

Dear Flora Group Member

The Flora Group Committee hope that you had an enjoyable summer botanising in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Those of you who managed to attend the visit to Bransbury Common will be pleased to know that we are pursuing ideas for future events which were suggested during the Annual General Meeting. We are hoping to arrange visits to privately-owned chalk grasslands during summer 2005, plus identification training days on sedges, *Rosa* and *Hieracium* and aim to have joint events with botanists from Sussex and Wiltshire. Details of the summer events will be given in the Spring 2005 edition of Flora News.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 4 December 2004 2 pm – 5 pm Flora Group / BSBI Exhibition Meeting Testwood Lakes Centre, Totton

Flora Group member Martin Rand (BSBI Recorder for South Hampshire, VC 11) has kindly organised a Flora Group / BSBI Exhibition meeting. Martin says "We are moving from Bishopstoke, but I hope we can keep all the other good traditions of this meeting going, including tea and cakes. Bring your specimens, photos, display boards or any other talking point. There will be a display on the proposed Hampshire Rare Plant Register; a report on 'Local Change'; and Clive Stace's new 'Interactive Flora of the British Isles' will be on view on computer".

Testwood Lakes Centre is reached from Brunel Road, a turning off the Salisbury Road (A36) at a roundabout between Totton and Ower. After entering Brunel Road, look for a small turning on the left after the first block of industrial units. Go on along the track, ignoring the first (public) car park, until the purpose-built Centre comes into view above the lake. There is plenty of parking at the Centre. If you have any queries about the event, Martin can be contacted on 023 8036 0395.

Saturday 5 February 2005, 10.30 am Polypodium fern identification in the New Forest Leaders : Martin Rickard and Andy Byfield Meet at Clay Hill Heath car park at SU 302 062

Polypody ferns are found throughout Hampshire and the Island. They have a tendency to avoid the dry chalk landscapes and be most abundant in humid areas.

Searching for Polypody ferns can take one to fascinating places such as ancient stone buildings, ancient trees and natural rock outcrops. The three species, and at least one hybrid, have a reputation of being difficult to identify. There is therefore a tendency to under record species and to 'lump' all material into *Polypodium vulgare sensu lato*.

Following Alison Bolton's suggestion to hold an event focussing on Polypody ferns, Martin Rickard and Flora Group member Andy Byfield have kindly agreed to jointly lead it. Martin is a nationally recognised authority on ferns; he ran 'Rickard's Hardy Ferns' nursery and is the author of the Plantfinder's Guide to Ferns. Those of you with a horticultural interest in ferns may have seen his wonderful displays at Chelsea Flower Show.

We hope that this training event will give people greater confidence in dealing with these variable plants. Even if you do not end up naming all species you will certainly know when something is a bit different and worthy of expert determination.

Meet at Clay Hill Heath car park at grid reference SU 302 062, on the east side of the A337, just south of Lyndhurst. If you wish to arrive by train, arrangements can be made to collect you from Brockenhurst station. Please contact Catherine Chatters (address and 'phone number at end of newsletter) to sort out details.

The day will take the format of a formal meeting in the morning. If you would like to spend longer searching for plants do bring a packed lunch. Stout shoes and wet weather gear are likely to be essential for this winter event in the New Forest's wood pastures. If you have any queries about the event, Andy Byfield can be contacted on 023 8042 8452 or (mobile) 07816 945650.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Hairy, Southern and Borrer's Woodrush – Field Recognition

Martin Rand has kindly provided this aid to recognising Hairy Woodrush, Southern Woodrush and Borrer's Woodrush in the field.

There are two species of Woodrush (*Luzula*) native to Britain that have their flowers borne singly, or occasionally in pairs, on elongated pedicels in the inflorescence, rather than in little clusters. They are **Hairy Woodrush** (*Luzula pilosa* (L.) Willd.) and **Southern Woodrush** (*Luzula forsteri* (Smith) DC). In Europe, Hairy Woodrush has a more northerly distribution and Southern more southerly, but their ranges overlap widely in southern Britain (including Hampshire) and elsewhere, and in this country at least there is little detectable difference in their habitats.

The two species are not difficult to tell apart, but they hybridise to give rise to **Borrer's Woodrush** (*Luzula xborreri* Bromf. Ex Bab.) which is occasionally recorded, but probably often overlooked. This hybridisation, among other things, can give rise to some confusion about what are 'good' characters for the species. Also some field guides give incomplete or inaccurate details.

The following characters are useful in distinguishing the three taxa in the field. Also, Borrer's Woodrush is often very robust. It is exceptional to find either of the species taller than 25cm, and they are often much less; the hybrid can exceed 30cm. It is largely infertile, but may occasionally produce a few well-formed seeds.

Character	<i>L. pilosa</i>	<i>L. forsteri</i>	<i>L. xborreri</i>	Comment
Basal leaf width	Typically 5-10mm	2 – 3.5mm	4-6mm	<i>L. pilosa</i> leaves may occasionally be as narrow as 3.5mm. Don't measure stem leaves, which can be much narrower.
Leaf tip	Usually blunt-tipped (ending in a small callose 'knob') 	Acute, ending in a short straight point (mucro) 	Mucro present or not.	Beware! All taxa have a callus towards the leaf-tip, and if the mucro breaks off will appear similar.
Inflorescence when flowering	Branches spreading widely in all directions	All branches more or less directed to one side, spreading narrowly	Spreading	Beware of plants that are not properly into flower.
Inflorescence when fruiting	Branches spreading widely, lower branches reflexed 	Branches spreading very narrowly or upright 	Usually spreading, reflexed or not	
Flower colour	Dark chocolatey brown	Reddish brown	Dark brown	A guide, but not totally reliable and may be affected by shading
Relative anther size	Variable but on average half the length of the filament	Variable but on average nearly as long as the filament	Well-developed, up to 3x as long as the filament	Some books wrongly state that <i>L. forsteri</i> has anthers much longer than the filaments
Tepal in ripe fruit	No longer than the ripe capsule and usually much shorter, acute 	Usually about as long as the ripe capsule, acuminate 	Longer than the (short) capsule, strongly acuminate 	
Shape of ripe fruit	Broad-based, tapering from near base to a flattened (truncate) apex	Ovoid, with a narrow point (acuminate) at apex.	Often wizened, otherwise similar to <i>L. pilosa</i>	

Report of visit to the Briddlesford Estate, Isle of Wight; 18 April 2004

A dozen hardy souls braved cold, wet and dreary weather for this meeting on the Island, where they were ferried and shepherded by Jonathan Cox and Richard Grogan. The Briddlesford woodlands lie above the head of Wootton Creek on the tertiary rocks of northern Wight. They were acquired by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (along with some intervening pasture and a little estuarine marsh) chiefly for their mammal interest, being known strongholds of Red Squirrel and Dormouse. However the richness of these woods for many other species is well-known and is still being revealed through conservation and recording work.

Within a small area Briddlesford shows a remarkable variety of woodland, ranging from sessile oakwood on the higher plateau through various facies of pedunculate oakwood to Ash-Wych Elm woodland in the damp valley of the Blackbridge Brook. Much of the larger area of upper woodland has been afforested in the past with Western Red Cedar and Corsican Pine, which the Trust has now removed. In this deer-free environment it was astonishing to see how a felled Pine plantation could return to a dense scrub of Hazel entirely by natural regeneration in six or seven years. Elsewhere the regeneration process has been given a helping hand with planted out Hazel grown on by one of the site's volunteers from nuts gathered within the woods. Surviving coppice brought back into management is being cut on a fourteen year cycle, rather than the typical eight years for commercial harvesting, to provide a nut crop for the site's mammals.

