

Spring 2007



**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 2007.

This year our AGM will be held at Hengistbury Head on Saturday 19 May 2007. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please let Catherine Chatters know prior to the AGM (contact details at end of 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.

We are always keen for more people to provide contributions to Flora News on any relevant botanical topics, so maybe you will feel inspired to put pen to paper during 2007? If you have enjoyed any of the Flora Group events and would like to write an article about it for Flora News, we would be very pleased to receive it. Please send your articles to Catherine.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

There is normally no need to book a place on Flora Group events, unless the text specifically requests it. A contact 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 5 May 2007, 10.30am – 4pm
Visit to Wick Wood and Wick Hill Hanger
Meet in small parking area at start of track just south of road at SU759358
Leader: Tony Mundell

This meeting is at the kind invitation of the owners of both woods which form part of Wick Wood and Worldham Hangers Site of Special Scientific Interest. If the track is wet parking will be limited, so please liaise with your friends to maximise the number of people in each car, if necessary meeting up beforehand where a car can be left en-route. We should see some of the typical plants of the hangers such as Herb Paris, Early Purple Orchid and possibly Small-leaved Lime. This meeting will be particularly suitable for relative beginners to plant recording. Bring suitable footwear for rough ground, a packed lunch and a drink. Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516

Saturday 19 May 2007, 10.30am
Flora Group AGM and Visit to Hengistbury Head, near Christchurch
Meet at Field Centre Car Park at SZ166910
Leader: Robin Walls

A chance to explore the rich coastal and heathland habitats of this spectacular headland. (Well, spectacular

for Hampshire / East Dorset!) Season permitting, a good range of the characteristic and uncommon spring annuals of this part of the coast should be encountered. Once again, beginners and non-experts will be especially welcome. Meet at Field Centre car park, at far end of the Broadway public road (SZ166910). Ignore the public car parking on the way, unless you prefer to pay. Bring packed lunch and refreshments. If the weather is atrocious we shall return to the Field Centre for lunch and AGM, in which case there is a café nearby for hot drinks etc.
Contact: Martin Rand 023 8036 0395

Sunday 10 June 2007, 10.30am – 4pm
Visit to Greywell Moors and Warnborough Greens
Meet at Greywell Pumping Station SU723513
Leader: Tony Mundell

A (slow!) circular 2 mile walk taking in visits Greywell Moors in the morning, then along part of the Basingstoke Canal to visit Warnborough Greens in the afternoon. Bring a packed lunch and suitable footwear – wellington boots recommended! Greywell Moors is extremely rich with Marsh Fern, Southern Marsh Orchids plus other goodies. At Warnborough Greens we will see more Southern Marsh Orchids plus some Early Marsh Orchids and may hopefully find Brown Sedge, Flat Sedge and Slender Spike-rush.
Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Wednesday 27 June 2007, 6.30pm
Hook-with-Warsash
Meet outside Warsash Church at SU499055
Leader: Martin Rand

An evening walk of 2-3 miles on and around this Local Nature Reserve which offers coastal shingle, grassland, wetland and woodland. Plants here include Yellow Horned Poppy, Climbing Corydalis, Babington's Orache, Shore Curled Dock, Upright Chickweed, Sea Rocket, Sea Kale, Smith's Pepperwort, Strawberry Clover, Bur Chervil, Seaside Thistle, Grey Club-rush, Divided Sedge, Prickly Sedge, Water Whorl-grass, Meadow Barley, Hard Grass, four species of Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia*), and other localised species. An excellent chance to brush up on your coastal plants if you're a beginner. If you're an expert, you can try and find (or re-find) something exciting, as this is not a very heavily botanised area.

Meet outside Warsash Church, SU499055. From the mini-roundabout in the centre of Warsash (near the clock tower) head east along Warsash Road in the Titchfield direction. Take second R into Church Road. Park near the end of the road just before the church, where there is a large bay for end-on parking and additional space on the roadside. Buses run to the clock tower in Warsash from Portsmouth and Southampton.
Contact: Martin Rand 023 8036 0395

Sunday 1 July 2007, 10am
Butser Hill, South Downs
Meet at public car park at summit of Butser Hill at SU711200
Leader: Martin Rand

We shall look at the downland on the north-facing slopes of Butser Hill, including the flanks and foot of Ramsdean Down and England's deepest and most impressive chalk coombe (Rake Bottom), also famous as one of Britain's best examples of the very rare 'Southern hepatic mat' bryophyte community. The downland has a characteristic chalkland flora including several species of orchid and Round-headed Rampion, and the boundary banks of the adjoining woods harbour species such as Small-leaved Lime.

If time permits in the afternoon, we may extend to a visit to Chalton Down a few miles south-east, near the Sussex border. As well as a similar chalk grassland flora, there are old records of a number of good chalkland arable plants in the vicinity.

Meet at the public car park on the summit of Butser Hill, SU711200, which is reached by lanes from Clanfield village or the A3 nearby. Bring refreshments and packed lunch. The going will be quite strenuous with several steep ascents and descents.
Contact: Martin Rand 023 8036 0395

Sunday 1 July 2006, 10.30am
Bramble walk – a joint event with Southampton Natural History Society
Meet at 10.30am at the Cowherds Pub (The Avenue, Southampton) at SU418140
Leader: David Allen

The Southampton Natural History Society have invited Flora Group members to join them on a bramble walk led by the bramble expert David Allen. After exploring Southampton Common we hope to move on to West Wood, Netley in the afternoon, meeting at the Old Lorry Park, Weston Shore at 2.30pm. The grid reference of this second site, for anyone not attending the morning session, is SU 446 094. We will be looking at and identifying species in the *Rubus fruticosus* aggregate.
Contact Phil Budd 023 8039 4807

Sunday 15 July 2007, 10.30am
Stony Moors - Meet in car park at SZ 211913
Leader: Neil Sanderson

The valley of Stony Moors is part of the complex of sites in the south west of the New Forest where the Headon Beds come to the surface. Named after Headon Hill on the Isle of Wight, the Headon Beds are clays rich in shells. These shells mean that the clay is calcareous and the springs that feed Stony Moors are rich in calcium, so the wetlands of the Stony Moors valley are therefore not typical acid bog but have more in common with fens.

In the 1960s the river that flows through Stony Moors was deepened and straightened. This started a chain of events that drained the wetlands and resulted in much scrub invasion. The Forestry Commission have recently restored the river and removed much of the scrub. During our visit we hope to re-find many of the rare plants for which the valley was formerly renowned.
Contact: Neil Sanderson 023 8029 3671

Sunday 29 July 2007, 10.30am – 4pm
Visit to the North Hampshire Downs south of Kingsclere.
Meet in car park on east side of road, SU516565
Leader: Tony Mundell

A very steep scarp slope extends on the chalk for many miles south of Highclere and Kingsclere. In places the steepness has protected downland from ploughing. We will explore some of this downland so please be equipped with boots with a good grip. There is a recent record for Round-headed Rampion in this area that needs confirming, and apart from chalk grassland and the superb views, we will see if we can find interesting plants on the adjacent arable field edges and hedgerows. Bring a packed lunch and a drink.
Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Saturday 18 August 2007, 10am
Cowards Marsh, Avon Valley
Leader: Martin Rand

Cowards Marsh and the adjacent area of Ogber make up a large area of grazed common land in the lower Avon valley that is now open access land. Overlooked by the

NEWS & VIEWS

Visit to Micheldever Spoil Heaps on 30th
July 2006 – a report by Tony Mundell

heathlands of Christchurch Town Common, often partially flooded in winter, and adjoining the River Avon, they carry interesting plant communities. Species recorded are an intriguing medley with Marshwort, Flowering Rush, Petty Whin, Small Water-pepper, Heath Milkwort, Greater Duckweed, Marsh Speedwell, and (most significantly) the nationally and locally rare Marsh Stitchwort. But this is not an area that will be very well known to many Hampshire botanists.

If you intend to come on this trip, you must contact Martin Rand (email: vc11Recorder@hantsplants.org.uk or phone or text 07957 361015) at least a week in advance. Parking (about half a mile from the site) is extremely limited and it is anticipated that we shall need to make arrangements for car sharing. Bring refreshments and lunch and be prepared for some wet going.

Contact: Martin Rand 023 8036 0395

Sunday 9 September 2007, 10.30am – 4pm
Joint meeting with Wiltshire Botanical Society at Dean Hill, mainly for roses.
Meet in car park at SU262267
Leader: Paul Stanley

Just east of West Dean there is a conspicuous entrance to Dean Hill Park, and a car park inside the entrance before the gates. This is an ex-MoD site and is roughly two thirds in Hants and one third in Wilts. Recording has been minimal there in the past. This all makes it a good choice for a joint meeting with the Wiltshire Botanical Society. Apparently it has wild roses everywhere and with Paul's expertise we should be able to get the various species and hybrids here named. There is a conservation room on site with toilets etc and the opportunity for looking more closely at collected material. Bring suitable footwear for rough ground, a packed lunch and drink.

Contact: Tony Mundell 01252 614516.

Saturday 17 November 2007, 10.30am
Introduction to Mosses and Liverworts
Meet at Gilbert White Field Studies Centre in Selborne at SU 742335
Leader: Dr June Chatfield

June Chatfield has kindly offered to lead an all day event in this biologically extremely rich part of the County to introduce us to mosses and liverworts. The day will start at the Gilbert White Field Studies Centre which is at the top end of the public car park behind the pub in the centre of the village on the western side of the B3006. We will have a look at the wide variety of mosses growing along the Zig-Zag on Selborne Common and hope to study the interesting mosses and liverworts on the well head. Bring a hand lens if you have one and a packed lunch. Details will be provided in the Autumn 2007 Flora News but, in the meantime, be sure to put this date in your diary. Please note that donations will be requested from people attending this event, to contribute towards the use of the facilities at the Field Studies Centre.

Michael Edwards showed us around this reserve where single-handedly he has been reclaiming superb exposed chalk habitat from encroaching scrub. His remarkable efforts have led to a population explosion of the rarity Cut-leaved Germander (*Teucrium botrys*). The count for 2006 was at a record high of 3,606 plants, whilst at the same time it is rapidly approaching extinction at its few other remaining sites as a result of inappropriate management. Because of the recent splendid hot weather, our visit was just too late to see more than one or two of these plants still in flower, but the critically endangered Red Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis angustifolia*) was at its prime. The bare chalk habitat here leads to exceptionally small plants compared with those in the few places where Red Hemp-nettle manages to survive in arable fields. The same was true of a few really microscopic plants of Dwarf Spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*) that we found. Plants of Spring Cinquefoil (*Potentilla neumanniana*) dotted the area, but to see this beautiful plant in flower would need a visit in April or May. Amongst these 'classy' plants Neil Sanderson made a survey of the lichens (see separate article) and showed us hummocks of the very rare *Cladonia symphyrcarpia* growing on the bare chalk surface.

We then trekked along the road up to the northern end of the reserve, adjacent to a golf course. Here Michael had carved clearings in the dense scrub and exposed more of the underlying chalk spoil-heaps. Cut-leaved Germander is now also increasing here, and we also noted Small Toadflax (*Chaenorhinum minus*) and a few dead spikes of Bird's-nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*). Several of us homed in on a few tiny scraps of dried-up grass, which I think is the rare Mat-grass (*Vulpia unilateralis*) – but we will have to wait until next year to be sure.

New and Interesting Lichens and
Associated Fungi from Hampshire 2006
– a note by Neil Sanderson

Wessex Lichen Group

The most important lichen news this year for our area is that Sheila Street on the Isle of Wight is setting up the Wessex Lichen Group. This group will hold field trips in the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Dorset and Wiltshire area. The trips will be intended for any one interested in lichens at any level and will visit a variety of lichen rich sites across these counties. The first meeting is to be arranged for 14th April 2007 and to be held in Bramshaw Wood. For further details email Sheila Street at les@street63.fsnet.co.uk.

Hurstbourne Park

First an embarrassing update. The answer finally came back on my candidate *Lecanora sinuosa* van Herk & Aptroot; only an odd form of the common *Lecanora chlarotera*.

Micheldever Spoil Heaps

Earlier in the year Andy Cross and I had a quick look at the spoil heaps for lichens (17/5/2006). This resulted in two new lichens to Hampshire. *Cladonia symphyrcarpia* is a Nationally Scarce calcicole lichen previously recorded from 5 10km national grid squares from England, the nearest known sites being in the Mendips and the Lincolnshire coversands. This is a large obvious lichen and must be genuinely very rare in England. It is slightly more widespread in Scotland. The record from the spoil heaps is not only new to Hampshire but also new to the chalk. The second species was *Catapyrenium pilosellum*, a Near Threatened RDB species and Nationally Scarce species. This small scale-like calcicole lichen has scattered records from limestones up the west of Britain from Wales to North Scotland with a few records from along the south coast from Devon and Dorset. It has a single inland record for southern England from Porton Down. *Catapyrenium* is a difficult group but *Catapyrenium pilosellum* is unusually distinctive, with fine hair like hyphae projecting from the squamules.

On the 30/7/06 meeting I intended to map these rare species and record the other lichens present. The *Cladonia* proved to be widespread, with a healthy and secure looking population. *Catapyrenium pilosellum* proved more difficult. Several patches of *Catapyrenium sp* were found but these lacked the hair like hyphae. They also had black undersides, so could not be the normal (if uncommon) southern chalk species *Catapyrenium squamulosum*. It actually keyed out at *Catapyrenium boccanum*, but as this has only been recorded once from Britain this seems very unlikely. The specimens have been sent off to the European expert, and a verdict is awaited.

The species seen in 2006 are listed below:

Species		RDB	NR	NS
<i>Agoniimia trisicula</i>	M			
<i>Catapyrenium boccanum?</i>	T	DD	1	
<i>Catapyrenium pilosellum</i>	T	NT		1
<i>Cladonia furcata subrangiformis</i>	T			
<i>Cladonia pocillum</i>	T			
<i>Cladonia symphyrcarpia</i>	T			1
<i>Clauzadea monticola</i>	Sx C			
<i>Collema auriforme</i>	T			
<i>Leptogium lichenoides</i>	T			
<i>Leptogium schraderi</i>	T			
<i>Myxobilimbia sabuletorum</i>	M			
<i>Protoblastenia rupestris</i>	Sx C			
<i>Toninia sedifolia</i>	T			
<i>Verrucaria muralis</i>	Sx C			
<i>Verrucaria nigrescens</i>	Sx F			

M = on moss. T = Terricolous, Sx C = On chalk pebbles, Sx F = On flint pebbles, RDB = Red Data Book Species, DD = Data Deficient, NT = Near Threatened, NR = Nationally Rare, NS = Nationally Scarce.

