Photocopy of unpressed specimen of *Plantago lanceolata* in the Teratological Herbarium at NMW, (x 0.7). Coll. V. & A. Lewis, Oct 2005 from landscaped road-verge, Burry Port (v.c. 44). (see also p. 12 and colour section)
CONTENTS

Guest Editorial ........................................................................................................... 3
New Co-editor for BSBI Welsh Bulletin being sought ........................................................ 4
Corrigendum .................................................................................................................. 4
Annual General Meeting, 2008 .................................................................................. 5
  Chairman's opening remarks .................................................................................. 5
  Hon. Secretary's Report ......................................................................................... 5
  Hon. Treasurer's Report ......................................................................................... 6
  Annual Statement of Accounts ................................................................................. 6
  Introduction of Kevin Walker, Head of Research and Development ....................... 7
  Election of Officers and Committee for Wales Members ............................................. 7
  AGM and Exhibition Meeting 2008 ......................................................................... 7
  Any other business .................................................................................................. 7
Calendar of Welsh BSBI Meetings - 2008 ................................................................. 8
46th Welsh AGM & 26th Exhibition Meeting, 2008 ...................................................... 9
Yucca in the sand dunes at Newborough, Anglesey (v.c. 52) ... and on sand dunes in
  Glamorgan (v.c. 41) and Carmarthenshire (v.c. 44) ................................................. 10
Teratological Ribwort Plantain .................................................................................. 12
Request - Grasses, Sedges and Rushes .................................................................... 12
Welsh Plant Records - 2007 ...................................................................................... 13
PLANTLIFE - WALES NEWSLETTER - 7 ................................................................. 1

Most back issues of the BSBI Welsh Bulletin are still available on request (originals or
photocopies). Please enquire before sending cheque (made payable to BSBI Wales), @ £2 per
issue, which includes p. & p., to - Dr G. Hutchinson, Department of Biodiversity &
Systematic Biology, National Museum, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP, specifying the issue
number, or year (which would have to include the season or month).

Publication date of last BSBI Welsh Bulletin (No. 81) - January 2008.
The editors have had the idea that other members should have the opportunity to voice their opinions as regards botanical and conservation issues in Wales. So this issue, Kath Pryce has kindly written the first of these Guest Editorials. I hope you think it worthwhile: we’d be glad to receive your comments.

GUEST EDITORIAL

As a Vice-county recorder’s other half I spend many enjoyable hours out in the county, seeing different habitats, recording and photographing plants and learning more about our local flora. I also spend many less-enjoyable hours at the computer inputting most of this data, which is fine, but I am increasingly asking myself (and Richard) “what’s the point of all this recording” if there’s an absence of appropriate habitat management? ……… and it also seems to me, a lack of appreciation by the majority of residents in the county.

Perhaps I had better highlight the good news first and mention the success stories we have come across recently. Last year Richard received an email from a couple living near Llandovery in Carmarthenshire, who had last been in contact about fourteen years ago when they had sought his advice about management of their newly acquired hay fields. Their recent email invited us to visit the fields in order to see the fruits of his advice – because they now look wonderful! His recommendation all those years ago was that the best course of action would be the pretty-standard “take a late hay cut followed by aftermath grazing with no additional fertilizer” formula. They had managed to persuade a (bemused) neighbouring farmer to do exactly this every year since, with the result that the fields are now very species-rich indeed. In the past the land had included NVC MG5, M24 and M25 communities with abundant *Carum verticillatum* and *Centaurea nigra* and locally frequent *Cirsium dissectum* but, following this period of sympathetic conservation management, have now gained substantial colonies of *Dactylorhiza maculata*, *Platanthera chlorantha* and *Genista tinctoria* together with many other species and, for the first time this year, a couple of plants of *G. anglica*. Showing us their photographic archive, it appears that a few years ago, a single *Gymnadenia conopsea* appeared! We visited last year and again this year and the fields do indeed look wonderful and the owners were most hospitable and appreciative of Richard’s advice and recent monitoring.

Another refreshingly successful farm is located near Llanddeusant and is owned and managed by Dr. Ruth Watkins. She has several fields, which, in July, are white with *Carum*, while elsewhere on her holding she has extensive areas of fen meadow with some NVC M10 flushing. This is one of only two inland sites in the county which supports *Epipactis palustris* and one of a handful with *Eriophorum latifolium* and *Galium uliginosum*. Her enthusiasm and energy in managing this conservation oasis is wonderful, but the site is not designated as an SSSI and she wonders what will happen to it when she has to give up.

There are other areas where the owners are managing their land appropriately and with a positive attitude towards wildlife, some of which we know about and have visited and, no doubt, others, of which we are not yet aware! However, the bad news is that so often the management of some really valuable sites is not appropriate for many reasons which might include financial constraints, abandonment awaiting the developer to come along, lack of grazing, change of management, etc. Richard is more often reporting that sites are not being managed appropriately or are even being destroyed, and only a minority of the local population seem to understand or even care what is happening to their countryside.
It is a complex problem but lack of grazing animals is one issue and we recently attended a talk given by Charles Morgan, coordinator of Pont (Pori Natur a Threfladaeth), a member of the UK Grazing Animals Project (www.grazinganimalsproject.org.uk), which gives the potential to match grazing animals to conservation sites as a management tool. It is to be hoped that this flexible scheme will encourage landowners to try it out and hopefully find it sufficiently financially advantageous to continue.

We were also shown the Exmoor ponies recently brought in to Llyn Llech Owain Country Park to graze the rough grass and scrub, which they are tackling very successfully. This is largely as a result of the enthusiasm of countryside ranger Judith Weatherburn. Three ponies are loaned from The Moorland Mousie Trust which aims to conserve this endangered breed, and one filly has been purchased with lottery funding. This is an example of what can be achieved if the will and enthusiasm is there and I found it very refreshing.

Kath Pryce, Trevethin, School Road, Pwll, Llanelli, Carms, SA15 4AL.

NEW CO-EDITOR FOR BSBI WELSH BULLETIN BEING SOUGHT

Would you be interested in kindly offering to help with the production of the BSBI Welsh Bulletin, starting with the January 2010 issue? This will arise due to the scheduled retirement of George Hutchinson from the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff two months later.

Please contact Richard Pryce of George Hutchinson if you would like to discuss things further.

We look forward to any voluntary help with the Welsh Bulletin.

BSBI WALES COMMITTEE

CORRIGENDUM

In Panel of Vice-county recorders, in the latest issue of BSBI News (Apr 2008, No. 108, p.66), the address for Mrs Delyth Williams, the new Vice-county Recorder for Denbighshire V.C. 50 is incorrect. Her present address is: Bryn Siriol, Craig Fechan, RUTHIN, LL15 2HA and not as shown.
BSBI WALES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

The 45th Annual General Meeting of the BSBI in Wales, held at Swansea University on Saturday 14th July 2007.

The Chairman, Andy Jones, welcomed all those present and particularly Kevin Walker, newly appointed Head of Research and Development; Jim McIntosh, BSBI Scottish Officer; and Bob Ellis, BSBI Volunteers Officer.

1. Apologies for absence: Ian Bonner, Shirley Burton, Gwynn Ellis, Trevor Evans, Margot Godfrey, Wendy McCarthy, Nicholas de Sausmarez and Ray Woods. Richard Gornall (BSBI President), although present earlier, had to depart to catch his train but would have been present had the AGM not been delayed.


3. Matters arising: None.

4. Chairman’s Opening Remarks: Andy Jones thanked Julian Woodman for all his work in organising the event. He said that the recent AGMs with a theme had produced a lot of interest, the first on aquatic plants in 2005, with last year’s on pteridophytes and this year on arable weeds. He also welcomed the changing climate of public opinion in which farmers are now asking for botanical advice in identifying plants on their land.

