

Botanical Cornwall Group



Newsletter No2 October 2002

Joint Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)
& British Pteridological Society (BPS) group

Botanical Cornwall Group is kindly supported by the Environmental
Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS)

BCG web-site www.floracam.co.uk/bcg

Welcome to the second newsletter of the BCG. Apologies to those of you who expected a newsletter in May as advertised in newsletter No 1. Much has happened in Cornwall since February 2002. There have been several successful field meetings to various parts of the county finding new locations of many species and relocating sites for rarer ones. One of the most rewarding aspects of the field meetings is that local botanists have been joined by others from the rest of the country. Also, welcome to those of you who have joined the group during the year - I hope that you will be able to attend some of our meetings.

Field Meetings

In February Rose Murphy held our first meeting. This indoor meeting concentrated on the distinctive flora of the Lizard peninsula, and Rose expertly demonstrated with the aid of many wonderful distribution maps, and her knowledge and experience, the reasons why the Lizard is so special for certain species. The purpose of the indoor meeting was as an introduction to four field meetings, held later in the year, two in March and two in June. The aim of the meetings in March was to look for Three-lobed Crowfoot (*Ranunculus tripartitus*), Land Quillwort (*Isoetes histrix*) and Early Meadow-grass (*Poa infirma*). The group visited the area around Kynance (SW6813) and Lower Predannack Wollas (SW6715) and these species, as well as many other interesting and rare ones, were seen.

In April the group met at the eastern end of the county, beside the river



Looking for Land Quillwort at Holestrow, Lizard Peninsula, March 2002 © Matt Stribley

Tamar at Cotehele (SX4268), and Greystone Wood (SX3679). The aim of the meeting was to see Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*), a species that is very rare in Cornwall and restricted to the extreme east of the county. Several plants were seen as well as the hybrid with *V. riviniana*, *V. x bavarica*. The afternoon was spent at Greystone Wood, beside the river Tamar, a mixed broad-leaved and conifer woodland typical of eastern Cornwall. Species found here are again restricted in their distribution in Cornwall and are absent or very rare in West Cornwall. Members of the group from West Cornwall were therefore especially pleased to see the true native Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon* ssp. *montanum*), not the variegated subspecies so widespread in much of Cornwall, Goldilocks (*Ranunculus*

auricomus), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Wood Spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*) and Bastard Balm (*Melittis melissophyllum*).

An extra meeting was held in late April and this one concentrated on bryophytes. Held at Helman Tor (SX0661) and Breney Common (SX0561), the meeting was led by Devon-based Mark Pool and Roy Jeffrey, both from the British Bryological Society. Several habitats were visited including bog, granite outcrops, heathland and an elder tree, which had over ten species of bryophyte on its wind-battered branches! Several species were seen including *Bryum alpinum*, *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, *Odontoschisma sphagni*, *Calliergon stramineum* and *Neckera pumila*. Apart from bryophytes a few other notable species were seen. ►

These included Tunbridge Filmy-fern (*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*), Pillwort (*Pilularia globulifera*) and Shepherd's Cress (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*).

In late May the group returned to the Kynance (SW6813) and Caerthillian Cove (SW6912) area of the Lizard to look specifically for various rare Clovers (*Trifolium* spp.). Despite some very windy weather, Twin-headed Clover (*Trifolium bocconeii*), Upright Clover (*T. strictum*), Rough Clover (*T. scabrum*) and Knotted Clover (*T. striatum*) were seen on Caerthillian slopes, and Long-headed Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum* ssp. *molinerii*) was seen near Lizard Lighthouse (SW7011). Many other rarities were

In June the group met at the Cornwall Wildlife Trust owned Penlee Reserve, near Penlee Point (SX4448) at the extreme southeastern tip of Cornwall. The purpose of the meeting was to check whether any flowering spikes of the Small-flowered Tongue-orchid (*Serapias parviflora*), an orchid found more commonly in southern Europe, had appeared. This orchid was first seen in 1989, new to the British Isles, in a southern-facing field of fairly species-rich coastal grassland. The plants have flowered erratically since 1989, and the group was lucky to see two flowering spikes. Rabbits had eaten one other spike earlier in the week! Many spikes of Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) made an impressive

