

DERBYSHIRE FLORA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

EDITED: ALAN WILLMOT (County Recorder) & NICK MOYES (Derbyshire CC)

Number 22 - WINTER 2012/2013

1. EDITORIAL (AW)

Please see section 5 below for important information about the publication of our Flora. Section 7 gives progress so far with the current recording programme and indicates where we could do with some more recording effort. Thanks to all for your help over the previous years, I hope to see some at least of you on the field meetings which are described in section 8.

2. RECENT PLANT RECORDS v.c. 57

(AW) Here are a few of the more interesting records I received last year. They were all recorded in 2012 except where indicated otherwise.

Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*) I found this growing on the side of a light well to a basement in the pavement on Normanton Road (SK3535) in July. There was at least one well grown plant with fertile fronds. This was a new county record. It normally grows in the far west where there are warmer climates so I doubt it liked our present winter.



Pheasant's-eye (*Adonis annua*) Ken Balkow discovered this as a casual in the area of new canal extension at Staveley in September (SK4375) growing in newly disturbed and restored ground. With its beautiful red flower, this plant has in the past been a weed of cultivated ground locally but has not been seen since at least 1950 in the county.



7. *Adonis annua* L.
A. autumnalis L.
Pheasant's Eye; R.

Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) was recorded twice this year in the south of the county. Peter Hill recorded 40 plants of it at Nutwood (SK3538) in June and a J. Steele recorded it at Hallam fields in July (SK4739).

Buck's-beard (*Aruncus dioicus*) a close relative of the Brideworts which looks like an Astilbe was found by Ken Balkow at Dronfield (SK3578) in June. This was a first county record.

Austrian Camomile (*Anthemis austriaca*)

One plant of this was found on our Rowthorne Trail meeting last year (SK4963) in June on disturbed ground in grassland. As a casual, this was another new county record.

Greater Cuckooflower (*Cardamine raphanifolia*) was recorded by Kieron Huston at Lea Brook in 2011. This is another casual which has not been recorded before locally.



1152. *Carex strigosa* Huds.
Thin-spiked Sedge.

Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*)
On our visit to Crich Chase lead by Kieron Huston last year he showed us a broad-leaved sedge in damp woodland at (SK3452). At the time being sterile it was unidentifiable, however, Kieron revisited the plant in June and confirmed the plant was this species which is a very rare plant with us. The leaves are significantly broader than

those of Wood Sedge (*C. sylvatica*) but the plant is not as robust as Pendulous Sedge (*C. pendula*).

Cut-leaved Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) I found several plants of this during the bioblitz last year at the new DWT Woodside Reserve. They were growing amongst other tall herbs on rough ground next to the track round the lake at SK4443 in June. They were more robust than the common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) with the main stem leaves cut half way to the midrib.

Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) was found under a boulder at the original entrance to Hopton Quarry at SK2655 in August by Claire and Mary Smith. This was a first county record and will be counted as casual until it is known to have become established.

Royal Mallow (*Malva trimestris*) also known as *Lavatera trimestris* was another of the numerous casual plants found by Ken Balkow growing in August in the ground disturbed by the new extension to the Staveley Canal (SK4375). It was another new county record.

Yellow Bird's-nest (*Hypopitys monotropa*)
A large colony of this rare saprophytic species was found at Kirk Hallam (SK4541) in July by Ross Purdy. All previous local records for this plant have been in the Peak District.

Baby-blue-eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*) was found in September by Graeme Coles in the disturbed ground of the extension of the Staveley Canal (SK4375). This was yet another casual first county record on the site.

