

Spring 2010



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**

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 last year and we look forward to seeing you at some of the events in 2010.

This year our AGM will be held at Bransbury Common on 9 May 2010. If you would like to join the Committee, please let Catherine Chatters know prior to the AGM. Catherine's address and telephone number are given at the end of this newsletter. As usual, we are always keen to receive your suggestions for events and activities. Please raise your suggestions at the AGM or pass your ideas to any of the Committee members.

During the Flora Group AGM held at Blashford Lakes on 6 June 2009, it was agreed that contact details of all the plant recording groups in adjacent counties would be listed in a future edition of Flora News so that Hampshire and Isle of Wight members may join these if they wish to do so. It was also confirmed that joint meetings with adjacent counties will continue to be arranged.

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 on it for Flora News, we would be very pleased to receive it. Please send your articles, notes or reports to Catherine.

Catherine Chatters
Flora Group Secretary

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Make sure you get your Flora News

We are changing the way that we will be sending out Flora News to members. As our membership has grown and the quality and scale of Flora News has grown, the cost of printing and posting is now taking up most of our budget. For obvious reasons we want to have money to spend on the work of Flora Group.

To save money we would like to send Flora News to you via e-mail. However we recognise that some people do not have access to e-mail and will need to continue to receive a printed copy of Flora News.

Please do let us know how you would like to receive Flora News in the future. We would like to encourage you to do this by e-mail. Please drop a line to Natalie on NatalieR@hwt.org.uk who will add you to the new mailing list.

If you are not on e-mail, then a letter or postcard to Natalie will ensure you a place on our list for printed copies:-

Natalie Rogers
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Beechcroft House
Vicarage Lane
Curdrige
SO32 2DP

We can then make arrangements to make sure you continue to get Flora News.

Flora News and our events are still free to Flora Group members. However, if you would like to support our work we welcome donations. You can make a donation through www.hwt.org.uk/donation.php or by sending a cheque (payable to 'Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust') to the Trust at our office at Beechcroft House.

Thank you.

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)!

Saturday 13th March 2010

Brockenhurst Village Hall, New Forest, Hampshire
The Wild Gladiolus (*Gladiolus illyricus*) in Britain
Past, Present and Future - A one-day conference on its biology and status



The Wild Gladiolus (*Gladiolus illyricus* Koch) is one of the most prized and emblematic wild plants of the New Forest. Yet knowledge of its existence in Britain goes back little more than 150 years; its taxonomy and status have often been called into question; and now its fortunes seem to be in decline.

This one-day conference will bring together many of the people who have studied the plant in recent decades, with the hope of consolidating knowledge, encouraging further study and supporting conservation efforts. The day will be organised as a series of formal presentations, each followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

The conference will be chaired by Clive Chatters, Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority. Clive is well-known for his botanical writing and his work over many years to conserve Hampshire wildlife and safeguard traditional land management.

Formal speakers include:

- Anthony Hamilton (British Gladiolus Society, author of *Gladiolus in Flora Europaea*): Taxonomy and genetics
- Jonathan Stokes (Tree Council, former researcher on New Forest *Gladiolus*): Biology and ecology
- Geoff Toone (Botanical Society of the British Isles): The early recording history
- Martin Rand (South Hampshire Recorder, Botanical Society of the British Isles): Recording and populations in the last 60 years
- Adrian Newton and Sarah North (University of Bournemouth): Mapping the habitat of *Gladiolus*
- Richard Reeves (Christopher Tower Library, New Forest Museum): *Gladiolus* and historic land management
- Simon Weymouth (Chief Ecologist, Forestry Commission, New Forest): Current initiatives to conserve *Gladiolus*

The day will end with a discussion session chaired by Clive Chatters, bringing together the strands of the day and eliciting suggestions for future work. Many other individuals and members of institutions with a keen interest in Forest ecology have already shown their interest in attending, so a lively discussion is guaranteed!

The conference fee will be £5 per head, to include refreshments during the day. An optional buffet lunch can also be booked at a modest extra cost.

A full brochure and booking form can be downloaded from the following Web site: <http://hantsplants.org.uk/gladconf.php> or obtained from:

Natalie Rogers, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge, Hampshire SO32 2DP Email: NatalieR@hwt.org.uk

For further information about the day's content, contact: Martin Rand, BSBI Recorder (VC11), 21 Pine Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 1LH Email: vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk

24th-28th April 2010

Alderney Botanical Survey

Leader: John Norton

The Alderney Wildlife Trust has invited Flora Group members to visit the island to undertake some botanical recording. Alderney measures about 6 by 2 kilometres, so can just about be walked around in a day. We have decided on an early visit in order to miss the main tourist period and also to specifically look for early-flowering grasses and winter annuals which are likely to be under-recorded. The visit will take place just before the early May bank holiday weekend. If you would like come along please contact John Norton at the earliest opportunity and book your flight (see details below).

The visit is being planned around a 4-night/5-day stay, Saturday 24th to Wednesday 28th April. This will keep the overall cost down to those on a budget and not able to spare too much time but will also give people the opportunity to stay a full week if they wish and take a few extra days holiday. Flights to the island are operated by Aurigny Air Services from Southampton Airport (see details below). Flora Group members will need to book flights themselves via the Aurigny web site, or contact John if you don't have internet access. Do not book via the Southampton Airport web site as this will cost more. The cost using Aurigny is £110 return, but increases in stages as soon as seats start to become filled. This price is inclusive of taxes but there is a £2.50 surcharge on each leg for paying by credit card. Flights also run on Sundays, so if they do fill up on the Saturday, arriving on the Sunday will be an alternative option. It is also possible to travel via Guernsey.

The Alderney Wildlife Trust has kindly offered to help with finding accommodation, so please let John know your preferences. The choice ranges from £10 a night at a field centre with outdoor cooking and washing facilities, through mid-range B&B (£38 per night) and self-catering

to more expensive guest houses and hotels. The Alderney Wildlife Trust may also be able to negotiate a discount on some of these.

As yet no itinerary has been drawn up, but we will aim to meet up on the Saturday afternoon, depending on arrival times and in the evening for a meal, but we will get down to some serious botanising on the Sunday morning. The BSBI recorder for the island, Brian Bonnard, who is also the Alderney Wildlife Trust's President, has offered us his assistance.

Contact: John Norton tel 02392 520828 john.norton01@ntlworld.com

For further information see:

www.visitalderney.com (Tourist Information)
www.aurigny.com/default.aspx (Aurigny Air Services)
www.alderneywildlife.org/pages/wildlife.php (Alderney Wildlife Trust)
www.flora.org.gg (Brian Bonnard's web site)

Sunday 9 May 2010, 10.30am – 4pm
Visit to Bransbury Common, plus AGM
Leaders: Tony Mundell and John Moon

Although Tony will be recording all the plants we see, one of our aims is to try to re-find plants of *Genista anglica* (Petty Whin) formerly recorded here. At this time of year it should be in flower making it much easier to spot. Park on the road verge at SU4213 4228, north of the bridge over the Dever, in the hamlet of Bransbury. Parking is a bit limited, so please try to share cars. (Note that entry via the lane in Newton Stacey is no longer a viable option). The landowner, Mrs Govett, has requested no dogs please, as they might upset her cattle, and she has asked us to keep clear of any fishermen on the river banks. Bring a packed lunch and note that the area is likely to be pretty boggy, so wellies are recommended. We will hold our traditionally very brief AGM as we munch our sandwiches. Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Sunday 16th May 2010, 10.30 start
South Hayling
Leader: John Norton

A visit to look at some under-recorded areas of acid and maritime grassland along the south coast of the island, starting at Westfield beach where there should be a fine display of *Sagina subulata* in flower and the chance of puzzling over some small *Bromus* species with the aid of Tom Cope's new book. Meet at Westfield car park SZ 712987. We will need to pay for car parking.

Contact: John Norton, tel 02392 520828 john.norton01@ntlworld.com

Thursday 10 June, 10am
Conservation task to pull Himalayan balsam near Acres Down in the New Forest
Leader: Catherine Chatters

Himalayan balsam was introduced to Britain in the Victorian era as an ornamental garden plant but because of its explosive seed pods it has spread rapidly and invaded the countryside, especially along rivers and in

wet habitats. The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project is working to stop the spread of Himalayan balsam in the New Forest area. Luckily the balsam is shallow-rooted and can be easily pulled-up. Come and join volunteers to eradicate Himalayan balsam growing along streams and ditches near Acres Down. Park in the farmyard to the south of Robins Bush Farm, on the western side of the minor road leading towards Acres Down at grid reference SU 271 102. If you get to the ford you have gone too far! Please bring gardening gloves, a picnic lunch, plenty to drink and, if it is a sunny day, a sunhat and sun protection cream. It is advisable to wear a long-sleeved shirt and suitable footwear.

Contact: Catherine Chatters 023 8042 4205. Mobile 07770 923315

Tuesday 15 June 2010, 10am – 3pm
Conservation task to pull Himalayan balsam at Bridge Farm, Brockenhurst
Leader: Catherine Chatters

The Flora Group is co-operating closely with the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project to help eradicate Himalayan balsam from the Lymington River. This non-native invasive plant was introduced to the UK as an ornamental but has 'jumped the garden fence' and become established in the countryside, elbowing-out our native wildflowers. It is particularly bad along the banks of the Lymington River. Luckily it can be easily pulled-up. Come and join forces with the Friends of Lepe Conservation Volunteers to help pull up Himalayan balsam at Bridge Farm in Brockenhurst which is owned by one of our Flora Group members. Meet at 10am in the yard at Bridge Farm, Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, SO42 7TR (SU 304 029). The entrance to Bridge Farm can be found on the eastern side of the A337, to the south of the turning into Balmer Lawn Road. Please bring gardening gloves, a picnic lunch, plenty to drink and, if it is a sunny day, a sunhat and sun protection cream. It is advisable to wear a long-sleeved shirt and suitable footwear.

Contact: Catherine Chatters 023 89042 4205. Mobile 07770 923315

Wednesday 16 June 2010, 10am – 3pm
Conservation task to pull Himalayan balsam at Boldre Bridge in the New Forest
Leader: Catherine Chatters

Come and help another of our Flora Group members by clearing Himalayan balsam which has invaded her fields along the Lymington River. This beautiful river in the New Forest is being threatened by the balsam plants whose explosive seed pods shoot out their seeds which can fall into the river to be carried downstream and germinate to create problems elsewhere. Luckily the plants can easily be pulled-up in June before the formation of seed pods. Meet at 10am at Boldre Bridge, Boldre, Lymington, SO41 8PD. Boldre Bridge is at grid reference SZ 320 985. The Manager of The Red Lion pub (SO41 8NE), just to the west of Boldre Bridge, has kindly let us park our cars in the field at the rear of the pub car park. Please bring gardening gloves, a packed lunch and plenty to drink. It is advisable to wear a long-sleeved shirt and trousers.

Please wear sturdy boots or shoes. If it is a sunny day, please bring a sun hat and sun protection cream.

Contact: Catherine Chatters 023 89042 4205. Mobile 07770 923315

Saturday 19 June 2010, 10.30 am
Survey of Valley Mires at Mopley, Blackfield
Leader: Neil Sanderson

A meeting on the North Solent National Nature Reserve (NNR), to record a large complex valley mire, south of Mopley Pond, Badminton Common. This has a mixture of acid and base rich mire, the latter with abundant *Juncus subnodulosus*. A recent winter reconnaissance found rare fen mosses and many dead orchid stems. The area has long been un-grazed but grazing has recently been restored and the site has not been looked at for vascular plants for many years.

We will meet at the car park at the end of Badminton Lane at SU461 022. Bring a picnic lunch. Contact: Neil Sanderson via e-mail on neilsand@dircon.co.uk.

Sunday 20 June 2010, 11am to 4pm
Badminton Common, near Fawley
Identification of brambles
Leader: Dr David Allen
Joint meeting with Southampton Natural History Society

The Southampton Natural History Society has invited Flora Group members to join them for a short walk to identify brambles, led by bramble expert David Allen. You can expect to find out how to identify a number of brambles, including some species which are usually only found in Devon and Cornwall.

