



Autumn 2011

Flora News

Newsletter of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Flora Group

Dear Flora Group member

The Flora Group committee members hope that you had an enjoyable time botanising this summer and we look forward to seeing you at some of the events during the autumn and winter.

At this year's AGM held at Mottisfont we were delighted to welcome Vicky Russell and Gareth Knass to the Flora Group committee.

We are always keen for more people to provide contributions to Flora News on any relevant botanical topics. If you have enjoyed any of the Flora Group events and would like to write a report for Flora News, we would be very pleased to receive it. Please send your articles, notes or reports to Catherine Chatters (Flora Group Secretary) at CatherineC@hwt.org.uk or to her home address which is given at the end of this newsletter.

Catherine Chatters
Flora Group Secretary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

There is normally no need to book a place on Flora Group events beforehand, unless the text specifically requests it. A contact phone number is only given in case you wish to know more about the event. The leader can be expected to turn up whatever the weather (although it may then be mutually agreed to cancel the event)!

Sunday 18 September 2010, 10.30am **Cotoneasters, Portsdown Hill** **Leaders: John Norton and Martin Rand**

With the publication of Jeanette Fryer's book in 2009 and a useful vegetative key in 'Poland & Clement', Cotoneasters are becoming a little easier to name, even though the number of potential species in the wild in Britain is bewildering.

Meet at the car parking area on the west side of Fort Widley, SU 653 065. If travelling on the M27 come off at J12 (Cosham) and go straight over at the large and confusing traffic-lighted junction. Follow the road towards Cosham for nearly a mile, turn left at the roundabout on to the A3, first left onto Southwick Hill Road and right at the roundabout at the top of the hill.

The entrance road to the car park is a quarter mile on the left.

Please bring hill-walking footwear, secateurs for collecting specimens and a packed lunch. We will also be testing the vegetative key in 'Poland & Clement' so bring this along if you have a copy (some photocopies will be available).

Contact: John Norton, john.norton01@ntlworld.com tel 023 9252 0828 / 07892 257746.

Saturday 24 September 2011, 10am – 4pm **Central Hayling** **Leader: Martin Rand**

The morning will be spent on the Hayling Billy coastal path and adjoining shore. In the afternoon we shall

move to an area for saltmarsh plants. Come prepared for damp and muddy conditions. Meet at the car park at the southern end of the Hayling Billy trail just north of the junction of Station Road and Staunton Avenue, Hayling Island. Grid reference: SZ7093 9974.

Martin's contact email:

vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk, phone number:

07531 461442.

Autumn 2011 Square-bashing, North Hampshire

Leader: John Norton

This meeting originally proposed for 7 August 2011 was to be in the poorly recorded square SU 63 (Ropley area). John will still be arranging an informal meeting sometime in early autumn 2011, so please contact him if you would like to come along.

Contact: John Norton, john.norton01@ntlworld.com tel 023 9252 0828 / 07892 257746

Saturday 3 December 2011, 11am – 4pm Flora Group / BSBI Exhibition Meeting Testwood Lakes Centre, Totton, SU 345 155

We will continue this traditional autumn get-together / social event, so please bring along cakes and other goodies to eat, or sandwiches for us to share, plus your specimens, photos, material for display boards, and any other botanical talking point. This is a splendid informal event for meeting others interested in Hampshire's wildflowers. A digital projector will be available, so **please can you bring a few digital photos** to show us (but only British plants and preferably species found in Hampshire!).

Note that we will start showing the plant photos at 1pm.

If you don't wish to talk about your photos then please at least bring a few prints of photos (or pressed specimens) that you can put on the display tables – ideally annotated with where the photo was taken. Failing that, bring a few biscuits etc and help us munch them!

Testwood Lakes Centre is reached from Brunel Road, a turning off the A36 at a roundabout between Totton and Ower. After entering Brunel Road, look for a small turning on the left after the block of industrial units. Go along this track, ignoring the first (public) car park, until the Centre comes into view above the lake. There is plenty of parking there.

Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Saturday 25 February 2012, 9am – 4pm Conifers Workshop, Hillier Gardens, Braishfield Leader: Martin Rand

This workshop will enable you to recognise key features of conifers, place trees found in the wider countryside in Britain in their correct genus, and recognise many of the species most commonly planted.

We shall be using a meeting room at the Visitor Centre at the Hillier Gardens, and will spend some desk time indoors followed by time in the Arboretum. Time and weather permitting, we may go on for a short walk in Ampfield Woods in order to put our skills to the test.

Numbers are limited to 20, and booking (by 10th February 2012) is essential. There will be a fee of £3 per head for the day (collectable on the day), which will include use of the room, workshop notes, basic refreshments, and free entry to the gardens. If you like, lunch will be available at extra cost from the restaurant, and when making the main booking you will be provided with a menu and asked to make a choice in advance to help with preparation. Alternatively, bring your own packed lunch.

Martin's contact email:

vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk, phone number: 07531 461442.

Please book **by email, or by post** to:

Martin Rand

VC11 Recorder (Conifers Workshop)

21 Pine Road

Chandlers Ford

Eastleigh

SO53 1LH

Further Workshops in 2012

By popular demand, to support the BSBI Atlas Updating project, and to celebrate the organiser's year of release from wage slavery, there will be two further workshops in 2012.

Sedges: this course will be expanded to a one-day workshop session, followed by a day in the field. It will introduce you to the features of the Sedge family (*Cyperaceae*) needed for field recognition, and show you a good range of the family members. It will run in June 2012. The venue is to be decided, depending on demand; but the field session will be either at Wilverley (New Forest) or Ashford Hill Meadows NNR in the north of the county. Numbers will be limited. Full details will be in the Spring 2012 issue of Flora News, but please register an early interest (saying where you would prefer to go) with Martin Rand. There will be a small charge.

