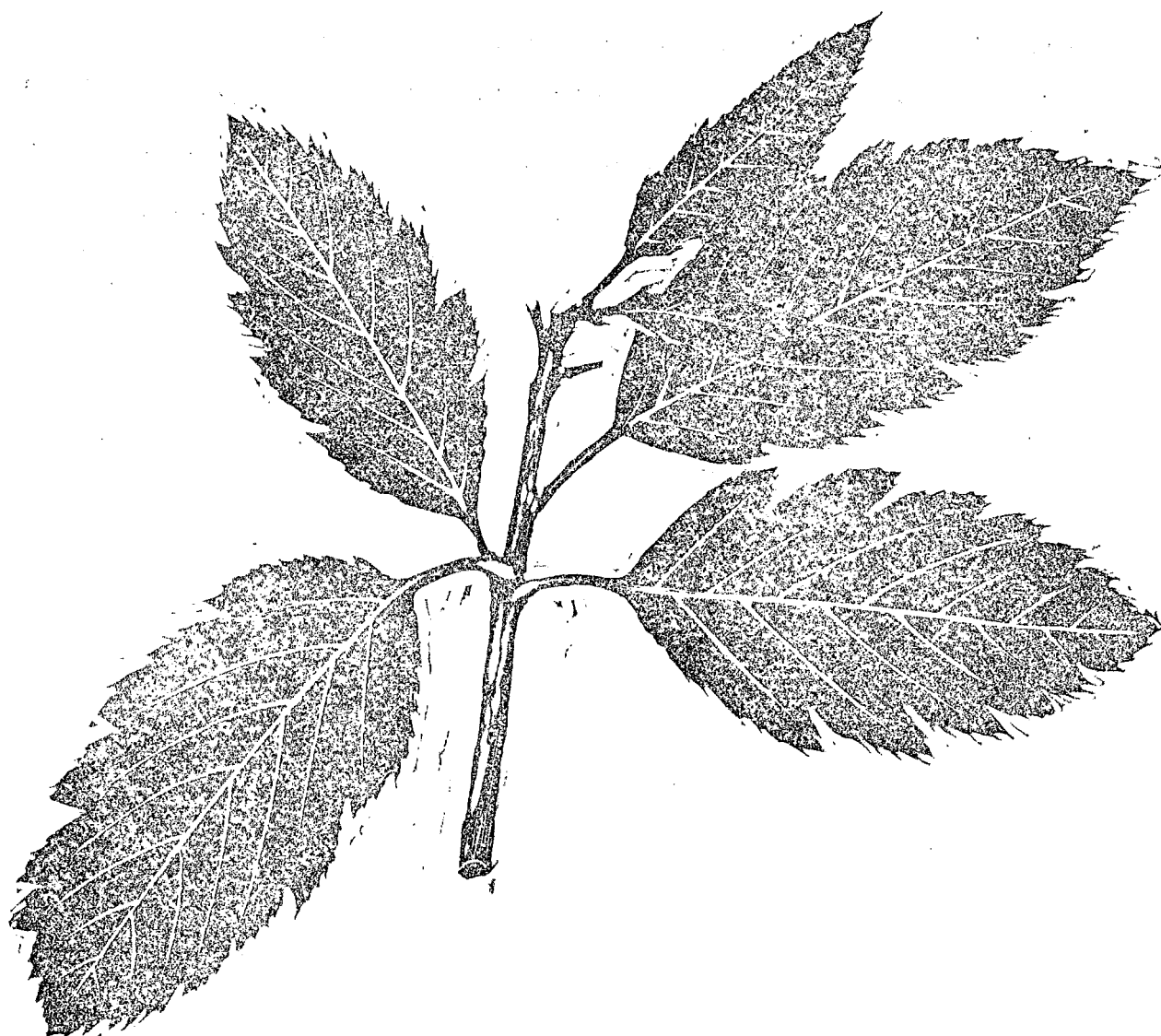
BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

WELSH BULLETIN

Editor: S. G. Harrison, B.Sc., F.L.S.