Other than the rarities, the list is reasonable but could probably be extended with more work, as I am not very experienced with this habitat. The *Leptogium lichenoides* record is interesting, as previously *Leptogium gelatinosum* was recorded from the heaps, but probably in error. These

two species have been much confused with all terricolous *Leptogium lichenoides/gelatinosum* going down as *Leptogium gelatinosum* and *Leptogium lichenoides* only recorded from base rich bark on old trees in the New Forest. In fact *Leptogium lichenoides* is the stronger calcicole and all chalk records of *Leptogium gelatinosum* clearly need checking; I have so far found true *Leptogium gelatinosum* on loamy neutral soil on seawalls and on an ex-runway on a New Forest airfield.

Leptogium schraderi is a widespread species but one associated with high quality downland, while *Toninia sedifolia* is a locally uncommon specialist of limestone grassland previously recorded from the heaps.

New Forest

As usual last winter produced a crop of new species, exciting records and also a problem solved.

Enterographa hutchinsiae: the problem was an odd form of *Enterographa*, which had been turning up on rain tracks on the trunks of veteran Beech and Holly in old growth pasture woodland in the New Forest since 1994. It was first spotted after the great rarity *Enterographa elaborata* was rediscovered in that year. At first it was thought to be more of that species, but it had the wrong spores and chemistry and was most similar to the common *Enterographa crassa*. It differed from *E. crassa*, however, in having long forked fruit between 0.2 – 1.0mm long, which were intermediate between *E. crassa* and *E. elaborata* and it tended to have a paler thallus. Later careful measurement of the spores also showed them to be a bit smaller. Consultation with Brain Coppins, suggested that the name *E. vinosa* (Pers.) A. Massal might apply, if this lichen was to be regarded as a separate taxon, but this was not widely accepted. An internet search showed that the species, however, was listed as a Red Data Book species of old woods for Denmark. Finally an answer was produced by a detailed monograph on the genus by Sparrius published in 2004. The long fruited *Enterographa* found in rain tracks in veteran tree was not a form of *E. crassa* but of *E. hutchinsiae*. This is normally found on wet overhang rocks, and rarely trees by rivers, in the uplands where it typically has dark thallus and comma like, only occasionally forked fruit. Finally the author saw a convincing transition between typical *E. hutchinsiae* growing on overhanging bark at the base of an ancient Oak by a river, grading into the rain track form, where a rain track flowed down the well lit trunk into the dark over hanging bark at the tree base in North Wales. The nearest previous records for *E. hutchinsiae* were from upland Devon and Somerset and in the lowlands it is likely to be a rare relic species of veteran trees. To date it has been found in 15 New Forest woods, since 1994 but is not, as yet, known from any other sites in the region.

New Species from the Forest

A trio of new *Micarea* species have been confirmed in the last year by the *Micarea* maestro Brian Coppins; all are new to Hampshire. All are green crusts easily over-looked as the common *Micarea prasina*.

Micarea xanthonica: this is the most interesting find; it has a disjunct world distribution being found in the north west Europe and the Pacific Northwest of North America.

In Britain it has until now only been recorded from wet oceanic areas in the west. It has now been found from Sussex sandrocks and from the New Forest in high quality sites, and is likely to be a rare species in the lowlands. It was found on old acidic Oak in Bramshaw Wood (SU25 16), 15 & 17/4/2006 by N A Sanderson and in Frame Wood (SU35 36), 16/4/2006 by N A Sanderson & A M Cross. It is distinguished from *Micarea prasina* by its yellow green thallus and a persistent orange reaction to the application of bleach.

Micarea viridileprosa: this is likely to be a much more common species and is a quite weedy species of acidic habitats, which has now been confirmed for Hampshire, being first found in Red Shoot Wood (SU 188 85), 14/12/2005 by N A Sanderson & B Edwards on acidic Oak bark. Subsequently it has proved to be quite widespread on Oak lignum in the New Forest (SU20 & SU21). It is also yellow green but reacts fleeting red to bleach.

Micarea coppinsii: an expected Nationally Scarce species, which has been found in bog woodland and old heather stems in Dorset. It is probably mainly western and appears to be confined to quite humid niches in the east. In the New Forest it was found on an acidic Holly in Bog Woodland at Ringwood Ford Bottom (SU26 45), 3/12/2005, by N A Sanderson. It has subsequently been found in Bog Woodland in Cadnam Bog NAS (SU29 15) and Deadmans Moor (SU27 08) NAS & AM Cross. This species also reacts fleeting red to bleach but has roughly round patches of soredia, like a coarser version of *Trapeliopsis corticola*.

Lauderlindsaya borneri: a widespread western parasite of the common *Normandina pulchella*, sometime considered to be the fruit of *Normandina*. The first record for Hampshire was made from a Maple in Ash – Maple – Oak floodplain woodland in Dames Slough Inclosure (SU25 05), 19/11/2005, N A Sanderson. In this case there were necrotic areas about the *Lauderlindsaya* fruit, so it looks like a parasite to me.

Leptogium subtile: a small, probably ephemeral, Nationally Scarce species, found on fallen trees, old polypores and plant debris, with scattered records across the country. In the New Forest it was found on debris on the base of knot hole on Beech root, Ashurst Wood, (SU33 09), 12/2/2006. The knothole flooded in wet weather and was effectively a micro ephemeral pond. The edge of the pond also supported the Vulnerable *Bacidia incompta*!

Interesting Records

Caloplaca ferruginea: a new 10km national grid square record for a species that is now very rare in England. On the base of ancient *Quercus* in glade in pasture woodland, Frame Wood, (SU36 02), March 2006, N A Sanderson & A M Cross.

Bacidia subturgidula: the fourth record ever and second modern record for this enigmatic species (RDB Critically Endangered), confined to lignum on Holly in the New Forest. In 2006 it was found on lignum inside hollow Holly, in Beech – Oak – Holly Pasture woodland, Pond Hill, Mark Ash Wood (SU24 07), 2/1/06, A M Cross, N A Sanderson & B Edwards. This time it was found inside a shaded

hollow *Ilex*, the first modern record was, in contrast, from decorticate sunny *Ilex* lignum. In the shade the thallus was greenish, rather than white as in other specimens. Like the first modern locality the lignum was hard and appeared acidic, with *Micarea viridileprosa* nearby.

Enterographa elaborata: since the rediscovery of this very rare species (Schedule 8 & RDB Critically Endangered) in 1994 at Busketts Wood, the first British record since the 19th century, the Beech tree on which it was found has died and extinction loomed again. After years of searching finally a new site has turned up on a live Beech. At the end of a Cep hunt on 8/10/06 with Andy Cross, I had a casual glance at an old Beech with rain tracks thinking of *Bacidia incompta*, but instead a small *Enterographa* with pale thallus stood out. A quick look was enough to see that the fruit were far too long for *Enterographa hutchinsiae*, and a small dab of Pd produced a yellow reaction confirming it. Finally we have a new *Enterographa elaborata* site and on a live tree! Record: on an old Beech on the edge of an area of Beech – Holly – Oak pasture woodland with large scale canopy collapse to west, intact wood to the east, west side of James Hill (SU28 08), 8/10/06, NAS & AMC.

Lecidea turgidula: a common species of lignum, especially Pine, in the Scottish Highlands, rare in the south, with 5 modern 10km national grid square records from England, all from the south and west. The 2006 record was the first record from Hampshire since 1972 and a new 10km national grid square record. On fallen large Oak trunk, Oak - Holly pasture woodland, Matley Wood (SU33 07), 21/2/06, N A Sanderson.

Megalaria laureri: a very rare species (RDB Endangered) confined in Britain to rain tracks on less than 30 Beech trees in the New Forest. Also rare and threatened in Europe. Two new trees were found in 2005 and 2006. Six thalli in rain track on ancient Beech, in Beech – Holly pasture woodland, Fair Cross, Rushpole Wood (SU30 09), 27/12/05. A new tree in a new part of Rushpole Wood and right in the line of the recently proposed outer Lyndhurst bypass! Two thalli in rain track on ancient Beech, in Beech – Holly, Pond Hill, Mark Ash Wood, (SU24 07), 2/1/2006, A M Cross, N A Sanderson & B Edwards. Tree in a new part of Mark Ash Wood for this very rare species.

Rest of Hampshire

There are also a few records of interest from the rest of the county:

Chaenotheca brachypoda: a small pinhead or stubble lichen of less acidic lignum and old Elders, mainly in the east of Britain, where it is frequent. Rare in the west. In 2006 it was found at Holly Holms, Woolmer (SU82 32), 10/3/06, N A Sanderson, in North Hampshire (actually in VC W. Sussex) on Holly lignum, with *Micarea viridileprosa*.

Chaenotheca trichialis: a pinhead or stubble lichen of dry bark on old trees, which is a mainly eastern species. In 2006 recorded from a veteran boundary Oak on the edge of the River Meon flood plain in recent woodland, Exton (SU62 21), 21/8/2006, N A Sanderson. This is the first record for south Hampshire outside the New Forest.

Micarea viridileprosa: as well as the New Forest records, this was also found at Holly Holms, Woolmer (SU82 32), 10/3/06, N A Sanderson, in North Hampshire (actually in VC W. Sussex) on Holly and Pine lignum.

Visit to Magdalen Hill Down on 6th August 2006 – a report by Tony Mundell

Our thanks go to Butterfly Conservation (BC) for this HFG visit to their reserve. Initially 22 people assembled, but apparently the event had been incorrectly advertised in a local newspaper as a walk specifically for butterflies. This led to 6 people branching off to concentrate solely on that! The rest of us sampled three different habitats at the reserve. These are known as the Original Reserve, the Extension and the North Down.

The Original Reserve is 23 acres at the west end, where the very steep slope had saved chalk downland from the plough. Since its acquisition by BC in 1987 much of the encroaching scrub has been removed and it is now wonderfully rich habitat with a wealth of plants and butterflies. In particular, Chalk-hill Blues were abundant during our visit. In places Rockrose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) was the dominant plant, supporting a colony of Brown Argus butterflies. Nearby we managed to locate three patches of Bastard Toadflax (*Thesium humifusum*), counting at least 59 plants.

The Extension (which we visited first) was arable farmland until acquired by BC in 1995. In a pioneering project BC prepared the soil, collected native wildflower seed from surviving Hampshire chalk downland, and sowed this across the site in 1997. The restoration to traditional flower-rich downland is a slow process as fertilizers leach away, but it is clearly underway here. During the first few years botanists were delighted to find a few plants of Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*) thought to be a genuine wild relic of the original arable field. The sward is now too closed for it to survive, but a little seed was transferred to the adjacent North Down where we saw that it is still just hanging on. One plant we saw on the Extension was a deep-pink flowered form of Burnet Saxifrage (*Pimpinella saxifraga*). Until then I had only seen the usual white-flowered plants.

The adjoining 55 acres of North Down was cropped arable land until recently but is now being managed for butterflies and other wildlife. It was sown with collected native seed in 2004, some of it harvested from parts of Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire. We saw lots of Sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia*) and in one area Martin Rand showed us plants of an unusual subspecies of Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor* ssp. *calcareus*) that had evidently come from its stronghold on Salisbury Plain.

The Rare Plant Register Meeting held on 3 September 2006 at Dibden Bottom and Kings Hat - a note by Martin Rand

Perfect late summer weather rewarded our efforts on this eastern fringe of the New Forest, where the objective was to record in some detail the extent or size of plant populations, and to check for the continued presence of some plants at old sites. It turned out to be a day of mixed fortunes, but with plenty of interest.

We started by making our way to the western tip of Horestone Hill, where we could survey the whole area and split into two parties for the morning. On the way we looked at an area of damp ground recently cleared of pine plantation, and many of the party were soon engaged in "hunt the baby Osmunda" - young Royal Fern plants dotting the heathery slope. Also of note were quantities of the cultivated bramble *Rubus laciniatus*, vigorously invading the heathland.

One group then descended into the valley bottom immediately to the NW, where they mapped the extent of the flourishing Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) colony in the carr, as well as the Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) on its flanks. Also in the carr were some impressive plants of Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*). However we were unable to relocate a satellite colony of the Marsh Fern in the next valley northwards, which two of us remember from years past. One thing that everyone remarked on was the extreme rarity of sporing fronds of Marsh Fern; only a few fronds in a single loose cluster bore any sporangia. We saw a good range of humid heath and wetland plants as we progressed down the Rushbush Stream and so back towards lunch.

Meanwhile the second party set off down the valley to the south but found little to detain them here. Closer to Beaulieu North Road and the environs of Rushbush Pond they were able to record Pillwort (*Pilularia globulifera*), Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), and the scarce Bog Hair-grass (*Deschampsia setacea*) of which Britain holds internationally important populations.

Neither party was able to find any Marsh Clubmoss (*Lycopodiella inundata*), and things were no better in the afternoon. Most of the records in this area are from relatively small and impermanent trackside sites and it was suspected that the summer drought had taken its toll.

In the afternoon we went as one party to the vicinity of Kings Hat where, after admiring another colony of Pillwort, we searched in vain for Marsh Clubmoss or any plants of Hay-scented Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris aemula*). Nor did we find the hybrid Horsetail *Equisetum x font-queri*, despite having Mike Rowe, its original discoverer in Hampshire at South Baddesley, present for good luck. We ended the day in a small flush in a valley east of Crabhat Inclosure. Various good plants were in evidence here, including Pale Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*) still flowering well, but the main objective was to relocate Few-flowered Spike-rush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*). Though some plants were

found with rather shrivelled inflorescences that seemed to fit the bill, they had the sheath characteristics of the much commoner *E. multicaulis* (Many-stalked Spike-rush). And so judgement was suspended until another visit could be made earlier in the season.