A meeting held in July saw the group exploring the area around the Bude Canal, from Hele Bridge (SS2103) to Bude Marshes (SS2006) and Maer Lake (SS2007) in the northeastern part of Cornwall. The species most in need of being refound was Hairlike Pondweed (*Potamogeton trichoides*), the Bude Canal being its only recent Cornish locality. Although it wasn't found, several interesting aquatic species were seen in the area. Horned Pondweed (*Zanichellia palustris*) was refound in several ditches on the Bude Marshes Local Nature Reserve, and with it Beaked Tasselweed (*Ruppia maritima*), a species never recorded before in northeast Cornwall. The ditches also had abundant Pink Water-speedwell (*Veronica catenata*), another species of restricted occurrence in Cornwall. In rough grassland near the Bude visitor Centre, 12 spikes of Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) were stumbled upon, again another species new to SS20 and to northeast Cornwall. A small excursion was also made to a disused railway where the group saw the only colony of Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) in Cornwall. For the afternoon Tim Dingle had kindly gained permission to survey Maer Lake, a natural, shallow, seasonally inundated depression on the outskirts of Flexbury, north of Bude. A joint Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society reserve, access is normally restricted, to minimise the disturbance to the bird life. The water level was rather low and the muddy edges and inundated grassland, poached by the ponies that graze the site, had a very rewarding mixture of species. These included Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*), Creeping Yellow-cress (*Rorippa sylvestris*), Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), Pink Water-Speedwell and Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), and a large patch of Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). Along a scrubby area north of the lake the group stopped to admire a large patch of Elecampane (*Inula helenium*).

The group met in July on the eastern edge of Bodmin Moor, near North Hill (SX2776). The meeting was specifically targeting habitat thought suitable for Beech Fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*) and Oak Fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*). Both of these ferns had been recorded on Bodmin Moor in the 1930s but have



Land Quillwort (*Isoetes histrix*) © Matt Stribley

seen between Kynance and Lizard Lighthouse, including Prostrate Asparagus (*Asparagus prostratus*), Spotted Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris maculata*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius* ssp. *maritimus*), Hairy Greenweed (*Genista pilosa*), Thyme Broomrape (*Orobancha alba*), Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*) and Dwarf Rush (*Juncus capitatus*). Unfortunately it was too early to see Pigmy Rush (*Juncus pygmaeus*).

display on short turf and bare ground around the derelict battery at Penlee, and Slender Spike-rush (*Eleocharis uniglumis*) and Chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*) were seen in a seasonally wet depression. In the afternoon the group visited Polhawn Cove (SX4249) on the west side of Rame Head to search the low cliffs for Shore Dock (*Rumex rupestris*). A few plants were seen, although in flower, the plants much easier to identify with certainty when fruit is present.

TWO WORLDS

not been seen since. The areas looked at (with kind permission from the owners, the Latham family of Trebartha) were Castick Wood (SX2577) along the Withey Brook, and Rocky Wood (SX2675). These woodlands were chosen as the conditions here (cool northeasterly aspect, high humidity and partly undisturbed woodland) were thought more suitable for both species than other parts of the Moor.



Unfortunately the ferns were not found at these localities, but similar habitats on Bodmin Moor may well prove more fruitful. The day was not without interest as large populations of Tunbridge Filmy-fern (*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*) were seen on the sides of granite boulders, around the boles of trees and in damp crevices in both woodlands, the plants at Rocky Wood being especially luxuriant. Lemon-scented Fern (*Oreopteris limbosperma*) and Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) were also seen.

For arranging access to sites visited so far this year thanks are due to Tim Dingle and Graham Sutton for Bude Marshes and Maer Lake, Brian Stringer and the Latham family for the North Hill woodlands, Joe Costley of the National Trust, Cotehele, and Tillhill for Greystone Wood.

Full details of the field meetings will appear on the Botanical Cornwall Group Website - www.floracam.co.uk/bcg and will be published in issue 12 of Botanical Cornwall (to be published in early 2003). On each field meeting full species lists are made, and these as well as copies of meetings reports are available from Ian Bennallick, the Botanical Cornwall Group co-ordinator (see contact details for address). All records made on meetings are held on ERICA, the local database in Cornwall for botanical records and will also be sent to ERCCIS.

Details of field meetings from July to December 2002 will be covered in the next newsletter in January 2003.

Ian Bennallick
Botanical Cornwall Group
Co-ordinator

When I moved to Cornwall from Somerset four years ago I never really thought about how different the flora would be. As the crow flies the two counties aren't that far apart, just Devon separating them.