5. Hon. Secretary’s Report:
   a) Richard Pryce reiterated the Chairman’s welcome especially to members from outside Wales and in particular to Jim McIntosh, who as Scottish Officer was interested in comparing the running of the Welsh AGM with the Scottish.
   b) He regretted that the BSBI President, Richard Gornall, had been unable to stay for the formal part of the AGM.
   c) He announced with great sadness the recent deaths of David Stevens, CCW’s grassland specialist, Tony Lewis, contributor of many Swansea and Carmarthenshire records and of John Rees, botanical observer for many years at the MoD Pendine Ranges.
   d) He had received the resignation of Dr David Humphreys, Vice-county Recorder for Radnorshire (v.c. 43), due to ill health and was asked to send good wishes to David on behalf of BSBI members. David recommends that he be succeeded by Liz Dean, assisted by Sue Spencer.
   e) Richard reviewed the Field Meetings programme for 2007 starting with the successful conifer meeting at Leighton Arboretum, Welshpool. This had been well over-subscribed and so would, it was hoped, be repeated next year. Other field meetings were held at Rhydymwyn, Moelyci, the Plantlife reserves of Cae Blaendyffryn and Tanybwch, Glynhir, and Ogof Fynnon Du; meetings at Llyn Crafnant and Marloes were still to come.
   f) He reported that two Committee for Wales meetings had been held during the year, and that among the topics discussed were:
      i) County Rare Plant Registers: progress on these included the register for Monmouthshire, v.c. 35, which had just arrived from the publishers.
      ii) The Welsh Rare Plant List which Trevor Dines would speak about later. The Welsh Assembly was very keen to have these data and the List might prove useful in making grant money forthcoming.
iii) Local Records Centres which are slowly coming on stream and will eventually cover all of Wales. Many vice-county recorders have already signed agreements with their local Centres.

iv) Site Condition Monitoring of SSSIs and Tir Gofal. BSBI volunteers might be able to help with this; for example Richard Pryce had organised informal monitoring visits to local SSSIs as part of the annual Carmarthenshire Glynhir meeting.

v) The Committee is still working to obtain maps in an electronic format for recorders to use on their own PCs.

vi) *Welsh Bulletin*. Two issues had been published during the year, numbers 79 and 80, the latter consisting largely of Welsh Plant Records. Richard expressed thanks to George Hutchinson for all his work as editor, which not only included production and editing but all the donkey work including stuffing envelopes, as well as maintaining the index. More articles were needed and in particular exhibitors were asked to let George have abstracts of their exhibits for the bulletin.

h) Finally, Richard thanked Julian Woodman for his organisation of this meeting and also Gill Barter, Viv Lewis and Sarah Stille for their help. He thanked Ian Bonner, Minutes Secretary and Wendy McCarthy, Field Meetings Secretary and all other members of the Committee for their work during the year as well as all the members for their support.

6. Hon. Treasurer’s Report:

**Annual Statement of Accounts 18 June 2006 – 30 June 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>Payments</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Welsh Bulletin</em> subs</td>
<td>138.10</td>
<td><em>Welsh Bulletin</em> #78 printing</td>
<td>126.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 AGM receipts</td>
<td>451.53</td>
<td><em>Welsh Bulletin</em> #78 postage</td>
<td>71.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 AGM receipts</td>
<td>3919.20</td>
<td><em>Welsh Bulletin</em> #79 printing</td>
<td>144.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation Summerfield Books</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>Welsh Bulletin #79 postage</td>
<td>108.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Plantlife</em> (<em>Welsh Bulletin</em> #79)</td>
<td>170.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Totals**

4708.83

Excess of receipts over payments
Carried forward from 18 Jun 2006
Balance at 30 June 2007

3748.32

**Statement of Accounts 10 February 2007 – 30 June 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>Payments</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Welsh Bulletin</em> subs</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Plantlife</em> Bulletin sub</td>
<td>170.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM receipts</td>
<td>3129.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3309.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess of receipts over payments
Carried forward from 10 Feb 2007
Balance at 30 June 2007

3748.32

Sarah Stille, Hon. Treasurer, BSBI Committee for Wales
The accounts were tabled and circulated. There were no questions and their acceptance was proposed by Mike Porter and approved unanimously.

7. **Introduction of Kevin Walker, Head of Research and Development:** Kevin Walker was introduced to the meeting. He began by explaining that although his appointment had begun two weeks ago he was still under contract to CEH until the end of September, when he hopes to move north to Harrogate, and to have an office in Leeds University. His new post carries funding for three years but he hoped it will be possible to continue for much longer. He saw his post as essentially:
   a) Developing the idea of the Plant Unit which would coordinate and manage all data received and produced by the BSBI.
   b) Strengthening the BSBI's relationship with the countryside agencies and with Plantlife.
   c) Providing support for Vice-county Recorders.

He felt he needed time to work out his priorities and would begin by talking to BSBI members and to the agencies.

8. **Election of Officers & Committee for Wales Members:**
The Chairman, Andy Jones, and Vice Chairman, Delyth Williams, were elected to serve four year terms in 2006 and are not due to retire until 2010.

Nominations for Officers were as follows:
Hon. Secretary: Richard Pryce
Hon. Treasurer: Sarah Stille
Both were re-elected by general consent.

Committee Members are elected for a period of three years. No nominations were received at the meeting. The nominations from the committee were as follows:
New committee member (co-opted during 2006-7): Kate Thorne
Existing committee members due to retire in 2007, all are eligible and stand for re-election: Arthur Chater, Stephen Evans, George Hutchinson, Quentin Kay and Mike Porter. All were re-elected by general consent.

Serving Committee members in mid-term are as follows (with the dates they are due to retire):
CCW Observer: Paul Day
Plantlife Observer: Trevor Dines is a committee member but also Plantlife Observer.

9. **AGM and Exhibition Meeting 2008:**
Continuing the idea of themed AGMs it has been suggested that the 2008 AGM will be in Montgomeryshire, perhaps at Gregynog, with the subject of woodland as its theme. Plans are still at an early stage but it will probably be held in mid-August. The Hon. Sec. asked for the Glynhir week to be avoided, i.e. 19-26 July 2008.

10. **Any other business:**
The Chairman said that he had copies of the Monmouthshire Rare Plant Register available, in the boot of his car.
Tim Rich said that the new Flora of Monmouthshire had been sent to the printer yesterday. It would have 50 colour plates and sell for under £20. 500 copies would be printed and it was hoped it would sell out within the year. There would be a leaflet in the

With a reminder from the Chairman of a full programme of talks after the evening meal, the meeting closed.

The AGM was attended by 42 people.

---

**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2008**

Full details and procedure for booking are available in the BSBI Year Book for 2008 and the BSBI Welsh Bulletin No. 81.

SAT 5th APR - CONIFER WORKSHOP, ALLT DDERW, nr ABERYSTWYTH, CARDIGANSHIRE (v.c. 46) - A Jones

SAT 3rd MAY - LLANGOLLEN, DENBIGHSHIRE. (v.c. 50) - E. Meilleur

SAT 28th JUN - ARAN MOUNTAINS, LLANUWCHLYNYN, MERIONETH (v.c. 48) - S. Stille

SAT 5th JUL - PENYBRYN, CARDIGANSHIRE (v.c. 46) - A. Chater

SAT 12th JUL - RHOS LAWR CWRT, nr LLANDYSUL, CARDIGANSHIRE (v.c. 46) - D. Wheeler

SAT 19th JUL - SAT 26th JUL - GLYNHIR MANSION, LLANDYBIE, CARMARTHENSHERE (v.c. 44) - K. & R. Pryce

SAT 2nd AUG - LLYN EIGIAU, DOLGARROG, CAERNARVONSHIRE (v.c. 49) - W. McCarthy

FRI 8th AUG - SUN 10th AUG - WELSH AGM and EXHIBITION MEETING, GREGYNOG, MONTGOMERYSHIRE (v.c. 47) and associated field meetings
REMINDER - BSBI WALES AGM

46th Welsh AGM & 26th Exhibition Meeting, 2008

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th August 2008

This is just a quick reminder that the BSBI Wales AGM for 2008 is being held at Gregynog Hall, Montgomeryshire, with a Woodland and Wetlands theme. All levels of experience will be catered for and participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own material for determination and discussion. Please plan ahead and collect any plant material for identification in the workshops.

There will be:

- Friday afternoon workshop on the vegetative characters of trees and shrubs (twigs, buds etc.) with John Poland; short talks / demonstrations and an evening walk around Gregynog Park with illustrated talk on the Ancient Trees of Wales, with Andy Law.

- Saturday excursions to species-rich woodlands and wetland sites in the Efyrnwy Valley.


- Sunday excursion to the Severn Valley floodplain and Montgomery Canal.

- An exhibition of posters and specimens by members.

- A display of books for sale by Summerfield Books.

and more...

We aim, though, for ‘Quality over Quantity’ at Gregynog and the chance to enjoy the very peaceful and sociable atmosphere of Gregynog Hall.

We have already received several posters and exhibits in but would like to say how much we look forward to contributions of this kind. Any interesting specimens or noteworthy records will be gratefully received (they don’t have to be very polished or ‘scientific’) and all add to the Exhibition atmosphere. If you’re coming to Gregynog please bring something with you!

Booking forms were circulated with the last edition of BSBI News, to be made by 30 June, 2008. However, there are a few places left, although ensuite rooms have long been booked up. Applications should be made as soon as possible to Sarah Stille, The Quillet, Berwyn Street, Llandrillo, Corwen LL21 0TH
Tel: 01490 440 418 e-mail: sarah.stille@virgin.net
**Yucca in the sand dunes - Newborough Warren, Anglesey; Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire**

**YUCCA IN THE SAND DUNES AT NEWBOROUGH, ANGLESEY (V.C. 52) .............**

When in October 2007 Liz Howe sent the accompanying picture of Megan Howe beside a *Yucca* (Spanish-dagger) at Newborough (see colour section) it seemed appropriate to put a note in the Bulletin about the species and how it got there. However, I have found out so little that I am persevering with this note in the hope that you, the readers will know more, and respond with more information.