The first of the area's specialities to be enjoyed (in full flower) was the Narrow-leaved Lungwort (*Pulmonaria longifolia*), which is widespread throughout the damper rides and glades and grows here abundantly and luxuriantly. Some of the party were soon scampering about playing the game of 'Hunt the Ancient Woodland Indicator', and were quickly rewarded with species such as Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Bitter-vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*) in flower. Others such as Wood Goldilocks (*Ranunculus auricomus*) proved more elusive but yielded in the end, and a good colony of Smooth-stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*) was pointed out, growing in a coppice ride so densely and variously packed with plant species it almost rivalled the richness of chalk grassland. In the more acid plateau area the moss *Dicranum majus*, rare on the Island, was relocated.

Few sights were more impressive, however, than the magnificent stand of Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) in one wood where soils were evidently more base-rich. Apart from the impressive numbers of Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), just coming into flower, there was a scattering of Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*) under a canopy with much Ash of varied age.

We broke from the woodland for a while to look at grassland and marsh by the head of Wootton Creek. This gave members of the party the chance to argue about the identity of the non-flowering Water-crowfoot growing in shallow pools. A majority of bets went on Brackish Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus baudotii*).

The wet valley woodland proved particularly interesting to mainland botanists, with a canopy of Ash and Wych Elm, and no Alder at all. Here we were able to enjoy a good patch of the Green Hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*), and here too in the wet runnels was a scattering of Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*),

identifiable by its ligule features although not in flower. A few Daffodils, well past flowering, were probably the native *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* ssp. *pseudonarcissus*.

Other denizens of the wood were enjoyed from time to time. One Red Squirrel was particularly obliging, sitting in the crook of an oak to provide excellent views for all those with the presence of mind to bring their binoculars. Jonathan showed us the roost site of Bechstein's Bat, a species that is quite widely recorded on the island, and a fine collection of Barn Owl pellets under a Beech. In the river-bank woodland, Clive Chatters pointed out some intrepid clausiliid snails mountaineering on Ash trunks.

Thanks go to Jonathan and Richard for their hospitality in transporting and guiding us during the day, and their sharing of local knowledge and experience which turned a wet day out into a fascinating and resonant experience.

Martin Rand

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust get a new Biodiversity Project Officer for species

From August 2004 I'll be the new Biodiversity Officer (Species Projects) replacing Naomi Ewald at the Trust. I'll be involved in the various stages of the Biodiversity Action Plan process for Hampshire, as well as other projects with a range of partner organisations. Much of this will be coordinating surveys and disseminating results with the aim of conserving species of significance for biodiversity. I hope that this work will lend support to the Trust's bigger vision for landscape-scale conservation initiatives.

On a more personal note, I consider myself an all-round ecologist with a background in research and teaching, most recently in Papua New Guinea (an ecologist's paradise). As a native of Hampshire I am delighted to return to my old tramping ground after having been away for over a decade. I'm rapidly learning about new sites and species in the county, and look forward to tapping into the expertise of THE FLORA GROUP in the course of my work.

(Dr) **David Rumble**
Biodiversity Officer (Species Projects)

Post: Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge,
Hampshire SO32 2DP
Email: davidr@hwt.org.uk
Direct dial no: 01489 774433

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has moved

The Trust is pleased to announce its arrival at newly renovated premises. The new details of how to contact us are as follows;
**Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Nr.
Botley, Hampshire, SO32 2DP**
Phone: 014 8977 4400
Fax: 014 8977 4401
Email: feedback@hwt.org.uk
Visit our website: www.hwt.org.uk

Narrow Leaved Lungwort.

The narrow leaved lungwort *Pulmonaria longifolia* is a plant with an intriguing distribution. The UK distribution map shows the plant confined to the catchments of the Pleistocene Solent river. Towards the west of its distribution Lungwort is locally abundant in places such as Oakers Wood in Dorset, a wonderful ancient wood pasture now embraced within the conifer plantations of Bryants Puddle Heath. Lungwort is scattered throughout the south of the New Forest in a range of habitats including wood banks, bracken heaths and road verges. The site at Holbury, where it was first recorded by Goodyer in 1620, is still doing well. On the Island Lungwort is much more faithful to ancient woodlands with the north of Parkhurst Forest together with the woods of the Briddlesford Estate supporting what must be the largest populations in the country.

As interesting as where *Pulmonaria* is found is where it is absent. The Hamble River woods and the wooded upper reaches of Newtown Harbour bear striking similarities to the Lungwort rich woods of Wootton Creek and the Beaulieu River yet support no lungwort. These are ancient woodlands of the same character, geology and plant communities. Why is Lungwort in some parts of the Solent catchment and not others?

Clive Chatters

Photo of Pulmonaria longifolia by Gareth Knass



Bransbury Common SSSI – report of Field Meeting and AGM held on 16 May 2004.

The Hampshire Flora Group was privileged to be allowed access to Bransbury Common. It turned out to be an exceptionally rich area botanically and 191 plant species were recorded on the part of the Common that was surveyed. The area embraces a remarkably wide range of different plant communities arranged in a complex mosaic. Often walking just a short distance would give a completely new suite of species. Patches of dry acid grassland, herb-rich natural pasture, fen-meadows and other habitats gave a rich haul of interesting species. I have selected some of the scarcer species in the VC12 Records listing elsewhere in this Flora News.

Carex disticha (Brown Sedge) was found in several places but even better was confirmation that *C. dioica* (Dioecious Sedge) and *C. pulicaris* (Flea Sedge) still grow together in one small area. *C. distans* (Distant Sedge) and *C. hostiana* (Tawny Sedge) were also found. The taller fen vegetation included several colonies of *Thalictrum flavum* (Meadow Rue) and *Silva silaus* (Pepper Saxifrage), whilst in the damper grazed *Molinia*-dominated fen-meadow we found *Dactylorhiza incarnata* ssp. *incarnata* (Early Marsh Orchid), *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bog-bean), *Cirsium dissectum* (Meadow Thistle) and *Pedicularis sylvatica* (Lousewort).

In a drier area near to some *Saxifraga granulata* (Meadow Saxifrage) and *Moenchia erecta* (Upright Chickweed) the customarily brief Annual General Meeting was held. I do not intend to report that here, except to say that I got added to the committee.

Tony Mundell

Upright Chickweed

To anyone regularly botanising the New Forest there is a certain bemusement as to why anyone should pay any special attention to this diminutive blue-grey chickweed. In the south west of Hampshire this plant is so common it does not encourage comment. Until the early twentieth century the Upright Chickweed *Moenchia erecta* was widespread in lowland commons, cliffs and dunes throughout England and Wales. As a very short annual plant, needing abundant bare ground in spring to germinate, Upright Chickweed did well wherever animals hard grazed and poached dry grassland or where animal tracks or cart ruts exposed the soil.

Moenchia has been lost in many sites throughout the country. A regular theme in this loss is its traditional sites have become overgrown as commons are no longer grazed. The strong seed bank of this plant means that it is remarkably enduring with a habit of 'popping up' for a few years at a time in places like sand and gravel quarries on former heathland sites. This ability to survive in small temporary population rather masks its catastrophic national decline in population and distribution.

The discovery of *Moenchia* at Bransbury by Elizabeth Young is particularly exciting. The plant is in the ruts of the track that crosses the gravelly dry grassland of the common. Cattle grazing, fire and occasional vehicles keep the habitat open. Bransbury is an intriguing mix of habitats, history and a continuity of traditional management. It is a remarkable surviving working ancient landscape. Clive Chatters

Porton Down – report of Field Meeting held on 29 May 2004.

With the attraction of seeing *Orchis purpurea* (Lady Orchid) in Hampshire there were 54 bookings for the visit to Porton Down. Unfortunately many were disappointed, as DSTL Porton Down had to limit the visit to 30 people. When the meeting date was changed from 16 May I thought we would be too late for the 'Lady', especially when I heard she had already started to flower on 8 May. However, the flowers lasted well and were still at their prime on 29 May.

Our first treat was a huge colony of *Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly Orchid). I decided that there were too many to count but with so many people present I could not resist the opportunity to map the boundary of the plants. All 30 people were instructed to radiate out and locate the limit of the colony. People disappeared in all directions towards the horizon and then I rushed round each of them in turn with my GPS, logging the extent of the colony. One individual Greater Butterfly Orchid was curiously deformed with green malformed flowers – possibly the result of some sort of gall-forming organism.