Spring is the main time I notice the difference. Being further south, I had expected every thing to flower earlier but how wrong I was. Cornwall always seems to be several weeks behind. There are also fewer early spring flowering plants to find in Cornwall. I miss seeing Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*), Alternate-leaved Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*), Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*), Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*) and Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), all common in parts of Somerset but absent from Cornwall. Snowdrops are the strangest species as in Somerset, beside Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*), you get several other species common in gardens which have escaped and become widespread. In Cornwall I have only ever seen *G. nivalis* and never any of the more exotic species in any Cornish garden. No doubt they are there, but it makes you wonder why they aren't grown more frequently.

Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* ssp. *montanum*) is common over large tracks of ground in Somerset, often being seen along road verges, while here in Cornwall it is very rare. On the other hand Variegated Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* ssp. *argentatum*), the commonly grown garden variety, is far more common in Cornish woods and on verges for some reason. Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) is more or less restricted to the coastal areas of Cornwall while in Somerset it is recorded from over the whole county apart from a small area of Exmoor and the Peat Moors. Coastal areas as well as many of the road banks inland are white with Common Scurygrass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) in Cornwall. In Somerset it is a very rare plant on the coast and inland is only noted from a small stretch of the M5 and the A303.

I found a clump of Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*) in my garden. I wouldn't really have thought much about it if I was still living in Somerset as it has an even scattering over the county, being most common on the Mendips where it is often the only *Polystichum* species to be found in the woods. Here in Cornwall at St. Ive I had to try and get excited about one of the county's rarer ferns. The Cornish flora only gives eight dots and my fern in the garden is new for the 10km square SX36.

I put it down to climate, soil etc. Two counties so close but two different worlds. That's what makes botany so interesting.

Paul Green



..... Your County Flower needs YOU!

To commemorate HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee, Plantlife is co-ordinating a huge and exciting project which, with the help of partner organisations, will get people out visiting the countryside again, post foot and mouth, and put wild flowers on the map.

Wild flowers give an area its character and sense of place and County Flowers will allow everyone an opportunity to vote for the flower that does this best, both in the area where they live and in any places they visit in 2002. A flower will then be selected to represent each county, based on the most popular choices.

It is a project that everyone can get involved with. To register a vote log on to the Plantlife web site www.plantlife.org.uk

The suggested choices for Cornwall are listed as follows: - Wild Daffodil, Royal Fern, Gorse, Navelwort, Primrose, Sea Campion, Thrift and Western Ramping Fumitory (as used in our BCG logo). The choices for the Isles of Scilly are - Thrift, Western Clover, Spring Squill and Red Campion.

You can vote for other species not already suggested so please vote for what you think epitomises the Cornish Flora... what about Cornish Moneywort?

USEFUL BOOKS

1Blamey, M. & Grey-Wilson, C. (1989). **The Illustrated Flora of Britain and Northern Europe**. Hodder & Stoughton, London.

1**BSBI Handbooks no1 - 10** (1982-2000). Useful identification guides on sedges, umbellifers, docks and knotweeds, willows and poplars, stoneworts (algae), crucifers, roses, pondweeds, dandelions and seabean and nickar nuts. Published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.

1Davey, F.H. (1978). **Flora of Cornwall**. Penryn. Reprinted, with Supplement 1978. Wakefield.

1French, C.N., Murphy, R.J., & Atkinson, M.G.C.(1999). **Flora of Cornwall**. Wheal Seton Press, Camborne.

1Garrard, I. & Streeter, D. (1983). **The Wild Flowers of the British Isles**. Midsummer Books, London.

1Margetts, L.J. & David, R.W. (1981). **A review of the Cornish Flora 1980**. The Institute of Cornish Studies, Redruth.

1Margetts, L.J. & Spurgin, K.L. (1991). **The Cornish Flora Supplement 1981 - 1990**. Trendrine Press, St.Ives.

1Marren, P. (1999). **Britain's Rare Flowers**. T & A D Poyser, London.

1Murphy, R. J. (1987-2001). **Botanical Cornwall Nos. 1-11**. Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Truro.

1Page, C.N. (1997). **The ferns of Britain and Ireland**. (2nd ed). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

1Paton, J. A. (1999). **Liverwort Flora of the British Isles** Harley Books.