Thanks to the many people who took part and helped to bring the records up to date. Many other useful sightings were made, for which space is lacking here.

Sphagnum (bog moss) identification training day on Sunday 5 November 2006 – a note by Steve Trotter

More than a dozen members gathered at Wooton Bridge near Holmsley on a bright and cheerful Sunday morning to enjoy the many delights of a typical New Forest bog.

Under the expert guidance of Neil Sanderson, we were shown the important components of a Sphagnum plant – and the key features of the main sections and species of Sphagna found in the New Forest and Hampshire. Neil is currently preparing a photo key and guide to the Sphagna of the area (and Dorset) which should be available on CD shortly and will no doubt prove to be a very useful aid to fieldwork.

Members soon became familiar with;

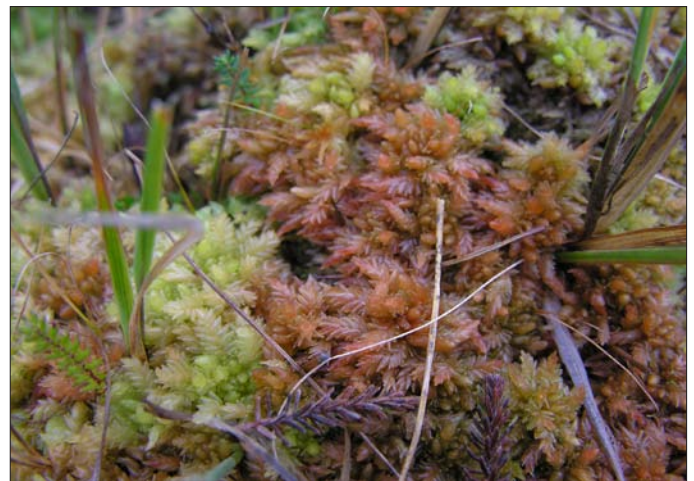
- the distinctive large and hooded branch leaves that separate the Sphagnum Section
- looking for the shape and character of the stem leaves – whether they're pointed, hanging, tiny or frilled as in the distinctive *Sphagnum fimbriatum* whose stem leaves can resemble a beautiful Elizabethan ruff when the head is removed
- the size and robustness of different species – the relatively less robust *S.tenellum* with its concave ovate branch leaves that resemble tiny crab claws at the tips of the branches
- the wide range of subtle and distinctive colours of some species – my favourite being the deep red wine colour of *Sphagnum magellanicum* a robust species of the deeper peat areas
- the shape of the capitulum and the presence of a large terminal bud which can be helpful in reaching a determination - as in *S. teres*.

Although identification may be a little tricky for some species, many, if not most, can be readily identified in the field with a 20X lens, a good key, some practice and a little patience. Adding to the confusion of identification, *Sphagna* can exhibit a surprising degree of plasticity in growth form according to local conditions - and the group is not immune to the problem of a changing taxonomy. Having been raised on *Sphagnum recurvum* – one of the commoner species in the more polluted Pennines and here on southern heaths in a wide range of permanently wet places – I still have to repeatedly remind myself that it

is now *S. fallax*.

It rapidly became apparent that the range and diversity of Sphagnum species in the New Forest is extraordinarily rich. Within just a few hours of foraging in a very small area of the bog, we had revealed a total of 14 or 15 species from the drier parts of wet heath through shade to the deepest and wettest sections of bog. This equates to more than 42% of the British Sphagnum list.

Sphagna, of course, play an important role in boglands and have a fascinating ecology in their own right – with each species having its own particular requirements in terms of the levels of wetness, acidity, shade and base richness in which they grow. Of course, the particular morphology of the Sphagnum plant gives rise to its ability to retain water and create the acidic peat bogs with which we are so familiar. A lunch time discussion mused over the relatively low level of research and understanding that we have of lowland valley mires – compared to the big hairy raised and blanket mires of the north and west. Only a handful of experts have paid much attention to their ecology and conservation -including of course the late Dr Francis Rose. This is probably why they are not really recognised or protected by the Habitat Regulations at the European level – a major omission when their rich diversity and rarity is considered. It has been estimated that the 4000 ha or so of valley mires in the New Forest represents around 75% of the total European resource!



Sphagnum subsecundum by Neil Sanderson

Some time after lunch was spent searching in an area of former willow carr cleared from a central section of the bog by a work party of Flora group members a few years ago. Here we found some excellent clumps of *Sphagnum teres* and *S. subsecundum* – both rare in the south and exciting to see at close hand. The clearance work had clearly been very successful in restoring bog conditions and had subsequently been continued by the Forestry Commission nearby. The original purpose of this work had been to create better conditions for mud sedge *Carex limosa* which, I am pleased to report, was eventually found, although it is not very visible at this time of the year.

The group were also rewarded with a few additional non-Sphagnum treats. These included a fine display of the rare Nail Fungus, *Poronia punctata* and *Splachnum* moss both

growing on pony dung; slender sedge, *Carex lasiocarpa* in the mesotrophic sections of the mire and *Dryopteris cristata* growing in one of the areas cleared from willow carr by the Forestry Commission

All in all an extremely enjoyable day spent on the bog! Many thanks to Neil for a very interesting and stimulating excursion.



The following are the species seen during the Sphagnum identification training (a total of 15 different species):

Species seen on bog (13 species):

- Sphagnum cuspidatum*
- Sphagnum auriculatum*
- Sphagnum compactum*
- Sphagnum contortum* (very rare in lowlands)
- Sphagnum fallax*
- Sphagnum inundatum*
- Sphagnum magellanicum*
- Sphagnum palustre*
- Sphagnum papillosum*
- Sphagnum rubellum*
- Sphagnum subnitens*
- Sphagnum subsecundum* (Nationally Scarce & very rare in lowlands)
- Sphagnum tenellum*

The dark pinkish ochre mounds of a *Sphagnum palustre* group species that caused some confusion on the day and further confusion back at the lab, proved to be a compact dark even coloured form of *Sphagnum palustre*. Hummocks of this form of *Sphagnum palustre* are apparently not unusual in slightly base enriched open mires.

Cleared area on edge of bog had abundant:
Sphagnum subsecundum (Nationally Scarce & very rare in lowlands)
Sphagnum teres (very rare in lowlands)

Species seen in bog woodland (5 species):
Sphagnum auriculatum
Sphagnum fallax
Sphagnum fimbriatum
Sphagnum palustre
Sphagnum teres (very rare in lowlands)

Also seen on pony dung:
Splachnum ampullaceum (very rare in lowlands)

Liverworts epiphytic on Sphagnum:
Calyptogeia fissa
Cephalozia connivens (new to SU29NW)
Cladopodiella fluitans
Kurzia paucifolia

Finally, Neil Sanderson's promised photo guide to Sphagnum species is progressing well, with only two Dorset species to do, and a few individual features to be photographed for other species. Currently it is a 20.8MB word document and the method of distribution is not decided yet. It may be put up as a download on the Flora Group web site, but you will need broadband for this and it will probably also be available at cost (disk, post & packaging) as a CD from Neil.

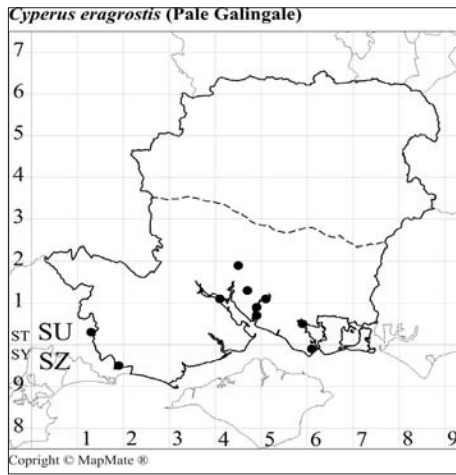
Another invasive alien in Hampshire? - a note by John Norton

Amongst the many non-native plants that are spreading in Hampshire, Pale Galingale *Cyperus eragrostis* is one that Flora Group members should start looking out for. Like its close relative *C. longus* (Galingale) it has spread into the wild through its use as an ornamental pond plant, and is ostensibly a wetland species. However, it also seems to survive in drier habitats, including roadsides and rough ground. Pale Galingale originates from tropical America (according to Stace's New Flora), whereas *C. longus* and the rare *C. fuscus* (Brown Galingale) are both native in Britain (the latter with a national stronghold in Hants).

Eric Clement first pointed out Pale Galingale to me in 2005 - a few plants growing at the base of a garden wall, along a pavement in Alverstoke, Gosport. These plants were about 30-40cm tall at best, but showed the densely-crowded heads of short, elliptic, pointed spikelets, which serve to distinguish the species from *C. longus*, which has looser heads of longer spikelets. Stace gives the spikelet measurement as less than or equal to 2mm wide and 4-25mm long for *longus* and greater or equal to 2mm wide and 8-13mm long for *eragrostis*. *C. eragrostis* normally has green or yellow-brown spikelets, whereas those of *C. longus* are reddish brown.

Eric and I subsequently found a small colony of the species on a pond at Gosport armaments depot on 27 August this year (see photo - thanks to Ian Calderwood). These plants were in a dense stand measuring at least 3m x 3m and greatly exceeded the 60cm height mentioned by Stace (from memory at least 1.2m tall). The plants were growing on drying mud around on the margin of the pond, alongside Sea Club-rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus*, Grey Club-rush *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* and Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. As indicated by this species community the pond is likely to be slightly saline. I should add that the plants had almost certainly not been planted at this location, so presumably they found their way there via the feet, feathers or droppings of birds?

The distribution map of the Hampshire records (see figure) indicates that most to date have been in the Southampton area, with two records for the Avon valley and the aforementioned two for Gosport (records courtesy of Martin Rand). The first record in VC11 was for Upper Hamble Country Park in 1997 by Paul Stanley. One of the dots in Southampton refers to Phil Budd's garden (where 'thoroughly naturalised').



As yet, therefore, it seems that the species is spreading quite slowly and is not strongly invasive, but it could be one to watch out for, given its geographical origins and the current climatic conditions in the UK. I fondly remember finding my first small patch of Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* at Fareham Creek in the early 1970s! Stace also mentions that *Cyperus eragrostis* is 'well-naturalised' in Guernsey, so it may only be a matter of time before it also becomes a familiar plant in southern Hampshire. If, as I suspect, the plant is tolerant of salinity, nutrient enrichment and drought, then it has all the attributes of a modern-day invasive alien. If you come across it deliberately planted, or naturalised, please send your records to the VC recorders (see contact details elsewhere in *Flora News*).



Pale Galingale *Cyperus eragrostis* Gosport armaments depot, 2006

Red-tipped Cudweed task on 9 November 2006 – a report by Tony Mundell

This Red Data Book Endangered plant is an annual that cannot stand much competition, so its seedlings demand fresh bare soil each year. Annual working parties have kept the colony near Fleet going for many years. This year, apart from myself, I only had one volunteer for this task, so three cheers for John Stanley! John walks with two walking sticks but can still wield a spade very effectively. Between us I think we managed to create enough bare ground to keep it going for another year. John also took photos to record the patches where we had removed the bramble roots and disturbed the soil. The best news is that whilst there we

made initial contact with the owners of the adjacent farm (where I know the Red-tipped Cudweed has also been recorded in recent years). If arrangements can be made to manage the colony inside the farm sympathetically, that offers an improved long-term solution for its conservation.

Mapmate data input – a plea from Tony Mundell

You are probably aware that Martin Rand and I jointly hold a huge database of Hampshire plant records using software called Mapmate (see www.mapmate.co.uk for a description of this program). Mainly because I just hate sitting in front of a computer I always have a large backlog of data to be entered. For some time Ann Sankey, the Surrey BSBI Recorder, has had several volunteers helping to input data, so I thought I would ask to see if there are any people who would be willing to help me by entering data for North Hampshire. I can provide sets of printed data that require no interpretation or botanical knowledge. It is just a matter of having the stamina to keep bashing away (carefully!) at a keyboard. It would mean buying a copy of the software (£25) and preferably having internet access (so that entered data can be sent to me using Mapmate's 'synchronisation' capability).

Ideally I would like volunteers living in North East Hampshire so I don't have far to travel when bringing printed data and providing initial instruction. Is anyone willing to help?

Hampshire Flora Group/BSBI exhibition meeting on 2nd December - a note by Natalie Rogers

On Saturday 2nd December, Testwood Lakes Centre hosted the Hampshire Flora Group/BSBI exhibition meeting. Attendees were encouraged to bring along photos, slides and specimens of the flora they had encountered throughout the year.



The afternoon was a great success, with an excellent turnout and array of botanical specimens to inspect. Having had a chance to look at the various specimens, and have a cup of tea, the focus of the day moved upstairs where Martin Rand, Tony Mundell and others talked the group through slideshows of the flora that had been encountered during the season.

I'd like to say a big thanks to all who joined us at Testwood Lakes Centre, and for all of the contributions to the event, be they informative slides of flora sighted over the season or the delicious cakes that were enjoyed by all.

Hampshire Rare Plant Register: Progress Report by Martin Rand

We now have a large proportion of the detailed records for the 'core' Rare Plant Register species entered onto computer; this covers nationally or locally rare plants. There is still a lot of work to do entering up locally scarce and declining plants over the next couple of years. Meanwhile I am working on presenting the data we already have in an attractive, more easily updated format on the Hants Plants web site. (The printed book will follow after the rest of the records are computerised and checked.)

There are quite a few taxa for which a large proportion of the records are over 10 years or even 20 years old. This doesn't always mean they are declining – in fact some of them are national rarities that are widespread on the Forest: it's just difficult to get round all the sites very often! So if you would like a focus for your recording next season, here is a list of the things I want to concentrate effort on in South Hants. (Many of these also occur in North Hants and Tony would welcome fresh records of them anywhere in that area). Obliging, the list turns out to contain easily recognisable plants that beginners can tackle, as well as some things that will give the experts a serious challenge. It gives a general idea of the areas that need to be searched, and guide dates for main flowering periods. Let me know if you want to hunt for any of these, and I will send you a detailed list of old site records. I can also provide recording forms, or you can download them from the HRPR Resources page on the web site: (<http://hantsplants.org.uk/hrprresources.php>)

Of course, any detailed records for any of the plants on the Hampshire Notables schedule will be welcome. The schedule can be downloaded from the same web site; or ask me for a printed copy.