Meet at 11 am at the end of Badminton Lane at grid reference SU 461 022. Please bring a packed lunch. Contact: Phil Budd 023 8044 4172 or 07748 236666 phillipbudd@btinternet.com

Saturday 26 June 2010, 10.30am – 4pm
Joint Meeting with Plantlife at Heath Warren and Bramshill
Leaders: Tony Mundell and Dominic Price

Meet in the sandy car park at SU760613 on the north side of the minor road through Bramshill. We will spend the morning south of the road in the Heath Warren area and if time permits in the afternoon will also explore Bramshill Plantation north of the road. Both areas are very rich botanically with numerous scarce heathland species. Target species include: *Anagallis minima* (Chaffweed), *Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed), *Genista anglica* (Petty Whin), *Gnaphalium sylvaticum* (Heath Cudweed), *Lycopodiella inundata* (Marsh Clubmoss), *Parentucellia viscosa* (Yellow Bartsia), *Persicaria minor* (Small Water-pepper), *Pilularia globulifera* (Pillwort), *Radiola linoides* (Allseed), and *Scleranthus annuus* (Annual Knawel). There is an old record for *Hypochaeris glabra* (Smooth Cat's-ear) nearby so that is also worth looking out for. Until quite recently *Lycopodium clavatum* (Stag's-horn Clubmoss) occurred here and Plantlife are trying to revive it. Bring a packed lunch and stout footwear for a lot of walking.

Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Wednesday 7 July 2010, 10am – 3pm
Conservation task to pull Himalayan balsam along the Avon Water
Leader: Catherine Chatters

Come and help the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project stop the spread of Himalayan balsam which is invading the banks of the Avon Water. We will be working in the grounds of Efford Lodge, Efford Mill and Efford Park. Meet at 10am at Efford Lodge, Milford Road, Lymington, SO41 0JD, where cars can be parked. The entrance to Efford Lodge is at grid reference SZ 307 941 on the northern side of the A337, to the east of Efford Bridge. Please bring gardening gloves, a packed lunch and plenty to drink. It is advisable to wear a long-sleeved shirt and trousers. Please wear sturdy boots or shoes. If it is a sunny day, please bring a sun hat and sun protection cream.

Contact: Catherine Chatters 023 89042 4205. Mobile 07770 923315

17 & 18 July 2010
Discover Grasses weekend
Leader: Martin Rand (17 July), John Norton (18 July)

Back by popular demand following his successful training days over the last few years, Martin Rand will be running a workshop on the identification of grasses, to be held at the H&loWWT Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Education Centre on Saturday 17th July, followed by a field excursion the next day at Browndown Common and the River Alver, Gosport led by John Norton. This meeting will be particularly aimed at beginners and graminiphobes, but everyone is likely to find it useful. The leaders would prefer people to attend on both days if possible so as to enjoy the maximum benefit but, for the Saturday, numbers are limited to 16, so if you would like to participate, please book a place beforehand by contacting Martin directly. Martin will then send you details of how to find the Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Education Centre.

Meeting arrangements:

Saturday 17 July: Meet at 10am (finish at 4pm) at H&loWWT's Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Education Centre. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee making facilities will be available. (Directions to Swanwick will be provided by Martin Rand when you book your place).

Sunday 18 July: Meet at 10.30am (finish at 4pm). Park beyond entrance to Grange Road waste amenity site, SU 586 000, best accessed via Titchfield and Stubbington, turning left at the first roundabout after Lee-on-the-Solent and Browndown Camp and left again at the sign to the waste tip, after about half a mile. Please bring a packed lunch.

Contacts: Martin Rand tel 07531 461442 vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk

John Norton tel 02392 520828 / 07982 257746 john.norton01@ntlworld.com

Saturday 7 August 2010, 10.30am – 4.30pm

Leader: Martin Rand

New Forest Inclosures

This meeting will be to study populations of *Dryopteris* (Male Fern relatives) in two of the Forest's larger inclosure areas. We hope to be accompanied by some of the experts on this group from the British Pteridological Society. There will also be the opportunity to see some of the other special ferns of the Forest, including a hunt for Hay-scented Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris aemula*) at one of its few known sites, a visit to one of the two Beech Fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*) sites, and the more widespread Lemon-scented Fern (*Oreopteris limbosperma*).

Meet in the morning at the car park at South Oakley (on the **north** side of the Lyndhurst road between Burley and the A35), SU225046. Bring a picnic lunch.

Further details from Martin Rand, phone 07531 461442; mail address 21 Pine Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 1LH; or email vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk.

Sunday 5 September 2010, 10.30am – 4pm

Roses at Noar Hill and nearby

Leader: Paul Stanley

Park and meet on the grassy verge at SU7375 3214 near to Charity Farm. Apart from its numerous orchid species, Noar Hill has many different roses. This includes a remarkable number of bushes of *Rosa micrantha* (Small-flowered Sweet-briar), but it is the natural rose hybrids that are of most interest. Learn from Paul how these hybrids and their parent species are identified. Of course we will not ignore the *Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Lady's-tresses) that will dot the turf, or the splendidly named *Tetragonolobus maritimus* (Dragon's-teeth) that often throws extra flowers at this time. After lunch we will probably move to another site for additional rose species and hybrids. Bring a packed lunch.

Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

WESSEX BRYOLOGY GROUP

The Wessex Bryology Group (WBG) has kindly invited Flora Group members to participate in their events. A key aim of the group is to encourage those who are new to the subject to become more experienced and confident at identifying bryophytes, and in early 2010 there is a series of three meetings, each in a different habitat, specifically aimed at beginners to bryophytes. Beginners are, of course, most welcome at all our meetings. There is no formal membership or constitution and each person goes out at his/her own risk. The only equipment needed is a hand lens (x10 or x20) and some paper packets for collecting specimens. Many of the sites we plan to visit include wet and muddy areas so boots are advisable. We will usually eat a packed lunch on site. All meetings start at 10.30am and finish between 3pm and 4pm.

Contact: Andrew Branson tel: 01747 838223; e-mail andrew@britishwildlife.com or Sharon Pilkington tel: 01225 775945; e-mail: sharonpilkington1@btinternet.com

Getting to grips with bryos - Bryology training days organised by WBG

Jan 23rd Woodland and grassland at Vernditch Chase/Martin Down – Leader Andrew Branson.

Meet at National Nature Reserve car park on Blandford-Salisbury Road (A354) at SU037200. A good range of common woodland and grassland species to ease people into some basics of identification and ecology.

Feb 6th Heathland/mire at Vales Moor in the New Forest. Leader Sharon Pilkington.

Park in the car park at SU188040. This extensive mire and heath complex will provide a chance to get to grips with various species of Sphagnum and other typical mire and heath mosses and liverworts. Wellies strongly recommended.

Feb 20th Chalk downland at Melbury Down-Win Green (NT) South Wilts/Dorset Leader Andrew Branson.

Park off the road to Compton Abbas airfield at ST915197. We will look for some classic chalk downland and flint scree bryophytes in the morning, including Rhodobryum roseum. Later in the day we will test our skills at Win Green.

Other WBG meetings, which may be of interest to Flora Group members:-

February 14th West Yatton Down and Kents Bottom, North Wiltshire – Leader Sharon Pilkington.

Join us to be the first to survey this limestone grassland and woodland site. Park by the side of the road opposite the footpath at ST852758.

March 6th Portland, Dorset – Leader Bryan Edwards.

Park at the View Point SY 689730. In the morning we will look for *Funaria pulchella* (and other things) in King Barrow and Tout, and then go on to East Weare in the afternoon.

April 10th Ubley Warren (SWT), North Somerset – Leader Andrew Branson.

Parking at Charterhouse at ST505556. A varied landscape in the heart of the Mendips, with both acid and basic floras including exposed limestone, with several local specialities.



Image Phil Mclean

Reports of Recent Events

Hampshire Wildlife Trust Blashford Lakes nature reserve on 26 August 2009 a report by John Norton

This was a midweek evening visit to look for aquatic plants. Eric Clement, Debbie Allan and I arrived a couple of hours early in order to do a bit of reconnaissance beforehand and check out some areas that the education centre manager, Jim Day, had asked us to look at. In heavy rain, we visited the northern end of Ivy Lake, near to the centre, where we could only find the familiar aliens *Crassula helmsii* and *Elodea nuttallii*, with a little *Lemna minor*. The *Elodea* was also found to be especially abundant in other parts of Ivy Lake and along the eastern shore of Ellingham Lake. These shores are generally well-shaded by trees, but a few marginal wetland plants also occur, such as *Mentha aquatica*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Lotus pedunculatus* and *Lysimachia vulgaris*. A section of the Dockens Water, where management work had previously been carried out did not prove very fruitful, the best finds being *Scutellaria galericulata* and *Stellaria uliginosa* on the banks, along with another unwelcome alien *Impatiens glandulifera*. We walked some wooded sections of the stream adjacent to the reserve centre and found several patches of a *Callitriche* species, which unfortunately defied identification, even with a microscope and the new BSBI guide. However, it was probably either *obtusangula* or *platycarpa*.

The gravel footpath running between the two aforementioned lakes provided one of the best finds of the day, *Potentilla argentea* (Hoary Cinquefoil), immediately distinguished by the silvery appearance of the leaf undersides. At least ten plants were present in the middle of the path, but due to the rain we did not try very hard to find more. This species is rare in Hampshire but has been previously recorded in the vicinity of Blashford Lakes as well as the lower Avon Valley generally. I visited a site in the Brecks recently where it was abundant, also growing on compacted gravel paths and tracks. This species could well be under-recorded in the Blashford Lakes areas, so worth looking for if you visit here next year. The track also provided a few other noteworthy species including *Myosotis laxa*, *Lythrum portula* and *Conyza bilboana*.

We returned to the car park and were relieved when four more Flora Group members turned up for the main walk, including Catherine and Clive Chatters. The rain had just about stopped by this time so in high spirits we headed off to walk the eastern shore of Ibsley Water. On the promontory in front of the Lapwing hide we found two classic species of muddy lake margins, *Chenopodium rubrum* and *Rorippa palustris*, along with other typical associates such as *Ranunculus sceleratus* and *Persicaria maculosa*. Nearby we added *Bidens tripartita*. This lake, like the others, supports dense growth of submerged vegetation around the margins, dominated by *Elodea*

nuttallii and *Crassula helmsii*, but after some diligent searching through handfuls of weed we eventually found a few small sprigs of the important species we had been looking for, Six-stamened Waterwort *Elatine hexandra* (see photo). Clive also managed to find some rooted plants, confirming that it was actually growing here and not just washed up from elsewhere in the lake. The species has been previously recorded at least once here and also from Ellingham Lake, but is very rare elsewhere in SW Hampshire (best known from Hatchet Pond). It is also known from several areas in NE Hampshire. Another good find was some poorly-growing *Potamogeton pusillus*, later confirmed through the microscope (by its distinctive marginal leaf vein) - a new tetrad record.



Six-stamened Waterwort *Elatine hexandra* Blashford Lakes 26 August 2009 by Debbie Allan

Salicornia survey, 9-12 September 2009 a report by Martin Rand

The aim of this survey was to visit as much of the Hampshire coast as possible in a concentrated burst of effort, to check on records some of which were 20 years old or more. Over the four days we worked our way from Hayling Island to Christchurch Harbour, visiting a mixture of 'Salicornia hotspots' and more obscure sites.