Ferns: this course will consist of a half-day workshop session, followed by a long half-day in the field in the New Forest. It will show you the “similar but different” features of non-flowering vascular plants and help you to identify ferns and their cousins in the field. It will run in July 2012. Numbers will be limited. Full details will be in the Spring 2012 issue of Flora News, but please register an early interest with Martin Rand. There will be a small charge.

Advance notice of coming events

Full details will be given in the Spring 2012 edition of Flora News, but here are some dates for your Diary:

Saturday 26 May 2012, Porton Down - To see Lady Orchid, survey the lichens, and see many other notable plants. Pre-booking will be necessary but only after the Spring 2012 edition of Flora News is issued.

Saturday 4 August 2012, Liss Forest – To see a good selection of heathland plants, including Coral Necklace, Dodder, Wintergreen, Heath Cudweed, Lesser Centaury etc.

Saturday 18 August 2012, Hawley Lake – To see a rich acid heath flora, including Marsh Clubmoss, Heath Cudweed, Bog Asphodel and Sundews.

The interest was not confined to plants. Graham also showed us White-legged Damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*), Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*) plus a couple of bumblebees, *Bombus hypnorum* & *B. lapidarius*. Several Grizzled Skippers were seen and a Little Ringed Plover, with a couple of young chicks, was on one of the flooded gravel pit islands.



Apium inundatum on Burnt Common
(photo: Tony Mundell)

Reports of Recent Events

Visit to Burnt Common sand quarry on 18 May 2011 – A report by Tony Mundell

Graham Dennis co-led this trip to show a small group of us (5 in all) around the peripheral parts of Burnt Common, avoiding the working gravel pits themselves. It is planned that once all the sand and gravel has been extracted by Hansons, the area will be handed over to the Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust for management as a Reserve. The previous week I had been shown around the site by Graham, so I had already listed many of the plants, but I managed to add some extras when with the group. The site has some very impressive large patches of Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*) and Creeping Willow (*Salix repens*). However, the most notable plants were found in a small pond which gave us Marsh St John's-wort (*Hypericum elodes*), Floating Club-rush (*Eleogiton fluitans*), and best of all, Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*) where it is free from competition with the dreaded New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*). (At Woolmer Lesser Marshwort has been ousted in this way).

AGM and Visit to Mottisfont on 4 June 2011 – A report by Martin Rand

For this year's AGM trip we had the opportunity to visit parts of the National Trust Mottisfont estate that are off the main visitor track, with a focus on recording species in the meadows and fenny woodland around the Duck Ground, which runs down to the River Test. We started out in the meadow immediately north of the main visitor car park, which has had a chequered history but which the National Trust are now bringing back into good condition by grazing.

A setback in getting the grazing cattle onto the fields this year meant that the grassland was rather longer than ideal, but this was a bonus for botanising, as it meant that most plants were easy to spot and identify. Our timing was just right, as the beasts arrived the following week.

The grassland has a curious flora, as it has many of the sedges and grasses of a good-quality riverine grassland with a medium to high pH, but is lacking many of the other flowering plants one might expect. It is almost as if it has been treated with broad-leaved herbicide at some point – although there is no history of this. However, National Trust workers have been restoring ditches and small shallow ponds, and this is benefitting the flora. At

our first stop, at a shallow recently dug pond, Clive Chatters waded into the mud to emerge brandishing a stonewort. This proved to be a *Tolypella* species, often found in shallow, impermanent water.

Among the sedges we recorded *Carex distans*, *Carex disticha*, *Carex lepidocarpa* and a variety of commoner species. The Blunt-flowered Rush *Juncus subnodulosus* was a prominent feature of the vegetation, not recorded in this part of the Test valley for nearly 30 years. The ditches were bright with Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*, Monkeyflower *Mimulus guttatus*, and the Blue Water-speedwell *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* alongside its robust and almost unpronounceable hybrid *V. x lackschewitzii*

After a leisurely lunch and AGM stretched out in the grass, we ventured into the Duck Ground itself, formerly a string of open ponds and a decoy alongside the Test. Much of the area became overgrown in recent decades, but efforts are being made to restore some of the open water. In fact it was the woodland as much as the wetland that proved interesting here, with a number of ancient woodland indicators suggesting that this was not simply a plantation wood of the last few centuries.

For the second half of the afternoon we moved about a mile west to an undoubted stretch of ancient woodland at Drove Copse. Most of this woodland is currently unmanaged and shady, though there are moves to restore coppicing and glading, and there are two long linear glades running through it. Like many of the woods in the area, it has an abundance of Thin-spiked Wood Sedge *Carex strigosa*, and the glades yielded up quantities of Corky-fruited Water-dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, Common Spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and Fragrant Agrimony *Agrimonia procera*.

Our thanks go to Rob West and to the other staff of the National Trust for making our visit possible and making us welcome.

Visit to The Hatch & Mapledurwell Fen on 22 June 2011 – A report by Tony Mundell

This evening meeting was aimed at making a botanical survey of land close to Mapledurwell Fen where the Hants & IoW Wildlife Trust is aiming to restore fen habitat. A few years ago an area of rough grassland was stripped of soil down to the underlying peat, and hay cut from Mapledurwell Fen was spread there. Before going into 'square-bashing' mode to see what plants had colonised The Hatch we paid a brief visit to Mapledurwell Fen where the main highlight was a couple of spikes of Dense-flowered Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia densiflora*).

At the Hatch we were delighted by several hundred spikes of Southern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza*

praetermissa), but other good finds included Bee Orchids (*Ophrys apifera*), Water Whorl-grass (*Catabrosa aquatica*), Water Chickweed (*Myosoton aquaticum*), Monkey-flower (*Mimulus guttatus*), Water Avens (*Geum rivale*) and Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*). However the star of the show was a few plants of Long-stalked Yellow-sedge (*Carex lepidocarpa* = *Carex viridula* subsp. *brachyrrhyncha*).