After paying our respects to the single Lady Orchid clump with its four flower spikes, the group members lined up for a sweep of the adjacent area looking for any more Lady Orchid plants. We did not find any but did count 230 plants of *Helleborus foetidus* (Stinking Hellebore). Meanwhile Ron Allen did some detailed comparisons of the soil very close to the Lady Orchid with that a couple of metres away. His tests proved the soil composition to be the same, at least indicating that the Lady Orchid had not been planted there from a pot! As public access to the site is so difficult it seems likely that the plant has arisen from seed blown there naturally by the wind.

With the help of several members of the DSTL Porton Down Conservation Group we were shown numerous other goodies (see the VC12 Records elsewhere in this issue). Hampshire Flora Group members also found several species not known to the Conservation Group. The rarest of these were *Cerastium pumilum* (Dwarf Mouse-ear) and *Rosa agrestis* (Small-leaved Sweet-briar), both found by Paul Stanley.

Tony Mundell

Lady Orchids – a note by Clive Chatters

When plants suddenly appear there is sometimes a question mark as to whether they arrive there naturally or have been planted. The Porton Lady Orchid was subject to investigation by Ron Allen, the specialist consultant on soils and natural habitats.

Ron looked at the chalk soils within and around the orchid. He found no evidence to suggest that the orchids had been planted. This does not dismiss the possibility of someone spreading seeds or planting bare roots but does give greater confidence in the natural origin of the Porton population. The soil was characteristic of an area that had not been cultivated for a considerable time but which had been subject to

some disturbance from vehicles or forestry management.

A full report has been made available to Tony Mundell and the managers of Porton Down.

Many thanks to Ron for his advice.

See Ron's website www.epcg.co.uk

Photo of lady orchid by Gareth Knass



RECORDING FLORA

Hampshire Rare Plant Register

BSBI members (and anyone they can press-gang) are still busy with 'Local Change' recording this season, but behind the scenes we have been doing some planning work for this next big county project, and we now have a steering group representing the Wildlife Trust, BSBI and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

What goes into the Register?

One of the first jobs is to define the plants to be covered in the Register. We are limiting ourselves to the vascular plants at this stage. Everyone is keen to see coverage not just of the taxa meeting the BSBI criteria (essentially, nationally rare and scarce plants, and those which are very rare at the county level), but also of the many other species of conservation concern in the county. These include scarce and declining species, and those for which Hampshire has a special responsibility because of the proportion

of the national or international population we hold. However, we all recognize that this will increase the workload considerably. We aim to prepare the Register in stages, concentrating first on the nationally and locally rare plants (the 'BSBI list').

The steering group has redefined a set of criteria and categories for 'notable species' that embrace all the Rare Plant Register criteria, but also go wider. We are now working through a revision of the 'Hampshire notables' list prepared by Neil Sanderson and Clive Chatters, using the new criteria and current knowledge about the status of plants from records of 1985 onwards. Initially, there will be a mixture of 'dead certainties' and 'candidates' – the latter will need further research and work in the field to see whether they should be included. The list should be available during the coming winter.

Computerising the Record

We have a huge amount of data available about Hampshire's rare plants, but not all of it is easily accessible. In order to fulfil the aims that a Rare Plant Register should be readily available and regularly updated, we need to put onto database many existing uncomputerised records – especially for North Hampshire. This is one of our biggest tasks, and one for which we are seeking outside help and funding. It is nobody's favourite job, but it is a necessary first step to most of the other work.

Foraging in Field and Folder

Many of the records in the Flora of Hampshire are now quite old, and in many cases the information is not as precise as we would like (exact sites, population sizes and so on). In some cases, advances (well, changes) in plant recognition mean that older records are dubious. Many records will need to be checked, either by field visits or by hunting through herbaria or the literature. We anticipate that this will entail a five-year programme.

This is where we expect and hope many of you would most like to be involved. There is a response form at the end of this article, with a carrot attached! You don't have to be a botanical expert to take part.

What Will it Look Like?

The essential element of a Rare Plant Register is the Site Catalogue, which is a gazetteer of all the current and recent sites for each plant, produced as a tabulated list of records. If you have seen either the Dorset or Sussex Registers, you will know what to expect.

This is a vital tool in its own right. It's shocking how many populations of rare plants are still destroyed or damaged simply because of ignorance of their exact whereabouts. Most Registers also include information on the local ecology, history or conservation of each species. One of our aspirations in Hampshire is to pull together references to the literature which can enable better local understanding and management of the plants; much of this is scattered in journals or reports that are hard to come by.

At a point where we have reasonably comprehensive information for both the Rare Plant Register species and other scarce or special Hampshire plants, we hope to produce an attractive printed book. Inevitably, because of the ground to be covered, this is some years down the line. I am particularly keen to make information available as it is prepared and to keep it current, so I am looking at electronic means of publishing material in the intervening years but I need to know how many of you would find this useful. If you have any interest in this project, as either a contributor or a 'consumer',

please take the time to fill in the **enclosed form**, and make yourself eligible for an attractive prize!

Finally, do come to the Exhibition Meeting on 4 December 2004 advertised at the front of this newsletter, where we shall have more information available, as well as copies of the Dorset and Sussex Registers on view. Expect to see some field meetings slanted towards Rare Plant Register data gathering in the coming seasons!

Martin Rand, BSBI Recorder, South Hampshire

Cut-leaved germander at Micheldever spoil heaps

The Micheldever Spoil Heaps HWT Reserve (SU 520 445) is part of the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI which is one of the five only known extant sites for Cut-leaved germander (*Teucrium botrys*) in the British Isles, all of which are in the southern part of the UK. For those who don't know it the reserve is on a series of chalk spoil heaps thrown up when the London to Southampton railway line was constructed in about 1840. It is a fairly unique site of open chalk heaps alongside the modern railway cutting, rather reminiscent of a chalk quarry in reverse, bordered by fairly dense scrub and largely overgrown wood pasture and hazel woodland!

In addition to the germander there is also a thriving colony of red hemp nettle (*Galeopsis angustifolia*) and the somewhat scarce spring cinquefoil (*Potentilla neumanniana*), all of which seem to enjoy the dry, sunny and open chalky conditions. The hemp nettle and the germander in particular cannot readily tolerate competition and are also highly shade intolerant.

The site is very prone to invasion by birch and other pioneer trees and shrubs, being liable to scrub over very rapidly and thoroughly, if these are not regularly pulled and the clear open-chalk nature of the site thus maintained. Although a great deal of work has been put into the site over the years it has always been a constant fight against encroachment and loss of habitat. In September 2002 a new regime of very regular hand clearance and maintenance has been instituted, work being undertaken on a twice weekly basis throughout the winter and continuing where appropriate through the remainder of the year. This work has continued uninterrupted in 2003 and 2004. Whether it is this, the weather or some other factor (or some combination) is not yet clear but the numbers of flowering germander continue to climb from a low of about 50 in 1999 to some 850 in July 2004.

The Micheldever Spoil Heaps is also home to a number of other notables, there being records of ground-pine, wall bedstraw and others over the years.

The maintenance work is largely a one-man manual job with the occasional assistance of mechanically-aided work teams. A new project is currently underway to open up a separated area of the spoil heaps, owned by the trust, and which has till now been totally given over to scrub. Perhaps we will see *Teucrium botrys* and other scarcities on this new site in a few years time!"