1Perring, F.H., & Walters, M. (1990). **Atlas of the British Flora**. (3rd ed). Botanical Society of the British Isles, Redwood Press, Melksham, Wiltshire.

1Phillips, R. (1977). **Wild Flowers of Britain**. Pan Books, London.

1Rich, T.C.G. & Jermy, A. C. (1998). **Plant Crib 1998**. BSBI, in assoc. with the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and the British Pteridological Society.

1Rodwell, J.S. (ed.) (1991-2000). **British Plant Communities. Vols. 1-5**. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

1Rose, F. (1981). **The Wild Flower Key**. Penguin, London.

1Smith, A.J.E. (1978). **The Moss Flora of Britain and Ireland**. Cambridge University Press.

1Spalding, A. ed. (1997). **Red Data Book for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**. Croceago Press, Camborne.

1Stace, C. (1997). **New Flora of the British Isles. (2nd. ed.)** Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

1Stewart, A., Pearman, D.A., & Preston, C. D., (eds.) (1994). **Scarce Plants in Britain**. JNCC, Peterborough.

1Watson, E. V. (1981). **British Mosses and Liverworts (3rd edition)** Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

1Wigginton, M. J. (1999). **British Red Data Books 1 Vascular Plants**. (3rd ed.) JNCC, Peterborough.

If you have a useful book that you think other group members should own or see please send details to Ian Bennallick.

IMPORTANT NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE NOW!

NEW ATLAS OF THE BRITISH AND IRISH FLORA

Edited by C D PRESTON, D A PEARMAN and T D DINES

This milestone publication is available from Jon and Sue Atkins, BSBI PUBLICATIONS c/o SUMMERFIELD BOOKS, Main St., BROUGH, Nr Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, CA17 4AX £70.00 (RRP £99.95)

TEL: 017683 41577, Fax: 017683 41687, e-mail bsbipubs@beeb.net

Botanical Cornwall 11 (2002) Editor R J Murphy

The eleventh issue of Botanical Cornwall is now available. As well as many notes about new species found in Cornwall and the rarer plants such as Wild Asparagus (*Asparagus prostratus*), Pigmy Rush (*Juncus pygmaeus*), Shore Dock (*Rumex rupestris*) and various fumitories (*Fumaria* spp.), there is information concerning Botanical Cornwall Group, its meetings and its web-site (www.floracam.co.uk/bcg).

Articles include problems concerning the identification of Water Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis* spp.), the distribution of the Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) in Cornwall, and the sand dunes of Hayle. A list is given of the most important flowering plants and ferns (native and alien!) found in the county since the publication of the latest Flora of Cornwall in 1999.

There are plenty of illustrations, both in colour and in black and white, the former including Wild Asparagus (in fruit), Rock Sea-lavender (*Limonium* sp.) on the North cliffs (a digital photograph by M.J. Stribley), and scanned leaves of Wild Service Tree (one almost feels that one can lift them off the page). There are two rather nice, garden-worthy aliens, Western Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) (in black and white) and Bulbous Comfrey (*Symphytum bulbosum*), the latter a colour photocopy of an actual specimen.

Copies of Botanical Cornwall No. 11 are available, priced £5.00 from Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS), Five Acres, Allet, Truro, TR4 9DJ -. Please make cheques payable to 'Cornwall Wildlife Trust'.



USEFUL NAMES AND ADDRESSES

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Website -www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cornwall

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Plantlife

21 Elizabeth Street, London, SW1W 9RP

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Email -enquiries@plantlife.org.uk

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The Wild Flower Society (WFS)

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OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

The Wild Flower Page
www.Habitat.org.uk/wildflwr

Natural History Museum
www.nhm.ac.uk

The Wildlife Trusts national website with links to local Wildlife Trusts sites
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk

Woodland Trust
www.woodland-trust.org.uk

British Bryological Society
www.rbge.org.uk/bbs

British Mycological Society
www.ulst.ac.uk/faculty/science/bms

Ancient Tree Forum
www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum

Cornish Wildlife Group
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/cornishwildlife

Flora locale
www.floralocale.org

National Biodiversity Network
www.nbn.org.uk

National Federation for Biological Recording
www.nfbr.org.uk

Natural History Book Service
www.nhbs.com

Sedge Identification Key
www.keyhomepages.ed.ac.uk/ebfr89/key/keys.htm

Bryophyte pictures
www.picturehome.clara.net/adhale/bryos/phframe.htm

Flora keys
www.reticule.co.uk/flora/

Phenology website
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/phenology/newsletter.htm