Visit to Noar Hill on 29 June 2011 – A report by Tony Mundell

Apart from the leader, eight people turned up for this evening stroll around Noar Hill. This was one of the Trust's 50th Anniversary walks and we concentrated mainly on looking at the various orchids making a colourful display. The differences between Pyramidal, Fragrant and Common Spotted Orchids were pointed out, and we also noted a scattering of Musk Orchids and some rather small Frog Orchids. Dragon's Teeth was flowering in two places (it has a remarkably long flowering period) and at least one seed pod was found to demonstrate the dragon's teeth. We looked at the bare chalk scrape where Juniper seeds have been sown in a collaboration between the Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust and Plantlife.

Sadly there is no longer any sign of the Yellow Bird's-nest, Bee Orchid or the Round-headed Rampion that until recently grew at Noar Hill, and the Violet Helleborine is down to one very poor small spike. Apart from many common chalk-grassland plants, we also looked at Adder's-tongue Fern, Hairy Rock-cress and a few of the rare Rose hybrids, including *Rosa agrestis x canina*. Ted Pratt found adjacent male and female plants of White Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*) and showed us their different flowers.

Visit to Ashford Hill Meadows on 3 Jul 2011 – A report by Tony Mundell

Eleven people came to this meeting which was in a different format from previous HFG meetings. I came armed with a list of particular notable plants that had been recorded there in the past, and with about 30 precise grid references for those plants pre-loaded into my GPS. So using the 'GoTo' facility we systematically walked from one grid reference to the next, trying to re-find the plants.

Of course we were too late in the year to search for some previously recorded plants. They included Green-winged Orchid, Early Marsh Orchid and two very rare dandelions, *Taraxacum richardsianum* & *T. akteum*. However, I did end up with an impressive list of plants that were re-found - far too many to list here, so I will only mention some highlights.

Marsh Stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris*) was relocated at the 'newish' site NW of the Ship Inn, and also at two of its former sites in the main NNR further south. That 'made my day' as it was thought lost from one of those. There was much discussion over whether the Greater Chickweed (*Stellaria neglecta*) long-recorded growing at Ashford Hill Meadows with Large Bitter-cress (*Cardamine amara*) was really only Common Chickweed (*S. media*) as Eric argued that Greater Chickweed would be withered-up by July and the petals & sepals looked too small. After measuring several seeds and getting an average of 1.53mm I am still convinced it is closer to *S. neglecta* but Eric also speculated that two different taxa might unintentionally be lumped within *S. neglecta*. Whatever it is, we found lots of it in an extra location on a very deep, shady stream bank.

We re-found many sedges, including Pale Sedge (*Carex pallescens*), Brown Sedge (*C. disticha*), Flea Sedge (*C. pulicaris*), Bladder Sedge (*C. vesicaria*) and Star Sedge (*C. echinata*). Other goodies included Water-violet (*Hottonia palustris*) and Large Thyme (*Thymus pulegium*), but sadly the flowers of Greater Broomrape (*Orobanche rapum-genistae*) were over. We decided to return through the woodland to try to re-find an HBIC (Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre) record of Wood Horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*), but eventually had to cut our search short before re-finding it. I'm sure it still lurks there.

News and Views

A note on the BSBI Atlas 2020, and the Atlas Updating Project by Martin Rand

Tony and I will give a much fuller briefing on this project in the next *Flora News*, by which time we will have marshalled our resources for the main recording effort and will be ready to run some meetings to discuss tactics, recording protocols and support arrangements.

But meanwhile, here's a game that anyone can play: we have a list of about 300 species which are widespread in the county, many of them downright common, but for which there are gaps in recording even at the 10km square (hectad) level since 1999. As the hectad maps on the national BSBI web site are being updated all the time, it would be nice to fill in many of these gaps to provide an 'early gain' in the resurvey process.

To find out more, log on to the Hants Plants web site <http://hantsplants.org.uk> and go to the menu option 'BSBI' / 'Atlas 2020'. You will find listings of all the species and the hectads where they are not currently on computer, or not recorded since 1999, as either a spreadsheet file or as an Acrobat document. To send a record for any of these, you will need to provide us with:

- The species name
- The recorder's name
- The date when seen
- The 1km OS grid square where it was found.

You don't need to be a high-powered botanist to join in – most of the species are things you will be familiar with, or are easily identified with one of the popular wild flower guides. Please see how many of these relatively common, but 'missing', species you can add for us. Records for South Hampshire (vice-county 11) should be sent to me please, and records for North Hampshire (vice-county 12) to Tony. Ideally please use the recording form on the website, or if only a few records are involved an email to us at vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk or vc12recorder@hantsplants.org.uk will suffice.

VC11 Records compiled by Martin Rand

Sadly I shall have to repeat what I did last year, and defer new records until the Spring 2012 edition. Partly this is because of time pressures, but largely it's a result of an email disaster at the beginning of June. Suffice it to say that Microsoft Outlook managed to corrupt my email data without warning on passing a size limit, and the "solution" proposed by Microsoft, while not actually recovering any data, actually made things worse by putting Outlook into a mode where it would no longer even read my backups. I've been able to recover nearly all my mail archive using a recovery tool, a new email client, and a lot of gritted teeth.

I mention this only because, by Murphy's Law, one of the two mail folders I lost almost completely was that holding records awaiting entry on the database. So I would like to issue a plea: if you sent me records in an email or email attachment between the beginning of February and early June this year, and you still have those emails, please can you send them again? Mapmate users who sent sync files don't need to worry: all of those have been loaded.

VC12 Records compiled by Tony Mundell

Yet again here is a set of my personal selections from the records received recently. As usual I have omitted the "SU" to save space, and I remind you that inclusion of a record does not imply that there is public access, as some of these records were obtained during surveys at the owner's invitation.