It is suggested that sometime in the mid 1950's five or so *Yucca* plants were found on the shore at Newborough and these were planted in the frontal dunes by the local staff of the Forestry Commission. There are currently two plants at Newborough in SH39.65, a third is now in cultivation in a garden in Conwy; but what happened to the others and how the plants have performed over the 50 - 60 years is unclear. The plant is not listed in Ellis (1983), Roberts (1982) or Preston *et al.* (2002).

I first noted them in 2005, and listed them as *Yucca recurvifolia*, the taxon listed in Stace (1997). However, when Arthur Chater saw Liz Howe's picture he doubted the plants were this taxon, suggested *Y. gloriosa*, and recommended advice was sought from Eric Clement. The picture and some leaves were despatched to Gosport and I am very grateful to Eric for looking at the material, and delving into the literature.

In summary he concluded that although some authors describe *Y. gloriosa* and *Y. recurvifolia* as separate taxa (with intermediates) the general view is that *Y. recurvifolia* is a variety of *Y. gloriosa*, to be cited as *Y. gloriosa* L. *var. recurvifolia* (Salisbury) Engelmann, 1873. Overall Eric advises 'sitting on the fence' with *Yucca gloriosa* agg. - at least until more information becomes available.

As a footnote *Yucca gloriosa* is listed in Ellis (1983) from Carmarthenshire (SN30); but listed in Pryce (1999) from three locations in SN30 as *Yucca recurvifolia*.

I. R. BONNER, Cae Trefor, Tyn y Gongl, Anglesey LL74 8SD

............... AND ON SAND DUNES IN GLAMORGAN (V.C. 41) AND CARMARTHENSHIRE (V.C. 44)

The first records of *Yucca* in Wales were reported by Dillwyn (1848) and Woods (1850), both from Crymlyn Burrows, Swansea, Glamorgan, and both presumably referring to the same plant. In a footnote on page 40 of the former reference, Dillwyn reports:

"On the sandy sea shore, opposite the Race-course on Crumlyn-burrows and more than a mile from any sort of house or garden, Mr L. L. Dillwyn, in 1839, found a thriving young plant of Yucca gloriosa, and it had all the appearance of having arisen from a seed which the tide had cast there. Notwithstanding the exposed situation, and the looseness of the soil, this native of Carolina was not materially injured by the unusually severe Winter of 1840-1; and Mr Moggridge informs me, that for two or three years it continued to thrive, till it was destroyed by a heap of shingle, which a violent storm and high tide threw over it."

Woods notes on page 1060:

"A more curious instance of incipient naturalization was exhibited a few years ago in the Yucca gloriosa, a root of which was cast on the shore of Cromlin burrows [sic]. It established itself there sending out suckers, and for some years seemed quite disposed to be permanent, till a storm buried it under a heap of shingle."
Furthermore, a painting by W. Williams, entitled *Fabian's Bay, Swansea, 1844*, shows in the foreground, what might be *Yucca* plants growing on low dunes above the strandline at a location close to Crymlyn Burrows (see colour section) - or is that being too optimistic?

Wade, *et al* (1994) refer, on page 196, to Woods' report of *Y. gloriosa* at Jersey Marine and also record

"*Yucca recurvifolia* has recently been recorded on sand dunes at Crymlyn Burrows (B.M. Sturdy, 1982)".

More recently, Tony and Viv Lewis recorded *Yucca* plants at Crymlyn Burrows which were visited during a BSBI field meeting on 22\textsuperscript{nd} June 2002 (see colour section).

In Carmarthenshire, up to about a dozen plants have been recorded during the period from the mid 1970s to the present, growing in dry, semi-stable dune ridges close to Cefn Sidan Sands which stretch for some six miles between Pembrey and Tywyn Point. The earliest of these records were from the northern end of this dune system mainly fronting Pembrey Forest and the RAF range but latterly plants have been found within the Pembrey Burrows Local Nature Reserve located towards the southern end. In recent years it would appear that most plants have been lost to the destruction of the dune front by sea erosion, but at least one was accidentally lost during the clearance of Sea Buckthorn by the local Council within the Local Nature Reserve.

The origin of these plants remains a mystery. Although their remoteness from habitation would indicate some form of natural establishment, there is the possibility that at least some plants may have been planted, but both Dillwyn and Woods refer to seeds or root being cast up by the tide and the assumption must err towards this hypothesis. However, as to where the seeds/root entered the sea before their marine journeys is contentious. After I had supposed that their origin was from across the Atlantic, Charles Nelson (pers. com.) was quick to point out that neither the relatively small seed nor vegetative material could possibly have survived such a journey and that the origin must be anthropogenic. However, while I cannot offer any data regarding the durability of *Yucca* seed or other propagules when immersed in sea water nor its likely viability after landfall, there is no doubt that plants have got there by some 'natural' means and a marine vector seems most likely. Even if an American source is to be ruled out the plants could still have originated from material entering the sea from local coastal or river-side gardens.

All except one of the Carmarthenshire plants have been referred to as *Y. gloriosa* with its erect leaves but one of the plants found most recently had its outer leaves reflexed so might better be referred to as *Y. gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia* or *Yucca gloriosa* agg. as suggested above by Eric Clement. The Carmarthenshire dunes continue to be monitored and it will be interesting to see whether further new recruitment occurs in the future.

My thanks to George Hutchinson at NMW for drawing my attention to the two early Glamorgan records of Dillwyn and Woods and to the various observers who have sent me *Yucca* records over the years.

**References**


Back in January, Trevor Evans, Vice-country Recorder for Monmouthshire (and author of the excellent, recently published *Flora of Monmouthshire*), emailed me as follows:

Enclosed are two photographs taken by Shirley Rippin of *Plantago lanceolata* taken in a lay­by on the A465 near Neath. The parent plant, over a foot high, had an offspring growing from the seed head and producing a flower head in anthesis as well as other heads about to flower. How common is it and should we call it Pick-a-back Plantain?

One of the photographs is reproduced in the colour section.

By coincidence, in April 2007, I was contacted by John Hubert, a resident of Pencader, Carmarthenshire, who had spotted a similar plant on a lane-side verge near his smallholding (see colour section). It too was over a foot high! I have seen similar ‘sport’ plantains in the past but never any quite so pronounced as this, but I'm sure that such plants are not that uncommon. A few years ago Tony Lewis sent a fasciated plantain to Mr Martin Cragg-Barber, editor of *That Plant’s Odd*, a newsletter of plant aberrations and news of unusual botanical occurrences, who named it after him! Martin collects and collates records of teratological plants and can be contacted by email at martin@worldmutation.demon.co.uk.

But I'm not sure about the name Pick-a-back Plantain!

Richard Pryce, Trevethin, School Road, Pwll, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA15 4AL

---

**GRASSES, SEDGES AND RUSHES**

Grasses, sedges (Cyperaceae) and rushes wanted; the latter two in fruiting stage - any species. In relation to the first, I would like to target *Poa* species with particular emphasis on montane forms within the *P. nemoralis* and *P. glauca* group. Observing collecting protocols, most useful are plants with a bit of root so the plant is of more value to grow on in successive years. Please send any material to the address below; P & P refunded if required.

MICHAEL WILCOX
32 Shawbridge St, Clitheroe, BB7 1LZ, Lancs., UK
E-mail: Michaelpw22@hotmail.com
Welsh Plant Records are compiled by Gwyn Ellis, 41 Marlborough Road, Roath, Cardiff, CF23 5BU, from reports of BSBI vice-county Recorders to whom records should preferably be sent. Plants are listed for each vice-county in the order of D.H. Kent’s List of Vascular Plants of the British Isles (1992), and Supplements 1 & 2 (1996 & 2000), the number in those lists preceding the name, so that names changed since 1996 can be given without giving the former name. Latin names also follow Kent (1992) and Supplements 1, 2 or 3 or, if not in that list, the Vice-county Census Catalogue (2003), the 2nd edition of C.A. Stace’s New Flora of the British Isles (1997), E.J. Clement & M.C. Foster’s Alien Plants of the British Isles (1994), T.B. Ryves, E.J. Clement & M.C. Foster’s Alien Grasses of the British Isles (1996) or P. Sell & G. Murrell’s Alien Plants of the British Isles (1994), P. Sell & G. Murrell’s Alien Grasses of the British Isles (1996) or, if not in that list, Stace (1997), Clement & Foster (1994), Ryves, Clement & Foster (1996), or Sell & Murrell (1996-2006). English names enclosed by square brackets do not occur in any of these books but have been used elsewhere. Welsh names are those in Planhigion Blodeuol, Conwydd a Rhedyn, published by Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd (2003).