Glassworts (*Salicornia* spp.) are hardly the most glamorous of flowers but they have a considerable ecological importance and a succulent, lumpy fascination. Their identification presents a stimulating challenge. The Perennial Glasswort (*Sarcocornia perennis*) and the One-flowered Glasswort (*Salicornia pusilla*) are distinctive enough close up, and with a little practice can be picked out from the crowd on "jizz". The rest fall into two groups, *Salicornia europaea* agg. and *S. procumbens* agg. and these groups are again easily distinguished one from the other. But each group has then been divided into species (usually 3 each in British floras), and this is where the difficulties start. My own experience, borne out again on this occasion, is that it is not hard to find large, fairly easily identifiable 'typical' populations of one of the species in each group (*S. ramosissima* in the first and *S. dolichostachya* in the second). The remainder then occur as smaller, scattered populations, often with many intermediates that one can

only name at the aggregate level.

The nationally scarce Perennial Glasswort (*Sarcocornia perennis*) continues to do well on Hampshire shores on its favoured substrate of thin muddy deposits over gravel, and we refound it in all 10km squares with previous records except SZ19 (Christchurch Harbour), where we did not get to the likeliest spots.

Also nationally scarce, the One-flowered Glasswort (*Salicornia pusilla*) proved more elusive. We found good numbers on the northern end of Hayling, but failed in several spots around Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours. The best populations were on Needs Ore Point, Beaulieu. As a plant of the uppermost levels of the saltmarsh it may be particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise as higher tides come up against hard defences, but the reasonably intact middle and upper marsh at Needs Ore provides excellent conditions for this and a number of other species to thrive. One encouraging sign at Stoke Common, Hayling was its occurrence in brackish pasture behind the sea-wall. A long search at Bursledon Marsh finally turned up a few small plants. We were also able to record its hybrid with *S. ramosissima*, which has a variable number of flowers in the cyme, at Northney and Needs Ore. It was last recorded in 1984 in both spots by Paul Bowman.

Purple Glasswort (*Salicornia ramosissima*) is one of the more widespread and spectacular species and is often most conspicuous in brackish hollows behind the sea wall where large populations turn purplish-red in September. Particularly fine displays were seen at Hayling and on Keyhaven / Pennington Marshes. However on the seaward side of the wall it is often abundant, too, but here mixed with the general saltmarsh vegetation and often grading into the Common Glasswort (*Salicornia europaea*). We found it surprisingly difficult to record distinctive, sizeable populations of this species, recording it only at Northney, Hayling, on the eastern side of Farlington Marshes, at Lincegrove Marsh in the Hamble and at Needs Ore Point. Most populations resembling *S. europaea* in the majority of features had an inflorescence sheath too broad for the species, and were put down only as *S. europaea* agg.

Without a doubt the most elusive plant of the week was the last of this group, Glaucous Glasswort (*Salicornia obscura*), a national rarity. Its first British record was on a site at Northney now destroyed by the building of the marina. This is a difficult plant to pin down at the best of times and all Hampshire records in the last 30 years have been made by two people, Francis Rose and the French botanist Jean Marie Gehu. We did not feel confident to record the species at any of the sites we visited; however, in a remarkable salt-pan on Keyhaven Marshes we noted near-prostrate plants of *S. europaea* agg. that came close to this species. They had short simple branches and a sheath making a very broad (but still distinct) angle at the apex. This site is at or close to where the species was recorded by Prof. Gehu.

Of the *S. procumbens* group, Long-spiked Glasswort (*Salicornia dolichostachya*) was found in all areas and

almost all sites visited, with the exception of Christchurch Harbour where it has never been recorded. With its long, narrowly tapering terminal spike and its often untidy habit like a young, badly-grown Christmas tree, it is not hard to spot from a distance. In the present conditions of sea-level rise it is probably one of the winners or at least survivors, since it often grows on otherwise bare mud banks in the lower marsh where it is subject to some tidal scouring.

We managed to record the nationally scarce Yellow Glasswort (*Salicornia fragilis*) in seven stations from Hayling to Keyhaven, usually growing in close association with *S. dolichostachya*; populations of convincing plants were always much smaller and we recorded intermediates as *S. procumbens* agg. at all the same sites.

Shiny Glasswort (*Salicornia nitens*), nationally rare but probably under-recorded, proved to be a real challenge. Again its type locality at Northney is under the marina, but time and tide did not permit looking for it at Gutner, also on Hayling. The number of plants we found with convincing characters was utterly tiny (one at Keyhaven, a known site, along with several more dubious plants, and one at Needs Ore, where it has not been recorded before, with three other 'intermediates') – all in all, not the sort of population size to give confidence in identification. We recorded other intermediates as *S. procumbens* agg. elsewhere at Keyhaven. All these plants were, however, growing in bare parts of the middle to upper marsh where they might be expected. Although the orangey-purple-brown hues of this species in autumn are supposed to be characteristic, we had no difficulty finding well-marked plants of *S. dolichostachya* with similar colouring, usually at the top of its range in the middle marsh.

After a cold start on Hayling we enjoyed excellent sunny weather for the rest of the week, and there were plenty of incidental pleasures including an Osprey sighting and the discovery of a large population of Oak-leaved Goosefoot (*Chenopodium glaucum*) at Keyhaven. Needs Ore was particularly satisfying, as a good natural marsh profile from silty and gravelly upper marsh to creek and mudflat survives reasonably intact; the small marshes of the western Hamble, although much more restricted, were also a delight. Thanks to all those people who spent one or more days on the marsh, risking life and welly and contributing to the communal head-scratching.



Salicornia dolichostachya, *Salicornia fragilis* and *Sarcocornia perennis* on the Hayling Oyster Beds

**Small Fleabane Census on 13
September 2009
a report by Clive Chatters**

Since its inception the Flora Group have taken a particular interest in Small Fleabane *Pulicaria vulgaris*. This annual yellow-flowered daisy-like plant is a specialist of well grazed and occasionally disturbed village greens and commons. A species once widespread in the lowlands of England Small Fleabane is now (2009) confined to the vice county of southern Hampshire. Small Fleabane is now regarded as a 'critically endangered' species in Britain.

Over the years we have got to know more about the habitats that Small Fleabane likes. There was a time when we looked across the grazed lanes and lawns of the Open Forest as we know it likes hard grazing and occasional disturbance. Since the early 1990s we are now looking at trackways, gateways and fields adjacent to the commons that are part of their historic landuse.

The 2009 survey confirmed Small Fleabane in two parts of south west Hampshire. These are the grazed sandy terraces of the Avon Valley together with the complex of hard grazed New Forest commons near Junction 1 of the M27. In both areas the plant is found not only in the common grazed areas but also in adjacent fields. Small Fleabane seems to particularly like fields from which free ranging pigs wander into and out of the commons.

For those interested in numbers the population in 2009 stood at about 32,000 plants. Of these about 22,000 were in a handful of fields with the remainder growing on the open commons. As in previous years individual populations boom and bust with some populations in decline and others in expansion.

A more detailed report is being written up and we hope will be available next year.

Small Fleabane grows amongst the machinery in this pony-grazed farmyard.

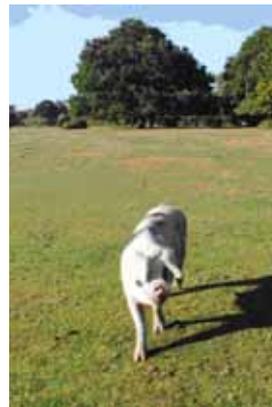


A pig gate between the field and the common.



Small Fleabane populations were mapped as a part of the census.

Kerry cows graze the Fleabane grasslands



...as do pigs



... and other livestock.

**Asteraceae Workshop at Swanwick
on Saturday 27th September 2009
a report by Sarah Ball**

Thirteen of us gathered at Swanwick on a glorious September day and it really did not matter a bit that we spent the entire day inside the centre (apart from lunchtime) so enthralled were we all by the fine details of various Asteraceae. Martin Rand was master of ceremonies ably abetted by Tony Mundell and John Poland. We started by looking in microscopic detail at the floral parts and other diagnostic characters of Asteraceae in general. Then John talked about some of the vegetative characteristics, with useful tips to avoid

the need of a lens such as being able to stick Picris to woolly jumpers - nature's Velcro! Martin guided us through the 11 tribes that grow in UK; a great way to divide the Asteraceae into bite sized chunks. Everything was illustrated with live material to dissect and examine and we were given a short test afterward to see if we could place some unnamed specimens into their tribes; this gave rise to lots of animated discussions and more minute examination of the material. Finally the day was rounded off by going through the keys to some of the groups that Martin had included in the workbook: thistles, yellow flowered "dandelions", white and yellow "daisies" and some of the really tricky things like burdocks and asters. Everyone went away with heads very full but with substantially more knowledge and understanding of how to identify the dreaded composites. Our three tutors did a great job in providing the plants and keeping everyone on track during the day. Many thanks too to the staff of the Swanwick Centre for making it possible to use the centre and refreshment facilities.

If you weren't there you missed a real treat but do not despair, Martin Rand produced an excellent workbook which is available for download on the Hants Plants website <http://hantsplants.org.uk/articles.php>. This was the second of a number of sessions on individual families or groups so keep an eye on forthcoming events for others in the series.

Lichen Identification Training Day in the New Forest on Saturday 21 November 2009 at Busketts Wood a report by Neil Sanderson

The day had not promised well with rain forecast early, but fortunately, on the day, the rain held off until lunch time. Four people attended, a good number for tuition, three of whom had missed the late-advertised meeting last year. This year I took the group into Busketts Wood south of the cricket pitch. This was an area where I had carried out some intensive monitoring in a marked plot last winter. This should have meant no surprises but there are always surprises in lichenology! The woodland we walked through has some extraordinary groves of ancient Beech plastered with rarities but also provided numerous common species to admire. The bark was wet from previous rain, not the easiest conditions for lichen identification, but 73 lichen taxa were demonstrated. Two surprise records were made. On one very important Beech I noticed that the patches of white thalli were fertile, with an immersed apothecia with the disk covered in coarse white pruina. This was *Phlyctis agelaea*, a non-soredia, always fertile version of the common "White Paint", *Phlyctis argena*, which is sterile and sorediate. It is a very rare pollution sensitive species, which was last recorded in Hampshire in 1974. In this case I had seen a lot of the species in Ireland earlier in the year and was now much more familiar with it and I have probably been overlooking it. The other new record was somewhat embarrassing; while I was peering at little crusts on a Beech tree I had looked at before, I was asked, what is that up there? A couple of metres above me was a large thallus of *Lobaria pulmonaria*, which I had completely

missed previously. This was a completely new part of the wood for this sensitive and impressive species.

By lunchtime it was clear the rain was catching us up and we called it a day. While in the wood I had heard a large crash and on the way out we found that a large dead Oak had fallen over on to the lawn near the car park in windless conditions. It had presumably been weakened by the recent gales. This provided an opportunity to look at oak canopy and twig lichens but the wreck was rather a sobering sight.

For those interested, an annotated list with hints for identification can be obtained from the author at neilsand@dircon.co.uk

News and Views

The Vegetative Key to the British Flora

Our congratulations go to Flora Group members John Poland and Eric Clement on publishing their groundbreaking Vegetative Key. The reviews speak for themselves.

"Get this excellent book, use it, and be part of the botanical revolution!" - Clare O'Reilly, British Wildlife October 2009

"Here is a significant addition to flora-making literature. It would behove botanists in areas other than the U.K. to check out Poland & Clement. I can see myself using this work to identify various weeds in California as 17.4% of its flora of 5,867 species is alien. Now I have another dilemma. Do I file Poland & Clement with my California floras or my British-European ones? Maybe I should just get a second copy." - Rudolf Schmid, TAXON, August 2009

"Due to the novel structure of the keys, it is possible to identify a plant in three turns of a page and in under 60 seconds!" - Clare O'Reilly, IEEM In Practice

"A must-have standard text for all ecologists conducting any type of vegetation survey, including Phase 1 and assessing sites for UK BAP habitats." - Clare O'Reilly, IEEM In Practice

"This book sets out to help the enthusiast identify all native plants and even some alien species on vegetative characteristics alone. ... Strongly recommended for the keen amateur and professional." - Chris Bisson, Eden Project Plant Records Manager, on Plant-Talk.org

"How many of us, having been given a scrap of plant consisting of just a few leaves and stem, have shrugged our shoulders and said "let's wait until it's in flower." No more! While not strictly a techniques book, this is very much the book that anyone who works with plants has been waiting for. ... Given the vagueness of having to

describe leaf shape, degree of hairiness and colour compared to counting stamens of describing the colour of a flower, it is very much to the authors' credit that it works so well. Every plant ecologist should have a copy." - Peter Thomas, The Bulletin - the journal of the British Ecological Society

If you have not already added this to your library and your rucksack then copies are available from the NHBS Environment Bookstore online or from any good bookshop.