No. 29, JULY 1978

Price: 15p



Lesser Whitebeam

Sorbus minima

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LIMESTONE PAVEMENT PLANTS AT ABERDOVEY

Mrs K.M. Stevens

I was interested to read the article written by S.D. Ward and D.F. Evans "Limestone Pavements in Wales" which appeared in Vol: 15, No 2 September 1976 of "Nature in Wales". The plants they mentioned growing on these pavements immediately reminded me of the plants growing in the Aberdovey area of Cardigan Bay in the old county of Merioneth (vc. 48). In fact with the exception of a few plants the list is identical. About three years ago I went to Aberdovey to count the flower spikes of *Veronica spicata ssp. hybrida* where I met a geologist who was studying the rock on which grows the *Veronica spicata*. I asked him to tell me something about the rock. He told me that it was ancient mudstone onto which over thousands of years sand with lime content had blown and become lodged in the crevices of the rock. He explained to me that that was the reason for the good plants which grow on the rock and in the area.

The plants absent from Aberdovey appearing on the pavement and mentioned in Ward and Evans' article are only to be expected. They are *Gymnocarpium robertianum*, *Asplenium viride*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Juniperus communis* and *Taxus baccata*. Although *Taxus baccata* grows at Aberdovey as a planted tree. Four of these plants grow on Cader Idris which is volcanic. *Gymnocarpium robertianum* certainly seems to need a pure lime area such as limestone pavement.

Aberdovey area can substitute the missing plants of the Welsh Limestone pavements with five other lime-loving plants. I suggest *Centaurea scabiosa*, *Oenothera stricta*, *Helictotrichon pratense*, *Geranium sanguineum* and *Inula conyza*.

It appears therefore, that the Aberdovey area is rich in Limestone Pavement plants, which is interesting. I list the plants of the Aberdovey area. All these plants are mentioned by Ward and Evans in their article.

<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	<i>Hedera helix</i>
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	<i>Rosa canina</i>
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	<i>Asplenium-ruta-muraria</i>
<i>Lamiasstrum galeobdolon</i>	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	<i>Cochlearia danica</i>
	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>

References:

Thomas, T.M. (1970), The Limestone Pavements of the North Crop of the South Wales Coalfield - with special reference to solution rates and processes. 'The Institute of British Geographers. Transactions', Vol 50, 87-105

Ward, S.D. and Evans, D.F., (1976), Limestone Pavements in Wales - 'Nature in Wales', Vol 15, No 2 50-53

Oenothera in Wales

Gwynn Ellis

Following a visit to South Wales by Dr Rostanski, the Polish expert on the genus, we now know that ten species of *Oenothera* have been recorded from Wales. Full details of Dr Rostanski's findings including species descriptions and a key will be published elsewhere.

The two most common species are the large flowered *O. erythrosepala* Borb. and a new species, *O. cambrica* Rostanski. This latter plant is what British botanists have called in the past *O. parviflora*. The true *O. parviflora* L. has very small petals, up to 12 mm long and broad, and sepal tips distinctly separated in bud. *O. cambrica* has petals up to 28 mm long, sepal tips appressed below with only the apices spreading. The remaining eight species found in Wales are rare and are represented by only a few specimens in Herbaria. They are: *O. biennis* L.; *O. perangusta* Gates; *O. salicifolia* Desf. ex G. Don; *O. parviflora* L.; *O. rubricuspis* Renner ex Rostanski; *O. rosea* L'Herit. ex Ait.; *O. laciniata* Hill; *O. stricta* Ledeb. In addition two hybrids have been recorded: *O. biennis* x *erythrosepala* = *O. x fallax* Renner emend Rostanski and *O. cambrica* x *erythrosepala*.

I would be very pleased to receive specimens of any *Oenothera* found in Wales for identification. Specimens should have flowers, mature fruit, and basal leaves.

ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF MONMOUTHSHIRE (Gwent) VC 35

Dr. P.M. Wade

A recent study of the past history of the aquatic flora of the drainage channels of the Monmouthshire (Gwent) Moors brought to light some pre-1958 additions to the county flora (Wade, 1970). The District numbers are as in Wade, (1970), and grid references have been added by the author.