The following symbols are used:
* to indicate a new v.c. record
+ to indicate a new or updated hectad record
† indicates archaeophyte; ‡ indicates neophyte; © indicates casual
†‡© before the species number: to indicate that the species is regarded as an archaeophyte, neophyte or casual at least somewhere in the British Isles.
†‡© before the record: to indicate a species which although a native, archaeophyte or neophyte at least somewhere in the British Isles, is not so in the locality recorded
[ ] to indicate that the record, previously published in error, should be deleted
○ to indicate an update to a rare or scarce taxon
□ to indicate that the taxon is now believed to be extinct in the locality cited

In general, only records which update the Vice-county Census Catalogue (2003) or the New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora (2002) will be listed. Other records are included at the discretion of the vice-county recorder. The minimum grid reference is to a hectad but, if supplied by the recorder, references to a 1km or even a 100m square may be included. A letter in parentheses following a grid reference indicates a tetrad.

The Vice-county Recorders from 1/5/2008 are:
MONMOUTH, v.c. 35; Mr T.G. Evans, La Cuesta, Mounton Road, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5BS
GLAMORGAN, v.c. 41 (West); Dr Q.O.N. Kay, West Cwm Ivy, Llanmadoc, Gower, Swansea SA3 1DG
GLAMORGAN, v.c. 41 (East); Mr J. Woodman, c/o CCW, Unit 4, Castelton Court, Fortran Road, Cardiff CF3 0LT (Please mark PERSONAL)
BRECON, v.c. 42; Mr M. Porter, Aberhoywy Farm, Cyffredyn Lane, Llangynidr, nr Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1LR
RADNOR, v.c. 43; Miss E.R. Dean, Emnmore House, Croft Lane, Kingsland, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 9PP & Mrs S.M. Spencer (all correspondence to Miss Dean)
CARMARTHEN, v.c. 44; Mr R.D. Pryce, Trevethin, School Road, Pwll, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 4AL
PEMBROKE, v.c. 45; Mr S.B. Evans, Dinas Cross, Newport, Pembrokeshire SA42 0UQ
CARDIGAN, v.c. 46; Mr A.O. Chater, Windover, Penyrangor, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 1BJ
MONTGOMERY, v.c. 47; Mrs M. Wainwright, Troy, 1 Green End, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 1BT and Dr A.K. Thorne (all correspondence to Mrs Wainwright)
MERIONETH, v.c. 48; Mr P.M. Benoit, Pencarreg, Barmouth, Gwynedd LL42 1BL
CAERNARFON, v.c. 49; Mrs W.N. McCarthy, 5 Tyn-y-coed, Great Orme, Llandudno, Conwy LL30 2QA
DENBIGH, v.c. 50; Mrs D. Williams, Bryn Sirol, Graigfechan, Ruthin, Denbighshire, LL15 2HA
FLINT, v.c. 51; Dr G. Wynne, Gwylfa, Lixwm, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 8NQ
ANGLESEY, v.c. 52; Dr N.H. Brown, Treborth Botanic Garden, University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RQ and Mr I.R. Bonner (all correspondence to Dr Brown)
MONMOUTH, v.c. 35 (comm. T.G. Evans)

[30/1.5a. Papaver dubium ssp. dubium (Long-headed Poppy) (Pabi Hirben). One plant on waste ground and dumped soil, N of Severn Tunnel Junction car park, ST461.876, T.G.Evans & C.Titcombe, 2006. Recorded in error for subsp. lecoqii].
30/1.5b. Papaver dubium ssp. lecoqii (Yellow-juiced Poppy) (Pabi Hirben). One plant on waste ground and dumped soil, N of Severn Tunnel Junction car park, ST461.876, T.G.Evans & C.Titcombe, 2006. Recorded in error as ssp. dubium.
+‡84/4.3. Oenothera biennis (Common Evening-primrose) (Melyn yr Hwyr). c.100 very glandular plants on waste ground, Kinson Farm, Whitebrook, SO52.06, S.J.Tyler, 2007, det. T.G.Evans.
+119/1.1. Hippuris vulgaris (Mare’s-tail) (Rhawn y Gaseg). 2-3m² small pond in tiny stream, S of Great House Farm, Llangua, SO392.257; A plant re-appeared after dredging of pond near River Monnow, Sand House, SK470.204; both S.J.Tyler, 2007. A very local and scarce v.c. plant.
*‡124/8.1. Chaenorhinum origanifolium subsp. origanifolium (Malling Toadflax) (Trwyn-y-llo Cain). Seven plants on vertical surface and 3 on top of remnant of riverside wall near Monnow Bridge, SO504.124, H.V.Colls, 2006. 1st British record of this subspecies. These plants have deep blue flowers some fading with age. Andy Jones informs me that Chaenorhinum origanifolium (no subspecies mentioned) is turning up as garden weeds in Central Wales. Plant Finder now lists a number of plant nurseries supplying the species.
*135/11.7xjac. Centaurea ×moncktonii (C. jacea × C. nigra) (Hybrid Knapweed) (Y Bengaled Groesryw). Seven plants on vertical surface and 3 on top of remnant of riverside wall near Monnow Bridge, SO504.124, H.V.Colls, 2006. 1st recent record & 1st Welsh record as a spontaneous hybrid. This rayed knapweed has colourless combs of different shapes on its outer phyllaries ranging from those on C. jacea to some approaching those of C. nigra.
Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Brecknock / Radnor

BRECKNOCK, v.c. 42 (comm. M. Porter)


103/1.5. Geranium sylvaticum (Wood Crane’s-bill) (Pig-yr-aran Coed). Hay meadow, Capel-y-ffin, SO24.31, M. & C.Porter, 2007. All other extant sites are on mountain cliffs.


RADNOR, v.c. 43 (comm. Miss E.R. Dean & Mrs S.M. Spencer)

+51/1.11. Hypericum linariifolium (Toadflax-leaved St John’s-wort) (Eurinlllys Culddail). Dolyhir near Stanner, SO246.583, A.Shaw, 2006. 1st recent record, last recorded in 1945.


152/16.3. **Carex diandra** (Lesser Tussock-sedge) (Hesgen Rafunog Fach). Rhosgoch Common, SO1948.4813, S.Bosanquet; +Rhosgoch Common, SO200.486, A.Ferguson; both 2007. 1st recent records. Previously reported from Llandrindod Wells (1919) and Rhosgoch Common (1948).

CARMARTHEN, v.c. 44 (comm. R.D. Pryce)


+17/5.1. **Nigella damaseena** (Love-in-a-mist) (Glas y Niwl). One or two self-sown plants on trackside, Allt Nant-y-ci Community Park, Saron, SN609.1.1236, G.M.Kay et al., 2007.


+35/1.1. **Morus nigra** (Black Mulberry) (Morwydden). Hedgerow at exit of field near house, Glan Rhwyd, Pontantwn, SN433.134, G.M.Kay et al., 2007. 1st record outside garden.


+40/1.1x2. **Betula x aurata** (B. pendula x B. pubescens) (a hybrid birch). Adjacent to track near Usk Reservoir, SN8069.2871, R.D.Pryce, 2007.

+46/20.9x1. Silene xhampeana (S. latifolia x S. dioica) [Pink Campion]. One plant on roadside, Blaencwm, Pencader, SN4306.3696; +One plant on track edge by the Usk Reservoir, SN8186.2910; both R.D.Pryce, 2007, only one parent (S. dioica) present.
+51/1.4. Hypericum hircinum (Stinking Tutsan) (Dail-y-Beiblau Drewlyd). Heavily grazed cliff-top flush, between Amroth and Telpyn Point, SN1869.0731, A.O.Chater et al., 2007.
+51/1.16. Hypericum elodes (Marsh St John’s-wort) (Eurinllys y Gors). In heavily grazed flush on cliff-top, between Amroth and Telpyn Point, SN1870.0735, A.O.Chater et al.; +Banks of rill in wet rushy area, Hafod Wenol SSSI, Mynydd Betws, SN6788.0940, BSBI meeting; both 2007.


**Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Carmarthen**

J.Gibson, 1993, NMW, det. J.Fryer; +Waste ground, Bynea, SS552.987, G.Hutchinson, 2006, NMW.


†75/32.23. var. Cotoneaster atropurpureus ‘Variegatus’ (Purple-flowered Cotoneaster) (Cotoneaster Blodau Porffor). Established on bank at entrance to farm drive, Gilfach-ddofn near Efailwen, SN133.27028, BSBI meeting, 2007, det. G.Hutchinson.