Taxon	Area	Timing
<i>Anagallis minima</i> (Chaffweed)	N and C Forest	Late July
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i> (Corn Chamomile)	Longwood / Upham area	July / Aug
<i>Apera spica-venti</i> (Loose Silky-bent)	Godshill area	July / Aug
<i>Blysmus compressus</i> (Flat-sedge)	Fritham area	July
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i> (Flowering Rush)	Avon N of Fordingbridge, Avon N of Christchurch	July / Aug
<i>Callitriche brutia</i> (Pedunculate Water-starwort)	Forest	Late May - Aug
<i>Callitriche hamulata</i> (Narrow-leaved Water-starwort)	Forest	Late May - Aug
<i>Carex viridula</i> ssp. <i>brachyrrhyncha</i> (Long-stalked Yellow Sedge)	Damerham area	June - July
<i>Cicendia filiformis</i> (Yellow Centaury)	S Forest	July / Aug
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i> (Woolly-headed Thistle)	Martin area	Summer
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i> (Basil Thyme)	Martin area, mid-Hants	Summer
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i> (Frog Orchid)	mid-Hants	Late June - early Aug
<i>Crassula tillaea</i> (Mossy Stonecrop)	W Forest, Avon valley	May - June
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> ssp. <i>pulchella</i> (Bog Early Marsh-orchid)	Forest	Late May - early June
<i>Deschampsia setacea</i> (Bog Hair-grass)	Forest	Late July - early Sept
<i>Epipactis palustris</i> (Marsh Helleborine)	SW Forest, Itchen valley, Purbrook area	Early July
<i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i> (Green-flowered Helleborine)	Itchen and Test valleys	Late July - Aug
<i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i> (Broad-leaved Spurge)	Martin / Damerham areas	June - Aug
<i>Euphrasia pseudokernerii</i> (Chalk Eyebright)	SE downland	Aug
<i>Galium constrictum</i> (Slender Marsh-bedstraw)	C / E Forest	July - early Sep
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i> (Heath Cudweed)	Forest etc	June - Aug
<i>Groenlandia densa</i> (Opposite-leaved Pondweed)	Itchen, Meon	June - Aug
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> ssp. <i>borealis</i> (Northern Fragrant Orchid)	S and W Forest	Mid June - early July
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> ssp. <i>conopsea</i> (Downland Fragrant Orchid)	mid-Hants	Mid June - early July
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> (Henbane)	mid-Hants	June - Aug
<i>Isolepis cernua</i> (Slender Club-rush)	C and E Forest	June - Sept
<i>Juncus compressus</i> (Round-fruited Rush)	Lower Avon	July - Aug
<i>Legousia hybrida</i> (Venus' Looking-glass)	Martin area, Buckholt area	Mid May - July

<i>Lotus subbiflorus</i> (Hairy Bird's-foot Trefoil)	W Forest	Late May - early Aug
<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i> (Marsh Clubmoss)	C Forest	June - Sept
<i>Mysosurus minimus</i> (Mousetail)	S of chalk	Mid April - May
<i>Nepeta cataria</i> (Catmint)	mid-Hants	mid-June - late Aug
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i> (Fly Orchid)	mid-Hants	mid-May to early July
<i>Orchis morio</i> (Green-winged Orchid)	General	May
<i>Papaver argemone</i> (Prickly Poppy)	Martin / Damerham area, Buckholt area	June - Sept
<i>Parapholis incurva</i> (Curved Hard-grass)	W Solent and SW coast	June - July
<i>Persicaria minor</i> (Small Water-pepper)	Forest	mid-July - mid-Sept
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i> (Round-headed Rampion)	Butser / Buriton area	mid-July - end Aug
<i>Pilularia globulifera</i> (Pillwort)	Forest	June - mid-Sept
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i> (Lesser Butterfly Orchid)	Forest, mid-Hants	late May - end June
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i> (Greater Butterfly Orchid)	Martin area, mid-Hants	late May - end June
<i>Potentilla argentea</i> (Hoary Cinquefoil)	Avon valley, scattered S of chalk	late May - July
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i> (Long-leaved Lungwort)	S Forest	Apr - mid-May
<i>Radiola linoides</i> (Allseed)	N and E Forest	mid-June - end Aug
<i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i> (Small-flowered Buttercup)	S Forest, scattered elsewhere	early Apr - early June
<i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i> (Thread-leaved Water-crow-foot)	Scattered	June - Sept
<i>Ranunculus x novae-forestae</i> (New Forest Water-crowfoot)	Forest	late April - end May
<i>Rhynchospora fusca</i> (Brown Beak-sedge)	Forest esp. E, S central	June - early Aug
<i>Salicornia nitens</i> (Shiny Glasswort)	SE coast	Aug - mid-Sept
<i>Salicornia obscura</i> (Glaucous Glasswort)	SE coast	Aug - mid-Sept
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i> (Wild Clary)	Scattered	end May - July
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i> (Annual Knawel)	Scattered S of chalk	Apr - Sept
<i>Silene noctiflora</i> (Night-flowering Catchfly)	Martin / Damerham area, C mid-Hants	June - Sept
<i>Spartina maritima</i> (Small Cord-grass)	Solent and SE coast	Aug - Sept
<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i> (Autumn Lady's-tresses)	General, particularly Forest and E	Aug - mid-Sept
<i>Stellaria neglecta</i> (Greater Chickweed)	Fordingbridge area, Petersfield area	May - June
<i>Stellaria palustris</i> (Marsh Stitchwort)	Lower Avon Valley, Wootton area	Late June - end Aug
<i>Thesium humifusum</i> (Bastard Toadflax)	Martin area, Broughton area	June - Aug
<i>Trifolium glomeratum</i> (Clustered Clover)	S and W Forest, Petersfield area	mid-May - early July
<i>Ulmus minor ssp. angustifolia</i> (Goodyer's Elm)	SW coastal belt	Apr - Sept
<i>Utricularia intermedia</i> (Intermediate Bladderwort)	E Forest	Jul - Sept
<i>Utricularia minor</i> (Lesser Bladderwort)	S Forest	Late June - Sept
<i>Valerianella dentata</i> (Narrow-fruited Cornsalad)	Martin area, Broughton area	Late June - early Aug
<i>Valerianella rimosa</i> (Broad-fruited Cornsalad)	mid-Hants	Late June - early Aug
<i>Vicia lathyroides</i> (Spring Vetch)	Christchurch area	April - May
<i>Viola lactea</i> (Pale Dog-violet)	Forest	May - June
<i>Vulpia ciliata ssp. ambigua</i> (Purple Fescue)	Forest, SW Hayling	June - July
<i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i> (Ivy-leaved Bellflower)	Forest	Late July - early Sept

CONYZA IN HAMPSHIRE – THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

a note by Martin Rand

Having introduced the key for Hampshire *Conyza* species adapted from Sell & Murrell (2006) in the last issue of Flora News, I think I owe readers some further notes, if not a downright apology! As people have pointed out, there are some things that don't work and others that are likely to give rise to confusion.

- 1.) Involucral bracts densely hairy.....2
Involucral bracts glabrous or with an occasional hair.....4

This actually works quite well as long as you don't interpret 'glabrous' too strictly. *C. bilbaoana* group plants tend to have one or two bristly hairs along the midrib of the bract. They may also have minute glands which are sessile over most of the bract but shortly stalked at the base. These glands are undetectable on dried material as far as I can see.

- 2.) Inflorescence of long, slender, rigidly erect, straight branches often from low down the stem;
involucral bracts 3-4 x 0.4-0.5mm.....*C. daveauiana*
Inflorescence of shorter, stouter branches with a great tendency to be curved;
involucral bracts 4-5 x 0.5-0.6mm.....3

I have seen plants from Winchester and two places in the Bournemouth area that have the '*C. daveauiana* habit' described here. Unfortunately the distinction on bract size between these and *C. sumatrensis* doesn't work at all. In fact Sell muddies the waters in the detailed accounts by giving a size range for *C. sumatrensis* that completely overlaps that of *C. daveauiana*.

- 3.) Inflorescence starting about halfway up the stem, ellipsoid and fairly dense; involucral bracts suddenly narrowed halfway to the top.....*C. sumatrensis*
Inflorescence of long, stout branches not forming any regular shape; involucral bracts gradually narrowed all the way to the tip.....*C. bonariensis*

This had a lot of people puzzled, myself included, as we had never seen an involucral bract 'suddenly narrowed halfway'. Then Eric Clement pointed out that it might work if applied to the whole involucre, not the individual bract. Certainly *C. sumatrensis* does show this character, as do the plants with '*C. daveauiana* habit'. It is important to look at involucres that have developed beyond the bud stage but are not yet running to seed.

- 4.) Whole plant yellowish-green in appearance.....*C. canadensis*
Whole plant dull greyish-green in appearance.....5

Sell omits another highly diagnostic character, which is that *C. canadensis* has four corolla-lobes to its tube florets and the other species have five. Indeed, in the detailed account he states that *C. canadensis* has five! In my experience one can occasionally find plants matching *C. canadensis* with a very small proportion of their tube florets with five lobes, but overwhelmingly they have four. I have never seen any other taxon with four.

- 5.) Ultimate flowering branches short and wide; involucral bracts obtuse at apex.....*C. bilbaoana*
Ultimate flowering branches long and narrow; involucral bracts acute at apex.....*C. floribunda*

Certainly there are plants that show quite clearly the habit difference described here, although without a quantitative measure of 'short and wide' vs. 'long and narrow' it's difficult to know where to draw the boundaries. But the bract character is problematic. For a start, the acuteness of the bract tips varies from outermost to innermost bracts, all outer bracts normally being acute. Bract tips in this species pair are somewhat membranous and break up at maturity, adding to the difficulty of judgement; but in my experience plants of either habit tend to have bract tips varying from acute to subacute, and not obtuse. An exception was found this year in a few plants in a population at Hamble, which had both the short, wide upper flowering branches and the obtuse bracts described here.

Just to complicate things further, two plants have appeared in Winchester this year that definitely belong in this pair, but have the habit of *daveauiana*. They are closer to *floribunda* as described in Sell & Murrell, but do not match in all details.

There are several other problems with matching Hampshire plants to the detailed Sell & Murrell accounts, and at present I would not want to name any plant in Hampshire other than as *canadensis*, *bonariensis* (for which in fact there is no modern record), '*sumatrensis* agg.' (encompassing *sumatrensis* and *daveauiana*) or '*bilbaoana* agg.' (encompassing *bilbaoana* and *floribunda*). With *Conyza triloba* also appearing in Europe recently (Sida (2003)), perhaps the situation will become even more interesting. These plants deserve further study, and I hope to publish a longer review in BSBI News at a later date.

References

Sell, P & Murrell, G (2006). *Flora of Great Britain and Ireland* vol. 4 pp. 456-459, Cambridge.

Sidar, O (2003): *Conyza triloba*, new to Europe, and *Conyza bonariensis*, new to the Czech Republic. *Preslia* 75: 249-254, Praha.

VC11 Records compiled by Martin Rand

The steady influx of aliens into the county continues, with more new species and an apparent spread of known ones (or are people just recording them more?). When talking to colleagues in other parts of the country, it's been interesting to note how many of those that have spread in Hampshire in recent years are now making headway farther north.

Although aliens and casuals play a prominent part in the list below because of their novelty, I'd like to acknowledge the many valuable records that have come in for our rarer native and archaeophyte plants. These don't always feature in the list, because they are often from areas where the previous record is not decades old. But they are giving us a detailed picture of populations and changes over time that counts for more than just a 'dot on a map'.

Pride of place for a new find ought to go to the Chiltern Gentian (*Gentianella germanica*) recorded at Martin Down by Marion and David Nesbitt. This is an entirely new site and indeed new area, with only one record farther south-west in Britain. I say 'ought to go' because I feel I am cheating by laying claim to it. Although in administrative Hampshire, it's actually in botanical vice-county 8 (South Wiltshire).

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*.

Recorder abbreviations: AIH = Audrey Hold, AJBa = Andy Barker, BF = Brian Fellows, BG = Barry Goater, B&JG = Barry and Jane Goater, DL = David Leadbetter, DRA = Debbie Allan, GC = Ginnie Copsey, GDF = Geoffrey Field, ILR = Ian Ralphs, JAN = John Norton, JPd = John Poland, JRWH = Ralph Hollins, MEY = Elizabeth Young; MR = Martin Rand, MWR = Mike Rowe, NAS = Neil Sanderson, NJ = Nigel Johnson, PM = Peter Marston, RCR = Clare Rand, RMV = Roger Veall, RMW = Robin Walls, RR = Richard Reeves, VS = Vera Scott.

Records for the next issue by early June, please.

Agrostemma githago (Corncockle): Fritham Grange, SU236139; 08 Jul 2006; MR. In mix sown under new tree planting. 1st for SU21 since 1970 though a clear introduction and unlikely to persist.

• *Alisma lanceolatum* (Narrow-leaved Water-plantain): ditch near Bridge Road car park, Emsworth, SU747060; 12 Aug 2006; BF & NJ conf. MR from fruit. 1st for SU70. An extraordinary new record; there appear to be no previous records from the SE of the county.

Amaranthus bouchonii (Indehiscent Amaranth): Garnier Road, Winchester, SU489281; 16 Aug 2006; MR & JPd. On A31 roundabout. 1st for SU42.

Amaranthus hybridus (Green Amaranth): Buckholt, SU280326; 25 Jul 2006; MR & BJG. In maize strip on W edge of arable. 1st for SU23.

Ambrosia artemisiifolia (Ragweed): Havant town centre, SU717063; 21 Sep 2006; JRWH; voucher specimen Hb MR. Destroyed by civic beautifiers one week later. 1st for SU70.

Anaphalis margaritacea (Pearly Everlasting): Merdon Avenue, Chandlers Ford, SU439215; 07 Jul 2006; MR. Garden escape on road verge. 1st for SU42.

Anthemis austriaca (Austrian Chamomile): Sheepwash, SZ132938; 29 Jun 2006; RMW. 1st for SZ19.