* indicates an alien taxon and abbreviations are as in Kent (1957)

- 4/5 *EQUISETUM FLUVIATILE* L. Osier bed, roadside near Broadoak towards Monmouth (District 1 or 4), grid reference not known, May 1874, S.H. Bickham, CGE.
- 46/21 *RANUNCULUS TRICHOPHYLLUS* Chaix. In a pond, Shirenewton (District 4), GR 31/479933 (?), April 20th 1854, F.J.A. Hort, CGE.
R. TRICHOPHYLLUS Chaix. Pond near Shirenewton, Chepstow (District 4), GR 31/479933 (?), April 21st 1854, no collector's name, BM.
R. TRICHOPHYLLUS Chaix. In a small pool in the back of Wyndcliff (District 4), GR 31/51.97. or 52.97., May 14th 1891, W.A. Shoolbred, BM.
R. TRICHOPHYLLUS Chaix. Ditch opposite Raglan Castle (District 3), GR 33/415083, June 12th 1897, C. Bailey, MANCH. and B.E.C. report for 1897, p536.
- 46/22 *RANUNCULUS* sp.? (*R. AQUATILIS* L, sens. strict). Near source of stream, Broadwell, near Chepstow (District 4), grid reference not known, April 24th 1894, W.A. Shoolbred, CGE & LIV. see also B.E.C. Report for 1894, p. 432. (W.P. Hiern & E.S. Marshall previously labelled the specimen "triphyllus".)
- 46/226 *RANUNCULUS PELTATUS* Schrank. Leechpool near Chepstow (District 4), GR 31/498896, July 22nd and Dec. 8th 1857, no collector's name, BM.
- 46/23 *RANUNCULUS BAUDOTII* Godr. Near Hardwick, Chepstow (District 4?), grid reference not known, July 16th 1857, no collector's name, BM.
R. BAUDOTII Godr. Hunger Pill, Chepstow (District 5), GR 31/540909, July 24th 1857, no collector's name, BM.
- 115/4 * *HYPERICUM CALYGINUM* L. Chepstow (District 4), grid reference not known, 1883 changed to 1884, E. Lees, WAR.
- 320/8 *POLYGONUM AMPHIBIUM* L. Abergavenny (District 1), GR 33/2..1.. or 3..1.., 1881 to early 1900's, Thomas Barker, MANCH.

- 370/2 *LYSIMACHIA NUMMULARIA* L. Narrow lane in the neighbourhood of Tintern Abbey (District 4), GR 33/53.00., August 14th 1873, C. Bailey, MANCH.
L. NUMMULARIA L. Roadside near Llanishen Court (District 4), GR 33/43.04., July 22nd 1958, E.K. Horwood, LTR.
- 430/3 *VERONICA CATENATA* Pennell. By brook near Cefntilla Court (District 3), GR 33/40.02., July 22nd 1958, E.K. Horwood, LTR.
- 577/7 *POTAMOGETON ALPINUS* Balb. River Wye, Monmouth (District 1 or 4), grid reference and date not known, A. Ley, (ex. Herbarium Rev. R. Wood, presented 1954. det J.E. Dandy, 1968), CGE.
- 577/9 *POTAMOGETON PERFOLIATUS* L. Brecon-Newport Canal in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny (District 1/2), GR 33/2..1.., June 8th 1897, C. Bailey, MANCH and B.E.C. Report for 1897, p. 569.
- 577/19 *POTAMOGETON CRISPUS* L. Brecon-Newport Canal in the neighbourhood of Abergavenny (District 1/2), GR 33/2..1.., June 8th 1897, C. Bailey, MANCH and B.E.C. Report for 1897, p 569.
- 665/1 *PHRAGMITES COMMUNIS* Trin. River Wye, Tintern Abbey (District 4). GR 33/53.00., August 1883, H. Fisher, NOT.

