

DERBYSHIRE FLORA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

EDITED: ALAN WILLMOT (University of Derby) & NICK MOYES (Derby Museums)

Number 14 – Winter 2004/Spring 2005

1. EDITORIAL (AW)

I trust you are all well and have had a good break over Xmas. Like me I expect that your thoughts are now turning to the coming outdoor season and what I hope is the final push to completing our flora. These brief notes should bring you up-to-date as to where we are with the project and let you know what we plan for



180. *Hypericum Androsæmum*, L.
Tutsan; *Y.*

the coming year. Please note in particular the comments about the indoor meeting and the outdoor programme (section 5).

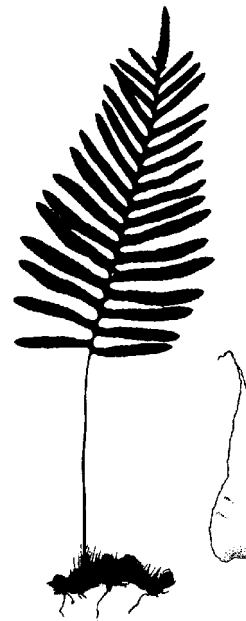
I have also included details of some of the more interesting new plant records, such as a possible native site for Tutsan, and of another local talk by Prof. Clive Stace that should be of interest to you (section 8).

2. NEW PLANT RECORDS (AW)

These include new county records, new localities for rare species and recent records for plants not seen for a number of years. I am particularly pleased to be able to include some records from my favourite group, the ferns, this

time. The selection is mine so I apologise to all those whose records I have not included here, but they have all been passed on to Nick for inclusion in our database at the museum.

***Dryopteris sub-montana* (Rigid Buckler Fern)** a very rare fern with us, was recorded at Blake Moor Reserve (SK1562) by Steve Price in 2003.



***Polypodium cambricum* (Southern Polypody)** was reconfirmed at its only Derbyshire locality, a cliff face at Willersley Castle (SK299573), by Trevor Taylor in 2003.

***Polystichum x bicknellii* (Hybrid Shieldfern)** was discovered for the first time in the county at Lathkill Dale (SK200661) in 2004 by Geoffrey Wilmore. This is the cross of Soft and Hard Shieldfern.

Allium moly (**Yellow Garlic**) was recorded for the first time in the area in the disused gravel pit near Derby City Centre (SK362359) by Adrian Mylward in 2004.

Alnus x hybrida (**A hybrid alder**) was recorded for the first time in the county planted near Grin Low car park (SK049719) by John Bland. This is the hybrid Alder and Grey Alder which is increasingly being planted locally in restoration schemes.

Berberis thunbergii (**Thunberg's Barberry**) was recorded for the first time in our area, in a roadside hedge at Allestree (SK331395) by Trevor Taylor and Beverley Rhodes in 2004. They noted that it was presumably of bird-sown origin.

Carex divulsa (**Grey Sedge**) was recorded by Ken Balkow south east of Ashover (SK3562) in 2004, growing in a woodland edge over limestone.

Carex laevigata (**Smooth-stalked Sedge**) was recorded by Philip Precey at Crich Chase (SK343530) in 2003.

Cedrus atlantica (**Atlas Cedar**) was recorded by Trevor Hall in SK21J during the Local Change Scheme in 2003.

Ceratophyllum submersum (**Soft Hornwort**) was recorded at Coton in the Elms (SK239153) by Philip Precey in 2003. This is the first local record since 1979.

Chenopodium urbicum (**Upright Goosefoot**) was recorded at Rodsley (SK205401), in a weedy vegetable patch, by Gareth Hirons in 2003. This is the first local record since 1970.

Chionodoxa luciliae (**Boissier's Glory-of-the-snow**) was recorded in a wood at Churchdale Hall (SK203703) by Grace Wheeldon and David Dupree in 2003.

Cotula coronopifolia (**Buttonweed**) was discovered for the first time in our county, in the bed of a dried up pond, between Ilkeston and West Hallam (SK452415), by myself in 2004.

Cucurbita pepo (**Marrow**) was recorded for the first time for our area, by Cyril Higginbottom, in 2003 on a muck heap at Brook Farm, Muggington Bottoms (SK281434) in 2003.

Dactylorhiza incarnata (**Early Marsh Orchid**) was recorded on the site of the old Glapwell Colliery, by Mike Padfield and Kevin DuRose, in 2004.

Hypericum androsaemum (**Tutsan**) was discovered by Steve Price in a very natural looking setting at Meadow Wood, Chee Dale (SK123734) in 2004.

Littorella uniflora (**Shoreweed**) was recorded on our visit to Ogston Reservoir (SK372593) in 2004.

Medicago arabica (**Spotted Medick**) was recorded by Cyril Higginbottom on a pathway at his allotments (Warwick Avenue, Deby SK341340) in 2004.

Medicago polymorpha (**Toothed Medick**) was re-found for the first time in the county since 1969, near the Britannia Mill site of the University of Derby (SK342369) in 2004, by Stephen Jackson.

Rubus cockburnianus (**White-stemmed Bramble**) was discovered for the first time in our area, in a clough below Jodrell Road (SK009818), by William A Thompson in 2004. The recorder noted that it was a presumed garden outcast.

Sisyrinchium striatum (**Pale Yellow-eyed-grass**) was recorded, for the first time in our area, by Adrian Mylward at a disused gravel pit near the centre of Derby (SK362359) in 2004.