In response to earlier requests from BSBI and myself, about a hundred extra records for Mistletoe were added to the VC12 database last winter. I don't intend to repeat all those, but it certainly helped to update the distribution maps, so thanks to all who contributed (especially my wife Pat for driving while I spotted them).

It is curious how some plants buck the trend and seem to be increasing; unfortunately most in this category are aliens. One of them is Star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum angustifolium*) – see the remarkable photo in this newsletter taken on the MOD Training Area at Barton Stacey. Another plant that seems to be increasing is Wall Bedstraw, (*Galium parisiense*), though whether it is native or alien is unclear. See the record below of it in amazing quantity at a newly-found site.

Rare native plants that increase usually do so because of some positive management to their site. I am delighted to be able to give a couple of recent examples. One is Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*) that has a very precarious toe-hold in North Hampshire. A few plants may just hang on near Fleet Pond but it used to be locally abundant in ditches in the Bourley Water Catchment Area. At Bourley, following the cessation of ditch strimming by the army, the area became overgrown and for ten years it had apparently been lost there - until one tiny seedling was found in 2008. I managed to persuade the army to remove a few trees there in Feb 2011, and I heard from Chris Hall in June that 17 seedlings had appeared there. There is also good news about Tower Mustard (now called *Turritis glabra*) – see below.

Another example of positive management was when in autumn 2010 (again through the local Ministry of Defence Conservation Group) a 'scrape' was made beside Eelmoor Flash to encourage the rare plants there. Several rarities previously known there, like Lesser Water-plantain (*Baldellia ranunculoides*) and Small-fruited Yellow-sedge (*Carex oederi* = *C. viridula* subsp. *viridula* or *C. serotina* in old money) responded well, but most surprising was the discovery by Chris Hall of an abundance of another real rarity for Hampshire, Few-flowered Spike-rush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*), never known here before (and actually a species I had never seen anywhere before, though I had searched for it at former sites). On the same 'scrape' Fred Rumsey found a really tiny Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) only an inch or two high.

ANHS = Alton Natural History Society RDNHS = Reading District Natural History Society
HFG = Hants Flora Group HWT = Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
HCC = Hampshire County Council MOD = Ministry of Defence

Agrimonia procera (Fragrant Agrimony) Headley Gravel Pits, surprisingly plentiful, e.g. 5122 6271 and 5126 6269, Tony Mundell with RDNHS 14 May 2011.

Allium triquetrum (Three-cornered Garlic) Flowering patch c.2m x 1m at 6623 3287 near Swelling Hill Pond, evidently originally planted, Tony Mundell 11 May 2011.

***Anacamptis morio* (= *Orchis morio*)** (Green-winged Orchid) Total of over 500 spikes estimated at Headley Gravel Pits, scattered thinly over most of the open area with plants extending to the following limits: 5123 6270, 5120 6268, 5119

6267, 5117 6265, 5116 6265, 5114 6266, 5110 6268, 5112 6271, 5116 6271, 5119 6270, Tony Mundell with RDNHS 14 May 2011. 15 flower stems in lawn by Forestry Commission buildings, Alice Holt 8042 4267, Matt Parratt, 14 May 2011.

Anisantha diandra (Great Brome) West Stoke Farm 478371, large clump at side of horse paddock by farm buildings, Barry & Jane Goater 28 May 2011.

Anthemis arvensis (Corn Chamomile) Headland south of B3420 roundabout, 423336, several large flowering clumps, Barry & Jane Goater 25 May 2011, identity confirmed 23 Jun when fruits developing – not flattened, strongly ridged.

Apium inundatum (Lesser Marshwort) Burnt Common at 6224 6417 in a small pond, Tony Mundell 10 May 2011 (VC22, but Administrative Hampshire).

Arabis glabra (Tower Mustard) Following scrub clearance work by HCC last winter, now 340 mature flowering plants (some setting seed already) with almost countless immature plants, Kingsley 7787 3776, Sabine Roach 14 May 2011.

Arum italicum (Italian Lords-and-Ladies) On damp verge just south of bridge over stream, Wonston 4732 3953, Barry & Jane Goater 9 Feb 2011.

Asparagus officinalis (Asparagus) Headley Gravel Pits, a multi-stemmed patch at 5122 6270, 5ft high in flower, plus a single plant at 5122 6270, presumably bird-sown from a garden, Tony Mundell with RDNHS 14 May 2011. Several hundred delicate and slender seedlings around the edges of a dried-up, c.75m long, linear pool at Kingsley Common 7971 3841, Ian Ralphs, Jun 2011, specimens det, Eric Clement.

Barbarea intermedia (Medium-flowered Winter-cress) Sutton Down Farm 4441 3722, single plant with fruits, voucher retained, Barry & Jane Goater 25 May 2011.

Carex curta (White Sedge) Zebon Copse, Crookham, scattered in the boggy area, e.g. at 7991 5188 etc, Tony Mundell 27 Apr 2011. Foxlease Meadows, several clumps in ditch at 8344 5682, 8346 5681 & 8349 5681, Tony Mundell 10 May 2011. Yateley Common, several tufts along pond edge at 8223 5971 and several patches around 8212 5962 near pond, Tony Mundell 7 May 2011.

Carex diandra (Lesser Tussock-sedge) Doing well at Greywell Fen at 7201 5096 and 7199 5095 though didn't get the chance to check it at 7208 5120 where I've also seen it previously, Fred Rumsey June 2011.

Carex disticha (Brown Sedge) Itchen Abbas, locally plentiful in meadow beside footpath at 5473 3269, Tony Mundell 15 May 2011. Foxlease Meadows, scattered over wide areas in several meadows, 8365 5668 to 8374 5668, and 8348 5671 to 8351 5673, Tony Mundell 10 May 2011.