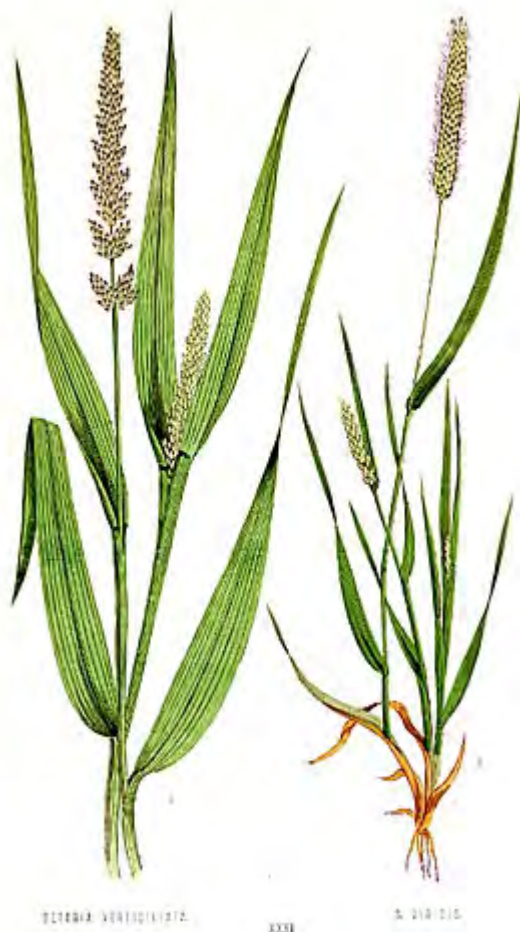
Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) As something of a fernophile, I have been looking with no success for the Royal Fern in the county for over 40 years. As I know it as a plant of damp woods and lowland

marshes, I thought it might be found in a lowland site such as Brewards Carr. However, it turned up this year on the top of Snake Pass (SK0893) where it was found by Rhodri Thomas in June. Dave Mallon confirmed that there were several plants there but all sterile. Then Claire and Mary Smith found a single well grown fertile plant near the Fernilee Reservoir (SK0177) in July, and further sterile plants were found on Featherbed Moss (SK0370) also in July. Why this species has not been seen for so long is unclear.



Water Bent (*Polygomon viridis*) was noted by John Hawksford as a pavement casual in Church Road New Mills (SK0085) in August. When he reported it, he was surprised that it was a first county record here as it is not rare in similar situations in Staffordshire.

Clary (*Salvia sclarea*) was noted as yet another casual first county record for the canal extension at Staveley (SK4375) by Graeme Coles in September.



Rough Bristle-grass (*Setaria verticillata*) was found as a casual weed in a field of maize at Great Cubley (SK1637) by me in October. This was a first county record. It is interesting to note Graeme Kay also recorded it in Cheshire last year as a weed in a cereal field. It is well named as the seed head is very rough, very much like Velcro, when brushed over cloth.

Rose-of-Heaven (*Silene coeli-rosa*) was found along with other showy garden annuals by Ken Balkow in the disturbed soil of the new canal basin at Staveley (SK4374) in August. This was yet another casual first county record for the site.

3. COMPUTERISATION OF OUR RECORDS (AW)

I have continued entering our records onto the Mapmate database I started with last year's records. This is primarily intended to

hold new records for the 2010-2019 date class on the BSBI on-line distribution maps so currently it holds mainly 2011 and 2012 records, though there are a few earlier records. Currently it holds some 67,500 records which have all been made by the group except for batch of around 6,000 records from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. These 67,000 odd records include some 1,150 species and hybrids for v.c.57, an impressive effort for basically two years of recording.

5. DCC FLORA WEBSITE (AW)

This website is up and running again courtesy of the Derby City Council, just type in Flora on their website. Please note, however, that the maps and the accounts here are some years out of date and that there are currently no plans to update them.

5. PROGRESS WITH FLORA PROJECT (NM & AW)

It really does seem that we will have a printed Flora produced this year, hopefully in time for Christmas. We are currently looking at producing an A4 size book of around 400 plus pages in full-colour. It should contain accounts for around 1900 species and hybrids, with distribution maps for about 1000 of them. We are hoping to keep the price to £25 plus postage and packing for a pre-publication offer with a cover price of £35. We are currently seeking further help with the publication from local and national organisations. The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has agreed to help with advertising and marketing the volume. There should be details of this in the next edition of Wild Derbyshire. As well as the systematic accounts the book should include details about where to see plants in the county and a brief history of Derbyshire botany. Claire and Mary Smith are helping with the where to see section and we will probably ask other to help with various other sections in the near future.