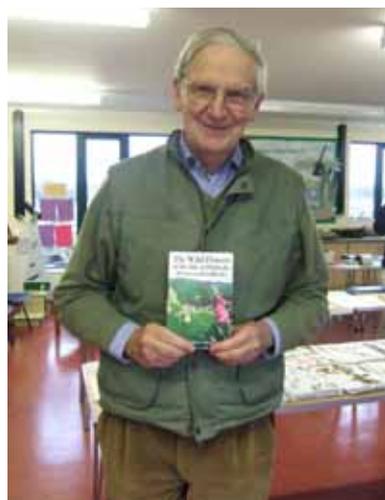
http://www.nhbs.com/the_vegetative_key_to_the_british_flora_tefno_162652.html&tab_tag=Review



John Poland and Eric Clement with 'The Vegetative Key to the British Flora'

Other publications by Flora Group members

At the recent Flora Group / BSBI Exhibition meeting at Testwood on 5 December, not only were John and Eric selling copies of their 'Vegetative Key' but three other publications by Flora Group members were also on sale.



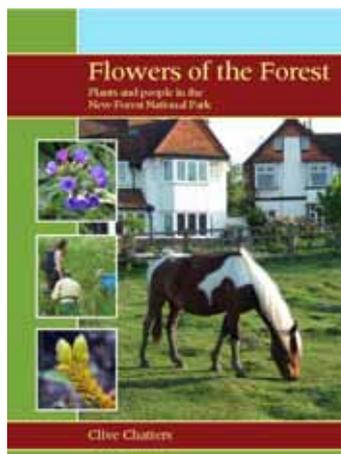
Ted Pratt with his 'Wild Flowers of the Isle of Purbeck, Brownsea and Sandbanks' published by Brambleby Books in 2008.

Debbie Allen and John Norton with their book titled 'An Illustrated Checklist of the Flora of Qatar' which they co-authored.



Clive Chatters discussing his recent book 'Flowers of the Forest - Plants and People in the New Forest National Park' published by Wild Guides, price £24.95 (including a financial contribution to H&loWWT)

Review: *Flowers of the Forest: Plants and people in the New Forest National Park* by Clive Chatters, WILDGuides, Old Basing



Britain is rich in county and local Floras: they present the minutiae of plant distribution and the history of their recording in long, detailed inventories. They may be fascinating to the knowledgeable botanist, but they are not what the general public would call "a good read". Anyone looking for the former sort of book here will be disappointed. Everyone else will be captivated.

The author has written a humane natural history of the area. As the title promises, it is not just about the plants, but also all those people who have interacted with them: shaping and managing the landscape, hunting for and recording the botanical heritage, and trying with varying success to conserve it. Countless coffee table books and art photographs demonstrate that it is all too easy to present the Forest as a sort of abstract idyll divorced

from time and circumstance. The provocative photograph on the front cover announces that this will be something different.

An introductory chapter sets the scene, explaining what the Forest is and why it is special, before giving a potted history of botanists in the area and an indication of the importance of the non-flowering plants, too. The book proceeds with a succinct, informed but non-technical account of each of the major habitats and plant communities to be found here. This is punctuated every page or two with a case history of an individual plant species, a pen portrait of a local botanist, or an anecdote; by these means a great deal of valuable information is conveyed vividly. The picture that is built up is of a land that is hard-used, occasionally abused and misunderstood, and far from pristine; but what also comes over is the remarkable resilience to be found in a large, joined-up, extensively grazed system. Proper attention is given to the coast and enclosed lands lying in the National Park, and their important role within the whole.

The book is generously illustrated with fine colour photographs that show the plants and their settings, as well as some fascinating black and white archive material. There are several reference appendices, the most useful of which is the bibliography for its generous sprinkling of 'grey literature' (surveys and reports with limited distribution) that is otherwise hard to discover. There are places where the text would have benefited from tighter sub-editing, and a picture is mislabelled; but these are trivial blemishes in a book that conveys such an infectious delight in its subject. My only other grumble concerns the price. Those who know Clive and the Forest will recognise it as good value for money; the more casual reader may be deterred from sharing that delight and gaining a deeper understanding of a unique place. After all, this is a book that deserves to be read by every resident and visitor!

Reviewed by Martin Rand.

A 'thank you' from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Library

Many thanks to Elizabeth Young who has donated her copy of 'Flora Europaea' to the Trust's library at Curdridge.

Our library contains many useful volumes as well as many unpublished reports on all sorts of aspects of botany. We also have a growing electronic library of reports. There is a good index to help you find what you're looking for.



As well as being a reference library, we have some books that we can loan out such as copies of Francis Rose's Wildflower Key. If you want to find out whether this is the key for you then we have some copies available.

If you'd like to use the library please contact Jane Somerville via email on janes@hwt.org.uk or feedback@hwt.org.uk

Can you help the Millennium Seed Bank?



Steve Alton is the UK coordinator for the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place (Royal Botanic Gardens), and is short of seeds for the following species which occur in Hampshire in reasonable numbers.

Agrimonia procera
Anagallis minima
Carex montana
*Eleocharis parvula***
Euphrasia anglica
Galium constrictum
Lotus glaber
*Mentha pulegium***
Oenanthe fluviatilis
*Pulicaria vulgaris***
Pulmonaria longifolia
Ruscus aculeatus
Utricularia minor
Viola lactea

If you are able to help him by collecting seed in the coming season, please contact him at the following address:

Steve Alton
UK Co-ordinator
Millennium Seed Bank Project
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Wakehurst Place
Ardingly
RH17 6TN
Email: s.alton@kew.org

but please also contact me first, so that effort is not duplicated.

The species marked with '**' in the list above are on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and before collecting any material of these you should liaise with Steve about getting documented authorisation.

Martin Rand
BSBI Recorder, South Hants
21 Pine Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 1LH
vc11recorder@hantsplants.org.uk

Do you like arranging events? If so, we'd like to hear from you.

Following the success of the Flora Group's weekend visit to the Isle of Wight last summer, a number of Flora Group members have said they would be keen to get together to visit other botanically interesting parts of the country. However such residential visits take quite a lot of organising and we are looking for someone who likes arranging events and who has the time to do so. If you think you might be interested in helping Flora Group in this way, please get in touch with Catherine Chatters (contact details at the end of this newsletter) for a chat and to find out what is involved. Thank you.

Flora Group keys and identification guides – a request for some help

A number of keys and identification guides have, in the past, been prepared in connection with Flora Group events. You may recall the very useful guides to, for example, ferns and aquatic Ranunculus species. These were all produced as paper documents and the Flora Group committee members agree that they would be much more useful if they could be made available in electronic format. To produce them electronically, we are looking for someone who would be willing to re-type them on a computer so that they can be stored electronically. If you think this might be something you could do, please contact Catherine Chatters (contact details at end of this newsletter). Thank you.

More action needed to protect wild plants in Europe against climate change



Flora Group members might be interested in this information based on a Press Release issued by the University of Reading last autumn:-

Current conservation efforts across Europe are inadequate to protect wild plants from climate change. These are the findings from a report by scientists at the University of Reading, which were presented in November 2009 at a meeting of the Council of Europe's Bern Convention.

The Bern Convention was set up 30 years ago to protect Europe's wildlife. The report calls for more targeted action to protect our wild plant species from the effects of climate change.

Professor Vernon Heywood, lead author of the report, says: "Conservation efforts in Europe are failing to halt the loss of biodiversity. These measures were set up before the additional risks from climate change were recognised. We need a major scaling up of current conservation measures, so that climate change is considered alongside population growth, loss of habitat and pollution.

"Lists of threatened species will have to be revised, our system of protected areas re-planned, human intervention scaled-up and more research done to help focus our efforts. The time-scale of 50 to 100 years to achieve all this is daunting," says Professor Heywood.

While some plants will be able to adapt or migrate in the face of climate change, some will not. This will result in many of Europe's landscapes changing as new groupings of plants replace existing communities, and the pattern of crops able to grow in the new climatic conditions will also change. Plants in the Mediterranean and southern Europe will be badly affected by increasing temperature and reduced rainfall and those growing in high mountains and coastal areas will also be at risk. Changes in most countries are likely to be visible in the next few decades.

"There is a balance to be struck between protecting plants by moving them into newly suitable regions and the risk of generating a new cohort of invasive weeds by moving species outside their native range," says the University of Reading's Dr Alastair Culham. "For example, Cyclamen species which grow wild in the Mediterranean are likely to become extinct as conditions there get warmer and drier. Their only hope of survival may be to establish them in more suitable areas – even in domestic gardens. In fact this process of human intervention has already started, albeit unintentionally, as Cyclamen is becoming a common plant in many people's gardens."

Europe has many nature reserves and protected areas (they cover around 17% of Europe's land area) but, as in other parts of the world, climate change is likely to make conditions in some of them unsuitable for their target species – as many as 58% of species in some cases according to a recent estimate.

The report concludes that existing reserves need to be made more resilient to climate change by building in connectivity such as corridors that will allow species to migrate. Since most species grow outside protected areas, much more effort needs to be put into off-site conservation through set-aside, incentive-based schemes with private landowners and other forms of private-public collaboration to enhance the chances of species surviving outside reserves.

The report also stresses that the impact of invasive species may increase the urgency of action due to ecological disruption linked to climate change. Invasive "weeds" already cost Europe as much as 12 billion Euros a year to control and much more vigorous efforts will need to be made to restrict the introduction of species that are likely to become invasive and spread as climate change takes hold. It is ironic that the recent tendency to introduce garden plants that can cope with extremes of climate may backfire if these same species escape into the wild. Trade agreements will be needed to prevent the planting of potentially invasive species such as non-native grasses and drought adapted alien tree species.

Of course these measures will need considerably more

financial and human investment. As an example, the most expensive European plant species in terms of conservation costs is the Lake Constance forget-me-not (*Myosotis rehsteineri*) which has cost over 2 million Euros to protect. At the moment however, most biodiversity strategies and plans are un-costed and most of the effort is being targeted at actions that are not specifically designed to protect plants from climate change.

The report referred to above is titled

The Impacts of Climate Change on Plant Species in Europe, by Prof Vernon Heywood with Dr Alastair Culham, School of Biological Sciences, University of Reading. Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Standing Committee, Strasbourg, T-PVS/Inf(2009) 9, 23 November 2009 and, in summary, calls for:

1. A reassessment of conservation policy and budgets at a national and regional level is needed, but not at the expense of practical conservation.
2. Baseline reports on species occurring in Europe, and the threats to them, need to be coordinated into an agreed action list.
3. Model-based studies to identify species most at risk from climate change.
4. A flexible approach to protected areas that facilitates migration with climate change to ameliorate the impact of climate.
5. Direct human intervention will be necessary to preserve some species, either by assisted migration or ex-situ conservation.

Conference on non-native invasive plants on Thursday 4 November 2009

The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project is hosting a one-day conference on non-native invasive plants at Careys Manor Hotel in Brockenhurst on Thursday 4 November 2010. The conference is aimed at landowners and managers, statutory organisations, non-government organisations and anyone who is concerned about the spread of these plants.