†75/32.35. Cotoneaster rehderi (Bullate Cotoneaster) (Cotoneaster Deilgrych Rehder). E entrance to dam between the two reservoirs, Cwmoernant Reservoir, Tanerdy, Cwmberth, SN41,21, G.Hutchinson, 2003, NMW.


†77/14.13. Vicia lutea (Yellow-vetch) (Ffacbysen Felen). Six robust plants in compacted development plateau, presumably introduced with seed mix, Parc Hendre development site, Capel Hendre, SN5999.1099, B.Stewart, 2007, NMW. 1st record.


†77/19.1. Trifolium ornithopodioides (Bird’s-foot Clover) (Corfeillionen Wen). At least 2-3 plants on grassy path west of harbour, Burry Port, SN4429.0034, BSBI meeting, 2007.


†78/2.1. Elaeagnus umbellata (Spreading Oleaster) (Oleaster). Bronwydd Arms, SN41.23, A.S.Lewis, 2002, NMW, det. G.Hutchinson. 1st record.
**Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Carmarthen**

+†79/2.2. **Myriophyllum aquaticum** (Parrot’s-feather) (Pluen Parot). Established in pond created about 10 years ago, Seythlyn, Pencader, SN4363.3681, R.D.Pryce; +Choking small garden pond in lawn south of house, Blaen Tir near Llandovery, SN79966.36416, R.D. & K.A.Pryce; both 2007.


+81/1.1. **Lythrum salicaria** (Purple-Ioosestrife) (Llysiau'r-milwr Coch). Introduced but established in small garden pond in lawn south of house, Blaen Tir, Llandovery, SN79966.36416, R.D.


+84/1.2×3. **Epilobium ×limosum** (E. parviflorum × E. montanum) (a hybrid willowherb). Ynysnadwela Country Park, Brynamman, SN70.13, Llanelli Naturalists meeting, 1997; +Rank grassy ride through coniferous forest, Pembrey Forest, SN3761.0343, BSBI meeting, 2006; both NMW, det. G.Kitchener.

+84/1.2×6. **Epilobium ×daciicum** (E. parviflorum × E. obscurum) (a hybrid willowherb). Rank grassy ride through coniferous forest, SN3761.0343, BSBI meeting, 2006, NMW, det. G.Kitchener.

+84/1.3×6. **Epilobium ×aggregatum** (E. montanum × E. obscurum) (a hybrid willowherb). Lane bank off bend in driveway up to Forge Farm, Forge Quarry, Cwmddyfan, SN408.257, G.Hutchinson, 1997; +Rank neutral grassland, Green Castle Woodland Trust Reserve, SN3917.1642, Llanelli Naturalists meeting, 2006; both NMW, det. G.Kitchener.


*84/1.4×6. **Epilobium ×lamotteanum** (E.lanceolatum x E. obscurum) (a hybrid willowherb). Lane bank off bend in driveway up to Forge Farm, Forge Quarry, Cwmddyfan, SN408.257, G.Hutchinson, 1997, NMW, det. A.O.Chater. 1st record.

+†89/1.1×per. **Ilex ×altaclarensis** (I. aquifolium x I. perado) (Celynnen Highclere). Tree at junction of minor road and driveway to farm, 0.3km SW of Cwm Rhuddan near Llandovery, SN758.325, G.Hutchinson, 1995, NMW, det. A.O.Chater.

*+91/2.5. **Euphorbia dulcis** (Sweet Spurge) (Llaethlys Për), Dylan Thomas’ Boat-house garden, Laugharne, SN306.110, J.Rees, 1992, NMW, det. T.Walker. 1st record.


+†91/2.10. **Euphorbia exigua** (Dwarf Spurge) (Corlaethlys). One large plant in disturbed shrub planting bed in car-park, Pontyberem, SN504.111, A.Stevens, 2007, NMW.


+‡103/1.1. **Geranium endressii** (French Crane’s-bill) (Pig-yr-arun Ffrainc). Established garden throw-out in rank grass and bramble dominated corner in stream meander, Trevaughan, Whitland, SN1982.1602; +Escape on narrow roadside verge, Brynsaron C.P. School near Llandysul, SN37925.36580; both R.D.Pryce, 2007.

+103/1.4. **Geranium rotundifolium** (Round-leaved Crane’s-bill) (Pig-yr-arun Grynddail). One plant on shale-surfaced track to farmyard, Telpyn Farm E of Amroth, SN18675.07555, A.O.Chater et al., 2007.


+118/1.8. Stachys arvensis (Field Woundwort) (Briwlys y Tir Ar). Very few plants in recently disturbed shaly trackway and bank. Telpyn Farm, east of Amroth, SN1807.0575, A.O.Chater et al., 2007.

+121/1.5. Plantago lanceolata (Ribwort Plantain) (Llyriad yr Ais). ©Teratological specimen (see article elsewhere in this Bulletin).


22 Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Carmarthen


+130/1.2. **Lobelia erinus** (Garden Lobelia) (Bidoglys yr Ardd). A few self sown plants in pavement cracks outside house curtilages, Trevaughan, Whitland, SNI969.1603, RD.Pryce; One self-sown plant in angle between curtilage wall and forecourt, Carmarthen Road, Cross Hands, SN5985.13088, R.D. & K.A.Pryce; both 2007.


Left:
*Yucca gloriosa* agg. (Spanish-daggers) growing at Newborough Warren, Anglesey with Megan Howe.
Photo: Liz Howe, October 2007.

Below left:
*Yucca gloriosa* agg. (Spanish-daggers) being examined by BSBI members led by Tony Lewis at Crymlyn Burrows, Swansea on 22nd June 2002.
Photo: Kath Pryce.

Right:
*Yucca gloriosa* agg. (Spanish-daggers), current year's flower spike >2m tall, growing on Tywyn Burrows, Carmarthenshire, one of at least two plants recorded by members of the Llanelli Naturalists on 25th September 1999.
Photo: Richard Pryce.

Below:
Detail from *Fabian's Bay, Swansea, 1844*, by W. Williams, showing what might be *Yucca* plants growing on low dunes above the strandline – or is that being too optimistic?

See:
*Yucca in the sand dunes at Newborough, Anglesey v.c.52 ....... and on sand dunes in Glamorgan v.c.41 and Carmarthenshire v.c.44*
**Ranunculus tripartitus** (Three-lobed Crowfoot). This species is Endangered in Great Britain, but Least Concern in Wales, largely due to the reintroduction of appropriate management at many of its sites (picture: Trevor Dines).

See: *Plantlife - Wales Newsletter - 7*

**Hammarbya paludosa** (Bog Orchid). This species is Least Concern in Great Britain but Endangered in Wales, mainly due to the loss of upland sites in Caernarfonshire and Merionethshire. It has been added to the list of priorities for conservation in Wales as a result (picture: Bob Gibbons).

See: *Teratological Ribwort Plantain*

**PLANTLIFE**

**Left**


**Right**

Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Carmarthen


24 Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Carmarthen


+152/16.42. **Carex punctata** (Dotted Sedge) (Hesen Fannog). Eleven plants on low, clay cliff just above shingle beach, between Amroth and Telpyn Point, SN1819.0733, A.O.Chater et al., 2007, det. A.O.Chater & J.P.Poland.


+153/18.4. **Poa humilis** (Spreading Meadow-grass) (Gweunwellt Ymledol). Sparsely vegetated disturbed ground, Whitland, SN1917.1678, R.D.Pryce; +Hay meadow, Hafod Wenol SSSI, Mynydd Betws, SN6767.0948, BSBI meeting; both 2007.


+162/18.2a. *Dactylorhiza maculata* ssp. ericetorum (Heath Spotted-orchid) (Tegeirian Brych y Rhos). One plant by side of drainage ditch, Gorsgoch, Llanllwch SSSI, SN3635.1862, LBAP Group, det. R.D.Pryce; +Occasional plants with at least one white flowered in unimproved hay meadow, Hafod Wenol, Mynydd Betws, SN6763.0962, BSBI meeting; +MG5 grassland adjacent to mire, Cruglas, Bethlehem SSSI, SN6833.2397, BSBI meeting; all 2007.


PEMBROKE (v.c. 45) (comm. S.B.Evans)


Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Pembroke


†135/22.1. Lactuca serriola (Prickly Lettuce) (Letusen Bigog). ©Growing between paving stones below the dam, Lllys-y-fran Reservoir, SN037.242, H. Williams, 2002.

†135/43. Erigeron acer (Blue Fleabane) (Arnrhydlwyd Glas). One plant in flower in crazy paving area below the dam, Lllys-y-fran Reservoir, SN037.242, S.B. Evans, 2007.

†135/55.3. Anthemis cotula (Stinking Chamomile) (Carnri'r Cwn). ©Road edge, Stone Hall, Goodwick Hill, SM953.382, S.B. Evans, 2007.


