

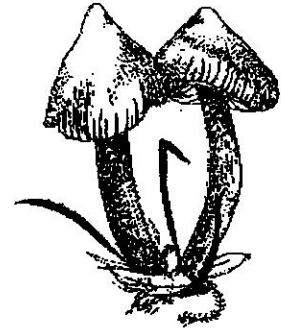
Flora News

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

Autumn 2000

Dear Flora Group Member

A number of events are being arranged in response to suggestions made at this year's AGM. The first of these is a fern identification day in September, followed by a fungus identification session in October, and then next March we'll be holding a moss identification training day led by Rod Stern. If you have any ideas for future events or feel like writing an article for the next newsletter, please let Catherine Chatters (Flora Group Secretary) know. Catherine's address and telephone number are given at the end of this newsletter.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 2 September 2000
10.30 am

Fern Identification Training Day at Roydon Woods
Leader - David Winsland

Following his very successful training day in September 1992, David has kindly agreed to run a similar event to help us get to grips with ferns at this rich and varied site near the New Forest. Whether you have never looked closely at ferns or simply want to refresh your memory, all are welcome. We hope to be joined by members of the British Pteridological Society. Meet at 10.30 am at grid reference SU 307 004



Hay-scented Buckler Fern
Illustration by Sarah Murphy

Sunday 24 September 2000
10.30 am

Woolmer Forest/Longmoor Ranges

Leader - Neil Sanderson

Woolmer Forest is a vast area of heathland, acid grassland, bog and open water habitats on the borders of East Hampshire and West Sussex. It has been notified as a SSSI and forms part of the Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protection Area due to its important populations of rare birds. Much of the Forest is used as a live firing range by the Ministry of Defence and consequently is not frequently visited by botanists. We have been given permission to explore the Forest, including the firing range area when the ranges are closed during the autumn. Meet at 10.30 am in the car park to the east of the A325 at grid reference SU 785 319. Bring a packed lunch if you would like to join us for the entire day.

Monday 23 October 2000
Waxcap Fungus Training Day

Shelley Evans of the British Mycological Society has offered to lead a training day on the identification of waxcap fungi. Waxcaps are amongst the most startlingly beautiful of our fungi with

their bright greens, reds, yellows and even blues; their classic pointed pixie caps and their textures ranging from the waxiness of butter to the slipperiness of eels. They are a key part of a group of fungi that fruits in grassland habitats. They are excellent indicators of high quality grasslands, those unimproved by the application of fertilizers and chemicals and where grazing keeps the sward short. The Trust, in conjunction with the BMS, is piloting a survey of waxcaps in churchyards, cemeteries and unimproved grasslands this autumn, so this is the ideal chance to get involved. **If you would like further details of the event, please contact Debbie Wicks at the Trust Office on 023 8061 3636.**

Saturday 11 November 2000
2pm

BSBI Winter Exhibition Meeting at Bishopstoke
Organiser - Pete Selby

Following the Atlas 2000 Exhibition meetings, Pete Selby has arranged another get-together at Bishopstoke to which all Flora Group members are invited. This will be a good opportunity for everyone to talk to each other, plan next year's plant-hunting trips and review last season's finds. Any exhibits or specimens for

identification will be welcome. As before, the database of plant records now contains all the Atlas 2000 records and a proportion of Paul Bowman's records. The meeting will be held at Bishopstoke Community Centre (grid reference SU 467 198), Church Road, Bishopstoke from 2-4.30 pm. Approach via St Margaret's Road and Sydney Road.

Saturday 18 November 2000
10.30 am

Red-tipped Cudweed *Filago lutescens* Task at Broomhurst Farm

Leader - Chris Hall

Chris Hall keeps a close eye on this important colony of red-tipped cudweed and this year counted the best ever total of 515 young plants on 24 June. Chris is once again leading a task to help conserve this population. If you would like to help, meet at 10.30 am at the entrance to Broomhurst Farm off the B3013 north of Fleet at grid reference SU 812 563. Tools will be provided but bring along a garden fork if you have one. It is likely that the necessary work will be completed during the morning.