Mike Edwards
HWT Volunteer

Red-tipped cudweed at Broomhurst Farm

During November 2003 four volunteers from the Wildlife Trust spent 2 ½ hours working at the red-tipped cudweed *Filago lutescens* site at Broomhurst Farm. Work was concentrated in two areas. It was not practical for four volunteers using hand tools to dig over the entire area where cudweed plants were present but effort was focused where the greatest concentration occurred. A plot was dug over with forks and weeded of perennial species, including invasive brambles. The remainder of the time was spent working on the bank, where a brush-cutter was again used to clear back encroaching bramble, rank herbage and scrub. After brush-cutting the bank was hard-raked to remove all the arisings. Finally some time was spent digging up bramble plants from the bank, which was not otherwise dug. It therefore received somewhat less disturbance than in previous years, though the raking would have lightly disturbed the surface and helped to redistribute seeds. During 2004 Flora Group member Chris Hall visited the site in June and August to monitor the population. On 9 June 2004 Chris estimated a population in excess of 1500 plants, the greatest number ever recorded at Broomhurst. However, on 12 August he spent more time trying to estimate numbers and his results suggest an overall total around 2250 plants. Chris stresses that this is only a visual estimate but 'there were certainly many hundreds of plants in 2004'.

VC12 records selected by Tony Mundell

Here is my personal selection from the numerous records received recently. As noted in previous issues, map references should be treated as approximate, and again I have omitted the 'SU' to save space. Some are on private land so please consult me over access permission rather than alienate landowners.

Again my thanks to those of you who have contributed records, please keep them coming in. I was pleased to find just a few plants of Mousetail, *Myosurus minimus*, in Berkshire when recording a Local Change square there, but a visitor to Hampshire trumped this by finding a huge colony of it at Hartley Wintney. Because it is given as 'Extinct' in the Hampshire Flora I was delighted when John Moon found Whorled Clary, *Salvia verticillata*, on a disused railway. Although it is classed as an alien it was in good company with scattered Pale Toadflax, *Linaria repens* and even a colony of the rare hybrid *Linaria x sepium*. John Moon has also contributed numerous records of Star of Bethlehem, *Ornithogalum angustifolium* (not included here) – as he pointed out in an earlier issue it is easiest to spot in March. I even had a reasonably confident record for Spiked Star of Bethlehem, *O. pyrenaicum* from Brian Laney near Selborne (see below), but when I went to check it at flowering time the lane had been mown. Hopefully someone can confirm it next year. There are quite a few sites for it in Berkshire but there is only one very doubtful record for Hants from back in 1930.

Allium subhirsutum (Hairy Garlic), In spite of the site being bulldozed and my earlier reports of its eradication, nine plants survive beside the new track at Wishanger 83783859, Tony Mundell 14 May 2004.

Asplenium trichomanes ssp. *quadrivalens* (Maidenhair Spleenwort), One on brick wall at Shear Down Farm 56675312, HWT meeting 21 Jul 2004.

Astragalus danicus (Purple Milk-vetch), Shipton Bellinger 23914585, 9 very dwarfed, rabbit-grazed non-flowering plants on west facing slope of small downland patch on SE of Perham Ranges with 20 more plants c.5 metres away, John Moon 8 Jun 2004.

Bromopsis inermis (Hungarian Brome), Ecchinswell 50946024, Sarah Priest & Sarah Ball 28 Aug 2003, det. Tom Cope 21 May 2004.

Bromus commutatus (Meadow Brome), Bullington 501433, 7 plants amongst crop of oats just S of track across field, John Moon 28 Jul 2003, det. Laurie Spalton 15 Jun 2004.

Buxus sempervirens (Box), Several remarkably huge trees, possibly native, above chalk-pit in Butter Wood 71435138, BBS meeting 21 Mar 2004.

Calamagrostis epigejos (Wood Small-reed), Large clump at Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down 25053729, 1st for SU23, HFG meeting 29 May 2004.

Campanula rotundifolia (Harebell), Between playing field and road, Bramshill 76126133, Chris Hall & Tony Mundell 3 Aug 2004.

Campanula rapunculoides (Creeping Bellflower), well away from gardens on road verge, Northington 552372, Bill Helyar 24 Jul 2004.

Cardamine bulbifera var. *ptarmicifolia* (Garden Coralroot), Two flower spikes near footbridge over River Rother, Liss 77952820 beneath huge trees of Grey Poplar, Francis Rose & Tony Mundell 27 Apr 2004.

Carex curta (White Sedge), 20+ tufts, Zebon Bog, by canal, Crookham Village 79985191 and 79915193, Chris Hall 10 May 2004.

Carex dioica (Dioecious Sedge), 10-20 spikes, Bransbury Common 41584170, HFG meeting 16 May 2004.

Carex disticha (Brown Sedge), Bransbury Common 41314118 plus other locations in same 1km square, HFG meeting 16 May 2004.

Carex pulicaris (Flea Sedge), 10-20 spikes, Bransbury Common 41584170, HFG meeting 16 May 2004.

Centaureum pulchellum (Lesser Centaury), 200+ plants Stockbridge Down 385346, Bill Helyar 1 Aug 2004.

Cephalanthera damsonium (White Helleborine), Along wood edge at Ithorpe, two at 37175337, six at 36765331 and eight at 36765327, Peter Billingham 31 May 2004. Two on W side of footpath from Little Ann to St John's Cross, Abbots Ann 335435, John Moon 19 Jul 2004.

Cerastium arvense (Field Mouse-ear), one plant, MOD Barton Stacey 44814242, John Moon 21 May 2004. On ant-hills, Porton Down 24703681 and 24313668, HFG meeting 29 May 2004. Also on ant-hills at Porton Down 24273921, 24293923, 24333922, 24673891, 24673891, 24643887 and 24563878 Tony Mundell with BC meeting.

Cerastium pumilum (Dwarf Mouse-ear), 20 plants in middle of track, Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down 24693757, 1st for SU23, HFG meeting 29 May 2004, det. Paul Stanley.

Ceratocarpus claviculata (Climbing Corydalis), Grassy area inside RMC quarry entrance, Yateley 80416177, Tony Mundell & Peter Scott 2 Jun 2004.

Ceterach officinarum (Rusty-back Fern), On S side of railway bridge at Alresford, Michael Baron 18 April, confirmed Tony Mundell 6 May 2004 at 58683244. Also on wall beside footpath through Malshanger Park at 56685259 and 56725268, plus one at Shear Down Farm 56675312, HWT meeting 21 Jul 2004. Also one on E wall of churchyard, Longstock 358371, John Moon 14 Mar 2004.

Chamaemelum nobile (Chamomile), Numerous patches scattered over a large area of Sherfield-on-Loddon village green 679580;

also a few patches in St. Neotts school playing field, Bramshill 761976137; both Chris Hall & Tony Mundell 3 Aug 2004.

Chrysanthemum segetum (Corn Marigold), 13 on edge of arable field where churned up by tractors, Burghclere 47365920, Peter Billingham 14 Jul 2004. Two beside S end of path, Hurstbourne Priors 438455, formerly arable but doomed as now sown with ryegrass, John Moon 1 Jul 2004.

Cirsium eriophorum (Woolly Thistle), Mill Field, Basing 66255343, one large plant and three smaller ones nearby, Tony Mundell 13 Jun 2004.

Clinopodium acinos (Basil Thyme), Many hundreds on gravel run-off area, Noble turn, Thruxton race track 283461, John Moon 18 Jul 2004.

Crassula tillaea (Mossy Stonecrop), Eelmoor Plain, quite frequent patches, probably 500+ plants in each, maybe 3,000+ plants, 84925256, 84895252, 84885249, 84855245 and 84915246, Chris Hall 23 May 2004.

Cyclamen coum (Eastern Cyclamen), large colony at Winchfield churchyard escaping on to adjacent roadside at 767536, Ruby Baker & Tony Mundell 21 Feb 2004.

xDactyloglossum mixtum (*Coeloglossum viride* x *Dactylorhiza fuschii*), Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down 248375, 1st for **SU23**, Ailsa McKee 4 Jul 2004, det. Francis Rose from photos 27 Jul 2004.

Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp. *incarnata* (Early Marsh Orchid), Bransbury Common several at 41394153 and 41384152 with dozens further to SE, HFG meeting 16 May 2004.