‡159/9.2. b. Gladiolus communis ssp. byzantinus (Eastern Gladiolus) (Blodyn-y-cleddyf Dwyreiniol). ©10 plants, but only one in flower, in disturbed ground in old MOD infill in corner of large field, far E of Croft Cottage Lane, Manorbier, SS073.976, S.B. Evans, 2007.

‡160/3.1. Cordyline australis (Cabbage-palm) (Palmwydden Fresych). ©Single plant of several years growth in S-facing sandy estuarine blackthorn scrub, Newport Estuary, SN056.399, S.B. & A.E. Evans, 2007. 1st record. Away from any gardens and no obvious reason why it should have been planted.
CARDIGAN, v.c. 46 (comm. A.O. Chater)


+19/1.1. *Azolla filiculoides* (Water Fern) (**Rhedynen y DWr**). Abundant in farm ponds, Blaencarrog, Llanddeiniol, SN5745.7233, A.O. Chater et al., 2007. Derived from throw-outs from nearby garden.


+29/1.1. *Berberis vulgaris* (Barberry) (**Pren Melyn**). Roadside hedge, 100m SW of Llanarth church, SN4220.5768, S.D.S. Bosanquet & A.O. Chater, 2006.


+59/1.1. *Frankenia laevis* (Sea-heath) (**Grugeilun Llyfn**). Mat 50×25cm in shingley waste ground, presumably self-sown from flowerbed 7m away where it grows, S end of Borth, SN6075.8890, A.O. Chater & J.P. Poland, 2007. 1st record.


Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Cardigan


+91/12.17. *Euphorbia characias* (Mediterranean Spurge) (Llaethlys Mor y Canoldir). Well naturalised in gorse scrub on quarry floor, 350m SE of Pont Llannon, Llannon, SN5180.6666, 2006; Large clump with c.12 inflorescences on mature *Ammophila* dune, Penyrergyd, Gwbert, SN5162.5480, 2007; both AO.Chater.


+103/1.9. *Geranium sanguineum* (Bloody Crane’s-bill) (pig-yr-arun Ruddgoch), Grassy streambank, by level crossing, Llanbadarn Fawr, SN5990.8052, A.O.Chater, 2007, NMW.


+119/1.4. *Sambucus ebulus* (Dwarf Elder) (Ysgawen Fair). Small colony in monkey enclosure, Borth Animalarium, SN6130.8950, J.P.Woodman & A.O.Chater, 2007. An unusual habitat, where it was not planted and perhaps was bird-sown.


Anthemis tinctoria (Yellow Chamomile) (Camri Melyn). Well naturalised in rough grass, Felin-y-mor Road, Aberystwyth, SN5807.8060, A.O.Chater, 2006, NMW. 1st record.

Luronium natans (Floating Water-plantain) (Llyriad-y-dŵr Arnofiol). In river, Afon Teifi 500m SW of Pont Stephen, Lampeter, SN5770.4737, N.T.H.Holmes, 2005. The furthest down the Teifi it has been recorded.


Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Montgomery / Merioneth

Hieracium daedalolepioides (Petite-leaved Hawkweed). Several plants on old quarry face, Belan Bank, SJ3185.1575; 4-5 plants in woodland outside quarry area, Craig Breiddon, SJ2884.13686; both A.K.Thorne, 2007, det. D.J.McCosh. 2nd & 3rd recent records.


Carex viridula ssp. brachyrrhyncha (Long-stalked Yellow-sedge) (Hesgen Felen). Upland runnel, Bryncoch Farm, SJ013.081, D.Reed, 2007, conf. A.Jones. 41st site but 1st confirmed record.


Polypodium interjectum (Intermediate Polypody) (Llawredynen Ganolig). Mortared wall at Trawsfynydd, SH7.3, 2002; Mortared wall between Llanuwchllyn and Dolhendre, SH8.3, 2007; both P.M.Benoit.

Dryopteris aemula (Hay-scented Buckler-fern) (Marchredynen Ber). One fine clump on a sunny roadside bank near Talyllyn, SH7.1, PM.Benoit, 2007. An unlikely occurrence: probably a stray from a so-far undiscovered colony in a more normal habitat.


Montia fontana ssp. chondrosperma (Blinks) (Porpin Y Ffynnon). Grassy place near the high school in Tywyn, SH5.0, P.M.Benoit, 2007.


Erophila glabrescens (Glabrous Whitlowgrass) (Llysiau'r-bystwn Llyfn). ©Weed of flower beds, Barmouth, SH6.1, P.M.Benoit, 2007. 1st record.

Brassica nigra (Black Mustard) (Mwstard Du). ©Several plants as roadside weeds, Tywyn, SH5.0, P.M.Benoit, 2007.

Rosa rubiginosa (Sweet-briar) (Dryshen Ber). ©One bush near Borthwen, Llywnygwril, SH5.0, P.M.Benoit, 1951. Included in Benoit & Richards’ Contribution to a Flora of Merioneth, ed. 2 (1963) and in Ellis's Fl. Pl. Wales (1983), but missed in the Atlases of both 1962 and 2002. The bush, or a descendant, still there 1990: an updating still needing improvement; ©In quantity and flourishing in a newly planted hedge near Coleg Meirion, Dolgellau, SH7.1, P.M.Benoit, 2007. 1st recent record.


Epilobium roseum (Pale Willowherb) (Helyglys Gwelw). ©One plant as roadside weed near the high school, Tywyn, SH5.0, P.M.Benoit, 2007. A decreasing species now almost gone from the v.c.

Impatiens glandulifera (Indian Balsam) (Jac Y Neidiwr). Roadside near Bont Newydd, Ffestiniog, SH7.4, P.M.Benoit; ©Cynwyd, SJ0.4, S.E.Stille; both 2007.
**32 Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Merioneth**


++118/6.3. *Galeopsis speciosa* (Large-flowered Hemp-nettle) (Y Benboeth Amryliw). Very fine and in great quantity with *G. tetrahit* and *G. bifida* in a crop field between Llandrillo and Cynwyd, SJ0.3, S.E.Stille, 2007.


++124/20.7x9. *Euphrasia nemorosa* × *E. confusa* (a hybrid eyebright). In long grass by road junction, Trystion valley above Cynwyd, SJ0.4, S.E.Stille, 2007, det. A.J.Silverside. 1st record.


++131/6.6. *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle) (Gwyddfid Japan). Conifer plantation, Morfa Harlech, SH5.3, P.M.Benoit, 2006. 1st record; +Escaped from garden on to rocks in quantity, Cellfechan-road, Barmouth, SH6.1, P.M.Benoit, 2007. 2nd record but known here for some years previously.

++133/1.2. *Valerianella carinata* (Keeled-fruited Cornsalad) (Gwylaeth-yr-oen Ffrwythau Rhychog). Roadside wall near Hafodarfor, Llwyngwril, SH5.1, P.M.Benoit, 1971, 1978; +tRoadside, N side of Corwen, SH0.4, S.E.Stille; both 2007.

++135/5.4. *Carduus nutans* (Musk Thistle) (Ysgallen Bendrom). +tThree plants in disturbed ground where bales had stood, Eithin Fynydd, Llanuwchllyn, SH8.2, D.O.Elias; +tRoadside, N side of Corwen, SJ0.4, S.E.Stille; both 2007.

++135/22.1. *Lactuca serriola* (Prickly Lettuce) (Letusen Bigog). +tSeveral plants near the Wayside Café, Llanaber, SH5.1, P.M.Benoit; +tPandy Capel, SJ0.5, S.E.Stille; both 2007.

++135/44.2. *Conyza sumatrensis* (Guernsey Fleabane) (Amrhydlwyd Guernsey). In quantity with *C. canadensis* on a disused platform at Barmouth railway station, SH6.1, P.M.Benoit, 2007. The conspicuously hairy plant and invariably 5-lobed corollas of the disc florets were confirmed. 1st record.


*++153/18.7. *Poa chaixii* (Broad-leaved Meadow-grass) (Gweunwellt Llydanddail). A number of plants (probably originally planted) on roadside bank near house at Mallwyd, SH8.1, P.M.Benoit, 2007. 1st record.*
Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Merioneth / Caernarfon

*†153/44.1. *Apera spica-venti* (Loose Silky-bent) (Sidanwellt). ©Two plants in dirt at base of fence separating the railway track from the footway, Barmouth Viaduct, SH6.1, P.M.Benoit, 2007. 1st record.


CAERNARFON, v.c. 49 (comm. Mrs W. McCarthy)


+51/1.3. *Hypericum androsaemum* (Tutsan) (Dail y Beiblau). In stonework of bridge over Afon Glaslyn, Beddgelert, SH60.49, W.McCarthy, 2007.


*66/1.3.b. *Pyrola rotundifolia* ssp. maritima (Round-leaved Wintergreen) (Glesyn-y-gaeaf Deilgrwn). Disused quarry floor, Trefriw, SH78.61, I.Fraser, 2007. 1st record.