Speakers will include inter alia Huw Thomas of DEFRA on the UK strategic framework for tackling non-native invasive species, Dr Richard Mabey (author of 'Food for Free', 'Nature Cure' etc) on the cultural history of 'weeds', Dr Ian Rotherham of Sheffield Hallam University on Himalayan balsam, Dr Max Wade (author of 'Giant Hogweed Management in the United Kingdom') on giant hogweed and Dr Naomi Ewald on New Zealand pygmyweed *Crassula helmsii*. Refreshments and a buffet lunch will be provided. Places are limited to 100, so book early to avoid disappointment.

For further details and a booking form please contact Catherine Chatters, the New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer on 023 8042 4205 or at catherinec@hwt.org.uk

Do you botanise in the New Forest area?



If so, the New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer would be very pleased if you could send in records of non-native invasive plants that you find growing there. A recording card has been produced by the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project. Copies are available from Catherine Chatters, the New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer on 023 8042 4205 or at catherinec@hwt.org.uk.

Alternatively you can submit your records electronically by clicking on the relevant link on the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project web page at <http://www.hwt.org.uk/pages/new-forest-non-native-plants-project.html>



The records will help the Project focus effort and resources to stop the spread of non-native invasive plants in this very important part of the county.

An Apology

Apologies to Dr David Allen who provided the very interesting article on brambles for the Autumn 2009 edition of Flora News. Unfortunately one line of the article that David had drafted was omitted when it was prepared for publication in Flora News. This meant that the location for *Rubus hylonomus* was missed out of the text.

The missing information (at the beginning of the third paragraph of David's article) is given below:-

'The trio turned up by more penetrating fieldwork are a mixed bunch. The most welcome because unimpeachably indigenous, is *R. hylonomus*, two well-separated patches of which under a tall fir canopy in Chawton Park Wood at Four Marks (SU 673 363), in v.c.12, constitute an impressively disjunct new terminal point for the predominantly Wealden range of this species in Britain'.

VC11 Records compiled by Martin Rand

First, some corrections to the Spring 2009 issue: apologies for attributing a record of *Galium palustre* var. *elongatum* to Ted Pratt; this is an error. The record of *Carex hostiana* x *viridula* subsp. *oedocarpa* at Warwick Slade should have been dated 18th June 2009.

A number of people have helped to get records for 10km squares that are under-recorded in recent years up to date in the last year. Thanks to all of them, including the Wiltshire botanists who have beavered away at our western fringes.

The most significant finds of native and archaeophyte plants are picked out with a box. 'Hampshire Notable' species are marked with a ☼, except where all records given are likely to prove casual or deliberate introductions. Candidates for the notables list are shown in brackets: [☼]. A **tetrad** is a 2km x 2km square – the basic distribution mapping unit of the 1996 *Flora of Hampshire*. Records for those parts of VC8 (South Wiltshire) now in administrative Hampshire are also included.

Records for the next issue by the end of June, please.

Recorder abbreviations: AA = Ann Appleyard, AAB = Alida Butcher, AHP = Andrew Powling, BGo = Barry Goater, CC = Clive Chatters, CTh = Carolyn Thorne, DHub = David Hubble, DL = David Leadbetter, DRA = Debbie Allan, EAP = Rev. Ted Pratt, EJC = Eric Clement, GCo = Ginnie Copsey, GFa = Geoff Farwell, GTh = Gill Thornton, HFG = Hampshire Flora Group, JAN = John Norton, JGo = Jane Goater, LSm = Linda Smith, MFa = Mike Faherty, MR = Martin Rand, MWR = Mike Rowe, NJ = Nigel Johnson; PAB = Phil Budd, PM = Peter Marston, PS = Paul Stanley, PW = Pat Woodruffe, RCR = Clare Rand, RWe = Rosemary Webb, SFi = Sue Fitzgerald, SJP = Sharon Pilkington, TSp = T W Spinney..

☼*Agrostemma githago* (Corncockle): Longwood Warren, Cheesefoot Head, SU530274 18 Aug 2009; MR following observation by GCo. Arable strip sown with wild flower mix under stewardship scheme. **New tetrad**
Alnus cordata (Italian Alder): Gravelly Copse and roadside, SU385001; 30 Jun 2008; BGo. A few young trees inside wood

☼*Althaea officinalis* (Marsh-mallow): Pennington Marshes, SZ321925; Sep 2009; DL. Grassland S of Pennington Marshes car park. **New tetrad**

Alyssum saxatile (Golden Alison): Beaulieu Estate, SU388026; 16 Jun 2008; BGo & JGo. One plant on old walls of Beaulieu Abbey, SU38860260

Amaranthus hybridus (Green Amaranth): Biddlecombe Farm, Cadnam Green, SU291142; 22 Sep 2009; MR & CC. Weed of maize field. **1st for SU21**

Anisantha diandra (Great Brome): Roughay Farm, Marwell, SU525210; 02 Aug 2009; MR & RCR. Mostly coming into flower, scattered amongst swards of fruiting and desiccated *A. sterilis*, arable margin. Longwood Warren, Cheesefoot Head, SU530274; 18 Aug 2009; MR. Arable strip sown with wild flower mix under stewardship scheme. **1st for SU52**.

Anthemis austriaca (Austrian Chamomile): Longwood Warren, Cheesefoot Head, SU530274; 18 Aug 2009; MR. Arable strip sown with wild flower mix under stewardship scheme. **1st for SU52**

☼*Anthemis cotula* (Stinking Chamomile): Nr Ferry Road, Hayling, SZ692996; 09 Sep 2009; MR, GCo & AHP. In open *E. atherica* grassland between road and shore. **1st for SZ69 in VC11**

Arbutus unedo (Strawberry-tree); Churchyard, Bolton's Bench, Lyndhurst, SU308083; 29 Oct 2009; DHub. **1st for SU30**

Arctium minus subsp. *pubens* (Lesser Burdock): Brockwood, SU6225; 19 Aug 2009; MR & GCo. **1st for SU62** for subspecies

☼*Atriplex x gustafssoniana* (*A. longipes* x *prostrata*): Badnam Creek, SU482085 and SU482086; 10 Sep 2009; MR, EJC & GCo. In intermittent band along tree line at back of marsh. **1st for SU40**. EJC has questioned whether this is truly a hybrid, or whether it should all be sunk in *A. longipes* with the described species merely one extreme of genetic variation.

☼*Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain): W of Clumber Inclosure, SU260034; 13 Jun 2009; MR. **New tetrad**

Borago officinalis (Borage): Wintershill, SU533187; 25 Jul 2009; PM. 3 large plants. **1st for SU51**

☼*Briza minor* (Lesser Quaking-grass): Nr Hetherhill Farm, Durley, SU521152; 26 Jul 2009; Ms S Bignell conf. PAB. Found in an agricultural field, grid ref: SU52161529. **New tetrad**

☼*Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome): Dean, SU563196; 12 Jul 2009; GFa. 8 plants in wheat crop either side of footpath. South of Greenwood, Durley, SU512169, SU513170; 29 Jun 2009; PAB. **1st for SU51**

☼*Bupleurum rotundifolium* (Thorow-wax): Hinton Ampner gardens, SU596275; 14 Sep 2009; AAB. Conf. MR from specimen retained in Hb MR. **1st for SU52** since ?1838. Previously recorded at Hinton Ampner in the early 19th century in Bromfield's *Flora Hantoniensis*.

Calystegia silvatica subsp. *disjuncta* (Large Bindweed): Coombe Lane, Sway, SZ286983; 29 Jul 2009; MWR. Hedge. **New vice-county record** for the subspecies although it is likely to be common. It would be interesting to map the distributions of the two subspecies and to note whether there are intermediates.

Campanula medium (Canterbury-bells): Lyme Crescent, Highcliffe, SZ207935; 05 Jun 2009; DL. Disturbed ground. **1st for SZ29**

☛ *Cardamine amara* (Large Bitter-cress): Zionshill Copse, SU417204; 21 Apr 2009; DHub. **New tetrad**
☛ *Carex acuta* (Slender Tufted-sedge): Fishlake Meadows, SU3523; 02 May 2009; BGo & JGo. 3 plants n ditches. **New tetrad**
☛ *Carex hostiana* x *viridula* subsp. *oedocarpa* (Hybrid Tawny / Common Yellow Sedge): Warwick Slade, SU269067; 18 Jul 2009; MR & RCR conf. PS. Voucher Specimen Hb MR. **2nd vice-county record, 1st for SU20**. In shallow ditch across heath at SU2696 0676, with both parents.

Carthamus tinctorius (Safflower): Smugglers Lane North, Highcliffe, SZ200945; 27 Sep 2009; DL. Pavement, Smugglers Lane North. **1st for SZ29**

Chaenorhinum origanifolium (Malling Toadflax): Lyme Crescent, Highcliffe, SZ207935; 20 May 2009; DL det. EJC. Disturbed ground. **2nd vice-county record, 1st for SZ29**

Chenopodium ficifolium (Fig-leaved Goosefoot): Biddlecombe Farm, Cadnam Green, SU291142; 22 Sep 2009; MR & CC. Weed of maize field. **1st for SU21**

☛ *Chenopodium glaucum* (Oak-leaved Goosefoot): Keyhaven Marsh, SZ314917; 12 Sep 2009; MR, MWR & GCo. Many hundreds of plants in large salt pan at back of pond behind sea defences, c. SZ3141 9178.

☛ *Chrysanthemum segetum* (Corn Marigold): Longwood Warren, Cheesefoot Head, SU530274; 18 Aug 2009; MR following observation by GCo. Arable strip sown with wild flower mix under stewardship scheme. **1st for SU52**

☛ *Cladium mariscus* (Great Fen-sedge): Nr Iley Lane, Lower Pennington, SZ313933; 18 Jul 2009; DL. SE side of lake N of tip near Iley Lane. [With exotic spp., presumed introduction]. **New tetrad**

Conyza bilbaoana (Bilbao's Fleabane): A31 off slip, Ashley, SU139048; 16 Aug 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. Field record / observation; Tall specimens with narrow inflorescence and conspicuous ligules. Spinnaker Lake / Ivy Lane, Blashford, SU156076; 16 Aug 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. Tall plants with inflorescence varying from cylindrical to narrowly domed. **1st for SU10**

Cornus sericea (Red-osier Dogwood): Spinnaker Lake / Ivy Lane, Blashford, SU156076; 16 Aug 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. **1st for SU10**

Cotoneaster ascendens (Ascending Cotoneaster): West of Setley Pond, SZ30209945; 25 Sep 2008; PAB. **1st for SZ39**. By Portsmouth Road, Sholing - opposite The Crescent, SU451108; 27 Oct 2008; PAB. Bird-sown bush with berries. **1st for SU41 and New vice-county records**

Cotoneaster salicifolius (Willow-leaved Cotoneaster): St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing, SU457109; 03 May 2009; PAB. Bird-sown. **1st for SU41**

Crocus sieberi (Sieber's Crocus): Portchester Castle - graveyard of church, SU625044; 26 Feb 2009; PAB. 8 Plants, SU62530448. **1st for SU60**

Cyclamen hederifolium (Sowbread): Blendworth Old Churchyard, SU716136; 12 Aug 2009; MR. 3 plants, one apparently very long-lived with corm >25cm in diameter. **1st for SU71 in VC11**

Cyperus eragrostis (Pale Galingale) : Gosport, SZ597989; Nov 2009; EAP. Alleyway, SZ5974 9899. **1st for SZ59**

Dactylorhiza praetermissa forma *junialis* (Leopard Marsh-orchid): Dean Hill Park: Cpt. 01: Sidings East, SU285266; 17 Jun 2008; AA & PW. Several amongst *D praetermissa* and *D fuchsii*. **1st for SU22**

Dorycnium hirsutum (Canary Clover): Clive Road, Highcliffe, SZ201946; 06 Jul 2009; DL. By pavement. **1st for SZ29**

Elaeagnus pungens (Silverberry): Monks Brook, Fleming Park - Compartment E, SU441190; 07 May 2009; PAB. 1 self-sown at SU44101906. **New vice-county record**