Daphne mezereum (Mezereon), Two main flowering clumps 1-2m apart suckering to give impression of several bushes, plus another small plant 6m away, Poor Hill, Hen Wood 65504753, Bill Helyar, Eric Clement & Tony Mundell 27 Mar 2004.

Euphorbia x pseudovirgata (Twiggy Spurge), Well-established patch c.7x5m in grassland on capping of former tip, Hollybush Hill, Blackwater Valley, Chris Hall 1 Jun 2004.

xFestulolium loliaceum (Hybrid Fescue), Marshy grassland at Withey Copse, Echinswell 51076184, Sarah Priest 10 Jul 2003, det. Tom Cope 21 May 2004.

Filago minima (Small Cudweed), Locally abundant with hundreds of plants in RMC quarry workings, Yateley 80136180, Tony Mundell & Peter Scott 2 Jun 2004. Also plentiful beside vehicle track adjacent to Castle Bottom Reserve 794596, Tony Mundell 29 Jul 2004.

Fritillaria meleagris (Fritillary), Apart from the 'zillions' of plants a few metres across the border into Berkshire, in VC12 we can claim 12 scattered flowering plants centered on 70566305, Bill Helyar, Eric Clement & Tony Mundell 25 Apr 2004.

Fumaria muralis ssp. *boraiei* (Common Ramping-fumitory), Many dozens along N edge of RMC quarry workings, Yateley 80266203 plus three at quarry entrance 80306173, Tony Mundell & Peter Scott 2 Jun 2004.

Gagea lutea (Yellow Star of Bethlehem), Several in flower (and many not) S edge of Inhams Copse, Axford 62144310, Bill Helyar, Eric Clement & Tony Mundell 27 Mar 2004. On the same day we failed to re-find it at Berrydown Copse, Nutley 624443, where last recorded in 1971. The site is now coniferised and unsuitable.

Galanthus elwesii (Greater Snowdrop), Amongst many *G. nivalis* in Winchfield churchyard 768538, Ruby Baker & Tony Mundell 21 Feb 2004.

Galanthus woronii, Large clump beside footpath on Tadley Common 60616217, found in 2003 by Bill Helyar, det. Ruby Baker 21 Feb 2004.

Galega officinalis (Goat's rue), Several near track junction, Lodge Inclosure 797428, Sue Clark 25 Jul 2004. Also 25 either side of Churchill Way West, just N of Sports Centre roundabout, Andover 344436, John Moon 7 Jul 2004.

Galium mollugo ssp. *erectum* (Hedge Bedstraw), Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down 24643714, on two adjacent ant-hills, HFG meeting 29 May 2004.

Galium pumilum (Slender Bedstraw), Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down 24583710, on numerous ant-hills, HFG meeting 29 May 2004.

Genista anglica (Petty Whin), Farnborough Airfield, c. 200 plants in main colony between 85265371, 85225370 and 85235372, c.50 more at 85395380 with others at 83545378, Tony Mundell 25 May 2004. Also two plants on remnant of heath beside Sherfield-on-Loddon village green 67765801, Chris Hall & Tony Mundell 3 Aug 2004.

Genista tinctoria (Dyer's Greenweed), Litchfield 459531, 5 clumps on road verge, Peter Billingham 22 Jun 2004.

Geranium phaeum (Dusky Cranesbill), established on roadside bank, Echinswell Road, Kingsclere 522586, Ralph Cook & Maisie Lawrence 30 May 2004.

Geum rivale (Water Avens), Beneath willows adjacent to road, Old Alresford 58523321, Tony Mundell, Vicky Booth & Peter Scott 20 May 2004.

Gnaphalium sylvaticum (Heath Cudweed), Castle Bottom Reserve, Ernie Sears 21 Jul 2004, 48 spikes confirmed at 79605966, Tony Mundell 29 Jul 2004.

Helleborus viridis (Green Hellebore), Two plants low down on bank on N side of road, Vann Farm, Empshott Green 740½309½; three clumps on steep bank, Middle Dorton, Selborne 746341; 40 plants extending from roadside roughly opposite Valley View Cottage up bank into coppiced hazels, near Bradshott Hall, Greatham 762321½; all Brian Laney 14 Feb 2004.

Helleborus argutifolius (Corsican Hellebore), c.120 plants on E bank of A34 at Christmas Hill, South Wonston 45983585, with some *H. foetidus*, Martin Rand 23 Feb 2004, 1st **County record**.

Helleborus foetidus (Stinking Hellebore), Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down, 230 counted within 300m of 250373, HFG meeting 29 May 2004.

Hyoscyamus niger (Henbane), 100+ plants along headland strip near railway, Andover 33134506, Bill Helyar 1 Aug 2004.

Isolepis setacea (Bristle Club-rush), Few in ditch at W entrance to golf-course, Yateley 80766176, Tony Mundell & Peter Scott 2 Jun 2004.

Juniperus communis ssp. *communis* (Juniper), 70-80 bushes, Danebury Hill mostly on banked trackways on immediate W side of trig point 32643766 but also widespread on SE grasslands and in the graded scrubby edges near 32543760, Ian Ralphs 8 Jul 2004.

Lathraea squamaria (Toothwort), 17 at Caveley Copse, Sydmonton 48375939, and 6 on edge of path beside Highclere village hall 43716071, both Peter Billingham 31 Mar 2004.

Lathyrus nissolia (Grass Vetchling), Large colony at Mill Field, Basing 66525372, Tony Mundell 13 Jun 2004.

Legousia hybrida (Venus's Looking-glass), 10+ plants in arable field corner, beside minor road from Quarley to Cholderton, Quarley 252426, John Moon 23 Jun 2004.

Legousia speculum-veneris (Large Venus's Looking-glass), Wootton St. Lawrence, dozens, most numerous at 57405394 but scattered along field edge 57115365 to 57485389, HWT meeting 21 Jul 2004.

Linaria repens (Pale Toadflax), Scattered plants along disused railway E of Longparish from 44834476 to 44984504, John Moon & Tony Mundell 20 Jul 2004.

Linaria x sepium (*L. repens* x *vulgaris*), 15 spikes on disused railway E of Longparish 44964502, John Moon & Tony Mundell 20 Jul 2004.

Lysichiton americanus (American Skunk-cabbage), North Warnborough Greens HWT Reserve 728519, Sue Clark 11 Apr 2004.

Moenchia erecta (Upright Chickweed), Bransbury Common 41634191 on ant-hills, HFG meeting 16 May 2004.

Monotropa hypopitys (Yellow Bird's-nest), Seven spikes, Noar Hill 746320, Sue Clark 26 Jun 2004.

Myosurus minimus (Mousetail), Reported by phone to HWT on 27 Apr 2004 by a Mrs Gardner, in field adjacent to the old church at Hartley Wintney. Confirmed Tony Mundell 2 May 2004, with thousands of plants centered on 76845598, scattered along 73m of arable field edge bordering on the graveyard and extending from 5 to 7m into the field.

Narcissus pseudonarcissus ssp. *pseudonarcissus* (Wild Daffodil), Abundant in Pamber Forest in area bounded by 61026017 to 61116010 to 61156009, plus c.20 elsewhere in wood at 61116073HWT meeting 3 Mar 2004.

Nectaroscordum siculum (Honey Garlic), Beside footpath adjacent to railway line, New Alresford 59003233, Tony Mundell, Vicky Booth & Peter Scott 20 May 2004.

Onoclea sensibilis (Sensitive Fern), Large colony 3m x 4m in flushed boggy area beside footpath just E of River Rother, Liss 77942881, Francis Rose & Tony Mundell 27 Apr 2004.

Ophrys insectifera (Fly Orchid), 20 amongst Dog's Mercury along tree-shaded edge over fence on S side of disused railway, c.693312, Sue Clark 14 May 2004.

Orchis morio (Green-winged Orchid), 980 spikes counted on Farnborough Airfield in patch c.70m x 25m centered on 84775318, with five outliers at 85505333 and two at 84825316, Tony Mundell 25 May 2004. Also one spike nearby on Laffan meadow 84805359, Chris Hall 17 May 2004.