*‡71/HYD.mac. *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Hydrangea) (Trilliw ar Ddeg). Sandy bank at top of beach, Porth Dinllaen, SH27.41; Slate quarry waste tip, Llanllechid, SH63.69; both W.McCarthy, 2007. 1st & 2nd records.


+124/1.2. **Verbascum virgatum** (Twiggy Mullein) (Pannog Fain). Three plants on waste ground on site of former Conwy hospital, Conwy, SH77.78, W.McCarthy & M.Stead, 2007.


+124/23.1. **Parentucellia viscosa** (Yellow Bartsia) (Gorudd Melyn). Track edge in Coed Creigiau, Trefriw, SH77.63, I. & L.Fraser, 2007. 2nd record and 1st for 30 years.

125/2.10. **Orobanche minor** (Common Broomrape) (Gorfanhadlen). Weedy waste ground near railway station, Llandudno, SH78.81, W.McCarthy, 2007.


+~13116.6. **Lonicera japonica** (Japanese Honeysuckle) (Gwyddfid Japan). In hedgebank away from houses, Criccieth, SH48.37, W.McCarthy, 2007. 2nd record.


+135/40.1. **Solidago virgaurea** (Goldenrod) (Eurwialen). Path edge near Afon Glaslyn, Beddgelert, SH64.19, W.McCarthy, 2007.

+135/62.10×11. **Senecio ×ostenfeldii** (S. jacobaea × S. aquaticus) (a hybrid ragwort). Grassland at wood edge with both parents present, Llanddeiniolen, SH53.66, W.McCarthy & L.Ball; +Bank of Afon Glaslyn, Beddgelert, SH60.48, W.McCarthy & S.Stille; both 2007.


+152/16.46.b. **Carex viridula** ssp. **oedocarpa** (Common Yellow-sedge) (Hesgen Felen). Spring by well near Pink Farm, Great Orme, SH77.83, W.McCarthy, 2007.


+153/17.3. **Briza maxima** (Greater Quaking-grass) (Crydwellt Mawr). +On Dinas hill, Criccieth, SH49.37; +Many plants along wall-base below Twt hill, Caernarfon, SH48.62; both W.McCarthy & M.Stead, 2007. 1st non-casual records.
Welsh Plant Records - 2007 - Caernarfon / Denbigh

*†158/28.1. **Tristagma uniflorum** (Spring Starflower) (Sêr-flodyn y Gwanwyn), Base of wall, Marine Drive, Great Orme, SH76.82, J.Benson, 2007. 1st record.


DENBIGH, v.c. 50 (comm. Mrs J.A. Green)


+‡21/2.1. **Chamaecyparis lawsoniana** (Lawson’s Cypress) (Cypreswydden Lawson). Woods, Betws y Coed, SH79.55; +Cemetery, Holt, SJ407.542; both J.A.Green, 2007.


+‡36/3.1. **Soleirolia soleirolii** (Mind-your-own-business) (Mam Miloedd). Flower-bed, Rhos on Sea, SH83.82, J.A.Green, 2007.

+‡39/4.2. **Quercus cerris** (Turkey Oak) (Derwen Twrci). Established in woods, Betws y Coed, SH799.554, J.A.Green, 2007.


+43/4.1a. **Beta vulgaris** ssp. **maritima** (Sea Beet) (Betsen Arfor). Sea wall, Rhos on Sea, SH83.82, J.A.Green, 2007.

+46/7.10. **Cerastium diffusum** (Sea Mouse-ear) (Clust-y-llygoden Fach). Grassed sand dune, Kimmell Bay, SH987.806, J.A.Green, 2007.


+‡51/1.4. **Hypericum hircinum** (Stinkin Tutsan) (Dail-y-Beiblau Drewllyd). Castle woods, Denbigh, SJ052.658, J.A.Green, 2007. 2nd record.


+56/5.3. **Stellaria palida** (Lesser Chickweed) (Gwyddyn-y-dom Bach). Grassy sand dune, Kimmell Bay, SH987.806, J.A.Green, 2007.


+60/1.1. **Bryonia dioica** (White Bryony) (Bloneg y Ddaear). Field hedge, Sutton Green, SJ407.487, J.A.Green, 2007.

Sisymbrium orientale (Eastern Rocket) (Roced y Dwyrain). Sea wall, Rhos on Sea, SH83.82, J.A.Green, 2007.


Rorippa amphibia (Great Yellow-cress) (Berwr Melyn Mawr). Field pond, Sutton Green, SJ409.477, BSBI group, 1st record since 1979.


Epilobium tetragonum (Square-stalked Willowherb) (Helyglys Pedronglog). Wet heath, Rhyd Galed, SJ10.575; Road verge, Denbigh, SJ059.675; both J.A.Green, 2007.

Solanum nigrum (Black Nightshade) (Codwarth Du). Road edge, Sutton Green, SJ406.482, J.A.Green, 2007.


Leycesteria formosa (Himalayan Honeysuckle) (Bachgen Llwm). Castle woods, Denbigh, SJ053.660, J.A.Green, 2007.


+135/27.6. **Pilosella aurantiaca** (Fox-and-cubs) (Clust-y-llygodên Euraid). Mown grass, Rhos on Sea, SH83.82, J.A.Green, 2007.

+135/37.1. **Pulicaria dysenterica** (Common Fleabane) (Cedowydd), Wet field, Bradley, SJ333.535, J.A.Green, 2007.

+135/40.3. **Solidago canadensis** (Canadian Goldenrod) (Eurwialen Canada). Waste ground, Denbigh, SJ047.662, J.A.Green, 2007.


+153/21.2. **Catapodium marinum** (Sea Fern-grass) (Gwenithwellt y Morfa). Road edge near sea, Rhos on Sea, SH83.82, J.A.Green, 2007.


+61/2.02×03. **Ligustrum ovalifolium** (Garden Privet) (Yswydden yr Ardd). Dune grassland & remnant dunes, Y Ffrith, Prestatyn, SJ045.829, J. Phillips & BSBI group, 2002.

+61/2.02×03. **Salix ×rubens** (*S. alba × S. fragilis*) (Hybrid Crack-willow) (Helygen Frau Groesryw). Old hedge, Rhuddlan, SJ0.7, G. Wynne, 2003, *NMW*, det. G. Hutchinson.


‡75/32.34. **Cotoneaster bullatus** (Hollyberry Cotoneaster) (Cotineaster Deilgrych). Scrub in new amenity woodland, Prestatyn, SJ059.825, G. Wynne, 2007, 3rd record.


ANGLESEY, v.c. 52 (comm. N.H. Brown & I.R. Bonner)

The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Wales

Following publication of the *The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain* (Cheffings & Farrell, 2005), which looked at the level of threat facing the whole of our flora for the first time, it became clear that there were significant differences between Wales and Great Britain. Some species, such as *Pseudorchis albida* (Small White-orchid) had declined more in Wales than Great Britain, while others, such as *Ranunculus tripartitus* (Three-lobed Crowfoot), were doing better. At the same time, the need arose for a comprehensive analysis of the flora in Wales to be undertaken so that priorities for conservation could be determined. The Welsh Assembly Government had already published a list of such priorities (the Section 74 list), but species selection for this was not underpinned by a scientifically rigorous methodology. Also, there had been no comprehensive examination of our plants in Wales since the excellent *Flowering Plants of Wales* by Gwynn Ellis in 1983. A botanical “stock-taking” exercise was well overdue. Plantlife Wales and the BSBI therefore decided to produce a Red Data List for Wales. This would take the form of the GB Red Data List and apply the same, rigorous IUCN criteria for threat to our flora.

Work started with an analysis of the data from the Vascular Plant Database, which had been compiled for the *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* (Preston et al., 2002). We are deeply indebted to Chris Cheffings at JNCC for undertaking this task, which analysed the decline in number of hectads and ”area of occupation” within Wales (IUCN threat criterion A). The other IUCN criteria (B, C and D) examine the current number of sites, populations or individuals of a species in the area being considered. Criteria B and C also require evidence of any ongoing decline. For these criteria, the BSBI Wales Committee and Vice-county Recorders were bombarded with requests from me for detailed, up-to-date site data for a whole range of species, mostly those that had been recorded in 15 or fewer hectads in Wales since 1987. Records were also sought from BSBI County Rare Plant Registers for Anglesey (Bonner, 2006), Carmarthenshire (Pryce, 1999), Ceredigion (Chater, 1997) and Monmouthshire (Evans, 2007), along with the Registers in preparation for Flintshire, Caerarfonshire and Glamorgan. Without these County Rare Plant Registers, this work would have been impossible, as the level of detail they contain made assessment of a species’ current status extremely easy. Additional records were also sought from records published in the *BSBI Welsh Bulletin* since 2000 (numbers 68 to 80), and staff of other conservation organisations such as the Countryside Council for Wales and the National Parks, and Tim Rich from the National Museum of Wales very kindly provided his own assessments of *Hieracium* microspecies in Wales.