☛ *Epipactis phyllanthes* (Green-flowered Helleborine): Itchen Navigation Pathway, SU453161; 06 Aug 2009; TSp. Group of five plus three isolated individuals, one of which has lost its flower spike. Beside footpath. Partially wooded abandoned canal bank.. **New tetrad**

☛ *Erysimum cheiranthoides* (Treacle-mustard): Chalton Down, SU736152; 18 Jul 2009; PAB. Abundant in arable field above the down. **1st for SU71 since 1956**

☛ *Euphrasia confusa* (Branched Eyebright): Avon Heath Country Park, St Leonards, SU125019; 16 Aug 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. Few plants very characteristic, most appearing to be *E. nemorosa* x *confusa*. **1st for SU10**

Filipendula vulgaris (Dropwort): Blendworth Old Churchyard, SU716135; 12 Aug 2009; MR. **1st for SU71**

Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel): Finchdean Farm roadside, SU738127; 21 Aug 2009; BGo & JGo. **1st for SU71 in VC11**

Fraxinus ornus (Manna Ash): Eastern edge of Priors Hill Copse, SU472095; 24 May 2009; PAB. 2 smaller trees self-sown but the larger one might have been planted by the public footpath. **1st for SU40**. Chessel Bay, Southampton, SU441129; 01 May 2009; PAB. A ten foot tall self-sown tree. **1st for SU41**

Fumaria densiflora (Dense-flowered Fumitory): Beaulieu Estate, SU388026; 16 Jun 2008; BGo & JGo. On Beaulieu Abbey Choir Foundations. **1st for SU30**

☛ *Gentianella campestris* (Field Gentian): Fritham Plain, SU222133; 13 Aug 2009; CTh. On the way to Rakes Brakes. Conf. MR from photos. **1st for SU21**

☛ *Gentianella* x *pamplinii* (Hybrid Chiltern / Autumn Gentian): Martin Down, SU055183; 19 Sep 2009; LSm & SJP. Base of Hanham Hill near grass track: SU 0552318366, 1 (?) + 2 by track. Martin Down, SU057188; 19 Sep 2009; LSm & SJP. Trackside (first) group near Downs Farm: SU 05786 18892. **1st for SU01**

☛ *Geranium rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Crane's-bill): Ashley Lane, Ashley, SZ261955; 11 Aug 2009; MWR. Edge of garden, SZ2612 9558. **1st for SZ29**

Geranium x *oxonianum* (Druce's Crane's-bill): Blendworth, SU7113; 12 Aug 2009; MR. **1st for SU71 in VC11**

☛ *Gymnadenia conopsea* subsp. *densiflora* (Marsh Fragrant Orchid): Martin Down, SU056186; 31 May 2009; NJ & RWe. At SU05661868. 2 spikes. Marsh Fragrant Orchid usually flowers in July but the recorders found 2 plants in full flower that appeared to be this species. They were growing in a wet seep that had been pointed out by the warden. Known to the warden and voluntary wardens for several years but now confirmed from photographs by Prof. Richard Bateman.

Hedera helix subsp. *hibernica* (Atlantic Ivy): Middle Road, Sholing, SU451113; 11 Jun 2009; JAN. Seems dominant in the woodland by stream here, checked using Plant Crib. **1st for SU41**

Hypericum hircinum (Stinking Tutsan): Finchdean Farm, SU738127; 16 Jul 2009; MR & EJC. In waste ground of verge by yard buildings. **1st for SU71**

Inula conyzae (Ploughman's-spikenard): Carpark outside Saab dealership, Millbrook, Southampton, SU380132; 13 Apr 2009; PAB. Identified by the leaf rosette. **1st for SU31**

Juncus x kern-reichgeltii (Hybrid Compact / Soft Rush): Havant Thicket: Horsefoot Hill, SU711106; 16 Jul 2009; DRA, EJC, JAN & MR; voucher Hb JAN. Woodland ride. **New vice-county record**

Kickxia spuria (Round-leaved Fluellen): Beaulieu Estate, SU388026; 16 Jun 2008; BGo & JGo. On Beaulieu Abbey Transept foundations. **1st for SU30 since 1970**

☛ *Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort): Upper Gardens, Bournemouth, SZ072917, SZ074917; 24 Apr 2009; MFa. Associated with Hazel. **1st for SZ29**. An intriguing new site

Lathyrus nissolia (Grass Vetchling): Caird Avenue, New Milton, SZ252946; 19 Jul 2009; MWR. Several plants, waste ground by Tesco, SZ2520 9469. **1st for SZ29 since 1930**. The Serpentine, Lymington, SZ301971; 27 Jun 2009; MWR. Abundant over much of large grassy field (restored from former gravel pit), The Serpentine, N of Sway Road, SZ3018 9716. **1st for SZ39**

Linaria x dominii (Hybrid Purple / Pale Toadflax): Stoke Lake S viaduct, SZ606986; 20 Sep 2008; JAN & DRA. Fruits still small & not fully developed. South side of viaduct. Alverstoke cycleway; SZ606987; 20 Sep 2008; JAN & DRA. Plant mature, fruit not developing. dp 4960-2 of flower & whole plant. **1st for SZ69**

Linum perenne (Perennial Flax): Longwood Warren, Cheesefoot Head, SU530274; 18 Aug 2009; MR. Arable strip sown with wild flower mix under stewardship scheme. **New vice-county record** if we discount a record from Francis Rose's notebooks from Butser Hill in 1991 which is likely to be a transcription error. A bizarre introduction of a plant that is a scarce native in northern and eastern England.

Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum (Purple Gromwell): St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing, SU457109; 05 May 2009; PAB. Amongst natural vegetation. **1st for SU41**

Ludwigia grandiflora (Uruguayan Primrose-willow): Breamore Marsh, SU154182, SU155181; Aug 2009; CC. When first noted it covered about 20% of the NW pond; after 3 weeks it covered 70%. Occurring with *Crassula helmsii* and presumably a deliberate introduction; if so, it is an act of near-criminal recklessness. Attempts are being made to eliminate it.

☛ *Monotropa hypopitys* (Yellow Bird's-nest): Idsworth Chalkpit, Chalton, SU747156; 18 Jul 2009; PAB. 3 spikes under hazels at SU74741567. **New tetrad**

Myosotis ramosissima (Early Forget-me-not): Crofton Cemetery, SU551043; 11 Apr 2009; PAB. **1st for SU50 since 1970**

Nicotiana glauca (Sweet Tobacco): By B3090 opposite Bushfield Camp, Winchester, SU468270; 15 Oct 2009; PAB. Established throw outs at SU46862703. **1st for SU42**

Nicotiana glauca (Red Tobacco): By B3090 opposite Bushfield Camp, Winchester, SU468270; 15 Oct 2009; PAB. Established throw outs at SU46862703. **1st for SU42**

Nymphoides peltata (Fringed Water-lily): Sherfield English Lake, SU286223; 30 Jun 2009; PW, AA & SFi. **1st for SU22**

☛ *Oenanthe fluviatilis* (River Water-dropwort): R. Itchen, Mans Bridge, SU451155; 12 Aug 2009; MR. Rare. R Itchen, Gaters Mill, SU452155; 12 Aug 2009; Rare. **1st for tetrad since ?1965**

Oenothera cambrica (Small-flowered Evening-primrose): A31 off slip, Ashley, SU139049; 16 Aug 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. E and S margins of road, SU1396 0491, and with *O. x britannica*, SU1396 0493. **1st for SU10**. Waterford Road, Highcliffe; SZ216934; 30 Jun 2009; DL. **1st for SZ29**. Nr Iley Lane, Lower Pennington, SZ313933; 18 Jul 2009; DL. SE side of lake N of tip near Iley Lane. **1st for SZ39**

Oenothera x britannica (Hybrid Large-flowered / Small-flowered Evening Primrose): A31 off slip, Ashley, SU139049; 16 Aug 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. E side of road, SU1396 0493, with *O. cambrica*. *O. glazioviana* present on other side of road. **New vice-county record**

☛ *Orobancha hederæ* (Ivy Broomrape): Monksbrook Greenway, South of High Road, Swaythling, SU441155; 13 Aug 2009; TSp. 6 spikes, opposite side of footpath to river, approx 80m North of Southern end of path. Monksbrook Greenway, North of High Road, Swaythling, SU441161; 27 Jul 2009; RSp. 3 spikes on riverbank, approx 10m South of railway bridge. **1st for SU41**

Parthenocissus inserta (False Virginia-creeper): Kimbridge, SU325254; 24 Sep 2009; MR. Site of old cottage. **New vice-county record**

Persicaria capitata (Pink-headed Persicaria): Bishop's Waltham, SU553175; 13 Oct 2009; GCo. Specimen collected 28th Oct. No hanging baskets in immediate vicinity. **1st for SU51**

☛ *Persicaria minor* (Small Water-pepper): Nr Ibsley Water, SU154085; 07 Jun 2009; HFG. Damp hollow in gravel E of path to Goosander Hide, SU1549 0851. **New tetrad**

☛ *Pulicaria vulgaris* (Small Fleabane): Moyles Court, SU166085 20 Aug 2009; MFa. On patch of grass & ditch next to road, SU16620850. **New site**

Rhus typhina (Stag's-horn Sumach): Brambridge roadside, SU475217; 29 Oct 2009; DHu. 6 plants. **1st for SU42**

Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary): By Bitterne Bypass (A334) at central Bitterne, SU453130; 23 Feb 2009; PAB. One self-sown in wall, about six inches high. **New vice-county record**

Rumex x pratensis (Hybrid Curly / Broad-leaved Dock): Blackdown, Upham, SU537223; 02 Aug 2009; MR & RCR. 2 plants in road verge. Upham, SU535207; 02 Aug 2009; MR & RCR. Occasional in disturbed and reseeded grassland. **1st for SU52**

Sagittaria latifolia (Duck-potato): Nea Meadows, SZ203937; 14 Aug 2009; DL. By wildlife pond, Nea Meadows. **1st for SZ29**

☛ *Salicornia dolichostachya* (Long-spiked Glasswort): North Common Saltmarsh, SU722041; 09 Sep 2009; MR, GCo & AHP. Abundant at all lower levels of marsh. **New tetrad**

☛ *Salicornia europaea* (Common Glasswort): Needs Ore Point, SZ426976; 11 Sep 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. Rare. **New tetrad**. Farlington Marshes, SU689052; 10 Sep 2009; MR, EJC & GCo. At SU6898 0520, rare. **New tetrad** (earlier record discounted in 1996 Flora)

☛ *Salicornia fragilis* (Yellow Glasswort): Calshot Marshes, SU484019; 11 Sep 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. A few convincing plants in small groups on middle / lower marsh, amongst many more intermediates. **New tetrad**. Hayling Oyster Beds, SU716038; 09 Sep 2009; MR, GCo & AHP. Patch of 20-30 plants on upper parts of old lagoon embankment with *S. dolichostachya*, *S. perennis*. **New tetrad**

☛ *Salicornia nitens* (Shiny Glasswort): Needs Ore Point, SZ425976; 11 Sep 2009; MR, BGo & GCo. 1 plant with brownish-purple coloration and terminal spike basal floret width of 3.5mm at edge of creek, SZ4259 9761. 1 more dubious plant still green with terminal spike basal floret width of <3mm on middle marsh pan, SZ4259 9764. 3 more such plants in similar situation, SZ4259 9763. **New tetrad**

☛ *Salicornia pusilla* (One-flowered Glasswort): Northney, Hayling Island, SU727039; 09 Sep 2009; MR, GCo & AHP. On muddy bank of sea defences at top level of tide, SU7279 0396, rare. **1st in tetrad since ?1960**

Sarracenia purpurea (Pitcherplant): Two Bridges Bottom, SZ343998; 20 Sep 2009; MWR. c. 15 plants, obviously planted (in circle c. 2m diameter) in bog, SZ3432 9983

Saxifraga x polita (False London-pride): By A36 opposite Testwood Crescent at Calmore, SU347148; 13 May 2008; PAB. **New vice-county record**