The record for *Potamogeton alpinus* is the only one known for the county which has been identified with certainty. Watson (1837) listed *P. alpinus* on the authority of Charles Conway, but Wade (1970) considers that this specimen taken in the vicinity of Pontnewydd works was probably an error, a form of *P. polygonifolius* having been mistaken for it. The lack of a date for this specimen is unfortunate. Augustin Ley is known to have collected in Monmouthshire over the years 1874-1904 (Wade, 1970).

Charles Bailey, in the B.E.C. Report for 1897, considered his records for *P. perfoliatus* and *P. crispus* to be new county records and the note on *R. trichophyllus* was appended: "Sent as a new county record for 35". *P. crispus*, however, had already been recorded by Conway in 1837, also from the Brecon-Newport Canal, and three pre-1897 records for *R. trichophyllus* are given in the above list. Bailey's record for *P. perfoliatus* was a new county record.

H. calycinum is not listed in Wade (1970)

REFERENCES

- KENT, D.H. (1957) British Herbaria. The Botanical Society of the British Isles, London
- WADE, A.E. (1970) The Flora of Monmouthshire. The National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
- WATSON, H.C. (1837) The New Botanist's Guide, 2. and appendix. London

AN INDEX OF COLLECTORS IN THE WELSH NATIONAL HERBARIUM

S.G. Harrison

For the past seven years I have been working on a card index giving the names and brief details of collectors whose specimens have been deposited in the National Herbarium at the Botany Department, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. It is hoped that these records will eventually be published in book form, somewhat on the lines of the Index of Collectors in the Edinburgh Herbarium (H.M.S.O., 1970). The work has entailed examining all the sheets and packets in our collections, endeavouring to decipher collectors' names or initials which are often illegible, adding accession numbers to indicate individual sources (sometimes duplicates of the same gathering have been received from different herbaria, individuals, or exchanges) and to give some idea of the size of our holdings from each collector. The group or groups of plants collected have been indicated, for instance Spermatophyta, Pteridophyta, Algae, etc., the earliest and latest dates, the countries and vice-counties and, where applicable, dates of birth and death and obituaries, if any.

The total number of specimens in the Herbarium exceeds 230,000 and probably about $\frac{2}{3}$ of these have been checked for the Index to date, yielding more than 5000 names. This was obviously too large a task for one person and several colleagues in the Department have assisted. Checking names of collectors has involved consulting many Floras, both British and foreign, as well as specialist works such as Ray Desmond's invaluable Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and Horticulturists (1977). The British Museum kindly provided a list of the names of collectors in their autograph collection. The Botanical Museum of the University of Copenhagen sent a massive file of photocopies of their Collector-list.

Some members of the B.S.B.I. in Wales may like to assist in this task by sending me obituary notices of anyone whom they think may have contributed specimens to the Welsh National Herbarium directly or indirectly. It should be emphasised that the Index is most definitely not confined to the contributions made by professional or 'important' amateur botanists. The kind of people who are often the most difficult to trace are those whose passing would probably not have been commemorated by an obituary in *Watsonia* but may have been recorded in a local paper, perhaps not available in the archives of the National Museum.

BOOK NOTES

The 6th edition of 'Welsh Ferns' (full title 'Welsh Ferns, Clubmosses, Quillworts and Horsetails') is expected to be published this month or early in August, price £3 plus 47p postage and packing, from the National Museum of Wales.

'Welsh Ferns' by H.A. Hyde and A.E. Wade was first published in 1940, price 5 shillings. It became widely accepted as a standard reference book for British ferns in general, not only those of Wales. The inclusion of the so-called 'fern-allies' in the 5th edition revised by S.G. Harrison, made it even more comprehensive. The 6th edition brings the Welsh records up-to-date and there have been other changes in the text where these were thought to be necessary.

Its companion volume, a new (4th) edition of 'Welsh Timber Trees', was published in 1977 at the same price. The 1st edition of 'Welsh Timber Trees', by H.A. Hyde, came out in 1931, price 1 shilling! The last edition was revised by S.G. Harrison.