Araucaria araucana (Monkey-puzzle): Milford-on-Sea, SZ278920; 31 Mar 2006; B&JG. Single large tree in poor condition in scrub west of Danes Stream, SZ27859207. 1st for SZ29.

• *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain): Ober Water, SU252038; 09 Sep 2006; MR & RMW. Although mapped in the Flora of Hants, there is no corroborating record and this appears to be the 1st localised in tetrad.

Barbarea verna (American Winter-cress): Westbourne etc, SZ0791; 03 Jul 2006; RMW. 1st for SZ09 since 1970.

Bassia scoparia (Summer-cypress): A3(M) Horndean, SU7013 and SU7014; 18 Oct 2006; MR. 1st for SU71.

[•] *Brassica nigra* (Black Mustard): nr Beaulieu, SU390018; 7 Jun 2006; VS. Solent Way nr Beaulieu (outside sewage works enclosure), SZ3907 0188. Several plants. 1st for SU30.

• *Briza minor* (Lesser Quaking Grass): Sowley, SZ367963; 2 Jul 2006; MR. Dominant to abundant over hundreds of metres in unsown arable strip on W and N edges of field (estimated 20,000+ flowering stems). This is a well-known site, but when last recorded in 2000, 3 plants were seen.

• *Cakile maritima* (Sea Rocket): Alum Chine etc, SZ0790; 3 Jul 2006; RMW. 1st for SZ09 in vc11 since 1966.

Cannabis sativa (Hemp): Palmers Road Copse, Emsworth, SU751060; Aug 2006; BF. 2 plants. 1st for SU70 since 1970.

☛ *Convallaria majalis* (Lily of the Valley): Havant Thicket, Rowlands Castle, SU719108; 21 Jul 2006; JRWH. 100+ plants none having flower stems growing in 50 metre stretch beside main track. Bracken had been cleared from the area last year to let the plants have light. This may be a native site. First for SU71 in vc11.

Conyza sumatrensis (Guernsey Fleabane): A31 Poulner, SU1605; 10 Oct 2006; MR. A31 Ocknell, SU2411; 10 Oct 2006; MR. 1st for SU10. A31 Stoney Cross, SU2511; 10 Oct 2006; MR. A31, Cadnam, SU2813; 10 Oct 2006; MR. 1st for SU21. East Meon, SU682221; 11 Aug 2006; GC. Pavement weed. 1st for SU62.

Corydalis cheilanthifolia (Fern-leaved Corydalis): Alum Chine etc, SZ0790; 3 Jul 2006; RMW. 1st for SZ09.

☛ *Crithmum maritimum* (Rock Samphire): Bunny Meadows, Warsash, SU488063; 22 Aug 2006; PM. 3 flowering clumps. Bunny Meadows, Warsash, SU489067; 22 Aug 2006; PM. 1 flowering clump. 1st for SU40 since an unlocalised record by Westrup probably from the 1950s.

Crocus tommasinianus (Early Crocus): All Saints Church, Upper Ratley, SU323234; 19 Mar 2006; B&JG. Well established. 1st for SU32. Colden Common churchyard, SU486215; 23 Mar 2006; B&JG. A few plants, not truly established. 1st for SU42.

Crocus vernus (Spring Crocus): Sherfield English, Churchyard, SU290223; 19 Mar 2006; B&JG. A few plants, not truly established. 1st for SU22. Colden Common churchyard, SU486215; 23 Mar 2006; B&JG. A few plants, not truly established. 1st for SU42. Wickham churchyard, SU575115; 23 Mar 2006; B&JG. A few plants, not truly established. 1st for SU51.

Crocus x stellaris (Yellow Crocus): Swanmore churchyard, SU576163; 23 Mar 2006; B&JG. A few plants, not truly established. 1st for SU51.

Datura stramonium (Thorn-apple): Havant rail station, SU718066; 24 Aug 2006; JRWH. 1st for SU70 since 1970.

Digitaria sanguinalis (Hairy Finger-grass): Carisbrooke Way, Highcliffe, SZ203941; 26 Jul 2006; DL. A number of plants growing on the pavement and gutter nr junction of Carisbrooke Way and Firshill. 1st for SZ29. Merdon Avenue, Chandlers Ford, SU440213; 7 Jul 2006; MR. 20 plants, N side of road opp school, as pavement weed. 1st for SU42 since 1970.

Diurichia graveolens (Stinking Fleabane): Ringwood area, SU10; 17 Sep 2006; Alan Lewis. Eastleigh Airport, SU447167; 18 Sep 2006; Simon Leach. In shrubbery / flower beds outside Premier Travel Inn, Southampton Airport, SU4476 1674. Visited by MR on 10 Oct 06 when three small plants found. A31 Bratley, SU2209; 10 Oct 2006; MR. A31 Ocknell, SU2411; 10 Oct 2006; MR. A31 Stoney Cross, SU2611; 10 Oct 2006; MR. A31 Malwood, SU2712; 10 Oct 2006; MR. A31 Shave Green, SU2812; 10 Oct 2006; MR. A31, Cadnam, SU2813; 10 Oct 2006; MR; voucher Specimen Hb MR. Specimens taken from Cadnam roundabout. M27, Cadnam, SU2913; 10 Oct 2006; MR. M27, Cadnam, SU2914; 10 Oct 2006; MR. M27, Copythorne, SU3014; 10 Oct 2006; MR. M27 Ower, SU3216; 10 Oct 2006; MR. A334 Wildern, Hedge End, SU485135; 16 Oct 2006; RCR conf. MR. M27 nr Soton Airport, SU4415; 18 Oct 2006; MR. M27 Stoneham, SU4416; 18 Oct 2006; MR. M27 West End, SU4814; 18 Oct 2006; MR. A31 Ashley, SU1304; 29 Nov 2006; MR. 1st for vc11.

This plant has only been recorded in Britain before as a casual mostly in wool-shoddy, and its widespread establishment on the Hampshire trunk road network is remarkable, although not too surprising given its spread elsewhere in the world.. A forthcoming article in BSBI News gives more details.

Dryopteris affinis subsp. affinis (Golden-scaled Male Fern): Blashford Lakes NR, SU151079; 2 Jan 2006; MR. Locally frequent, woodland and scrub S of Study Centre. 1st for SU10. Wootton Coppice Inclosure, SZ248995; 10 May 2006; MR. 1st for SZ29.

Dryopteris x deweveri (*D. carthusiana* x *dilatata*): Castle Hill, Woodgreen, SU167163; 20 Aug 2006; MR & RCR. Sizeable patches with *D. dilatata* on moist foot of scarp. 1st for SU11. Green Pond area, SU225134; 8 Jul 2006; MR. 2 plants in relict woodland at SU2257 1348. 1st for SU21.

☛ *Epilobium lanceolatum* (Spear-leaved Willowherb): Ocknell Inclosure (SU245114) 8 Jul 2006; MR. On trunk of fallen tree. 1st for SU21.

☛ *Epipactis phyllanthes* (Green-flowered Helleborine): Itchen Navigation, Bishopstoke, SU463195; 29 Jul 2006; PM. 1 clump with 12 flowering spikes in bud on E side of Itchen Way at SU4638 1956. New site.

☛ *Erica ciliaris* (Dorset Heath): East of Fernycrofts, SU369057; 26 Sep 2006; RR. One plant in wet / humid heath away from paths. 1st in tetrad.

Erodium moschatum (Musk Stork's-bill): Ganger Farm, Romsey, SU376233; 25 Jul 2006; MR & BG. Locally abundant, mostly in fallow formerly carrying strawberry crop. 1st for SU32.

Euphorbia lathyris (Caper Spurge): Stanpit, SZ169924; 1 Jun 2006; DL. Near path at N side of recreation field. 1st for SZ19 since an unlocalised record by Phoebe Yule from ?1950s.

☛ *Euphrasia micrantha* (Slender Heath Eyebright): Fritham Plain, SU218130; 8 Jul 2006; MR. Rare. New tetrad.

☼ *Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed): Alum Chine etc, SZ0790; 3 Jul 2006; RMW. 1st in tetrad since 1930. NE of Fawley Power Station, Calshot, SU476024; 12 Jul 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. Locally abundant on short open grazed turf over shingle. 1st in tetrad.

Galinsoga quadriradiata (Shaggy Soldier): East Meon, SU682221; 11 Aug 2006; GC. Pavement weed. 1st for SU62.

☼ *Gentianella germanica* (Chiltern Gentian): Martin Down, SU058193 (vc8); 24 Aug 2006; Marion & David Nesbitt. 11 plants in downland. 1st for SU01. One of the best new finds of the year: in administrative Hampshire, although outside the vice-county.

Geranium x oxonianum (Druce's Crane's-bill): Warsash Churchyard, SU499055; 18 Jun 2006; MR & JAN. 1st for SU40.

☼ *Glaucium flavum* (Yellow Horned Poppy): Below Highcliffe Castle, SZ204929; 14 Jun 2006;DL. New tetrad. Hurst Beach, SZ2990; 5 Sep 2006; Nicholas Montegriffo. 1st in tetrad.

Hieracium exotericum (Jordan's Hawkweed): Woodlands Caravan Park, Flexford, SU422221; 9 Jul 2006; MR. conf. K J Adams. On ballast introduced as hard standing for vehicles. Merdon Avenue, Chandlers Ford, SU438215; 7 Jul 2006; MR. conf. K J Adams. Edge of pavement on N side of road W of Kingsway. These appear to conform well to the species description in Sell & Murrell (2006), whereas those from the chalk farther N in SU42 do not, as noted in FoH 1996.

Hieracium koehleri (Koehler's Hawkweed): Plants by the old railway at St Cross, SU4728, have been previously tentatively assigned to *H. exotericum* (FoH 1996). GDF and MEY noted the large population along the old railway and canal banks in 2006. These appear to be a good match for *H. koehleri* described in Sell & Murrell (2006), but I have not yet been able to find anyone with a knowledge of the species to confirm this. If correct it would be New for vc11.

Hieracium vagum (Glabrous-headed Hawkweed): Oakwood Road, Chandlers Ford, SU436217; 7 Jul 2006; MR redet. K J Adams. At jct with Forest Road on S side of Forest Road, pavement edge, 4 flowering stems. This plant was originally tentatively identified by MR as *H. salticola* but rejected as such by KJA on leaf shape and dentition. It perhaps deserves further consideration; if confirmed it would be New for vc11, being chiefly a plant of Wales and NW England.

☼ *Illecebrum verticillatum* (Coral-necklace): Plumley Wood, Ringwood Forest, SU116098; 7 Jul 2006; NAS. In a dried out puddle on track at SU11606 09886, covering a few plants in area 10cm diameter, with *Juncus bulbosus*, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Gnaphalium uliginosum*. New tetrad record. Mogshade Hill, SU239096; 1 Feb 2006; VS & AIH. At SU2393 0967. New tetrad record.

Iris versicolor (Purple Iris): Shawford, SU472252; 18 Jun 2006; PM. 1 large clump flowering W of path at SU47290 25236. On 01 Aug 2006 large seed pods present with brown seeds. 1st for SU42.

[☼] *Lapsana communis subsp. intermedia* (Large-flowered Nipplewort): Whites Hill, Owslebury, SU510233; 2006; Ernest Sears. Through to SU507240. New tetrad.

Larix x marschlinsii (Hybrid Larch) (*L. decidua* x *kaempferi*): Throop etc, SZ1095; 30 Jun 2006; RMW. 1st for SZ19.

Lemna minuta (Least Duckweed): Hale, SU176183; 20 Aug 2006; MR & RCR. Margins of R Avon below Hale Church. Nr S Charford Farm, SU172189; 20 Aug 2006; MR & RCR. Backwaters of R Avon. 1st for SU11.

Lemna trisulca (Ivy-leaved Duckweed): Study Centre pond, Blashford Lakes, SU150079; 7 May 2006; MR & Sarah Stille. 1st for SU10 since ?1950s

☼ *Limonium humile* (Lax Sea Lavender): Sims Wood, Beaulieu, SU411005; 19 Jul 2006; MR & RCR. A few plants at SU4111 0059. 1st for SU40 since 1936.

☼ *Linum bienne* (Pale Flax): Anglesey S / Gilkicker, SZ602983; 1 Jun 2006; JAN, DRA & D. Tinling. Horse paddock, about 6 plants. 1st in tetrad since 1950.

Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip-tree): S.Parley, SZ0996; 30 Jun 2006;RMW. 1st for SZ09.

Lonicera x italica (*L. caprifolium* x *etrusca*): Fritham, SU231139; 8 Jul 2006; MR. Garden escape onto forest edge. 1st for vc11. This is the common garden plant resembling Perfoliate Honeysuckle (*L. caprifolium*) and is likely to be more widespread.

☼ *Lotus subbiflorus* (Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil) : Alum Chine etc, SZ0790; 3 Jul 2006; RMW. 1st in tetrad in vc11. Sheepwash, SZ132938; 29 Jun 2006; RMW. 1st in tetrad since 1965.

☼ *Ludwigia palustris* (Hampshire-purslane): Nr Penny Moor, Bishop's Dyke, SU353045; 22 Jun 2006; NAS & Andy Cross. Single patch in main ditch at SU35357 04544. New tetrad.

☛ *Lycopodiella inundata* (Marsh Clubmoss): Cadnam Common, SU285152 (vc8); 16 Aug 2006; Simon Curson. 1st in tetrad since 1960. W of Decoy Pond Farm, Black Down, SU352072; 27 Aug 2006; NAS. Two patches along edge of a human-used path from ford at W end of Decoy Pond Farm along edge of wet heath towards main path, SU3535 0728. E patch: frequent over 3m, 21 cones seen. W patch abundant over 2m, c. 100 cones. 1st in tetrad since 1958. Nr Longdown Inclosure, SU351080; 20 Jul 2006; NAS. A patch covering about 0.5m by a path at SU35159 08016. 1st in tetrad since 1958.

Melilotus altissimus (Tall Melilot): St Thomas Park, Lymington, SZ321954; 1 Aug 2006; MWR. One plant in roadside gutter, S end of St Thomas Park. 1st for SZ39.

Myosotis ramosissima (Early Forget-me-not): Casbrook Common roadside, SU354255; 1 May 2006; BG. 1st for SU32 since 1930.