A major task was to judge whether any population is currently declining. Records up to 2007 were used to assess this and Vice-county Recorders were asked for their judgements based on their most recent observations. This is extremely difficult to do given the paucity of monitoring data for many taxa and there is much room for improvement here. The collection of population size or extent, or at least some observation of trends from year to year, are extremely valuable and should be mandatory for all of the rarest species in Wales. Some taxa will be allocated a lower category of threat in Wales than appropriate because monitoring data is not available.

At the end of this exercise, however, a spreadsheet had been compiled of current site-data for all species found in 15 or fewer sites in Wales, and this formed the basis of the analysis. The following criteria were applied, following the strict IUCN guidelines:
How does Wales compare with Great Britain?

Obviously a major aim of the study was to compare the flora of Wales with Great Britain as a whole. Not surprisingly, there are a huge number of differences. Only 34 taxa have the same threat category in both Wales and Great Britain (7 Critically Endangered, 5 Endangered and 22 Vulnerable), while just 6 are Near Threatened on both lists. Of course, most taxa are not threatened, and 1074 are categorised as being Least Concern in both areas. The following shows the number and proportion of taxa in each category in Great Britain and Wales:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Great Britain</th>
<th>Wales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extinct (EX+EW+RE)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critically Endangered (CR)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endangered (EN)</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable (VU)</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Threatened (NT)</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Deficient (DD)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Concern (LC)</td>
<td>1248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two figures are particularly striking here, the higher proportion of extinct taxa in Wales and the higher proportion of Critically Endangered taxa. The former can be explained by Wales being a smaller area than Great Britain. There will always be a higher rate of extinction at the local, site level long before extinctions become apparent from larger areas; extinctions are
frequent locally, less frequent from Vice-counties and are relatively rare nationally. Welsh Vice-counties have on average lost 50 taxa (using records available from seven Welsh County Rare Plant Registers), so the figure of 38 extinctions for Wales fits neatly between this County average for Wales and the GB total of eighteen.

More difficult to explain is the higher proportion of Critically Endangered taxa. This may result partly from the large number of species that reach the edge of their southern range in Wales. Such populations are often small and more vulnerable to extinction. We also have a high number of Critically Endangered *Hieracium* microspecies in Wales, which are relatively well studied and for which population details are often available.

The higher proportions of Extinct and Critically Endangered taxa in Wales are balanced by relatively fewer Vulnerable and Near Threatened taxa. This may be because for this study detailed site-records were sought for taxa in 15 or fewer sites in Wales, which tend to be either Endangered or Critically Endangered. I strongly suspect that more taxa will qualify as Near Threatened and Vulnerable when more detailed records are collected for species found in 16-30 sites.

**Which species are doing worse in Wales?**

162 taxa are “doing worse” in Wales than they are in Great Britain (in other words they have a higher level of threat in Wales, or are threatened in Wales but are Least Concern in Great Britain). Many of these are due to Wales having very small populations of species that are common in England. Some species that are surprisingly highly threatened in Wales because of this include *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* (1 plant in Wales), *Atropa belladonna* (c. 10 plants in Wales) and *Geranium sylvaticum* (less than 30 plants).

Comparisons have to be made with some caution if taxa are qualifying under different criteria in each area. *Cephalanthera longifolia*, for example, is Vulnerable in GB under criterion A (decline in area), but is Endangered in Wales due to the small number of plants (c. 210). Similarly, *Pseudorchis albida* is VU in GB because of the decline in its area (criterion A), but is Critically Endangered in Wales because there are very few sites and the decline at these is ongoing (criteria C and D).

Of most interest are those taxa that are more threatened in Wales due to a higher level of decline in hectares or area (criterion A). Examples include *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (EN in GB but CR in Wales), *Chamaemelum nobile* (VU in GB but EN in Wales), *Gentianella campestris* (VU in GB but EN in Wales), *Melittis melissophyllum* (VU in GB but EN in Wales) and *Anagallis minima* (NT in GB but VU in Wales). These are precisely the sort of species we’d hoped to identify so that priorities for conservation can be determined in Wales. A full list of these species is given in the report.

**Which species are doing better in Wales?**

A small suite of species have a lower category of threat in Wales than they do in Great Britain. These are often typically “western” species, such as *Viola lactea* (VU in GB, LC in Wales) and *Silene gallica* (EN in GB, VU in Wales), that have suffered more of a decline in southern England than they have in Wales. Care is again needed with these comparisons however, as some taxa qualify under different criteria in each area. *Dianthus armeria*, for example, is Endangered in GB due to a decline of 50-80% (criterion A), while in Wales it qualifies as Vulnerable under criterion D, with five or fewer sites.

Some species are fairing better in Wales because their habitat management needs are well understood and populations are recovering through the reintroduction of appropriate
management. Ranunculus tripartitus (Three-lobed Crowfoot) is a case in point. This is Endangered in GB but Least Concern in Wales, mainly because grazing is being reintroduced to its heathland sites in Pembrokeshire and on Gower, and seasonal pools and ruts are being excavated at other sites in Pembrokeshire and Caernarfonshire. This species is effectively recovering in Wales, and since it’s nice to highlight a “good-news” story for a change it features on the cover of the report.

Extinctions
As already mentioned, there is a higher proportion of extinction in Wales than in Great Britain. As with Great Britain as a whole, arable species are the largest single group that have been lost from Wales, with 8 (21%) of the 38 extinctions being plants of cultivated fields. Although Wales is not now an arable country, this is no surprise as it was much more so in the past. Five extinct species grew in base-rich habitats and it is interesting to note that most of these are typical of low-nutrient grasslands. Six other species on the list grew on coastal shingle or dunes, and these habitats are indeed under considerable pressure for “improvement” and development. One surprise was the relative lack of arctic-alpine species on the list. Since those that remain in this country have already survived a long history of warm interglacial periods, perhaps this is to be expected, and the main threats are from overgrazing and atmospheric nitrogen deposition.

Between 1800 and 1980 there was a remarkable increase in the rate of species extinction in Wales, culminating in a peak in the period 1961-1980 when 15 species were recorded for the last time (see graph below). Although this needs to be treated with a certain amount of caution (the precise dates at which some species were lost is unknown, and this may be a cumulative effect of national Atlas recording periods rather than actual dates of losses), the trend is clear even when these uncertainties are removed. The period 1961-1980 coincides with the greatest period of agricultural intensification in Britain and it is again no surprise that most of the arable and ruderal species that have become extinct in Wales were lost during this time. The relative lack of extinctions since 1980 may reflect a greater awareness of the need for, and effort towards, species conservation.

Interestingly, one of the most recent losses was Mertensia maritima (Oysterplant), which appears to have been a victim of a combination of factors including storm damage, vehicle use on the shingle beach and our ameliorating climate. The germination of this European Boreo-arctic Montane species is dependent on winter temperature and duration and seedlings

![Graph showing the number of extinctions between 1800 and 1980]
only appeared in quantity at its last Welsh location following hard winters. Is this perhaps the first casualty of climate change in Wales?

**How will the findings be used?**

One important point needs to be made about how this list should be used. Wales is a political, not biogeographic, area and this list should not be used in isolation without the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain. Any taxon that is threatened in Great Britain should also be regarded as a priority for conservation in Wales, regardless of its threat status in Wales. If, for example, a taxon is less threatened in Wales than it is in Great Britain (it has a lower threat category or is even Least Concern in Wales), the Welsh population must still be regarded as a vitally important component of the GB population and deserves full protection in Wales. This is because it represents a part of the whole GB population that has more chance of surviving and recovering than the GB population as a whole. Should the GB population outside Wales continue to decline, the Welsh population will become increasingly important. Should the Welsh population begin to decline, the species will be regarded as even more threatened in the GB as a whole.

Conversely, taxa that are more threatened in Wales than they are in Great Britain should naturally be considered as priorities for conservation within Wales. The results of this study have already been used to inform the selection of conservation priorities in Wales, with species such as *Hammarbya paludosa* (Bog Orchid) being added to the new Section 42 list. Threatened species identified in the report should also be considered for incorporation into Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

Finally, we would hope that all taxa regarded as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened in Wales are included in County Rare Plant Registers, as these provide the best mechanism for encouraging the collection of records and assessments of decline.

Electronic copies of the report are available from [http://www.plantlife.org.uk/portal/plantlife-news.htm](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/portal/plantlife-news.htm).

**References**


TREVOR DINES, Plantlife Wales Officer, c/o Countryside Council for Wales, Maes y Ffynnon, Pfordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2LQ