Carex laevigata (Smooth-stalked Sedge) 12 tufts with *Equisetum x litorale* in carr at Bourley 8288 5029, Chris Hall 23 Jun 2011.

Carex lepidocarpa (=C. viridula subsp. brachyrrhyncha) (Long-stalked Yellow-sedge) Voucher specimen in Hb.ARGM from restored fen at The Hatch 6774 5226, HFG meeting 22 Jun 2011.

Carex pseudocyperus (Cyperus Sedge) Swelling Hill Pond 6627 3293, single plant on pond margin, Tony Mundell with ANHS. Burnt Common 6223 6417, single clump beside pond, Tony Mundell with HFG 18 May 2011.

Carex rostrata (Bottle Sedge) Bourley 8387 5038, locally plentiful and fruiting well along northern margin of the smaller pond, also at south end 8288 5029, where shaded and less vigorous, Chris Hall 23 Jun 2011.

Carex vesicaria (Bladder Sedge) Foxlease Meadows, small patch in pond at 8373 5664, Tony Mundell 10 May 2011. Basing Forest 6485 5568, a small non-flowering patch covering c.3m x 1m on SE edge of Martins Bushes in a shady ride-side depression, material collected 21 Apr 2009 grown-on at home flowered in 2011, confirming identification, Ian Ralphs.

Catabrosa aquatica (Water Whorl-grass) Plentiful and spreading across much of the surface of a pond at The Hatch, 6778 5222, HFG 22 Jun 2011. Just N of Wonston 474396, abundant in little stream across flower-rich meadow, Barry & Jane Goater 4 Jun 2011. Weston Colley 498 392, along sides of small stream, Barry & Jane Goater 4 Jun 2011.

Centaureum scilloides (Perennial Centaury) Still thriving at Bramshott Common in several very conspicuous pink patches on the heathland, covering 3m x 2m at 8592 3284, 1m x 1m at 8591 3282 and 0.2m x 0.2m also at 8592 3284, Tony Mundell 26 Jun 2011. I did not have the opportunity to check another known site about 100m further N, but I passed details on and a few plants there at 8591 3292 were re-found by Richard Bullock & Owen Burnham 30 Jun 2011, though getting over-run by brambles. This very attractive plant is nationally rare and confined to very few coastal sites as a native plant. At Bramshott Common it is not native and may have been introduced by Canadians stationed there during both world wars.

Cephalanthera damasonium (White Helleborine) 10+ spikes at Dumper's Oak 4094 3548 in an area of beech wood right alongside the road, Glynne Evans 10 May 2011. More than 30 spikes under trees and bushes at Bullington 4720 4171, Glynne Evans 30 April 2011. Several plants noticed near Alresford as I drove past at wood edge 5710 3176, just N of roundabout, probably more nearby if I could have stopped to search, Tony Mundell 15 May 2011. Old Burghclere Lime Quarry 4723 5727, Peter Billingham 11 May 2011 [during the HFG visit on 17 May it was noted that these were exceptionally large robust plants and were growing beneath *Salix caprea*, which is unusual – possibly there is a mycorrhizal association]. Windmill Hill 403343, frequent in beech woodland, Barry & Jane Goater 12 May 2011. Wood between A34 and Headbourne Worthy road 466341, frequent, Barry & Jane Goater 25 May 2011.

Cirsium dissectum (Meadow Thistle) Burnt Common, large patches at 6251 6470, 6254 6465, 6235 6457, Tony Mundell 10 May 2011. Foxlease Meadows, large patch c.15m across at 8338 5676, patch c.7m x 5m at 8364 5681, Tony Mundell 10 May 2011.

Claytonia sibirica (Pink Purslane) Newton Common c.20 plants beside bridge at 4734 6317, Peter Billingham 6 Apr 2011.

Crataegus laevigata (Midland Hawthorn) Tangley, Fox Plantation at 3351 5206, which must be the same tree as previously recorded c.10m away at 3352 5206, Peter Billingham 21 Apr 2011.

Crepis biennis (Rough Hawk's-beard) About 300 plants in flower at Coleman's Hill, near Anton Lakes, Andover, Mike Wildish 18 June 2011. Subsequently visited by Tony Mundell 25 June 2011, who found it widespread throughout this grazed field centered at 3586 4667, with several hundred plants, spread from 3577 4664 to 3593 4670.

Cyclamen coum (Eastern Sowbread) Kingsworthy Churchyard 493323, several clumps, Barry & Jane Goater 9 Feb 2011.

Cyclamen hederifolium (Sowbread) Island area, Steep, two at 7380 2599 on bank south of lane, Dawn Nelson 1 Jan 2011. Kingsworthy Churchyard 493323, several clumps, Barry & Jane Goater 9 Feb 2011.

Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. incarnata (Early Marsh Orchid) Itchen Abbas 5463 3268, four plants all within 2m of each other, beside short footpath between two roads, Tony Mundell 15 May 2011, where one was first found a few days ago by Elizabeth Pratt.

Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. pulchella (Early Marsh Orchid) Total of 8 flower spikes at Ancell's Farm, 3 at 82437 55820, 2 at 82442 55824, 2 at 82442 55820 and 1 at 82433 55818, Tony Mundell 20 May 2011.

Dactylorhiza praetermissa (Southern Marsh Orchid) Probably several hundred flower spikes in all, scattered in many places on the restored fenland at The Hatch, e.g. a concentration of 90 at 6778 5222, HFG 22 Jun 2011.

Daphne laureola (Spurge-laurel) Happersnapper Hanger, one plant at each of: 73740 28056, 73732 28055, 73708 28048, 73701 28057, 73705 28054, 73545 27922, 73679 28030, 73633 28001. Also Shoulder of Mutton Hill, plants at: 73945 26710, 73944 26703, 73942 26699, 73954 26709, 73955 26712, 73956 26712, 73959 26713, 73956 26712, 73956 26715, 73954 26714 and 73954 26711. All Catherine Chatters 2 Apr 2011.