☛ *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid): A3090 nr Larkfarm Plantation, Hursley, SU438272; 22 Jun 2006; AJBa. Small woodland strip, N side of road, SU43852724. 5 spikes in leaf litter. 1st in tetrad since 1959.

Nicandra physalodes (Apple-of-Peru): Hall Lands, Fair Oak, SU500191; 7 Sep 2006; GC. One plant in concrete crack. 1st for SU51.

Nigella damascena (Love-in-a-mist): Sewage works, SU709052; 23 May 2006; JAN. Locally frequent on dumped soil. 1st for SU70.

☛ *Oenanthe lachenalii* (Parsley Water-dropwort): Sims Wood, Beaulieu, SU407011; 19 Jul 2006; MR & RCR. About 20 plants over an area 6m x 4m at SU4077 0112, 6 plants at SU4077 0113, 1 plant at SU4075 0110, 4 plants at SU4074 0111. 1st in tetrad since 1960 and possibly a new site.

Osteospermum jucundum (Osteospermum): Throop etc, SZ1095; 30 Jun 2006; RMW. 1st for vc11.

[☛] *Parapholis strigosa* (Hard Grass): Tom Tiddlers Ground, Calshot, SU480020; 12 Jul 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. Rare, bare damp ground by informal path. 1st in tetrad.

Pennisetum villosum (Feathertop Grass): Eastern Parade, Southsea, SZ6685; 23 Jul 2006; George Hounsome det. Bruno Ryves. A couple of metres W of the junction with Cousins Grove, at the foot of a chain link fence separating the footway from a cricket pitch. 1st British record.

☛ *Persicaria mitis* (Tasteless Water Pepper): Mill Stream, Ringwood, SU148045; 20 Aug 2006; NAS & Andy Cross. Frequent in a large rut of a track just W of ford on S bank of Mill Stream, SU1485 0452. Frequent in rutted gateway 10-20m S of this on W side of track to Kingston North Common. Scattered plants along this track to entrance to common, SU1488 0442. 1st in tetrad.

☛ *Petroselinum segetum* (Corn Parsley): Driveway, Sandy Point Road, Hayling Island, SZ746984; 27 Jul 2006; JRWH. 1st for SZ79 since 1930.

Pilosella aurantiaca (Fox and Cubs): Holdenhurst STW etc, SZ1395; 20 Jun 2006; RMW. 1st for SZ19.

☛ *Pinguicula lusitanica* (Pale Butterwort): E of Crabhat Inclosure, SU396051; 23 Sep 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. Seepage line in small flushed valley, SU3961 0512. 1st in tetrad since 1977.

☛ *Poa infirma* (Early Meadow-grass): Friars Cliff, Mudeford, SZ194928; 29 Mar 2006; MR. In gravel bank separating open space above beach from road to Steamer Point car park. Verified from anther size. 1st in tetrad.

☛ *Potamogeton obtusifolius* (Blunt-leaved Pondweed): Meadow Lake, Testwood, SU345163; 10 Aug 2006; ILR conf. C D Preston Sep 2006; voucher specimen Hb ILR. At SU3453 1632. 1st for SU31.

☛ *Potamogeton pusillus* (Small Pondweed): Testwood Lakes, SU342157; 10 Sep 2006; MR. Pond in Alder Gully. Stipules checked microscopically. New site.

Potentilla recta (Sulphur Cinquefoil): Ashlett, Fawley, SU467031; 12 Jul 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. Well-established by track in reclaim. New site. Browndown Ranges, SZ584991; 4 Jun 2006; JAN & DRA. North edge, c.20m E of Browndown Road gate at SZ5841 9915. 1st for SZ59 in vc11.

Puccinellia distans (Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass): A31 / M27 J1, Cadnam, SU288135; 17 Oct 2006; B&JG & MR. End of A31 N-bound off slip at SU28871350. 1st for SU21.

☛ *Puccinellia rupestris* (Stiff Saltmarsh-grass): Tom Tiddlers Ground, Calshot, SU480020; 12 Jul 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. Bare damp ground by informal path. 1st in tetrad.

☛ *Raphanus raphanistrum* subsp. *maritimus* (Sea Radish): Haslar RN Cemetery, SZ610986; 10 May 2006; JAN & DRA. On disturbed ground in grassland area, SZ6101 9862. 1st in tetrad; although mapped in tetrad in FoH 1996, only supporting record in vicinity is for SU6096, which is not mapped.

☛ *Rhynchospora fusca* (Brown Beak-sedge): Dur Hill Down, SU195007; 12 Aug 2006; NAS. Locally frequent in open wet heath (M16c), SU19539 00739 to SU19544 00726. 1st in tetrad.

☛ *Rosa rubiginosa* (Sweet Briar (sens str.)): Shawford Down, SU470247; 14 Oct 2006; RMV. At SU47062476. 1st in tetrad. Hockley Golf Course, Twyford Down; SU486265; 7 Oct 2006; RMV. Beside footpath in strip of woodland beside golf course. 1st in tetrad. Paulsgrove Pit, Portsdown, SU635065; 14 Jun 2006; BSBI group. 1st in tetrad. Hayling Island, Sinah Common, SZ6999; 29 Jun 2006; Dr Steve Chandler. 1st in tetrad.

Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary): Privett Road / Jellicoe Avenue, SZ598996 14 Jun 2006; JAN & DRA. One plant on top of old wall, presumed self- or bird-sown. 1st for SZ59.

Rubus laciniatus (Cut-leaved Bramble): Horestone Hill, SU398065; 23 Sep 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. Colonising heathland, and heathy ground in recently cleared conifer plantation. 1st for SU30.

✿ *Rumex crispus* subsp. *littoreus*; (Shore Curled Dock): Pylewell, SZ358952; 2 Jul 2006; MR. 1st in tetrad. E of Fawley Power Station, Calshot, SU478022; 12 Jul 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. On littoral shingle ridge, with subsp. *crispus*. 1st in tetrad. Hamble Common, SU478060; 22 Oct 2006; MR. On shingle beach, two plants with much larger quantity of subsp. *crispus*. 1st in tetrad.

✿ *Sagina maritima* (Sea Pearlwort): Friars Cliff, SZ192925; 13 May 2006; DL. Promenade, SZ192/3 925. 1st in tetrad. N of Fawley Power Station, SU474028; 11; 12 Jul 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. Open stony upper margin of saltmarsh. 1st in tetrad. Stokes Bay Road, SZ599984; 31 May 2006; JAN & DRA. N side of recreation area e.g. SZ5990 9848. 1st in tetrad since 1963.

✿ *Sagina nodosa* (Knotted Pearlwort): Ocknell Plain, SU231119; 8 Jul 2006; MR & RCR. On old airfield site. 1st in tetrad.

Salix x multinervis (*S. aurita* x *cinerea*): SE of Denny Lodge, SU337052; 18 Aug 2006; MR & RCR. Single bush in drainage ditch. 1st in tetrad.

✿ *Sarcocornia perennis* (Perennial Glasswort): Hythe Spartina Marsh, SU4307; 16 Aug 2006; MR & JPD. Particularly on mud around shell beds. 1st in tetrad.

✿ *Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue-leaved Saxifrage): Christchurch, SZ1592; 5 May 2006; DL. Car park of Kings Arms. 1st in tetrad.

Senecio inaequidens (Narrow-leaved Ragwort): Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SU440195 1 Oct 2006; MR. Single plant under M3 motorway just W of old Manor Bakery site, N side of Leigh Road. 1st in tetrad.

Setaria viridis (Green Bristle-grass): M3 just N of Junction 12, SU4522; 14 Aug 2006; MR. End of N-bound slip. 1st for SU42.

✿ *Silene noctiflora* (Night-flowering Catchfly): S of Texas, Olivers Battery, SU456266; 4 Jul 2006; MR. On plant, field edge just NE of BC Reserve. Olivers Battery, SU457272; 4 Jul 2006; MR. Field edge by footpath 1st in tetrad.

Silene x hampeana (Pink Campion) (*S. dioica* x *latifolia*): Gilkicker Point, SZ607975; 19 May 2006; JAN & DRA. Rough grassland near scrub, E of Fort Gilkicker. 4 or 5 plants with one plant of *S. latifolia*, SZ6077 9751. 1st for SZ69.

✿ *Sonchus palustris* (Marsh Sow-thistle): Fawley Power Station, SU472029; 12 Jul 2006; Hampshire Flora Group. 80+ flowering stems in a band about 20m long, along shoreline at SU4724 0296. 4 more flowering stems c. 40m NW. 1st in tetrad and third tetrad recorded for vc11.

Sorghum bicolor (Great Millet): Hall Lands, Fair Oak, SU500191; 7 Sep 2006; GC. One plant in concrete crack. 1st for SU51.

Tagetes patula (French Marigold): Smugglers Lane North, Highcliffe, SZ200945; 21 Jul 2006; DL. Pavement weed. 1st for SZ29.

✿ *Torilis nodosa* (Knotted Hedge-parsley): Copse Way, Highcliffe, SZ201936; 2 Jun 2006; DL. New site.

✿ *Trifolium glomeratum* (Clustered Clover): Steamers Point NR, SZ201930; 1 Jun 2006; DL. Short turf E of warden's house. Copse Way, Highcliffe, SZ201936; 2 Jun 2006; DL. 1st in tetrad since 1930.

✿ *Trifolium suffocatum* (Suffocated Clover): Stanpit Marsh, SZ172922; 1 Jun 2006; DL. E side of Stanpit Marsh near seat. 1st in tetrad. Fort Rd / Stokes Bay Rd, SZ600984; 31 May 2006; JAN & DRA. Locally abundant on short, trampled, & barish areas, in strip c.2-3m wide along N side of short, mown, recreation field, e.g. SZ6002 9844. 1st in tetrad.

Verbena bonariensis (Argentinian Vervain): Stanpit, SZ169924; 20 Jul 2006; DL. Waste ground N of Stanpit recreation ground. 1st for SZ19. Clive Road, Highcliffe, SZ201947; 21 Jul 2006; DL. Pavement weed. 1st for SZ29. Everton Tip Road, SZ311931; 21 Oct 2006; MWR. 3 large plants, disturbed soil near landfill site. 1st for SZ39.

Veronica peregrina (American Speedwell): Exbury Gardens, SU422006; May 2006; Ralph Goodchild. Edge of Azalea Walk. 1st for SU40.

✿ *Vulpia ciliata* subsp. *ambigua* (Purple Fescue): Car Park, Lansdown Road, Bournemouth, SZ094917; 22 May 2006; RMW. Car park which has not been tarmaced, SZ0946 9177. 1st for SZ09 in vc11.

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VC12 records compiled by Tony Mundell

Here is another set of my personal selections from the records received recently. They include many 'cracking good' records of scarce arable 'weeds' from John Moon that are managing to hang on in NW Hampshire. Chris Hall has submitted his splendid annual update of records, mainly from heathland areas in the NE – only a selection from them is shown here. The previous two issues of Flora News included records of unusual adventive weeds found at Longstock Park Nurseries, and this issue adds several extra species. This nursery imports small trees in tubs from northern Italy (and probably from other countries) so evidently some other plants are hitching a lift. As noted in previous issues, map references should be treated as approximate, and again I have omitted the 'SU' to save space. Publication of these records does not mean that public access is available – indeed in many cases it is not.

First a correction: In the Spring 2005 issue of Flora News there is a record of *Sorbus croceocarpa* collected at Danebury Ring by David T Price, det. Tim Rich, with the specimen lodged at Hb.NMW. To cut a longer story short, on 10 Nov 2006 Tim let me know that he has re-determined it as ordinary *Sorbus aria*.

Some people who attended the HFG meeting at Eelmoor Marsh on 17 June 2006 may recall some tufts of a sedge at 84635351 amongst normal *Carex binervis*, but with an unusual mixture of male and female flowers at its apex. The specimen was confirmed as *C. binervis* by Arthur Chater on 15 Sep 2006, who added that several species of *Carex* occasionally do this.

The spread of *Illecebrum verticillatum* (Coral necklace) continues, with several extra sites being reported. All the sites are on MOD land used by military vehicles. It has been searched for unsuccessfully at The Slab, Bordon. This MOD training area has masses of very suitable habitat for it, but is frequented by vehicles from a different unit. Presumably they have not yet picked up any of its seed on their tyres!

Amaranthus retroflexus (Common Amaranth) c.20 robust plants on roadside of Hitches Lane, Crookham Village 793528, Tony Mundell 3 Aug 2006.

Ammi majus (Bullwort) A seed contaminant, widely scattered (together with *A. visnaga*) across an arable field sown mainly with legumes as part of an 'organic' crop rotation, near Overton 53354799, 53364799, 53394800, 53414800, 53464807 etc, Tony Mundell & John Moon 25 Jul 2006, conf. Mervyn Southam.

Ammi visnaga (Toothpick-plant) A seed contaminant, widely scattered (together with *A. majus*) across an arable field sown mainly with legumes as part of an 'organic' crop rotation, near Overton e.g. at 53424803, 53434803, 53434804, 53474808, 53484808, 53504809 etc, conf. Mervyn Southam.

Anagallis tenella (Bog Pimpernel) Southwood, still at meadow beside Kennels Lane sports fields, but much decreased, 83905514, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2006, meadow unmanaged. Elvetham Heath, on disturbed ground near motorway, patch 80 x 80cm, 80525592, Chris Hall 28 Jun 2006. Also beside the main north-south ride where ground disturbed, 14 patches 80645588 – 80625576, Chris Hall 13 Jul 2006. Also on east margin of LNR where ground disturbed, 80315548, two patches, Chris Hall 10 Aug 2006.

Anisantha diandra (Great Brome) A seed contaminant, widely scattered across an arable field sown mainly with legumes as part of an 'organic' crop rotation, near Overton 534480, Tony Mundell & John Moon 25 Jul 2006.

Baldellia ranunculoides (Lesser Water-plantain) Fleet Pond, turf-stripped part of Coldstream Marsh, 23 plants in flower, probably others still immature, 82485493 / 82475494, Chris Hall 5 Jul 2006. It had been strongly suspected that there would be seeds at this site, though the habitat has been overgrown for 30+ years.