Saturday 3rd February 2001
10.30 am

Purple Milk Vetch - Conservation Task
Leader John Moon

The purple milk vetch is one of Hampshire's rarest flowers. It is a prostrate member of the pea family associated with very short turf with broken ground and a 'continental' type climate. The plant is limited to one site in Hampshire just near the Wiltshire boundary on Salisbury Plain. The plant needs our help to clear scrub and rough grass and to help encourage rabbits to graze it. This summer was one of the best seasons for years with plants in flower and setting seed. By improving the habitat this winter we hope the population may expand. The task is a morning's job clearing scrub and grass with hand tools. Tools will be provided. Meet at SU 238457 which is 400m up a dirt road off the A338. You will find the road in Shipton Bellinger opposite 'Bulford

Road'. Many thanks to the Ministry of Defence for helping us do this work.

Saturday 10 March 2001
10.30 am

Moss Identification Training Day
Leader - Rod Stern

Rod Stern has kindly agreed to lead a moss identification training day in north-west Hampshire. We will meet at 10.30 am at Cricklade College in Andover and then spend a couple of hours looking at mosses in their natural habitats and collecting specimens to bring back to the College for identification. Bring a packed lunch. In the afternoon we can use the microscope and laboratory facilities at the College to assist with identification until 4.30 pm. For further details and a location map of the College, which is in Charlton Road, Andover, please send a SAE to Catherine Chatters.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Grasses and Sedges
Identification Training Day

On Saturday 24 June about fifteen of us in slightly damp and muddy conditions went to Bartley Heath to look at grasses and sedges. Pete Selby and John Norton stood in, cheerfully, for Dr Rose and set us jolly tasks like "find eight different grasses in ten minutes". After lunch on a patch of well cropped lawn, they set out 2 metre squares and gave us a copy of Hubbard - "Identify three grasses using vegetative features only". We all seemed to enjoy it and probably learnt quite a lot. I'm looking forward to the ferns!

Valerie Gray

Discovery of the Year?
Mountain Everlasting Back from the Dead

The indefatigable Dr Francis Rose has made what is likely to be the botanical find of the year - Mountain Everlasting *Antennaria dioica* at Martin Down! The species may have curiously germinated in an area where a brushwood herbicide used on young scrub had killed the grass, exposing buried seed. This species

was last seen in Hampshire in 1932 and is otherwise nearly extinct in the lowlands, the nearest records being Barnack Hills and Holes, Northamptonshire, the Cotswolds, and West Cornwall. It is a species of extensive steppe and seemed gone forever with the break-up of the ancient sheep walks of the downs. Francis described this find as emphasising the importance of Martin Down as one of the few areas where the landscape and flora of the medieval sheep walks still survive. This find gives hope for the re-appearance of other long-lost species and poses the interesting question when is a species really extinct?

Neil A Sanderson

Sallow Cutting at Stony Moors

The Flora Group has now been cutting invasive willow from calcareous fen at Stony Moors for two years. As with earlier cutting at Wilverley Bog the first year's growth on the area cut last winter is still not very exciting but the area cut the year before has burgeoned into a floriferous area of fen. The sloping area has a small sedge-dominated rich fen with *Carex flacca* and *Carex hostiana*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex panicea* with abundant *Juncus articulatus*, *Menyanthes trifoliata* and *Valeriana dioica*. The brown moss mat has as well as the common *Calliergonella cuspidatum* the more local fen specialists *Campylium stellatum* and *Drepanocladus revolvens*. The latter mosses have been slow to return to other areas of cleared fen.

The swampy peat at the base of the slope has supported a tall herb fen vegetation dominated by reed *Phragmites australis* and *Eupatorium cannabinum* with an understorey of *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Carex rostrata*, *Equisetum palustre* and *Valeriana dioica*. This represents a restoration of the more swamp fen habitat that once supported species such as *Epipactis palustris* at Stony Moors which was seen by Francis Rose 40 years ago but which has since been lost to willow scrub.