Viola labradorica (Labrador Violet) was recorded for the first time for our area, on a roadside at Great Longstone (SK203716), by Grace Wheeldon and David Dupree in 2003.

3. FLORA PROGRESS (AW)

Apart from processing some records, I have been concentrating on drafting entries for the systematic section of the flora this year. I feel that I have made good progress with this and have now prepared drafts for all extant species except for the Daisy Family (Asteraceae) and the three groups of microspecies, that is the dandelions, hawkweeds and brambles. This comes to 1500 accounts. I hope to have finished the Daisy Family by the time of the indoor meeting when I plan to make copies available for comment. I will then only have the microspecies plus the extinct and the doubtful/erroneous species left to do.

FLORA PROGRESS (NM)

All of Alan's excellent efforts at preparing a first draft of each species account, and now available in our special Access database that we are using to manage all the information we are collating. If anyone would like to have a copy of any particular species, genus or family (with a view to helping us edit and enhance them) do please let me know. A printout for each species allows us to see the original draft, plus any later changes that have been made, as well as view all the statistics on which each account is based. My own family, home and work commitments means I've not had anything like the amount of free time I would have wished to make more progress with editing many myself. Having worked to a set formula to draft the accounts, it seems sensible to look at each one in turn to see if any enhancements are necessary to either the writing style or botanical content. If you feel you'd like to do this for any plant groups you're interested in, that would be most useful. A number of photographers have recently started to offer us help with capturing pictures we need. Again, time has been the limiting factor, but I intend to catch up on this important area of the Flora in the coming season.

4. FLORA – THE WAY FORWARD

Apart from drafting and editing the entries, the next three main things to do for the flora, not necessarily in this order, are to sort out the printing/publishing, the illustrations and the introductory text. We have made a start on all three of these but they will all now need more effort put into them. We have met with one printer so far and await their response, based on a request to provide pricing similar to producing the colourful Flora of Norfolk. We have made some progress with illustrations but need more help here, and we have some promises for introductory sections but need to turn these into copy.

5. MEETINGS 2005 (AW & NM)

We plan to have an indoor meeting in the spring and a series of weekend outdoor meetings this year. The indoor meeting will be at Derby Museum as usual on Saturday 23rd April commencing at 12 noon, though doors will be open from 11am for those who want to meet up and chat beforehand. Bring sandwiches! The detailed programme for the day has to be worked out, but we plan the usual mix of items about Derbyshire plants, recording and our new flora. We will probably focus on enhancing some of our species accounts, and looking at photographs. Do please bring any slides or other digital images you may have. The former can be left for scanning and returned to you, but it helps to have an idea of species and location for each one, or some other form of captioning. Other items or suggestions for inclusion are welcome. There will be no further general posting about the meeting so please make a note of the meeting now and let us know if you are coming. The outdoor meetings programme is also still at the planning stage so if you have any ideas for venues please let either of us know. Details will be made available at the indoor meeting, through our website and by post. I will not be able to post everyone with details so please let us know if you wish to receive the programme by post.

6. FLORA QUIZ II (AW)

After Flora Quiz I which raised over £1000 for our flora publication funds, John Bland and Sue Jones have done it again! Flora Quiz II was as fiendish as its predecessor and almost as lucrative. Any of you who have avoided the clutches of Sue selling the quiz sheets will be pleased to hear that you have missed the closing date for the new quiz. To those who did buy a sheet for a pound, thank you very much, the new quiz has raised £895. P Sutton of Hilton, got 100% correct. From many very good attempts D and V Russell of Bakewell came second and joint third prizes go to C Lowe of Duffield and A & K Dorney of Sheffield. Thanks also again to Sue and John, their efforts are much appreciated.

7. BSBI LOCAL CHANGE PROJECT

I have now received all the records from the recorders for the resurvey of the tetrads for this project. They have all been computerised on, what is a new programme to me, Mapmate and forwarded electronically to co-ordinator of the scheme. The final task is to look at the differences (losses and gains) between the recent surveys and the earlier surveys of the squares in 1987/88, and to try and give reasons for them. To me this has been the most problematical part of the scheme, as it is almost impossible to decide if "lost" plants are really local extinctions or have simply been missed. No doubt there will be more feedback from the co-ordinator when he has the full results for the scheme.

8. STACE LECTURE (AW)

A couple of years ago Professor Clive Stace came to Derby to talk to the Derby Natural History Society about hybrids. There was an excellent turnout, almost one hundred members and visitors, and a very interesting and entertaining talk. Somehow he has been persuaded to come back and talk again, this time his talk is entitled "One species or two – does it matter?" The talk is at the same venue, the Evergreen Hall, Cornhill, Allestree, Derby on Friday 8th April at 7.15 pm., admission for non-members is £1 or 50p concessions. Cornhill is in

the centre of the old village of Allestree, which is some way from the A6, on the south side of Allestree Park.

9. ENQUIRIES (AW & NM)

Any enquiry concerning the Flora scheme in general or requests for recording cards can be directed to either of us. Ideally, questions about either plant determinations or areas to record should be directed to Alan Willmot. To enquire about computerisation of records and to request particular up-to-date species maps contact Nick Moyes. Details of how we can be contacted are:

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Information on the current state of recording plus detailed monad and tetrad counts can be found on our web site at:

www.dbrc.freeserve.co.uk click on plants.