Bromus secalinus (Rye Brome) Many thousands throughout field east of Quarley Down Farm 242417, amongst oats, occurs amongst the farm's self-saved seed, John Moon 25 Jul 2006.

Carex curta (White Sedge) Yateley Common, still present on margin of Wyndham's Pond c.823596, Chris Hall 11 May 2006. Hawley Lake, margin of overgrown bay where rhododendron recently cleared, 83815735 / 83825734, 21 tufts, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2006.

Carex disticha (Brown Sedge) Purdies Meadow north of Hartley Wintney, along seven metres of silted up ditch, 76515831, Chris Hall 12 Jun 2006.

Carex hostiana (Tawny Sedge) Eelmoor Marsh, newly cleared glade at south edge, 83725310, 224 spikes, Chris Hall 30 May 2006, and in *Molinia* mire to west of field hut, 14 patches 83945292 / 83935296 / 83945299 / 83975299 / 83945300 / 83945301, Chris Hall 1 Jun 2006. Foxlease Meadows, has responded well to grazing; two sites, c.5 x 10m at 83205690 / 83205691 and c.160 spikes at 83245691 / 83255690, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2006.

Carex pulicaris (Flea Sedge) Eelmoor Marsh, has reappeared in mire close to Eelmoor Marsh Track, where mown last winter then grazed, 22 plants, 84045304, Chris Hall 1 Jun 2006. Eight other sites extant at Eelmoor currently. Hazeley Heath, very localised and becoming very overgrown 76325806, 20 tufts, Chris Hall 12 Jun 2006.

Carex rostrata (Bottle Sedge) Elvetham Heath (formerly Sheepmoor), in and beside a boggy ditch for several metres 80765597 – 80755598, following disturbance and tree felling, Chris Hall 11 Jul 2006.

Centaurea cyanus (Cornflower) Six plants along west margin of field east of Quarley Down Farm 242417, amongst oats, origin unclear, John Moon 25 Jul 2006.

Centaureum pulchellum (Lesser Centaury) 100 plants on track parallel to B3049, Stockbridge Down 385345, John Moon 15 Jul 2006. Yateley Heath Wood, many plants in c.10 x 10m on little used ride near Penny Hill, 81085772,

Chris Hall 21 Jun 2006. Cody Technology Park north of Eelmoor (former Cove Common) found in June 2006 by Betty Hansell, verges of minor road linking Victor Way to Valiant Way and around building X109, 84675390—84795392, c.1500 plants in six main groups, Chris Hall 8 Jul 2006. Eelmoor Marsh Track, much decreased, site dried out and droughted, c.50 plants along about five metres, 83805324, only where protected from direct sun, Chris Hall 4 Aug 2006.

Chamaemelum nobile (Chamomile) Hartley Wintney Cricket Ground, much decreased presumably due to drought (grass all parched and brown), only two small patches found c.769569, Chris Hall 16 Aug 2006.

Chrysanthemum segetum (Corn Marigold) 60 plants on west side of Stone Curlew plot in Tower Field, Cholderton Estate, Quarley 239413, origin uncertain, John Moon 4 Aug 2006.

Cirsium dissectum (meadow Thistle) Southwood, meadow beside Kennels Lane, two patches 83895514, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2006.

Cirsium eriophorum (Woolly Thistle) One plant half way up Red Post Lane, on east verge, Abbots Ann 329445, John Moon 27 Jul 2006.

Colchicum autumnale (Meadow Saffron) Conholt & Rushmore Downs 33800 54767 ±114m (sic), a colony extending 33m south of the GPS reading along a ride and a smaller colony on the original edge of Oakdown Copse, Neil Sanderson 13-14 Jun 2005.

Coronopus squamatus (Swine-cress) One plant in a field entrance west of Berry Court Farm, Nether Wallop 300355, John Moon 1 Aug 2006.

Crassula tillaea (Mossy Stonecrop) Very locally plentiful on top of sandy hill at Longmoor Inclosure 78853009, Tony Mundell 7 Sep 2006.

Crocus tommasinianus (Early Crocus) Extensive patch naturalised in parkland, growing with *Galanthus nivalis*, Longstock House 358388, Barry & Jane Goater 17 Feb 2006.

Cruciata laevipes (Crosswort) Noar Hill c.74203204, on path parallel to fence east of North Pit, between blackthorn rows and the cattle crush, Sue Clark 8 Sep 2006, not noted at Noar Hill previously.

Cuscuta epithymum (Dodder) Elvetham Heath, on young Calluna in central dry heath restoration area where plantation cleared, five patches, 80485586 / 80515584, Chris Hall 28 Jun 2006, first found at this site by the site ranger, Laura Willing in 2005. Another patch to east, 80565580, Chris Hall 29 Jun 2006. Hazeley Heath, sparsely on heather burned last year, 76505812, 76505809, 76525805, Chris Hall 12 Jul 2006. Crookham Common, on mown Calluna by Gelvert Bottom 82785329, Chris Hall 27 Jul 2006. Crookham Common west side of Forester's Hill, several large patches on mown heather, 82535268 / 82515270 / 82495271 / 82485273, the most I have ever seen at this location, Chris Hall 12 Aug 2006. Small patch on Calluna beside path at Bourley Hill, below Ceasar's Camp, 83685051, Tony Mundell 25 Aug 2006. Small patch on *Ulex minor* at Crookham Common 8232353091, Ian Ralphs 17 Aug 2006.

Cyclamen hederifolium (Cyclamen) Single plant with 7 flowers beside hedgerow on footpath along field edge at North Warnborough 72825153, Pat Ugle 31 Aug 2006, conf. Tony Mundell 5 Sep 2006, well away from houses.

Cyperus fuscus (Brown Galingale) Longstock Nurseries 367388, Phil Budd 24 Aug 2006, det. Eric Clement.

Dactylorhiza incarnata pulchella (Early Marsh Orchid) Ancells Meadows, five in flower, 82445582, Chris Hall 5 Jun 2006. Eelmoor Marsh, 28 spikes this year, in six locations, 8352 / 8353 / 8453, Chris Hall 7 Jun 2006.

Dactylorhiza maculata ericetorum (Heath Spotted Orchid) Hazeley Heath, locally plentiful on south heath, 76495802, 125 spikes, 76465798 / 76445795 / 76445798, 222 spikes, Chris Hall 12 Jun 2006.

Digitaria sanguinalis (Hairy Finger-grass) Several clumps in flower in tubs containing imported trees, Longstock Park Nurseries 367388, Barry & Jane Goater & Tony Mundell 13 Jul 2006, conf. Martin Rand.

Drosera intermedia (Oblong-leaved Sundew) Basingbourne Heath, 50 plants at 80825262, Chris Hall 31 May 2006. Elvetham Heath, apparently locally rare as former sites have all been destroyed by development, 14 plants on small open patch of peat 80285550, Chris Hall 10 Aug 2006.

Eclipta prostrata One plant in flower in one of the large tubs at Longstock Park Nurseries 367388, Barry & Jane Goater 27 Oct 2006, det. Martin Rand, conf. Eric Clement. This plant in the Asteraceae is a native of the tropics.

Elatine hexandra (Six-stamened Waterwort) Fleet Pond, Coldstream Marsh on turf-stripped ground, small plants already in flower, 82495492 / 82495495, Chris Hall 5 Jul 2006; very locally abundant near south edge 82485492, Chris Hall 26 Aug 2006. Fleet Pond East Marsh, 12 plants at 82465508 where turf stripped, Chris Hall 24 Jul 2006. Fleet Pond North East Marsh, on ground trampled last winter, at least 25 small patches where disturbance was greatest 82245519, Chris Hall 24 Jul 2006.

Epilobium palustre (Marsh Willowherb) Elvetham Heath, still in marsh by the alder wood, 80385586, Chris Hall 29 Jun 2006. Also c.140 plants in small glade in Sheepmoor Carr 80715597, Chris Hall 11 Aug 2006. Hazeley Heath, still locally plentiful in flush at base of old tank ramp, 76505771, Chris Hall 12 Jul 2006.

Epipactis phyllanthes (Green-flowered Helleborine) Eelmoor Marsh, verge of Laffan Track, 3 at 83755304, 2 at 83825297, 1 at 83835295, Chris Hall 7 Jul 2006. Pyestock Hill, ten along track margin under bracken, 83455367, Chris Hall 8 Jul 2006. Shoe Lane, Farnborough 862530, two spikes on eastern side of road, Terry Hotten 15 Aug 2006. Several at Isle of Wight Wood, Porton Down 24773714, with many *E. helleborine* nearby, Ailsa McKee 24 Jul 2006.

Epipactis purpurata (Violet Helleborine) Noar Hill, ten spikes in bud, two of which are outside the fence and the rest beside the mature beech c.74533186, Pamela Lee 23 Jul 2006.

Equisetum telmateia (Great Horsetail) Damp track margin near Hawley Lake 83735741, 43 plants, Chris Hall 21 Jun 2006.

Euphorbia exigua (Dwarf Spurge) c.10,000 plants, abundant throughout the Stone Curlew plot in Tower Field, Cholderton Estate, Quarley 239413, John Moon 4 Aug 2006.

Euphorbia maculata Comments were made about this and the closely similar species *E. thymifolia* in the Autumn 2006 issue of Flora News. On 13 Jul 2006 Barry & Jane Goater & Tony Mundell found it in several places at Longstock Park Nurseries, as a weed in various flower pots including a huge tub containing an Olive tree at 36753885, some plants with, and some without, black blotches on the leaves. Barry and Tony both collected pieces for identification. On examining Barry's specimen Eric (pers. comm. 19 Jul 2006) commented that it "agreed well with material of *E. maculata* in his herbarium, and stated that the seed size (1-1.1mm) is too large for *E. thymifolia* (0.8-0.9mm). The latter is said to always be without black-blotched leaves, the branching is different, more thyme-like with smaller side branches, and has yet to be recorded [with certainty] in Europe". It comes from tropical regions. Subsequently on receiving Tony's two specimens Eric confirmed that the piece with spotted leaves is *E. maculata*, although the branching habit of the piece without spotted leaves was close to *E. thymifolia*. Eric pointed out that the prostrate Euphorbias are a most puzzling group, with lots of variation and species limits not at all clear. It seems best to call these (but not the two extra species noted next!) *E. maculata* (which is illustrated on the cover of BSBI News 13).

Euphorbia oblongata (Balkan Spurge) Longstock Park Nurseries 36713892, two plants in gravel path in propagating area, Barry Goater & Martin Rand 25 Jul 2006. This has an upright habit and has warty fruits rather like *E. platyphyllos*.

Euphorbia prostrata Longstock Park Nurseries 367388, in small quantity in a tub containing Cupressus leylandii aurea, Barry & Jane Goater 25 Jul 2006, det Martin Rand, conf. Eric Clement. This has more circular leaves than *E. maculata* and has differences in the capsule hairs. It is glabrous on the three capsule faces, whereas *E. maculata* is hairy all over.

Euphrasia nemorosa* var. *calcareae Specimens from bare chalky soil at Micheldever Spoil Heaps 51994448 and also from the northern part of Micheldever Spoil Heaps 52024504, HFG meeting 30 Jul 2006, both det. Alan J. Silverside 15 Sep 2006.

Euphrasia nemorosa* x *confusa Several large robust plants on chalky soil at Noar Hill 74173189, Tony Mundell 14 Sep 2006, specimen det. Alan J. Silverside 15 Sep 2006.

Filago vulgaris (Common Cudweed) Elvetham Heath, dry bank by Turner's Pond 80165537, 31 small trampled plants, Chris Hall 29 Jun 2006. Also 45 plants in the LNR beside main north-south ride 80625585, Chris Hall 11 Jul 2006 and c.130 plants at 80655589, Chris Hall 13 Jul 2006.

Fumaria parviflora (Fine-leaved Fumitory) Four plants along NW margin of field west of Quarley Hill 252243, where previously recorded, John Moon 25 Jul 2006.

Galega officinalis (Goat's Rue) Near Micheldever, very large patch next to a field by the railway cottage on the western side of the railway arch at 452389, Michael Edwards 31 Jul 2006.

Galeopsis angustifolia (Red Hemp-nettle) 100 plants on west side of Stone Curlew plot in Tower Field, Cholderton Estate, Quarley 239413, John Moon 4 Aug 2006. It occurs naturally and spasmodically throughout this estate.

Galinsoga quadriradiata (Shaggy Soldier) One plant in flower in one of the tubs at Longstock Park Nurseries 36763886, Barry & Jane Goater & Tony Mundell, 13 Jul 2006.

Genista anglica (Petty Whin) Pyestock Heath, still present, looking more vigorous now that the heath is grazed, five shrubs 82795407, Chris Hall 29 Apr 2006. Bartley Heath, plants noted at 72885336, 72845344, 72875347, 72865346 and 72845344, Tony Mundell 26 Aug 2006.

Genista tinctoria (Dyer's Greenweed) Foxlease Meadows, still well-established in several places towards east end, 7 x 2m at 83325689, 6m long at 83325677; also at 83265678, 83245677, 83225676, all Chris Hall 21 Jun 2006, probably increased.

Gentiana pneumonanthe (Marsh Gentian) A systematic count by HWT using 15 people gave a total of 794 plants at Bartley Heath. The population boundary now covers a greater area than previous mapping in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Some of the greatest concentrations are at 72795347, 72855344, 72845337, 72935352 etc, and a white-flowered plant was noted at 72845338, Tony Mundell 26 Aug 2006.

Geranium columbinum (Long-stalked Crane's-bill) Single plant in a rabbit scuff, near centre of Danebury Ring 323337, John Moon 10 Sept 2006.

Gnaphalium sylvaticum (Heath Cudweed) Fleet Pond dry heath 82375527, a patch 20 x 12cm, Chris Hall 15 May 2006. Elvetham Heath, on restoration area where plantations cleared, 80575580 - 120 plants in grassy heath, 80595579 - 22 plants, 80565580 - 18 plants, Chris Hall 29 Jun 2006. A further 60 plants nearby at 80615578, Chris Hall 13 Jul 2006. Also by path near south end of LNR, a patch about 1m across, 80305546, Chris Hall 2 Aug 2006. The original Railroad Heath site was destroyed by new housing.