Refer to the enclosed sheet showing list of species I recorded on 1 July 2000 from the area cleared at S.ony Moors. Nothing very rare has turned up yet but the habitat produced in two years since the scrub was cut would be of SSSI status in many counties. There is still a lot more to clear but the Forestry Commission will probably carry out further work now that the Flora Group has demonstrated that high quality habitat can be produced.

Neil A Sanderson

Good Years for Arable Plants on the Isle of Wight

Richard Grogan reports that 1998 and 1999 were good years for arable plants on the Island with the following species being recorded:-

1998 rough poppy	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>
1998 small-flowered catchfly	<i>Silene gallica</i>
1998 green field speedwell	<i>Veronica agrestis</i>
1998 broad-fruited corn salad	<i>Valerianella rimosa</i>
1998 lesser quaking grass	<i>Briza minor</i>
1998 loose silky bent	<i>Apera spica-venti</i>
1999 prickly poppy	<i>Papaver argemone</i>
1999 hairy-fruited corn salad	<i>Valerianella eriocarpa</i>
1999 smooth cat's ear	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> at Heath Hill Shorwell
1999 sticky groundsel	<i>Senecio viscosus</i>
1999 early meadow grass	<i>Poa infirma</i>

Sussex Botanical Recording Society

If you would like a copy of the Sussex Botanical Recording Society's newsletter (May 2000) please send a stamped addressed A4 size envelope to Catherine Chatters. Please mark the envelope "SBRS". The events organised by the SBRS this autumn include a bryophyte meeting on Saturday 21 October. The day will start at Staplefield Village Hall; the morning will be spent in the field looking for specimens and the afternoon will be spent looking at them through microscopes. If you cannot manage to come to our moss event on 10 March 2001, you might like to consider joining the Sussex botanists on 21 October. We have reciprocal arrangements with the SBRS and the Wiltshire Flora Group and are

welcome at each other's meetings. Further details on the bryophyte training day from Frances Abraham, The Old School, Ebernoe, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 9LD.

Botanical Records

In response to Dr John Moon's letter which was included in the Spring 2000 Flora Group newsletter, Pete Selby has provided the following advice on submission of botanical records to him (Vice County Recorder for South Hampshire) and Tony Mundell (Vice County Recorder for North Hampshire):-

Format of records

- name of species;
- indication of frequency;
- location ie grid reference. This should be in the form SU123456. Note that this is a reference to the bottom left hand corner of a 100 metre square. It can only really be determined accurately from a map using a Romer. These can be purchased from some camping shops. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are becoming available which can give very good and accurate grid references like SU1239945699. This defines the bottom left hand corner of a 1 metre square and can be submitted instead of a six figure grid reference;
- name of the site and parish. This can include East of, Near to, South side of road etc;
- vice county;
- date of the find, including day and month;
- name of finder;
- how to re-find the plant. This is normally only a sentence and tells someone about the actual location eg "bank on N side of track", "W edge of wood", "NW corner of field", "Beside stream" etc;
- other information, for example whether the plant has been determined by an expert, the record published at some time, or if a voucher specimen has been taken. Confirmation of the continued existence of a plant mentioned in the Flora of Hampshire is also useful.

How often should continued existence be confirmed?

For many casuals, like bird seed

aliens, it can be useful to re-visit every year because new finds are likely and annual visits can continue until the situation has clearly changed. For more permanent plants or situations a repeat visit in five years will be more appropriate. People will probably already be re-visiting anyway (scenes of past triumphs) and may wonder how often to report continued existence. Such reports are ideally compiled into an annual list and submitted towards the end of the season. Such a list could also include plants found in new tetrads as well as plants confirmed by experts and for which voucher specimens are available. The order of such lists is not important to the vice county recorders.

Please submit your records!