6. STACE 3 NAME CHANGES (AW)

I have now run the latest patch on my Mapmate program to convert it to Stace 3 names. This means that these are now my preferred names. I am still able and happy to receive cards with other names on them but would much prefer cards with Stace 3 names as these are easier to check for errors once entered on to my system. The errors I refer to here are my entry errors not plants entered in error onto the cards. I am investigating obtaining a supply of Stace 3 name cards which I will distribute free of charge on field meetings if I can obtain them.



Lesser Celandine above is a plant whose name has been changed by the new names in Stace 3.

7. CLASS 5 RECORDING

SJ9 9 37	DM SK09 161	SK19 160				
SJ9 8 76	DB SK08 260	CMS SK18 536	SK28 204	SK38	SK48 59	
SJ9 7	CMS SK07 559	SK17 381	SK27 363	KB SK37 574	SK47 424	GC SK57 217
	SK06 211	SK16 319	SK26 438	IW SK36 408	SK46 508	SK56 206
		GH SK15 335	CMS SK25 529	MH SK35 430	RS SK45 519	
		SK14 290	SK24 263	SK34 320	BG SK44 396	
	SK03	SK13 288	CH SK23 445	AW SK33 540	MS SK43 401	SK53 109
		SK12	SK22 267	SK32 374	SK42	
		SK11	NL SK21 126	SK31		

Number of Taxa Recorded in 2011 & 2012 for Each Tetrad

Note that where a tetrad has initials in it that square is being recorded by that person.

Good progress is being made here with recording the hectads for the class 5 (2010-2019) survey but there are still a number of hectads without a responsible botanist taking care of them. If you would like to take on a square, please contact me. Otherwise, if you feel like doing some recording, please look to the squares where no one is yet responsible. Please note that the

numbers in the diagram for plants per hectad contain a few species found before 2010 which have not been seen since in the square.

8. OUTDOOR MEETINGS 2013 (AW)

I have organised the usual series of eight outdoor meetings on Saturdays through the summer. These are mainly directed towards recording in hectads where no one is yet responsible for recording there.

All meetings are on Saturdays, start at 10.30am and end about 4.30pm.

For use on the day of meetings my mobile phone number is 0794 121 4977.



6th April Longshaw Meet in NT Wooden Pole car park at SK266790 on A625 junction

with B6054 for general flora including woodlands.

27th April River Wye & the Monsal Trail Meet in the Agricultural Business Centre CP at Bakewell SK222683 for general flora.

18th May Cales Dale Meet in car park above Youlgreave at SK194644 for walk across fields to limestone woods.

15th June Wye Dale & Chee Dale Meet in lay-bye on A6 at SK112724 for limestone grassland and outcrops with *Asplenium viride*.

13th July West of Bradwell Meet on road verge at junction of minor roads at SK159810 leader Ken Balkow for limestone grassland and lead rakes.

10th August Tibshelf Ponds Meet in car park at SK440600 off Elm Tree Row for plants of ponds and restored land.

31st August Chesterfield Canal, Staveley Meet in car park off Mill Green by canal SK430747 leader Ken Balkow for waterside vegetation and restored ground.

28th Sep Birchen Clough Bridge Meet in lay-bye off A57 at SK109914 for moorland edge flora.

9. ENQUIRIES (AW)

Any enquiry concerning the Flora scheme in general can be sent to either of us. Ideally, questions about plant determinations, areas to record, requests for recording cards and new records to computerise should be sent directly to Alan Willmot.

My contact details are:

Dr Alan Willmot

2 Kedleston Close Allestree
Derby DE22 2RA
Tel. 01332 550373
E-mail awillmot@waitrose.com