Orchis ustulata (Burnt Orchid), Three in flower plus two not, Porton Down 24373662, HFG meeting 29 May 2004. 90+ of late form on Ladle Hill 47805676, Peter Billingham 21 Jul 2004.

?Ornithogalum pyrenaicum (Spiked Star of Bethlehem), leaves of a single plant at edge of a bridleway near Selborne, close to 735321, Brian Laney 14 Feb 2004. Paul Stanley also saw it on 15 Feb and was also 95% sure of its identity. Brian is very familiar with this plant, even in its vegetative state. He sent me (ARGM) a very detailed map that placed the plant on the west edge of the footpath at 73503199, but on 18 Jun 2004 all the vegetation along this shady lane had recently been mown off, so I am unable to confirm it. **Can someone please re-find it!!**

Orobanche hederæ forma *monochroa* (Yellow Ivy Broomrape), 20+ on the ivy cultivar ground-cover adjacent to the Records Office, Winchester 47832988, Andy Barker 25 Jun 2004. 20 at roadside, Old Alresford 590341 and 70 on ivy beneath oak at track junction with road 595342, Bill Helyar 24 Jul 2004.

Papaver dubium ssp. *dubium* (Long-headed Poppy), Six at Kentsboro 308402, whereroad to Gateley turns off A343, John Moon 8 Jul 2004. Thousands over large area of set-aside field, Heckfield 731608, Chris Hall & Tony Mundell 3 Aug 2004.

Papaver hybridum (Rough Poppy), Four in arable field corner, beside minor road from Quarley to Cholderton 252426 on 23 Jun 2004; three beside path across arable field off Dunkirt Lane, Abbotts Ann 322427, 29 Jun 2004; 15 beside footpath near Firgo Farm, Longparish 455445, 4 Jul 2004; ten on other side of hedge from footpath near Firgo Farm, Longparish 454445, 4 Jul 2004, one beside track from Jack's Bush to Palestine Over Wallop 269374 with another four beside same track 270372, 16 Jun 2004; all John Moon.

Paris quadrifolia (Herb Paris), 45 at Caveley Copse, Sydmonton 48375939, Peter Billingham 12 Apr 2004.

Phacelia tanacetifolia (Phacelia), Several in NW corner of arable field, Over Wallop 289394, Roger Veall 14 Jun 2003.

Platanthera chlorantha (Greater Butterfly Orchid), At Porton Down in amazing abundance with 1,000+ spikes dotted over a patch 220m in diameter centered at 24453825, HFG meeting 29 May 2004. Also 125 along wood edge, Ithorpe 37155361 to 36765331, Peter Billingham 31 May and 6 Jun 2004.

Phyteuma orbiculare (Round-headed Rampion), a good year at the Stockbridge Down site with c.100 at 37613491, c.150 at 38003520 and 20 at 37813518, Peter Billingham 20 Jun and 6 Jul 2004. One plant with two flower spikes at Noar Hill, 1st for SU73, Pamela Lee 23 Jul 2004, confirmed at 73963189 Tony Mundell 28 Jul 2004..

Pyrola minor (Common Wintergreen), Large patches beneath shallows at MOD Woolmer 80793125 and 80873126, separate from know stream-side colony, Tony Mundell & Sue Clark 12 May 2004. Inside QinetiQ under pines beside Tyte Track 83945371 c.60 plants, and 83955369 c. 90 plants, Chris Hall 19 May 2004. Also hundreds covering c.6 x 20m in pinewood, Eelmoor Plain 84715228 to 84725229, Chris Hall 23 May 2004.

Ranunculus auricomus (Goldlocks Buttercup), Thriving colony along hedgerow near Greywell Moors 718504, Ralph Cook & Maisie Lawrence 24 Apr 2004. Also Bentley Station Meadow 793430, near W boundary on W bank of ditch, Sue Clark 5 May 2004.

Rosa agrestis (Small-leaved Sweet-briar), three bushes at Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down 25093735, 25073734 and 25103736, 1st for SU23, HFG meeting 29 May 2004, det. Paul Stanley.

Salvia verticillata (Whorled Clary), On disused railway E of Longparish 44874485, John Moon 4 Jul 2004, 9 flower spikes plus a few non-flowering plants shown to Tony Mundell 20 Jul 2004 (with some puzzling *Dactylorhiza* by then mostly gone over), 1st for county since 1932.

Saxifraga granulata (Meadow Saxifrage), Bransbury Common c.50 at 41464159 and ten at 41494203, HFG meeting 16 May 2004. Also some amongst the abundant *Orchis morio* in the low-lying meadow at Headley Gravel Pits 512628, Ralph Cook & Maisie Lawrence 21 May 2004.

Saxifraga tridactylites (Rue-leaved Saxifrage), On top of churchyard wall, New Alresford 58833263, Tony Mundell, Vicky Booth & Peter Scott 20 May 2004.

Scleranthus annuus (Annual Knawel), c.20 plants by roadside at Broomhurst Farm, Fleet 8156, Ernie Sears 21 Jul 2004.

Scutellaria minor (Lesser Skull-cap), A few in one of the ditches running E to W, Lodge Inclosure c.795429, Sue Clark 25 Jul 2004.

Silau silaus (Pepper Saxifrage), Bransbury Common 41364181 plus a few other places in same 1km square, HFG meeting 16 May 2004.

Silene noctiflora (Night-flowering Catchfly), large colony mixed with *S. latifolia* and a few *S. x hampeana*, Wootton St Lawrence 57645376, Mike Norman at HWT meeting, 21 Jul 2004.

Stellaria neglecta (Greater Chickweed), Several plants in RMC quarry workings, Yateley 80356192, Tony Mundell & Peter Scott 2 Jun 2004.

Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow-rue), Large patch at Bransbury Common 41694176 plus a few other places in same 1km square, HFG meeting 16 May 2004.

Trifolium subterraneum (Subterranean Clover), 64 plants spread through 2 x 2m of turf, Claycart Hill 85305237, Chris Hall 23 May 2004.

Viola canina ssp. *canina* (Heath Dog-violet), Dozens on acid capping over chalk soil, in company with *Calluna vulgaris*, Porton Down 24283656, 1st for SU23, HFG meeting 29 May 2004. Also 20+ at Bransbury Common 41634191, HFG meeting 16 May 2004. Some of these may be hybrids with *V. riviniana*.

Viscum album (Mistletoe), Some unusual hosts have been reported; Found by Jonathan Forsyth on 30 Apr 2004 on an Ash tree at Odiham Common, confirmed by Tony Mundell on 8 May 2004, with a huge clump about 5m x 2m x 2m very high up at 74985228. Also on Field Maple beside A287 near Odiham 75455122, Tony Mundell 21 Feb 2004.

Compiled 3 Aug 2004, Tony Mundell, 38 Conifer Close, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire, GU52 6LS

tonymundell@ukonline.co.uk

VC11 Records collated by Martin Rand

First, a couple of corrections.

The record for *Allium oleraceum* that I reported last time turns out, on examination of live material with leaves, to be something more extraordinary: *Allium paniculatum* L. Thanks to Eric Clement for the examination and determination. This appears to be a first record for Britain. It occurs in France but is very rare north of the Loire. As *A. paniculatum* is not in Stace, I have summarized the differences from Fournier's *Les Quatre Flores de France*:

Leaves channeled above, very rough below, 3-5mm wide; umbel generally with few flowers and numerous bulbils; plant becoming glaucous; pronounced scent of garlic.....**Allium oleracum** L.

Leaves channeled only toward the base; almost smooth below, very narrow (2mm); umbel generally without bulbils; leaves green; very faint scent of garlic.....**Allium paniculatum** L.

Having re-examined the specimen for *Aster laevis* I am now of the view that this is probably *A. x versicolor* Willd. I hope to look at fresh material later in the year.