Finally, please don't ever think we will not be interested in a plant report because it is "well known" or "it's in the Flora" or "the tetrad shows black". The flora of Hampshire is always changing. New things keep appearing and old sites are being lost. As vice county recorders we can only keep track of this change by adding confirmations and new finds to the database and we can only do this if you communicate these finds to us. Send the finds as lists, Atlas 2000 forms, Hampshire BAP forms, on scraps of paper, by E-Mail or as diskettes. The only requirement is that they contain the information listed above. If you telephone with an interesting find or something unusual you can't identify, please write down the record details and also post the details. Our filing systems and computers cannot yet store telephone conversations and so there are no references for the future.

Pete Selby (VC Recorder, South Hampshire) 12 Sedgwick Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, SO50 6FH
pete.selby@cwcom.net

Tony Mundell (VC Recorder, North Hampshire) 38 Conifer Close, Church Crookham, GU13 0LS
tonymundell@ukonline.co.uk



Top 20 Grasses

The database of Hampshire plant records generated by the Atlas 2000 contains records of 185 grass species, sub-species and aggregates in 66 families, including 3 bamboos and 7 hybrids. Of the 185, 50 have only been recorded less than 5 times and can be considered transient aliens or obscure hybrids. Many others have been recorded more frequently and so it has been possible to list these in order of frequency. If you are starting to learn to identify grasses the first thing to do is to get to know your common grasses. The following list of the 20 most recorded grasses should help you:-

Dactylis glomerata (cock's foot)
Poa annua (annual meadow grass)
Lolium perenne (perennial rye grass)
Holcus lanatus (Yorkshire fog)
Arrhenatherum elatius (false oat grass)
Brachypodium sylvaticum (false brome)
Anisantha sterilis (barren brome)
Festuca rubra (red fescue)
Poa trivialis (rough meadow grass)
Agrostis stolonifera (creeping bent)
Bromus hordeaceus (soft brome)
Agrostis capillaris (fine bent)
Alopecurus pratensis (meadow foxtail)
Cynosurus cristatus (crested dog's tail)
Phleum pratense (Timothy)
Elytrigia repens (common couch)
Deschampsia cespitosa (tufted hair grass)
Melica uniflora (wood melick)
Hordeum murinum (wall barley)

Pete Selby

Interesting Records

Allium moly (yellow garlic) 4619 Bishopstoke. 24 plants by newly planted hedge. P Selby 2000. Ist VC record (though it has been recorded in VC8 part of Hampshire).
Capsella rubella (red shepherd's purse) 4402. Hundreds of plants in car park at Blackfield. P Stanley. Confirmed TCG Rich. Ist VC record.
Eranthis hyemalis (winter aconite) 6042 White Way Exton. G & N Johnson 2000.
Festuca arenaria (rush-leaved fescue) 1790 Hengistbury Head. R M Walls. 2000. Re-survey of the Head.
Inula crithmoides (golden samphire) 7304 Hayling Island. S M Povey 2000.

Linaria repens (pale toadflax) 5621 Stephen's Castle Down. G Long 2000.
Lotus angustissimus (slender bird's foot trefoil) 4522 Otterbourne reservoir. B Goater 2000.
Myosurus minimus (mousetail) 7005 Budds Mound, Havant. J R W Hollins 2000. (Several other records for this species indicating it might be having a good year).
Saxifraga tridactylites (rue-leaved saxifrage) 1518 Breamore. J Ounsted 2000.
Trifolium glomeratum (clustered clover) 4012 Saxon Road, Freemantle. P Selby 2000. One plant.
Trifolium glomeratum (clustered clover) 5689 Browndown. D Allan & J Norton 2000. Hundreds of plants.
Tulipa sylvestris (wild tulip) 1215 Rockbourne. ARG Mundell 2000. (Re-found in 1997 after 30 years).

Pete Selby

Corrections to Records in the Autumn 1999 Flora Group Newsletter
Cardamine bulbifera was an error of data entry and should be deleted.
Veronica repens should have read *Veronica reptans*.
Petasites albus should be deleted.