Dianthus deltoides (Maiden Pink) Beside a planted wooded area that was arable land 12 years ago at Old Down, near Hatch Warren, Basingstoke 5960 4873, found by Shaila Lambert 7 Jun 2011, communicated by Paul Beevers, specimen det. Eric Clement. The photos sent to ARGM showed quite a small patch but with over a hundred flowers.

Eleocharis quinqueflora (Few-flowered Spike-rush) Voucher specimen in Hb.ARGM, collected 21 Jun 2011, in a strip c.15m x 2m, where turf was stripped off in autumn 2010. At 8425 5281 to 8425 5279, in places forming a dominant lawn, mixed with some *Carex oederi*. First found here by Chris Hall on 28 May 2011.

Epilobium lanceolatum (Spear-leaved Willowherb) Sadly down to only three plants (where formerly hundreds) due to scrub encroachment on disused part of former B3004 at Kingsley 7811 3789, Tony Mundell 4 Jul 2011.

Epipactis palustris var. ochroleuca (Marsh Helleborine – white form) Almost uncountable numbers (amongst the normal form) in both fields at Greywell Pumping Station, Tony Mundell & HWT 7 Jul 2011. Several plants at Mapledurwell Fen, Margaret Beauchamp 30 Jun 2011, photo conf. Tony Mundell.

Epipactis purpurata (Violet Helleborine) Many plants (not yet flowering) found in Four Marks by Diana Tennyson 26 June 2011, photos confirmed Tony Mundell, in Blackberry Lane at the following named houses; 'Acorns' 6754 3533 & 6754 3532, 'Oaklands' 6753 3530, 'The Beeches' 6755 3539, 'Old Beeches Farm' 6752 3523. Also at 19 Telegraph Lane 6766 3531 and 17 Telegraph Lane 6767 3533.

Equisetum sylvaticum (Wood Horsetail) Newtown Common 473631, abundant over area 100m x 100m, Peter Billingham 6 Apr 2011.

Equisetum x litorale (Shore Horsetail, *E. arvense x fluviatile*) Yateley Common, in hollow at 8223 5970, just N of pond, Tony Mundell 7 May 2011.

Eranthis hyemalis (Winter Aconite) Crawley 4307 3461, colony in corner of woodland at E end of village, Barry & Jane Goater 26 Feb 2011. Hunton 4838 3966, along stream bank by road, away from habitation, Barry & Jane Goater 9 Feb 2011.

Erigeron karvinskianus (Mexican Fleabane) Winchester 478299, one plant on small wall of entrance ramp, Andover Road, Martin Rand 7 Jan 2011.

Euphorbia esula (Leafy Spurge) Crawley 4249 3501, c.100 flowering shoots in farm gateway, voucher retained, Barry & Jane Goater 17 Jun 2011.

Filago minima (Small Cudweed) Headley Gravel Pits 5111 6272, four very tiny plants only a few millimeters high, not likely to survive much longer here unless an area is scraped to expose more bare gravel, Tony Mundell with RDNHS 14 May 2011. [Nearest Hampshire site is over 20km away]

Galanthus elwesii (Greater Snowdrop) Northwood Park, Crawley 4401 3258, by lane leading to farm, near habitation, Barry & Jane Goater 16 Feb 2011.

Galanthus woronowii (Green Snowdrop) Oakley Park, Fleet, in three places, presumably originally planted: one flowering clump at 8150 5403 near bridge over the stream, about nine flowering plants at 8150 5402 near some

Galanthus nivalis, and three or four rather trampled and non-flowering plants on path edge at 8150 5400, Tony Mundell 7 Mar 2011.

Galium parisiense (Wall Bedstraw) Basing 65567 52814, locally abundant in rabbit-affected turf of abandoned arable between railway and Basing Road, Ian Ralphs 24 May 2011, not yet flowering. Tony Mundell visited this site on 30 Jun 2011 and was amazed at the countless thousands of plants of Wall Bedstraw that are spread across a whole hectare (10,000 square metres) centered on 6554 5283.

Geranium columbinum (Long-stalked Crane's-bill) Crawley Forest 420358, very common along wide ride through forest, Barry & Jane Goater 17 Jun 2011.

Geranium macrorrhizum (Rock Crane's-bill) Ewshot 8143 5080, an obvious garden discard in layby by track, but may not persist long as becoming swamped by *Carex riparia*, Tony Mundell 10 May 2011.

Gnaphalium sylvaticum (Heath Cudweed) Three young plants at Bramshott Common 8575 3338, Tony Mundell 26 Jun 2011.

Heracleum sphondylium* var. *angustifolium (Cut-leaved form of Hogweed) Itchen Abbas 5455 3264 by footpath, Tony Mundell 15 May 2011. Swelling Hill 6604 3288 near entrance to Old Down Wood, Tony Mundell with ANHS 11 May 2011. On roadside verge just outside gate for The Hatch Reserve 6779 5225, HFG 22 Jun 2011.

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae (Frogbit) Hundreds of plants in Oakley Pond, Fleet c.8153 5412, Chris Hall 23 June 2011 where introduced in 1992 from cultivated material originally from the Basingstoke Canal (and no longer found in the canal).

Hypericum elodes (Marsh St John's-wort) Burnt Common 6224 6417 in a small pond, 10 May 2011.

Iris xiphium (Spanish Iris) Basingstoke Canal, Up Nately 7034 5219, several vegetative plants, presumably planted, on a field edge near to the towpath. I doubt if they ever flower as the area is very shady, Tony Mundell with Neville & Mary Diserens 1 Mar 2011.

Jasione montana (Sheep's-bit) Groups of eight and four at Farnborough Cemetery 8658 5581, two at 8657 5584 and six at 8657 5586, but no doubt more will be visible later, Chris Hall 11 April 2011.