Abbreviations: AEB = Alison Bolton, B&JG = Barry and Jane Goater, CC = Clive Chatters, DRA = Debbie Allan, EJC = Eric Clement, GDF = Geoffrey Field, ILR = Ian Ralphs, JAN = John Norton, JPd = John Poland, JRM = John Moon, MEY = Elizabeth Young, MR = Martin Rand, NAS = Neil Sanderson, PAB = Phil Budd, RMV = Roger Veall, RMW = Robin Walls, VMS = Vera Scott
Agrostemma githago (Corn-cockle): Felicia Park East, Gosport, SU611010; 20 Jun 2004; JAN, DRA. **1st for SU60 since 1970**. Probably as part of a sown 'wildflower' mix.

Allium subhirsutum (Hairy Garlic):Hiltingbury, SU442219; 8 Jun 2004; B&JG conf. MR. **1st for SU42**. 2 plants appearing in back garden, not deliberately planted. Beachlands, S Hayling, SZ708989, 8 Jun 2004, B&JG. **1st for SZ79**. 2 plants in flower.

Ammi majus (Bullwort): Priddy's Hard recreation area, Gosport, SU614011; 11 Jul 2004; JAN, DRA, EJC det. EJC. **1st for SU60 since 1970**.

Anisantha diandra (Great Brome): Haslar Lake, Gosport, SZ615995 etc.; 15 Jul 2004; JAN, DRA. **1st for SZ69**.

Anthriscus caucalis (Bur-parsley): Hook-with-Warsash, SU487049; 15 May 2004; B&JG. **1st for SU40**.

Apera spica-venti (Loose Silky-bent): Forton recreation ground, Gosport, SU603007; 6 Jul 2004; JAN, DRA. **1st for SU60 since 1970**.

Barbarea verna (American Winter-cress): Test Way, Horsebridge, SU344304; 19 May 2004; MR. **1st for SU33 in vc11**.

Bromus secalinus (Rye Brome): Stockbridge Road, Broughton, SU312335; 13 Jul 2004; B&JG; Hb. BG. **1st for SU33**. A few plants in field entrance.

Cardamine corymbosa (New Zealand Bitter-cress): Kings Close, Chandlers Ford, SU435210; 1 May 2004; MR; Hb. MR. **2nd vice-county record**. 2 plants, weed on garden patio.

Carex disticha (Brown Sedge): Mottisfont Estate, SU329270, in damp pasture; 26 May 2004; MR.

Carex hostiana (Tawny Sedge): Mottisfont Estate, SU329270, in damp pasture; 26 May 2004; MR. **1st for SU32 since 1930**.

Carex humilis (Dwarf Sedge): Grans Barrow, Rockbourne, SU090197; 28 Mar 2004; MR. 24 flowering spikes on the W and S banks of the barrow, where recent scrub clearance has taken place. Appears to be a previously unrecorded site.

Ceratochloa cathartica (Rescue Brome): Forton Road / Camden Street, Gosport, SU603006; 7 Jun 2004; JAN, DRA conf. EJC. **1st for SU60**.

Cochlearia danica (Early Scurvy-grass): Verge of B2177 Winchester Road, Bishops Waltham, SU541180; 17 Apr 2004; MR. **1st for SU51**.

Cotinus coggygria (Smoke-tree): B3347 S of Avon village, SZ147984; 27 Jul 2003; PAB conf. EJC. **1st vice-county record** although I am not clear what status it has here.

Cyclamen coum (Eastern Cyclamen): Grass verge, Bitterne Road East / Somerset Avenue, SU460130; 19 Mar 2003; PAB conf. EJC. **1st vice-county record**.

Dactylorhiza x grandis (*D. fuchsii* x *praetermissa*): Pitt Down, Farley Mount, Sparsholt, SU421292; 12 Jun 2004; MR. 3 spikes in presence of both parents. Beacon Hill, Ashley, SU401292; 12 Jun 2004; MR. 1 spike in absence of *D. praetermissa*. **1st for SU42**.

Diploxys tenuifolia (Wall Rocket): N of Blackfield, SU444028; 27 May 2004; Mrs. E R Brooks. **1st for SU40**.

Erigeron karvinskianus (Mexican Fleabane): Clarence Road N / Mumby Road, Gosport, SU617001; 6 December 2003; DRA. **1st for SU60**.

Euphorbia platyphyllos (Broad-leaved Spurge): S of Mount Farm, Carters Clay, SU311248; 2004; GDF. Several plants, now ploughed over. SW of Spearywell, Mottisfont, SU307269 to SU313269; 2004; GDF. Field edge along the footpath in some quantity. SW of Spearywell, Mottisfont, SU307270; 6 Jun 2004; MR; Hb. MR. Frequent to very abundant (with *Raphanus raphanistrum*) in fallow arable over an area of c. 5,000 sq m. Population conservatively estimated at c. 10,000 plants. Sack Hill, Sherfield English, SU283218; 2004; GDF. Many scattered plants on the banks of old sand / gravel workings, W side of Sack Hill lane just N of little stream.

Euphorbia x pseudovirgata (Twiggy Spurge): Long Road, Soberton, SU627175; 11 Jun 2004; Mr. J Rowe; Hb. MR. **1st vice-county record since before 1960**. This is from a site first recorded in 1940 and last recorded since then in 1957!

Festuca brevipila (Hard Fescue): Gull Coppice roadside, Whiteley, SU526091; 25 Apr 2004; Local Change recording team conf. A Copping; **1st for SU50**. Leesland Rec N / Toronto Place, Gosport, SU607001; 7 May 2004; EJC, DRA. **1st for SU60**. Given its widespread use in seed mixes for roadside plantings, this is likely to be heavily under-recorded. The flowering time is characteristic of this species but exceptionally early for a *Festuca*.

Galega officinalis (Goat's-rue): Houghton, SU339316, single plant on disturbed building site, E side of lane; 23 Apr 2004; MR. **1st for SU33**.

Hyacinthoides italica (Italian Bluebell): Mill Lane East, Nursling, SU361154; 12 Apr 2003; PAB; Hb. MR. **1st vice-county record**.

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides (Floating Pennywort): Avon Valley, Burton, SZ160946; 20 Jun 2004; RMW conf. MR; Hb. MR. **1st for SZ19**. In a tributary of the Avon at the edge of the flood plain by the footpath to Christchurch from the B3347 in Burton. Not a very welcome first!

Iris germanica (Bearded Iris): Fields at The Folly, Broughton (NE of Smith's Plantation), SU297327; 28 Jun 2004; RMV. **1st vice-county record**.

Iris versicolor (Purple Iris): Avon Water, Holmsley Bog, SU219017; 15 Jun 2004; MEY conf. MR. Single clump in tall marsh vegetation on N side of bog close to main watercourse, about 40m E of causeway on path running N from Greenberry Bridge (SU21900174). **1st vice-county record.**

Lactuca serriola f. *integrifolia* (Prickly Lettuce): Peartree Green, SU436118; 23 May 2004; B&JG, MR. **1st for SU41** although undoubtedly under-recorded.

Lagarosiphon major (Curly Waterweed): Small pond, Testwood Lakes Centre, SU344155; 26 Jun 2004; Hampshire Flora Group conf. N Stewart. **1st for SU31.**

Leucanthemella serotina (Autumn Ox-eye): Princes Street Depot, St. Mary's, Southampton, SU433127; 2 Nov 2003; PAB. **1st for SU41.** Probably generally under-recorded.

Lolium x boucheanum (*Lolium perenne* x *multiflorum*): Priddy's Hard Estate, Gosport, SU610011; 23 Jun 2004; DRA, EJC. **1st for SU60.**

Lotus corniculatus var. *sativus* (Bird's-foot Trefoil variety): Lakeside, Eastleigh, SU447177; 6 Jun 2004; MR. In reseeded grassland at SU44761777. **1st for SU41.**

Lotus subbiflorus (Hairy Bird's foot Trefoil): Forton Lake W / St Vincent, Gosport, SU609007; 3 Jun 2004; JAN, DRA. One of very few records east of Southampton Water, but suspected to be introduced with soil.