Rare plants discussion group
groups.yahoo.com/group/ukrareplants

UK Flora writers
www.smartgroups.com/groups/Florawriters

Launceston Parish Wildlife Project
www.parish-wildlife.org.uk/index.html



Dark Mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*)
© Richard Bendall

Under-recorded 1km squares

In the last newsletter it was noted that several 1km squares in Cornwall have less than fifty records of vascular plant species, some with none at all. A list of these under-recorded 1km squares was produced in 2000 by Dr. Colin French and was advertised in the last newsletter as available from the botanical co-ordinator. Many thanks to those of you who have asked for copies and have used them. It should be noted that records made at a tetrad level (e.g. SW96S) would not necessarily show up as a record for a 1km square but a 1km record will show up as a tetrad record. Although several tetrads look relatively well recorded (200-250 species on average), very often these records are from only one or two of the 1km squares in that tetrad. As well as adding to the records for these tetrads, targeting recording in these under-recorded 1km squares gets recorders into previously unknown sites and habitats and in some cases important records are made. Phil Hunt in particular has made progress recording some of these squares in the St. Austell and Par areas. His results for 2002 are shown (right).

If you would like a list of these under-recorded 1km squares please contact the Botanical Cornwall Group co-ordinator.

Key

A - vascular plant species recorded in 2002

B - Number originally recorded

1km square	A	B
SX 0153 -	204	6
SX 0254 -	203	0
SX 0352 -	218	13
SX 0353 -	177	0
SX 0354 -	185	4
SX 0554 -	203	28
SX 0653 -	134	14
SX 0654 -	191	35
SX 0755 -	175	1
SX 0953 -	172	20
SX 0954 -	160	0
SX 0955 -	163	2
SX 1052 -	160	30
SX 1053 -	168	0
SX 1054 -	190	24

RECORDS 2002 - new finds and species to look out for

Several important finds have been made in 2002. Ian Bennallick has refound Sand Crocus (*Romulea columnae*) at its old locality near Polruan (SX15) after a space of 121 years. About 1500 plants are estimated in maritime grassland on and around rocky outcrops and it is hoped that similar habitats along the southern Cornish coast can be investigated in early 2003.

Ian Bennallick has also found two colonies of Dwarf Rush (*Juncus capitatus*) on a steep coastal slope on The Blouth, near Nare Head (SW93). This is a new site for Cornwall and a first for V.c 2, East Cornwall. Previously in Cornwall it had only been recorded from V.c. 1, West Cornwall, on the Lizard peninsula,

although there are old records from West Penwith.

Paul Green has found *Sagina x micrantha* at Rinsey Head (SW52) new for Cornwall. This is the hybrid between Procumbent Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) and Heath Pearlwort (*S. subulata*) and is well worth looking for where the two species grow together.

Another species new for Cornwall is *Geranium reuteri*, a garden escape that has become established near Menacuddle Farm (SX05), found by Philip Hunt. This is not in the New Flora of the British Isles (Stace, 1997), and is therefore new for the British Isles.

On a Botanical Cornwall Group

Meeting at Bude (SS20) several flowering spikes of Bee Orchid were found in rough grassland in the Bude Marshes Local Nature Reserve and 50 plants of Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) have been recorded in unimproved grassland near Lewannick (SX28) by Sally Foster. Although both of these species are not nationally rare, they are rare in Cornwall and are therefore important records.

On a more general note Dr. Colin French has commented on the increase of Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) along the major trunk roads in Cornwall, notably the A30 and A39. This species has a mainly coastal distribution in Cornwall, so could this species be spreading inland along roads similar to how Danish Scurvy-grass (*Cochlearia danica*) and Common Scurvy-grass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) has spread?

It is also worth mentioning unsuccessful searches for species. Paul Green has been looking for Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*) on well-grazed roadside verges on Bodmin Moor and Ian Bennallick has searched the area at Sandymouth, near Bude (SS20E, SS21A) an old site for Perennial Centaury (*Centaureum scilloides*) - both without success.