Setaria pumila (Yellow Bristle-grass): Longwood Warren, SU532267; 20 Sep 2009; GFa. Frequent in maize/sunflower game strip. **1st for SU52**

☛ *Silene noctiflora* (Night-flowering Catchfly): Cheesefoot Head, SU527275; 28 Jun 2009; GFa. 220+ plants ca 100 metre length of conservation strip. An exceptional resurgence in a known location now under stewardship

Sisyrinchium striatum (Pale Yellow-eyed-grass): M27 - junction 11 roundabout, SU592071; 09 Jun 2009; PAB. 20 plants, apparently naturalised amongst native flora. **1st for SU50**

Solanum rostratum (Buffalo-bur): Sowley, SZ367964; 2009; AEB. Several plants amongst spuds. **2nd vice-county record**

Solidago gigantea (Early Goldenrod): Upham, SU540210; 02 Aug 2009; MR & RCR. In field bank. **1st for SU50**

Sorbus hybrida (Swedish Service-tree): SW of Brownwich Lake, SU518038; 30 Aug 2009; PAB. Voucher Hb PAB. At SU51850382. **1st for SU50**

☛ *Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Lady's-tresses): Stanpit, SZ170924; 06 Aug 2009; MFa. In old rubbish tip next to Stanpit Rec, SZ17059245, possibly on imported soil. **New tetrad**. Stephen's Castle Down, SU561202; 24 Aug 2009; PAB. **1st in tetrad since 1930**. Hockham Valley, Small Down, SU672206; 18 Aug 2009; PAB. **New tetrad**. Vineyard Hole, East Meon, SU681223; 18 Aug 2009; PAB. Abundant. **1st in tetrad since 1969**

Tellima grandiflora (Fringecups): Valley Park Woodlands: Footpath west of Blencowe Drive, SU414202; 01 Jun 2009; PAB. **1st for SU42**

Thuja plicata (Western Red-cedar): Bishop's Waltham Palace, SU551172; 31 Aug 2009; PAB. Seeded itself on one wall. **1st for SU51**

☛ *Torilis nodosa* (Knotted Hedge-parsley): Alexandra Road, Lymington, SZ314960; 30 May 2009; MWR. Several plants in flower and fruit, edge of road verge, SZ3146 9608. **New tetrad**

Trifolium incarnatum subsp. *incarnatum* (Crimson Clover): Longwood Warren, Cheesefoot Head, SU530274; 18 Aug 2009; MR. Arable strip sown with wild flower mix under stewardship scheme. **1st for SU52**

Typha angustifolia (Lesser Bulrush): Sherfield English: Lake, SU286223; 30 Jun 2009; PW, AA & SFi. **1st for SU22**

Ulmus minor subsp. *minor* (Small-leaved Elm): Chilling Farm, SU509042; 16 May 2009; PAB. 6 at SU50950421. **1st for SU50**.

Verbascum blattaria (Moth Mullein): Upham, SU539207; 07 Nov 2009; PM. 6 white-flowered plants on road verge. **1st for SU52**

Verbena bonariensis (Argentinian Vervain): Inchmery, SZ441986; 18 Sep 2009; GTh. **1st for SZ49**

Veronica catenata (Pink Water-speedwell): East Dean: R. Dun, SU263262; 30 Jun 2009; PW, AA & SFi. At SU26322625. **1st for SU22 since ?1970**

Veronica crista-galli (Crested Field-speedwell): 13 Mill Pond Road, Forton, SU607007; 30 Mar 2009; JAN & DRA. Photographic record; 40 or more large well-grown plants. **1st for SU60**

Vinca major var. *oxyloba* (Greater Periwinkle): Kings Saltern Road, Lymington, SZ329947; 29 Mar 2009; MWR. Hedge, SZ3295 9477. **1st for SZ39** for variety

✿X *Agropogon littoralis* (Perennial Beard-grass): Cherque Way, SU574002; 22 Aug 2009; JAN, EJC & PAB. Voucher specimen Hb JAN. One small clump in damp seepage on edge of former Sandhill gravel works, with both parents. **1st for SU50**.

✿X *Dactyloglossum mixtum* (Hybrid Frog / Common Spotted Orchid): Beacon Hill, Warnford, SU608225; 09 Jun 2009; NJ. 1 at SU60842251. **1st for SU62**

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VC12 Records compiled by Tony Mundell

Once 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 the last Flora News I included a record of *Daphne mezereum* (Mezereon) found in woodland in Basing close to the River Loddon. As a result I had an email from Brian Hedley in Lincolnshire who remembered doing a river corridor survey for the Environment Agency over ten years ago somewhere in that general area, and being delighted by finding *D. mezereum*. He could not remember the exact location or date but, at his suggestion, I chased it up with the EA and they eventually found Brian's detailed map dated 28 Jul 1994, showing the *D. mezereum* at c.6583 5272 about 1km from the site found in 2009.

Again in the previous Flora News, under *Sorbus torminalis* (Wild Service Tree) I mentioned my search for its hybrid, *S. x vagensis*, with *S. aria* (White-beam) at Pamber Forest. I continued my search in October 2009 and again failed to find the hybrid, but I took the opportunity to accurately map (using GPS) the location of every tree of *S. torminalis* and *S. aria*. In total I mapped a remarkable 390 trees (mostly rather small) of *S. torminalis* and eight *S. aria* in Pamber Forest. In several cases both species grew within 10m of each other.

Agastache rugosa (Korean Mint) S of Thruxton Race Circuit 2768 4502, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 17 Oct 2009.

Alisma lanceolatum (Narrow-leaved Water-plantain) Total of 47 counted around margin of dried-up pond at Popley, mostly at 6386 5454 and 18 more in another nearby pond at Popley 6399 5491, Tony Mundell 30 Jul 2009. In marsh at NW corner of Eelmoor Flash 8412 5283, Tony Mundell 28 Oct 2009.

Allium subhirsutum (Hairy Garlic) At Crawley Church and woodland to east, 424347, Phil Budd 27 Jan 2009.

Amsinckia micrantha (Fiddleneck) S of Thruxton Race Circuit, 40 plants at 2779 4509 4502 plus more nearby, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 17 Oct 2009.

Anagallis arvensis forma carnea (Scarlet Pimpernel, pink form) On arable field edge west of Fullerton, 3560 3963, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009.

Anthemis cotula (Stinking Chamomile) At 2768 4509 on waste ground south of Thruxton Race Circuit, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 17 Oct 2009.

Bromus secalinus (Rye Brome) A few plants south of Crondall at crop edge at 7959 4762, though the *B. commutatus* found nearby earlier had been mown off, Bill Helyar, Tony Mundell et al 16 Jul 2009.

Buddleja x weyeriana (*B. davidii* x *globosa*) One large bush in hedgerow at 3535 3906 west of Fullerton, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009.

Carex distans (Distant Sedge) The record in the previous Flora News for *Carex distans* at Ron Ward's Meadow was an error, as a specimen was collected which later proved to be *C. laevigata*. Another record for *Carex distans* at Bassett's Mead should be deleted as this *may* have also been an error and no specimen was collected as confirmation. (The other record at Liz's Lakes, Farnborough was correct).

Carex viridula subsp. brachyrrhyncha (Long-stalked Yellow-sedge) Two plants at Bassett's Mead, Hook 7380 5469 on south side of a small ditch, about a metre from the reed-bed bordering a pond, Ian Ralphs 9 Jul 2009, confirmed Tony Mundell 12 Jul 2009.

Centaurea nigra var radiata (Common Knapweed, rayed form) Locally abundant at 3535 3906 west of Fullerton, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009.

Cephalanthera damasonium (White Helleborine) 13 plants under roadside beeches at Dunley 4505 5328, 4511 5330, 4515 5332, 4516 5332, Tony Mundell 31 Jul 2009.

Cerintho major (Greater Honeywort) S of Thruxton Race Circuit, numerous scattered plants e.g. 2772 4507, 2770 4505, 2779 4510, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009.

Chaenorhinum minus (Small Toadflax) Scattered in many places around arable field edge west of Fullerton, e.g. 3560 3963, 3585 3923, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009.

Chenopodium hybridum (Maple-leaved Goosefoot) Quarley Hill, S of Quarley, scattered along the southern headland of a newly-tilled field 2702 4327, Geoff Farwell 19 Sep 2009, voucher for Hb.ARGM collected by John Moon 29 Sep 2009. S of Thruxton Race Circuit, c.30 plants scattered over a wide area of waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, e.g. 2766 4507, 2771 4505, 2770 4505, 2777 4510 etc, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009.

Chrysanthemum segetum (Corn Marigold) One very large flowering plant at 2765 4497 on waste ground south of Thruxton Race Circuit, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009.

Cirsium eriophorum (Woolly Thistle) One on road verge at 3585 3918 west of Fullerton, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009.

Clinopodium acinos (Basil Thyme) Eight plants at Porton Down c.2510 3756 in gravel at edge of track, Ailsa McKee 19 Jul 2009. Only 3 or 4 plants found at Stockbridge Down 378351, Bill Helyar 5 Aug 2009.

Coeloglossum viride (Frog Orchid) Three at Noar Hill 7399 3190, Nigel Johnson and Rosemary Webb 13 Jun 2009. Total of 47 mapped in detail at Ladle Hill between 4774 5697 and 4778 5700, Tony Mundell and HWT meeting 12 Jul 2009. In short grass at Porton Down, 5 at 2489 3756, 4 at 2491 3754 and 7 at c.2463 3744, Ailsa McKee 19 Jul 2009.

Crassula tillaea (Mossy Stonecrop) Scattered along at least 230m of sandy hill top track at Longmoor from 7882 3010 to 7902 3021, but unusually tiny plants, Tony Mundell 23 Aug 2009.

Cyclamen coum (Eastern Sowbread) At Crawley Church and woodland to east, 424347, Phil Budd 27 Jan 2009.

Cyclamen hederifolium (Sowbread) At Crawley Church and woodland to east, 424347, Phil Budd 27 Jan 2009, not in bloom.

Cyperus eragrostis (Pale Galingale) One large clump at Kingsley 7782 3777 in disused sand-pit, Tony Mundell 25 Sep 2009.

Dipsacus pilosus (Small Teasel) A small colony at Silchester Roman Walls 642622, E side, S of St Mary the Virgin, Phil Budd 4 Oct 2009. Ashley Warren Farm 486553, two plants on consolidated chalk spoil beside footpath, Geoff Farwell 22 Aug 2009.

Echium plantagineum (Purple Viper's Bugloss) S of Thruxton Race Circuit 2769 4509, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009.

Eleocharis uniglumis (Slender Spike-rush) Mullenspond, Thruxton, scattered in a patch of shorter fen vegetation at 2769 4509 but confusingly mixed with more abundant dwarf plants of *E. palustris*, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 25 Jun 2009, voucher in Hb.ARGM.

Epipactis phyllanthes (Green-flowered Helleborine) Total of 49 plants mapped in detail by Tony Mundell on 28 Jul 2009 along south road verge east of Church Crookham between 82743 52740 and 83145 52850, where first reported a few days earlier by Fred Rumsey.

Epipactis purpurata (Violet Helleborine) Monkwood, Stony Brow, five plants, nine spikes on S side of road at 681307 and five plants, seven spikes on N side at 682307, Nigel Johnson & Rosemary Webb 7 Aug 2009. Also at Monkwood, 23 plants, 33 spikes, S of road centered at 6783 3080, Nigel Johnson & Rosemary Webb 10 Aug 2009.

Equisetum sylvaticum (Wood Horsetail) An impressive site shown to Tony Mundell by Bill Helyar on 31 Oct 2009 in a marsh on the edge of Pamber Forest with plants extending within 610614, 611614, 611613 and mainly 610613, where known to Bill since 1950's. Extent mapped in detail.

Erysimum cheiranthoides (Treacle Mustard) At least 200 scattered plants in an arable field at Isington crossed by a public footpath, Tony Mundell 2 Oct 2009, where first found by Sue Clark on 22 Sep 2009, extending at least 7806 4242 to 7795 4222 with large concentration at 7792 4227.