Lysichiton americanus (Skunk Cabbage): Dane's Stream, Milford on Sea, SZ279920; 19 Apr 2004; B&JG. **1st for SZ29.**

Medicago polymorpha (Toothed Medick): Elmore, Lee-on-the-Solent, on shingle beach and on embankment behind, SZ568995 etc; 25 May 2004; DRA, EJC, PAB, JPd. **1st for SZ59 on mainland.**

Medicago praecox (Early Medick): Elmore, Lee-on-the-Solent, on shingle beach and on embankment behind, SZ568995 etc; 23 May 2004; JAN, DRA, Allan Cross conf. EJC. **1st vice-county record.**

Medicago sativa subsp. *falcata* (Sickle Medick): Portsdown Hill Road Slip, Cosham, SU667064; 27 Aug 2003; Kathryn Jones. Still present and thriving in 2004, MR. **1st vice-county record since 1970; 1st for SU60.**

Montia fontana subsp. *chondrosperma* (Blinks): Frater West, SU591029; 4 Apr 2004; Local Change recording team det. MR. **1st for SU50.**

Myosurus minimus (Mousetail): E of Test Lane, Redbridge, SU371141; 18 May 2004; ILR. Seasonally inundated run-down arable. Widespread and locally abundant in silty depressions and the more open MG13 grassland. MR and B&JG visited the site on 23 May and estimated the population as 500-1000 plants.

Myriophyllum alterniflorum (Alternate Water-milfoil): Upper lake, Testwood Lakes, SU346154; 26 Jun 2004; Hampshire Flora Group det. N Stewart. **1st for SU31.**

Orobanche rapum-genistae (Greater Broomrape): gravel pit near Mockbeggar, SU1609; 29 May 2004; Margaret Degaitas. This is a well-known site but it has flowered in unprecedented abundance this year. MR visited on 15 June and counted over 700 flowering spikes extending over SU1609, SU1610 and SU1709, mostly on the N and E banks of the old gravel workings.

Panicum miliaceum (Common Millet): gutter in Dunkeld Road area, SU599014; 19 Jul 2004; DRA. **1st for SU50.**

Poa bulbosa (Bulbous Meadow-grass): Stokes Bay Road, SZ594985; 23 Apr 2004; EJC, DRA. At SZ5944598572, a few scattered clumps, mostly along grass area, near kerb, S side of road, opposite the tennis courts, at and east of grid ref. **1st for SZ59.**

Poa infirma (Early Meadow-grass): Nr Longbeech Inclosure, Stoney Cross, SU247127; 26 Apr 2004; NAS. **1st for SU21.** Park Road, Whiteley, SU533092; 25 Apr 2004; Local Change recording team. These records appear to reflect a move inland (by either the plant or the botanists recording it).

Polypodium x shivasiae (Intermediate Polypody x Southern Polypody): Whitley Wood, Lyndhurst, SU297053; 14 Jan 2004; AEB, MR, RMW det. R Cooke. Kings Hat, Denny Lodge, SU305055; 24 Jan 2004; AEB, MR, RMW det. R. Cooke. Epiphytic on oak in both cases. **1st vice-county records.** (The same survey added over 20 new epiphytic stands of *Polypodium cambricum* in SU20 and SU30, five of them verified by Rob Cooke. Alison Bolton has a short item appearing in *BSBI News* and Robin Walls a longer article in the *Fern Gazette*.)

Potamogeton alpinus (Red Pondweed): Boldre, Lymington River, SZ321978; 14 Jun 2004; AEB. An extension downstream from known sites for this species, which is rare in vice-county 11.

Potamogeton pusillus (Small Pondweed): NW bay of Hatchet Pond, SU368017; 26 Jun 2004; Hampshire Flora Group det. N Stewart; Hb. MR. **1st for SU30.**

Sedum stoloniferum (Lesser Caucasian-stonecrop): Beech Clump, Farley Mount, well-established and growing in a patch of some 2.5m x 0.7m by a path on the edge of the woodland; SU412292; 10 Jun 2004; MR det. EJC. **1st vice-county record.**

Setaria verticillata (Rough Bristle-grass): Chantry Road / Dunkeld Road, Gosport, SU598014, over 150 plants in vicinity; 18-19 Jul 2004; DRA. **1st for SU50.**

Silene italica (Italian Catchfly): Haslar Lake area, Gosport, 7 plants on steep bank of narrow channel in NE corner of Haslar Lake, v near car park area, SZ619995; 9 Jul 2004; JAN, DRA conf. EJC. **1st vice-county record.**

Silene noctiflora (Night-flowering Catchfly): Priddy's Hard, Gosport, 6 plants, SU610011; 8 Jul 2004; JPd, EJC. **1st for SU60.** Nether Wallop, amongst pheasant cover near entrance to field S of minor road, c. 100 plants, SU279346; 15 Jul 2004; JRM. **1st for SU23.**

Trifolium incarnatum subsp. *incarnatum* (Crimson Clover): Testwood Lakes NR, perhaps introduced with 'wild flower mix', SU343156; 14 May 2004; CC conf. MR. **1st for SU31.**

Vicia bithynica (Bithynian Vetch): Peartree Green, Southampton, SU437118; 17 May 2004; ILR. **1st vice-county record since 1915.** Although this species is thought to be native in some parts of the country, and appears well-established in rough grassland very similar to its native stations, it is likely to be a re-arrival here, as the area where it grows is well-worked by members of the Southampton Natural History Society including the hawk-eyed Phil Budd

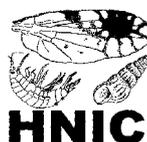
For comments, details or articles contact:

Catherine Chatters
Flora Group Secretary
Ivy Cottage, Ashurst Bridge Road
Totton, Southampton SO40 7EA
Tel: 023 8086 3920

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Nr Botley,
Hampshire, SO32 2DP
Tel: 014 8977 4400; Fax: 014 8977 4401
Website: www.hwt.org.uk

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HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST SPECIES GROUPS



The Groups are free to join and all produce biannual newsletter, organise events and have an egroup to stay in touch. For more details contact Rachel Green Species groups co-ordinator by phone on 014 8977 4406, email rachelg@hwt.org.uk or by post to Beechcroft house, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Nr. Botley, HANTS, SO32 2DP

HAMPSHIRE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE GROUP (HARG)

- To promote the conservation of amphibians and reptiles and their habitat in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
- To establish and monitor the status of amphibians and reptiles in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
- To liaise with and provide advice on amphibian and reptile problems to all relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations, agencies and the public.
- To foster an interest in the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Hampshire and to develop the skills of those interested in amphibians and reptiles

HAMPSHIRE NETWORK FOR INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION

- To improve communication & co-ordination between invertebrate specialists & conservationists in Hampshire & Isle of Wight.
- To promote and co-ordinate recording, survey and monitoring work to meet BAP objectives.
- To promote invertebrate conservation amongst organisations, landowners and the public.
- To foster an interest in invertebrate conservation, and develop the skills of those interested through training.

HAMPSHIRE FLORA GROUP

To promote the conservation of native flora in Hampshire, through:

- Recording, survey and monitoring to establish and monitor the status of the county's native flora.
- Undertaking practical conservation management to ensure important sites are safeguarded.
- Helping to set conservation targets for scarce and threatened species and carrying out local action plans for species recovery.
- Providing information & advice to organisations, landowners & the public, incl. education & publicity work where necessary.
- Fostering an interest in the conservation of the species amongst organisations and the public.
- Developing the skills of those interested in the species.
- Affiliated to BSBI

HAMPSHIRE MAMMAL GROUP

- To promote the conservation of all threatened mammals and their habitats in Hampshire.
- To establish and monitor the distribution and status of mammals in Hampshire and colonies of invasive alien species.
- To liaise with and provide advice on threatened mammals and the management of their habitats to all relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations, agencies and the public.
- To foster an interest in the conservation of all native mammals in Hampshire, and to develop the skills of those interested in the species.