I.J. Bennallick & R.J. Murphy

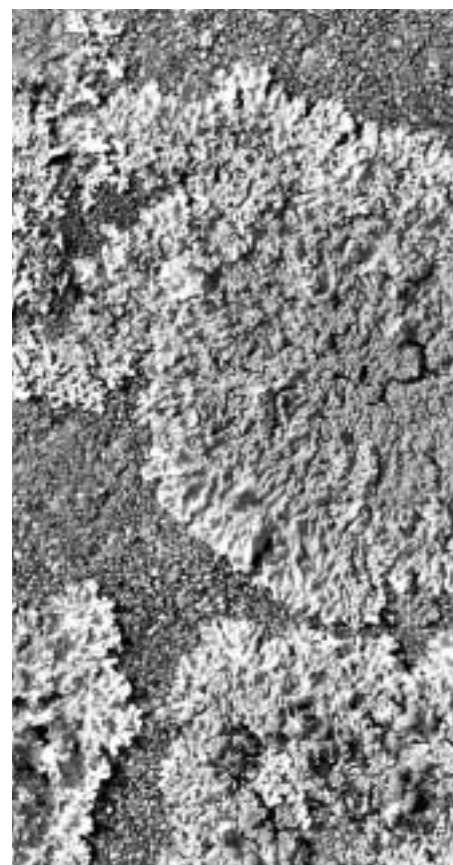


THREAT TO LICHENS ON HEADSTONES - AN UPDATE

In the last issue of the newsletter it was mentioned that Carol Simpson of the Living Churchyard Project had some concerns over plans submitted regarding essential safety work that was to be undertaken on leaning headstones and unsafe memorials in some of Cornwall's churchyards and cemeteries. Carol was concerned that unsympathetic safety work would have affected the Lichens present.

In February 2002 as Botanical Cornwall Group co-ordinator, I wrote to all the district councils in Cornwall as well as Cornwall County Council, and the Diocese as well as the British Lichen Society (BLS) highlighting those concerns and suggested recommendations to keep disturbance to those lichens to a minimum. All councils replied with explanations of their planned safety surveys and intended safety work. Much correspondence with the BLS ensued and the Society officers, most notably Ann Allen, brought the subject of the potential threats to lichens in churchyards to the attention of the society's members. The BLS is now well informed of the situation and has taken on board the campaign. Hopefully the relevant authorities will be better informed of the value of churchyards for lichens and take care not to be over zealous in future safety work.

A positive result of this potentially destructive subject has arisen. Thousands of records from surveys of specific churchyards in Cornwall, undertaken over several years by the BLS, have been copied to Carol who has then entered the records onto a database. This information will hopefully be used in future to help in conservation decisions in churchyards. As a footnote, the richest churchyard surveyed for Lichens in Cornwall is Landewednack, on the Lizard, with 107 species recorded, reflecting its maritime position and variety of substrates.



Lichen sp. © Glynn Bernalick

The Millennium Seed Bank Project

The Millennium Seed Bank Project is an international collaborative plant conservation initiative. This worldwide effort aims to safeguard 24,000 plant species from around the globe against extinction. The UK Flora Programme of the MSB Project has already collected seed from around 90% of the UK's native higher plants. This is the first time that any country has underpinned the conservation of its wild flora in this way. Steve Alton, UK Co-ordinator has sent the BCG a 'wish list' of species for seed collection and of these some are found in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. If you are able to collect seed from the species listed please contact Steve at the MSB to find out exactly what is needed and the legal requirements before collecting.

For more information contact: -

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<i>Carex montana</i>	Soft-leaved Sedge
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill Sedge
<i>Elatine hydropiper</i>	Eight-stamened Waterwort
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>	Square-stalked Willowherb
<i>Euphrasia confusa</i>	Eyebright sp.
<i>Euphrasia micrantha</i>	Eyebright sp.
<i>Juncus capitatus</i>	Dwarf Rush
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer Snowflake
<i>Ornithogalum angustifolium</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's-seal
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow
<i>Sedum forsterianum</i>	Rock Stonecrop
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Comfrey
<i>Utricularia australis</i>	Bladderwort
<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf Pansy
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	Early Marsh-orchid
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common Hempnettle
<i>Orobancha rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks Buttercup

FREE BRYOPHYTES OF NATIVE WOODS GUIDE

The following publication contains many species found in Cornwall and is well worth getting.