Pete Selby

Some Interesting VC12 Records

Alchemilla filicaulis ssp vestitita, over 30 plants, East Oakley SU5851; Refound at Hound Green SU7359 but gone from both Mattingley sites. All Mrs A Moss-Bradnam & A R G Mundell 2000.
Crassula tillaea and *Centaurium pulchellum*, No 3 Longmoor Range SU7932, A R G Mundell 2000.
Ceratochloa carinata and *Potentilla argentea*, Shortheath SU7736, B & J Goater 2000.
Galium parisiense, 60 plants, and *Minuartia hybrida ssp tenuifolia*, 400 plants, Basing SU6652, A R G Mundell.
Galeopsis angustifolia, c. 100 plants, and *Juniperus communis ssp communis*, 1 plant, Old Burghclere Limeworks SU4757, P Billingham.
Hippocrepis emerus, hedgerow, Monk Sherborne SU6055, W Helyar

conf. A R G Mundell 2000.
Hyoscyamus niger and *Galinsoga parviflora*, Upper Wootton SU5753, P Billingham 2000.
Lathraea squamaria, c. 33 spikes, near Hannington SU5555, R Cook 2000.
Legousia speculum-veneris, near Upper Wootton SU5753, W Helyar, 70 plants counted A R G Mundell 2000.
Littorella uniflora, *Apium inundatum*, *Potentilla palustris* and *Hypericum elodes*, Woolmer Pond SU7832, A R G Mundell 2000.
Lysichiton americanum, abundant, and *Lathraea clandestina*, Newtown Gully SU4762, Mrs A Rutherford & A R G Mundell 2000.
Orchis ustulata, 194 spikes!!, Ladle Hill SU4756, P Billingham & A R G Mundell 2000.
Potentilla neumanniana, c. 500 plants, and *Teucrium botrys*, 78 plants, on opposite side of railway to Micheldever Spoil Heaps Reserve SU5144, A R G Mundell 2000.
Securigera varia, 2 locations in Micheldever Wood SU5336, D E Allen; plus third location SU5337, A R G Mundell 2000.
Silene gallica, thousands!, Bordon SU7934, W Wain & A R G Mundell 2000.
Trifolium subterraneum, Cold Hayes, Steep Marsh SU7526, S Povey 2000.
Vicia tenuifolia, still at roadside, Tichborne Park, Cheriton SU5830, A R G Mundell 2000.

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Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Ltd
Regd Charity No 201081

Species Recorded From Stony Moors Cleared Area 1/7/00 N A Sanderson

Species	DAFOR
TREE & SHRUB SAPLINGS	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	R
<i>Quercus robur</i>	R
<i>Salix cinerea oleifolia</i>	O
DWARF SHRUBS	
<i>Myrica gale</i>	O
GRASSES	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	O
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	R
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	R
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	R
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	R
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	O
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	A(LD)
OTHER VASCULAR PLANTS	
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	R
<i>Carex echinata</i>	F
<i>Carex flacca</i>	A
<i>Carex hostiana</i>	F
<i>Carex panicea</i>	A
<i>Carex rostrata</i>	O
<i>Carex viridula oedocarpa</i>	O
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	O
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	O
<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	O
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	F
<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	A
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	R
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	A
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	O
<i>Galium palustre</i>	O
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	F
<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	O
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	F
<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	F
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	R
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	R
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	O
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	O
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	R
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	O
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	F
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	A (LD)
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	R
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	R
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	O
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	O
<i>Scutellaria minor</i>	F
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	R
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	A
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	R
MOSESSES	
<i>Brachythecium rivulare</i>	O
<i>Calliergonella cuspidatum</i>	D
<i>Campylium stellatum stellatum</i>	F

<i>Drepanocladus revolvens</i>	F
<i>Fissidens adianthoides</i>	O
<i>Hookeria lucens</i>	R
<i>Plagiothecium undulatum</i>	R
<i>Rhizomnium punctatum</i>	O