Juncus compressus (Round-fruited Rush) Still at North Warnborough Meadows, one fruiting head at 73084 52024, seven at 73083 52012 and four at 73048 51984, all in the shorter vegetation, Tony Mundell 27 Jun 2011.

Lathraea clandestina (Purple Toothwort) Newtown Common, scattered clumps over 20m at 4731 6268 and 4731 6299. Also a few clumps 4733 6306 to 4731 6300, Peter Billingham 6 Apr 2011.

Lathraea squamaria (Toothwort) On 21 Apr 2011 Peter Billingham surveyed the extensive colonies at Tangle, Fox Plantation, in 3351 & 3352, recording the numbers of spikes and its probable hosts (Sycamore, Elm, Ash, Lime, Hazel, Field Maple with a few other possibilities). There is too much data to repeat here but if you wish to see Toothwort in abundance this is the wood to visit – the quantity of Paris quadrifolia is even more impressive! Also at Ashmansworth, 15 spikes on Hazel just inside Privet Copse at 4096 5799, Peter Billingham 7 Apr 2011. Also 53 spikes apparently on very mature Field Maple at Codley Copse 4110 5726 (though Hazel, Hawthorn & Holly nearby) and 13 spikes on Hazel at 4184 5684, Peter Billingham 8 Apr 2011.

Legousia hybrida (Venus's Looking-glass) Worthy Down 4535, frequent around margin of rape field, Barry & Jane Goater 23 Jun 2011.

Lonicera involucrata (Californian Honeysuckle) Harestock 4697 3200, single bush along strip on west side of road between B3420 and residential road, Barry & Jane Goater 17 Apr 2011, conf. Martin Rand.

Lonicera x purpusii (*L. fragrantissima* x *standishii*) Abbotts Barton 4850 3122, in thicket on west side of A3090, Barry & Jane Goater 17 Mar 2011, det. Martin Rand.

Neottia nidus-avis (Bird's-nest Orchid) A single plant was reported at Zebon Copse, Crookham by Robert Simonson in dry leaf-litter on 24 Apr 2011. Follow-up visits by Tony Mundell found that one at 8001 5179, three at 8002 5179, one at 7987 5179, three at 8000 5181 and two, near the Swing Bridge, at 7985 5180. Single plant on wood edge at Mill Field c.6635 5333, Kelvin Richards & HWT 24 Jun 2011.

Nymphoides peltata (Fringed Water-lily) Swelling Hill Pond, several large patches, e.g. 6625 3291, Tony Mundell 11 May 2011.

Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's-tongue) Headley Gravel Pits c.5120 6266, at least three clumps of c.10 fronds, Malcolm Storey & Jan Hasler 9 May 2011. Itchen Abbas, several plants at 5463 3268 beside short footpath between two roads, Tony Mundell 15 May, where first found by Elizabeth Pratt a few days before. A single plant in lawn by Forestry Commission buildings, Alice Holt 8042 4267, Matt Parratt, 1 Jun 2011.

Ophrys apifera (Bee Orchid) 28 in flower plus 8 in bud at The Hatch c.6773 5224, Hendrelien Peters 1 Jun 2011. This is a surprisingly wet area for them but some were seen there on the HFG meeting on 22 Jun 2011. A single tall, robust specimen, shown to Tony Mundell by Tony Merwood on 23 Jun 2011, in short grass at Sian Close, Church Crookham 8176 5249, growing in the shade of an oak & pine.

Ophrys apifera* var. *belgarum A31 east of Winchester, four spikes at 52037 29341 on south verge near the roundabout, plus four more at 52107 29393 on a north-facing slope in central reservation of the dual carriageway, Alan Smith 10 Jun

2011. A single spike in the 'second' field at Greywell Pumping Station SU72415 51507, Tony Mundell with HWT 7 Jul 2011, also confirmed by Rosemary Webb.

Ophrys insectifera (Fly Orchid) One plant of the yellow/green form at Noar Hill 74273 31847, Nigel Johnson 5 May 2011.

Orchis mascula (Early-purple Orchid) Ewshot, over 100 flower spikes at 8114 5064, Tony Mundell 5 May 2011.

Ornithogalum angustifolium (Star-of-Bethlehem) In MOD's Barton Stacey Training Area 9. Huge drifts of many thousands, roughly 300m in all directions from 450400, extending into 4440, 4540, 4439 & 4539, Glynne Evans 11 May 2011. Apart from that, I have too many other records for it this year to list here in detail. They are at Heckfield, Headley, Old Burghclere Lime Quarry and Yateley Common.

Osmunda regalis (Royal Fern) A tiny young plant only an inch or two high, at 8423 5277 in the area beside Eelmoor Flash turf-stripped in autumn 2010, close to some flowering *Anagallis tenella* and lots of *Drosera rotundifolia*, Fred Rumsey 13 Jun 2011.

Papaver argemone (Prickly Poppy) West Stoke Farm 4765 3776, two plants with well-developed fruit at edge of wheat field, Barry & Jane Goater 28 May 2011.

Paris quadrifolia (Herb Paris) Fox Plantation, Tanglely, 1,000+ at 3363 5215, 200+ at 3353 5226, 40 at 3360 5212, Peter Billingham 21 Apr 2011. On southern edge of byway between New Buildings and Binswood, 17 at 7576 3680, 26 at 7548 3677, 26 at 7550 3678, c.50 at 7536 3675, Catherine Chatters 25 Apr 2011. Selborne, wood N of Priory Farm, one patch of hundreds but only one flowering, 7538 3469, Catherine Chatters 25 Apr 2011.

Phuopsis stylosa (Caucasian Crosswort) A large patch south of Over Wallop at c.270364 well away from houses, first found by Andrew Wain c.May 2011 and identified *in-situ* by Peter Rollinson on 27 May 2011.