The second edition of: A Field Guide to the Common Mosses and Liverworts of Scotland and Ireland's Native Woodlands by Carol L Crawford has just been published. This is a full-colour 40-page booklet with photographs of 36 common woodland bryophytes. It is available free, thanks to generous sponsorship from Scottish Natural Heritage, to all interested parties.

The book is very much aimed at beginners but those with some

knowledge of bryophytes will find it helpful as well. Ecologists and forest managers should find it particularly useful. It will also help members of general public get started. Bryophytes are rewarding plants to study because they are around all year.

The booklet was put together by Carol Crawford, with a Millennium Award through the Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust. Carol is Principal of The Natural Resource Consultancy in Ayr. She took the photographs and designed and laid out the booklet. Photographs were taken at various locations in Scotland and Ireland. The author would like to acknowledge the expert help provided by Ben Averis, particularly in

checking the text. Those wishing a copy of the guide should send a stamped, self-addressed A5 envelope to the author at the address below. The weight of the package is 110 grams (currently 57p first class and 44p second class within Britain). The author is happy to sign copies if requested.

Donations to the Native Woodlands Discussion Group will be gratefully received and put towards future lower plants guides. Cheques should be made payable to NWDG and sent to the author. Carol Crawford, The Natural Resource Consultancy, 4d New Bridge Street, AYR, KA7 1JX

Tel: 01292 280800

Email: tncross@aol.com

What to look out for in Autumn and Winter

Although it is a quiet time for recording plants in the autumn and winter there are several species that appear early in the mild climate of Cornwall. Of particular interest are those that are separated into sub-species. Their distribution could be better understood if recorders record the sub-species level. For the autumn and winter 2002/2003 please make a special effort to look out for and record the following species and sub-species: -

Veronica hederifolia ssp. *lucorum* and ssp. *hederifolia*, Ivy-leaved Speedwell

Ranunculus ficaria ssp. *ficaria* and ssp. *bulbilifer*, look out for ssp. *ficariiformis* and ssp. *chrysocephalus*, Lesser Celandine

Galanthus spp. - Snowdrops (several species can be found - which ones are in Cornwall?)

Narcissus spp. - Daffodils (Where are the true wild daffodils in Cornwall?)

Useful identification books are in the useful books section of this newsletter, but of particular help are *Plant Crib 1998* (Rich & Jermy, 1998) and *New Flora of the British Isles* (Stace, 1997).

FINAL MEETINGS FOR 2002



Thursday 21st November 2002 - Saltash

Field meeting to search for various ferns, especially *Polypodium cambricum*.

Leader - Rose Murphy

Meet at Saltash Railway Station, SX431587, 10am.



Saturday 7th December 2002 at 10.30am - 4.30pm approx

Fraddon Village Hall Indoor Meeting and end of year get together

The meeting will be an informal get together to review the field meetings and workshops held in 2002 with an opportunity to see slides/digital pics from the meetings. We will also organise the meetings programme for 2003 (including helping with the BSBI AGM to be held in Cornwall in May 2003) and organise recording for the forthcoming BSBI monitoring scheme.

Suggestions for meetings so far have included a trip to the Isles of Scilly, field meetings to see *Vicia orobus* and *Lobelia urens*, and workshops (in conjunction with ERCCIS) on sedges and rushes (*Carex* spp. & *Juncus* spp.), speedwells (*Veronica* spp.) and Forget-me-not (*Myosotis* spp.)

Leaders - Ian Bennallick & Rose Murphy

Where: Fraddon Village Hall, Fraddon, close to the A30 at Indian Queens in mid-Cornwall, SW911578

Please bring herbarium material collected during the year for identification, photos, books/mags/articles to swap or give away and anything else that you would like to discuss or share with others.

If you have any records for the BSBI Vice-county recorders for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly please bring them as well.

Displays and posters also welcome. For more details contact Ian Bennallick (contact details on page 5).

For all field meetings bring a packed lunch and please ensure that you also bring adequate weatherproof clothing and footwear to the meetings. If you need transport to any of the meetings contact Ian Bennallick to arrange a lift with other group members if possible.

NOTE - All people attending meetings do so at their own risk.

Dates of meetings for 2003 will be in the next newsletter.



Next newsletter due January 2003

Botanical
Cornwall
Group



Sand Crocus (*Romulea columnae*) fruits at Polruan, May 2002
© Matt Stribley

If
you would like to join
the BCG please send your
details to the BCG Co-
ordinator at the address
on page 5.