Euphorbia exigua (Dwarf Spurge) In several places around arable field edge west of Fullerton, e.g. 3553 3959, 3575 3970, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009.

Euphorbia platyphyllos (Broad-leaved Spurge) At least 500 plants beside public footpath in Froyle 7651 4357 to 7634 4370 in Oilseed Rape crop, Sue Clark c.22 Aug 2009, photos of seeds confirmed Tony Mundell.

Filago vulgaris (Common Cudweed) Single plant at Hawley Common 8326 5784, beside army compound, Tony Mundell 6 Aug 2009. Several at 2767 4498 on waste ground south of Thruxton Race Circuit, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009.

Fumaria bastardi (Tall Ramping-fumitory) A weed in a flower bed in Abbots Ann 329437, John Moon 8 Aug 2009, det. ARGM, voucher specimen in Hb.ARGM, 2nd VC12 record.

Fumaria densiflora (Dense-flowered Fumitory) Quarley 265431, one plant amongst abundant *F. officinalis* along edge of maize game strip, Geoff Farwell 19 Sep 2009.

Geranium phaeum (Dusky Crane's-bill) Looked to be naturalised at Selborne car park 741334, Phil Budd 19 May 2009.

Gnaphalium sylvaticum (Heath Cudweed) Total of 154 plants, mostly immature, counted at Southwood Heath in two patches at 8394 5494 and 8234 5317, Tony Mundell 23 Jul 2009. Total of 105 plants (not spikes, as most plants have several flower spikes) mapped in detail at Hawley Common thinly scattered beside sandy or grassy tracks extending through the following 100m squares; 830578, 831578, 832578, 832579, 833579, 834578, 834579, Tony Mundell 6 Aug 2009.

Groenlandia densa (Opposite-leaved Pondweed) Tichborne House moat 573304, a single patch in the west end of the moat which had recently been drained and re-lined – so possibly this is a seed bank relic, Ben Goldsmith 17 Nov 2009. [In fact it was last recorded in this moat in 1874 – how is that for persistence! – Tony]. In abundance along 18m of ditch from SU68113 52541 to 68101 52555, near River Lyde, Hatch, Tony Mundell 11 Jun 2009.

Hottonia palustris (Water Violet) Amongst *Sparganium* swamp at Eelmoor Flash 8417 5283, patches through c.5m x4m, but becoming choked by *Crassula helmsii*, also c.25 rosettes in *Sparganium* swamp at 8418 5282, Chris Hall 28 Oct 2009.

Illecebrum verticillatum (Coral Necklace) At least ten plants in a damp patch in a grassy track at Longmoor 7861 2973, a formerly unknown site, Tony Mundell 23 Aug 2009.

Juncus x kern-reichgeltii (*J. effusus* x *conglomeratus*) Great Pen Wood, voucher specimens in Hb.ARGM from 4488 6248 and 4486 6224, Tony Mundell 15 Aug 2009. Beside gravel track near Forester's Pub, Church Crookham 8300 5306, voucher specimen in Hb.ARGM, Tony Mundell 25 Jun 2009.

Juniperus communis (Juniper) Several plants at Danebury Hill e.g. 326377, 323375, Mike Wildish 11 May 2009.

Lavatera trimestris (Royal Mallow) S of Thruxton Race Circuit 2775 4511, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 17 Oct 2009.

Legousia hybrida (Venus's Looking-glass) At least 28 counted in several places around arable field edge west of Fullerton, e.g. 3535 3950, 3553 3960, 20 at 3567 3966, 3572 3969, 3570 3918, 3549 3958, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009. Preston Down 627409, ten plants along field margin, Geoff Farwell 16 Aug 2009.

Lithospermum arvense (Field Gromwell) One plant on arable field edge (potato crop) NE of Blundens Farm near Froyle, 7593 4350, e Clark 30 Jul 2009, photos confirmed Tony Mundell.

Mirabilis jalapa (Marvel of Peru) S of Thruxton Race Circuit 2779 4511, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 17 Oct 2009.

Misopates orontium (Weasel's-snout) On disturbed soil at east end of car park at Stockbridge Down 3752 3467, Bill Helyar 5 Aug 2009. Few at 2769 4498 and one at 2767 4501, on waste ground south of Thruxton Race Circuit, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009.

Neottia nidus-avis (Bird's-nest Orchid) At various points around the beech ring on Danebury Hill, e.g. 323375, 322377, Mike Wildish 11 May 2009. N of Micheldever Station 523437, one plant close to the wooden fence at the western end of the strip of woodland between the A303 and the slip road from the Overton-Micheldever Station road, Julian Aburrow 12 May 2009.

Nepeta cataria (Catmint) One flowering plant at 2768 4499 on waste ground south of Thruxton Race Circuit, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009.

Nymphoides peltata (Fringed Water-lily) In stream at Elvetham Heath 8020 5547, Tony Mundell 23 Jul 2009.

Oenanthe pimpinelloides (Corky-fruited Water-dropwort) Magdalen Hill Extension at top edge by cemetery 512291, a really unexpected discovery on chalk, Phil Budd 31 Jul 2009.

Oenothera rubricaulis (an Evening Primrose) Over 20 plants on the Tower Mustard site at Kingsley, Sarah Warriss c.2 Sep 2009, det. Tony Mundell 25 Sep 2009 in-situ at 7787 3776. This has spread from a known site in an adjacent disused sand-pit where Tony found it has much increased to over 50 plants, now extending 7782 3777 to 7780 3778.

Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's-tongue Fern) Noar Hill, about ten plants at 74259 31880 and at 74135 31874, Andrew Leonard 24 Jun 2009.

Orobanche minor (Common Broomrape) Total of 68 spikes counted on White Clover, scattered along 190m of field edge from 3532 3949 to 3515 3940, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009.

Petroselinum segetum (Corn Parsley) Houghton Down, Longstock 343355 and 342357, 16 mostly basal rosettes along field margin between permanent grass strip and crop, Geoff Farwell 13 Jun 2009.

Phyteuma orbiculare (Round-headed Rampion) Only two plants found at 3673 3670 by the last tee on Leckford Golf Course, Bill Helyar 5 Aug 2009. Only eight found due to current heavy grazing at Stockbridge Down 378351, Bill Helyar 5 Aug 2009.

Pilularia globulifera (Pillwort) Surveys at Bramshill Plantation by Dominic Price and Abigail Rumsey on dates between 21 Sep and 16 Oct 2009 found: an extensive colony at 7516 6246, particularly in the large patch of reed on the southern and western pond margins; large colonies at 7468 6271 on non-wooded margins of pond where track borders pond; small numbers at 7571 6197 on NE and E margins of pond; present in ditch NW of pond, 7581 6189, and abundant on nearby S and W pond margins; 2m x 1m patch at 7454 6299 in ditch by outflow pipe.

Portulaca oleracea subsp. sativa (Purslane) S of Thruxton Race S of Thruxton Race Circuit 2775 4511, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 17 Oct 2009. Circuit, one plant at 2777 4512, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009. Stace says there are no records of this subspecies in Britain.

Pulmonaria saccharata (Bethlehem-sage) Naturalised at Hawkey Road, Hawkey 7479 2952, Phil Budd 18 Apr 2009.

Radiola linoides (Allseed) Three plants at 7861 2973 and six at 7862 2973 in damp patches in grassy track at Longmoor, Tony Mundell 23 Aug 2009.

Rumex scutatus (French Sorrel) S of Thruxton Race Circuit, seven plants at 2758 4496, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 3 Oct 2009.

Sagina nodosa (Knotted Pearlwort) At least 20 plants at Winnall Moors 4887 3042, Jess Pain 7 Aug 2009, photos confirmed by Tony Mundell. [Last recorded at Winnall Moors in 1986].

Scandix pecten-veneris (Shepherd's Needle) Following on from the plants reported in the previous Flora News, first found by Paul Stanley south of Crondall, a search by Tony Mundell, Bill Helyar, Paul Sterry, Andrew Cleave, Brian Merrick and Andrew Merrick on 16 Jul 2009 found extra plants on the crop edges at: 7961 4761; and at least 90 plants scattered 7958 4765 to 7954 4764; plus about 6 on west side of footpath at 7920 4756,

Senecio x subnebrodensis (*S. squalidus* x *viscosus*) Single large bushy plant shown to Tony Mundell by Martin Rand growing out of concrete bank of car park at Winchester 4798 3012, amongst much *S. viscosus*. On a later visit on 26 Sep 2009 Tony found this hybrid still flowering happily (as it is sterile) whereas all the *S. viscosus* had seeded and died.

Solanum physalifolium (Green Nightshade) Woolmer 791324, Bill & Chris Wain 2 Sep 2009, det. Tony Mundell. [In the past there has been much confusion whether it is *S. physalifolium* or *S. sarachoides* found in various places around Bordon and Aldershot. After speaking to EJC, ARGM now realises this is basically because one authority lumps both under *S. sarachoides* and another splits them. So the name depends on whether you are a 'splitter' or a 'lumper', and strictly any determination should quote the authority and the determination date, which would indicate which option was then in favour.]

Solanum villosum subsp. miniatum (Red Nightshade) S of Thruxton Race Circuit, scattered plants recorded in numerous places, e.g. at least 16 at 2776 4511, on waste ground subject to much disturbance and urban/building waste dumping, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 17 Oct 2009. In spite of the Vernacular name they all had yellow berries.

Sorbaria sorbifolia (Sorbaria) A three foot high tree on Silchester Roman Walls, north boundary wall 6381 6273, Phil Budd 4 Oct 2009.

Stachys arvensis (Field Woundwort) Roundwood Farm, Laverstoke 513454, at least 50 plants along edge of game strip adjacent to footpath, Geoffrey Farwell 29 Aug 2009. One plant at 2783 4507, another at 2785 4508 on waste ground south of Thruxton Race Circuit, Eric Clement, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 17 Oct 2009.

Thesium humifusum (Bastard-toadflax) Danebury Hill 325376, rather rare here, Mike Wildish 15 Jul 2009. Large patch at 3672 3671 near last tee on Leckford Golf Course, Bill Helyar 5 Aug 2009.

Torilis arvensis (Spreading Hedge Parsley) Near the site south of Crondall first found in 2008, a search by Tony Mundell, Bill Helyar, Paul Sterry, Andrew Cleave, Brian Merrick and Andrew Merrick on 16 Jul 2009 found plants on the crop edges: scattered at 7953 4764, 7956 4764, 7937 4758, 7936 4758, 7956 4781, 7951 4798.

Trachystemon orientalis (Abraham-Isaac-Joseph) At Crawley Church and woodland to east, 424347, Phil Budd 27 Jan 2009, not in bloom.

Valeriana dioica (Marsh Valerian) Plentiful, with both male and female plants, at Alresford Pond, NW corner 5833, Phil Budd 29 May 2009.

Valerianella dentata (Narrow-fruited Cornsalad) St Mary Bourne 433509, dense patch of plants covering an area c.3m square in corner of oilseed rape field, Geoff Farwell 20 Jun 2009.

Veronica polita (Grey Field-speedwell) In several places around arable field edge west of Fullerton, e.g. 3585 3923, 3584 3927, HFG meeting 8 Aug 2009.

Zannichellia palustris (Horned Pondweed) In River Whitewater at Holdshott 7417 6071, Tony Mundell 22 Jul 2009. Mullenspond, Thruxton 2961 4579, plentiful in the pond, Tony Mundell & Miles Hodgkiss 25 Jun 2009. In River Test at Whitchurch 4608 4733, Tony Mundell 31 Jul 2009.

Compiled 6 Dec 2009,

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Geoffrey Field at Flora Group/BSBI exhibition meeting at Testwood Lakes in December 2009



Flora Group members at Flora Group/BSBI exhibition meeting at Testwood Lakes in December 2009

**Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition of *Flora News*.
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