Platanthera chlorantha (Greater Butterfly Orchid) North of Leckford Hut 4043 3673, single plant in small grassy area, Barry & Jane Goater 16 May 2011. 45 plants, 16 of them in flower, Porton Down 244383 plus one at 251377 on south edge of road, but none at former site at 245382, Ailsa McKee 26 May 2011. Several plants near the public footpath on edge of Paul's Copse, Binley 426543, Andrew Bolton 16 May 2011.

Polypogon monspeliensis (Annual Beard-grass) 7 plants on hard-standing at north end of public footpath (where it meets Bell Street), Manor Farm, Whitchurch 45870 48217, Ian Ralphs 25 May 2011.

Potentilla argentea (Hoary Cinquefoil) On land beside B3004 managed by Stephen Cabrol, Riko UK Ltd, east of Kingsley, many plants in sandy field at 7964 3844 & 7964 3845, Tony Mundell & Mary Herbert 4 Jul 2011.

Prunus padus (Bird Cherry) Harestock 4708 3373, single plant in hedgerow on E side of B3420, Barry & Jane Goater 15 Apr 2011.

Ranunculus auricomus (Goldilocks Buttercup) E of Bordean Lane on bank at 7010 2450 and frequent over 7m stretch at 7011 2452, plus two clumps at 7026 2465, Dawn Nelson 27 Mar 2011.

Rosa agrestis (Small-leaved Sweet Briar) Ten bushes at Porton Down, three of them at 24947 37741, plus one each at 24960 37686, 24935 37783, 24913 37747, 24362 37725, 24875 37712, 24882 37708 and 24897 37671, (also possible *R. agrestis* x *micrantha* hybrids at 24947 37741 & 24932 37790 but these need confirmation by the BSBI Rosa Referee), Anne Appleyard, Pat Woodruffe & Dave Green 30 May 2011.

Rosa rubiginosa (Sweet Briar) Porton Down 25282 37547, Anne Appleyard, Pat Woodruffe & Dave Green 30 May 2011.

Saxifraga granulata (Meadow Saxifrage) Tanglely Churchyard, c.100 plants at 3340 5243 and c.50 at 3341 5243, Peter Billingham 21 Apr 2011.

Silaum silaus (Pepper-saxifrage) Foxlease non-SSSI meadow, c. 30 plants at 8289 5668, two large plants at 8288 5661 and others seen scattered through, Chris Hall 1 Jun 2011. Two plants at Greywell Pumping Station 7224 5134, Tony Mundell & HWT, 7 Jul 2011.

Spirodela polyrhiza (Greater Duckweed) Occasional groups along west side of Oakley Pond, Fleet c.8153 5412, Chris Hall 23 June 2011 where probably originally introduced unintentionally in 1992 with cultivated material of *Hydrocharis* & *Utricularia* from the Basingstoke Canal.

Teesdalia nudicaulis (Shepherd's Cress) 42 flowering plants at Farnborough Cemetery 8661 5577 by headstone of George Hickson plus three isolated plants scattered nearby. Also 44 plants at 8662 5577, adjacent to grave of Ethel Maud Wilson. 15 at 8658 5581 near grave of Frederick Kingston, 27 at 8658 5581 plus 65 at 8657 5582, both near grave of Stephen Collett. Also 7 at 8658 5585 and 70 at 8657 5586 in NW corner by Union Street. All Chris Hall 11 Apr 2011.

Tephrosia integrifolia (Field Fleawort) A group of 12 at Ladle Hill



***Ornithogalum angustifolium* in 2007
(Photo: Glynne Evans)**

4781 5675 plus two isolated ones nearby, Peter Billingham 1 Jun 2011.

Trifolium striatum (Knotted Clover) A few very desiccated plants in very short grass on the cricket green, Yateley 820600, Tony Mundell 7 May 2011.

***Turritis glabra* (= *Arabis glabra*)** (Tower mustard) Only one plant at the MOD Woolmer site at Linchborough, c.SU8139 33454, and not quite where the ground had been tilled for it, Bill & Chris Wain 8 Jun 2011. 340 mature plants, some already setting seed, plus countless immature plants at Kingsley SU7787 3776, where scrub was cleared for it by HCC, Sabine Roach 14 May 2011. On land beside B3004 managed by Stephen Cabrol, Riko UK Ltd, east of Kingsley, following soil disturbance to create banks, 16 plants at 7966 3844, 2 at 7961 3842, 1 at 7960 38416, 1 on road verge at 7961 3841, Tony Mundell & Mary Herbert 4 Jul 2011.

Umbilicus rupestris (Navelwort) About 400 plants at Sleaford 807385, Steve Mansfield 20 Jun 2011.

Utricularia australis (Bladderwort) Locally plentiful, especially on west and south-west sides of Oakley Pond, Fleet c.8153 5412, Chris Hall 23 June 2011 where introduced in 1992 from cultivated material originally from the Basingstoke Canal.

Valeriana dioica (Marsh Valerian) Chilbolton Common 387404, Roberta Fourt 27 Apr 2011, determined Peter Rollinson.

Wahlenbergia hederacea (Ivy-leaved Bellflower) 17 young seedlings reported by Chris Hall 24 Jun 2011, at Bourley 8272 5020, in one of its former sites where MOD agreed to fell trees in Feb 2011.

X Dactyloglossum x mixtum (Frog Orchid x Common Spotted Orchid) A single flower spike close to both parents near the scrub edge at Ladle Hill, Phil Simpson 28 Jun 2011, located by David Caals at SU4773 5696 on 3 Jul 2011, and also confirmed by Tony Mundell & Bill Helyar on 4 Jul 2011.



Hybrid Frog Orchid x Common Spotted Orchid, X *Dactyloglossum mixtum* (photo: Tony Mundell)

Compiled 9 July 2011,
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Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition of Flora News

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