Hydrocotyle vulgaris (Marsh Pennywort) c.100 plants at MOD Barton Stacey, Area 6, 43324185, under fence across field, John Moon 25 Sep 2006.

Illecebrum verticillatum (Coral Necklace) Walking parallel to the disused railway track at Longmoor, on 3 Sept 2006 Bill & Chris Wain found additional sites for this plant in many puddles and in bare sand on the NE side of the railway track from 797302 to 796300. They also reported that it was prospering well, and more prolific, at the known site by the tumulus on Longmoor at c.802299. I heard that June Chatfield had found it near Broxhead Common in Dec 2005 but did not then have a precise location, however Bill & Chris Wain have since found what must be June's site. Bill reported on 8 Sep 2006 that at some points it is the dominant plant in the Broxhead Common area to the west of the A325, showing as white patches along the track edge, along the track 20m from the lower field edge, running at least from c.797374 to c.799379. Tony Mundell visited this area on 24 Nov 2006 and found it widespread, with some still in flower, in much of this triangular block of land west of the A325 (which is riddled with wet sandy tracks used by army vehicles). The main colonies are beside the main track 20m from the adjacent field, but it also occurs on the track closest to the A325. Some specific colonies were noted at 79993724 (near road), 79963728 (abundant), 79753745, 79943734,

79813751, 79883755, 79893757, 79893762, 79913767 (really dominant), 80043761 (towards road), 80103763 (near road), 80173787 (near road), 80073767 (plentiful beneath power lines quite near the road). It has also extended its range at Long Valley, Aldershot - patch of several square metres beside inlet pipe to silt-trap pond at c.83675249, John Stanley, Aug 2006.

Isolepis setacea (Bristle Club-rush) South of Tweseldown, a few plants where ground disturbed, 82385130, Chris Hall 15 Jun 2006. Elvetham Heath, scattered in damp grass beside cycle path 80495570, 35 fine plants, Chris Hall 29 Jun 2006. Also very locally frequent beside the north-south ride 80635587 – 80645592 and the grassy ride adjacent to the motorway 80725601, Chris Hall 13 Jul 2006.

Kickxia elatine (Sharp-leaved Fluellen) One plant on unsown arable edge of footpath to Hill Houses 57502871, also two at Fuller's Wood 56262969, both Ginnie Copey 16 Sep 2006.

Kickxia spuria (Round-leaved Fluellen) c.10,000 plants, abundant throughout the Stone Curlew plot in Tower Field, Cholderton Estate, Quarley 239413, John Moon 4 Aug 2006.

Lithospermum arvense (Corn Gromwell) Six plants along NW & N margins of field west of Quarley Hill 252243, where previously recorded, John Moon 25 Jul 2006.

Lycopodiella inundata (Marsh Club-moss) Long Bottom (Aldershot Common), the site at the path junction 82455001 has 161 plants but few cones; also two plants on the wet heath 84285004 and nine plants on the minor path 84285003, Chris Hall 14 Jul 2006. Scrub was cleared from this heathland last winter. Crookham Common, 107 plants but few cones, 82345317, Chris Hall 27 Jul 2006. Ian Ralphs reported 35 plants with 2 cones at this latter map reference on 17 Aug 2006. This site was damaged by contractors last winter and just escaped burning at Easter. Brocks Hill, 33 scattered plants, site droughted, 82845245, Chris Hall 27 Jul 2006. Brocks Heath, has now colonised a turf scrape (created Jan 2002), three small groups totalling 18 plants including three with stroboli, 82885248, Chris Hall 26 Oct 2006. Ian Ralphs also submitted a record for this latter site when he noted 8 plants, only one fruiting, around 75 m east of the foot of Brock's Hill in a seasonally inundated scrape at 8287552488 on 13 Sep 2006. Hawley Common sites: 83925816, 125 plants, fruiting well; 83655805, margin of firebreak in two places, 57 plants 83655806, 84 plants in heath; 83645807, c.800 plants; 83615806, 245 plants, all Chris Hall 16 Sep 2006. The Slab, Bordon, still present 40 plants at 78133499, scrub cleared last winter but heathland vegetation still unmanaged, Chris Hall 22 Sep 2006.

Menyanthes trifoliata (Bog-bean) One plant at MOD Barton Stacey, Area 6, 43274190, one third of way along ditch from stream, John Moon 25 Sep 2006.

Oenothera rubricaulis Colony of c.50 plants at Long Valley, Aldershot 83755269, specimens collected Tony Mundell 16 Aug 2006, det. Rose J. Murphy 17 Sep 2006. Has small flowers with fresh petals only 12-19mm x 13-19mm.

Ophioglossum vulgatum (Adder's Tongue Fern) North Eelmoor, 19 small fronds in a square metre 84675367; 108 large fronds in 175 x 140cm near airfield fence 84765352, both Chris Hall 19 May 2006. In old meadow by Nashes Lane, Ewshot, 28 ferns, 81405086, Chris Hall 15 Jun 2006.

Ophrys apifera (Bee Orchid) 23 on north bank of Balksbury Hill, Abbots Ann 349444, an increase over last year, John Moon 7 Jul 2006.

Ophrys insectifera (Fly Orchid) Conholt & Rushmore Downs, single spike at 34630 55296 ±6m, Neil Sanderson 13-14 Jun 2005.

Orobanche hederæ forma monochroa (Yellow form of Ivy Broomrape) 10 flower spikes amongst stinging nettles beside small lay-bye on minor road SW of Medstead 63523622, John Rowe, det. Tony Mundell 16 Aug 2006. This lovely plant seems to be spreading. The colony immediately outside the Public Record Office in Winchester 47852900 is increasing, where Tony Mundell noticed over 50 old spikes, a few still showing colour on 8 Nov 2006.

Papaver hybridum (Rough Poppy) 500 plants amongst opium poppy crop in and around field corner south of Abbots Ann to Fullerton road, Goodworth Clatford 356404, John Moon 16 Jul 2006. 60 plants amongst oats along west margin of field east of Quarley Down Farm 242417, John Moon 25 Jul 2006. 25 plants spread throughout the Stone Curlew plot in Tower Field, Cholderton Estate, Quarley 239413, John Moon 4 Aug 2006. 12 plants on east edge of field which is adjacent to west side of Thruxton Airport/Race Track 273456, John Moon 12 Aug 2006.

Parentucellia viscosa (Yellow Bartsia) Elvetham Heath, margin of Turners Pond 80135543, 20 plants, Chris Hall 29 Jun 2006. North Eelmoor, Laffan Meadow, 600+ plants in four open groups c.848½536½, Chris Hall 5 Jul 2006.

Paris quadrifolia (Herb Paris) Conholt & Rushmore Downs, colony at 34316 54380 ±32m, two other colonies at Mascombe Copse 34533 55054 ±21m and 34624 55008 ±21m, Neil Sanderson 13-14 Jun 2005.

Persicaria bistorta (Bistort) Nashes Lane, Ewshot 81375069, site now overgrown by scrub but about 60 leaves present. The site on the north side of the lane is now a bramble thicket. On old rifle range north of Nashes Lane, locally abundant but not flowering 81245086 / 81245084, all Chris Hall 15 Jun 2006.

Phyteuma orbiculare (Round-headed Rampion) Many hundreds widespread throughout the NE quarter of Stockbridge Down, where it seems to be spreading, John Moon 15 Jul 2006. No trace found of the single plant that was at Noar Hill c.73963188 in 2004 and 2005, Pamela Lee 23 Jul 2006.

Poa compressa (Flattened Meadow-grass) Cove Radio Station, on dry bank beside west pond, 83645348, extending for 3m, Chris Hall 27 Jun 2006, conf. Tony Mundell.

Platanthera chlorantha (Greater Butterfly Orchid) Conholt & Rushmore Downs, nine spikes at 34830 55167 ±8m to 34836 55187 ±7m, a single spike at 34476 54541 ±6m, and another at 34535 54665 ±6m just outside the SSSI, Neil Sanderson 13-14 June 2005.

Polypogon monspeliensis (Annual Beard Grass) Two clumps with about 10-15 flower heads on disturbed brownfield site within QinetiQ, Farnborough 838544, Gareth Knass Sep 2006, det. Andy Cross. This is close to where Tony Mundell

found numerous plants of it around tall banks of bulldozed soil inside QinetiQ at 840542 and beside the QinetiQ access road around 838541 in 2003 and 2004. Like *Polygonum viridis* it is spreading rapidly on other brownfield sites, and was found in several places in Hants and Berks while surveying for BSBI Local Change.

Potentilla inclinata (Grey Cinquefoil) Longstock Park Nurseries 36803879, between paving stones in ornamental garden, and in adjacent bed, also present as a potted specimen in the propagating area, Barry Goater & Martin Rand 25 Jul 2006.

Prunus domestica insititia (Bullace) Row of trees forming tall hedge along arable field beside Hitches Lane, Crookham Village 794531, Tony Mundell 3 Aug 2006. Obviously planted but noted because of their remarkable abundance of sweet yellow and red fruit – a feature noticed in many Bullace trees at other sites this year, no doubt weather-related.

Pyrola minor (Lesser Wintergreen) Near Eelmoor, pinewood by Tyte Track, south side 83955370, c.330 plants; north side 83945371, c.155 plants under bramble and bracken, Chris Hall 10 Jun 2006. Crookham Common just south of the road, near The Foresters, last seen 2002, habitat now unsuitable. Forestry work in early 2002 blocked watercourses and caused local flooding of the pinewood, 827527, not found Chris Hall 27 Jul. Searched again, but area too wet at both former sites, Chris Hall 14 Oct 2006. Tony Mundell confirmed that the sites south of the road are now lost but it does still occur north of the road adjacent to the car park, where on 16 Nov 2006 there was a patch 3m x 2m at 82745276. However, other immediately adjacent plants have been buried beneath a pile of trees and scrub, ironically dumped here after being cut as part of the adjacent heathland restoration.

Pyrus communis? (Pear) Single mature tree in hedgerow beside minor road at Bramley 64425848, shown to Tony Mundell by Bill Helyar on 20 May 2006, fruiting specimens collected by Paul Sterry 8 Sept 2006. Fruit varying from nearly spherical to somewhat pear-shaped, leaves pubescent. Provisionally det. as this, rather than *P. pyraeaster*, by Tony Mundell but awaiting expert confirmation as these two species seem to intergrade.

Pyrus pyraeaster (Wild Pear) One mature tree at Danebury Ring 324377, about 100m from main entrance going towards centre, John Moon 26 Aug 2006, provisionally det. Tony Mundell, specimen subsequently confirmed Tim Rich 10 Nov 2006. Fruits nearly spherical with a persistent calyx and leaves are glabrous.

Radiola linioides (Allseed) Brocks Heath near Tweseldown, minor path east of Brocks Hill, 82845246, 97 small plants, Chris Hall 27 Jul 2006.

Ranunculus sardous (Hairy Buttercup) Elvetham Heath, in parched short grassland both sides of the main north-south ride 80645582 / 80635582, 32 plants on east side, 17 plants on west side; also 4 plants north of the track junction 80645590; also three by the pumping station 80755601; all on imported soil used to make up the track, Chris Hall 11 Aug 2006, conf. Tony Mundell. Very tall plants in disused sand quarry at Kingsley 777379, Bill Helyar c.20 Jun 2006.

Rosa micrantha (Small-flowered Sweet-briar) Noar Hill, Selborne, locally plentiful, on 14 Sep 2006 Tony Mundell mapped the locations of 52 bushes in 100m squares 739319, 740319, 741319, 741318, 742318, 742319, with samples from bushes at 73913194 and 74033195 conf. Roger Maskew 15 Sep 2006. No doubt there are many more in other parts of the reserve not searched yet.

Rosa obtusifolia x canina Noar Hill, Selborne 74133191, one bush, Tony Mundell 14 Sep 2006, det. Roger Maskew 15 Sep 2006.

Rosa stylosa x canina Noar Hill, Selborne 73893193, one bush, Tony Mundell 14 Sep 2006, det. Roger Maskew 15 Sep 2006.

Sanguisorba officinalis (Greater Burnet) Birchbrook Reserve, Cove, one clump at 85645658 and another nearby at 85635661, conf. Tony Mundell 29 Jul 2006, found here earlier by Jill Wyatt and precise location communicated to Tony by Antonia Hebbert.

Scandix pecten-veneris (Shepherd's Needle) 51 plants on edges of 2m wide footpath across a field of barley, north of Berry Court Farm, Nether Wallop 300358, John Moon 1 Aug 2006. "Both flowers and seeds present on most plants. Rather late for this species so presumably it was spring-sown barley. Plants noticed during a cross-country run." (I bet that stopped him!)

Setaria pumila (Yellow Bristle-grass) One plant in flower in one of the tubs, Longstock Park Nurseries 367388, Barry & Jane Goater & Tony Mundell 13 Jul 2006, conf. Martin Rand.

Setaria viridis (Green Bristle-grass) Large clump near allotments at Cove, 85645655, Tony Mundell 29 Jul 2006.

Silaum silaus (Pepper Saxifrage) 17 plants in unimproved damp meadow beside A287 NW of Crondall, Tony Mundell 30 Aug 2006.

Solanum nigrum ssp. schultesii Frequent in some of the tubs at Longstock Park Nurseries 368387, Barry Goater & Martin Rand 25 Jul 2006.

Stachys officinalis (Betony) 200 plants spread over a patch 20m x 20m in new access area at Stockbridge Down 381355, John Moon 15 Jul 2006.

Solidago virgaurea (Goldenrod) Plentiful in various places near top of Caesar's Camp, Aldershot, 100+ beside track 83595041 to 83595036, 50+ beside track 83595028 to 83575024, 100+ beside track 83935008 to 84045014, 20 beside water channel 83785032, 50 beside water channel 83655037 to 83595030, all Tony Mundell 25 Aug 2006.

Stachys palustris (Marsh Woundwort) 25 in dry corner at field entrance, near Lower Whitehill Cottages, Overton 514474, John Moon 21 Jul 2006.

Stipa tenuissima (a Needle Grass) Several young plants seeded into gravel path at Longstock Nursery 36713892, amongst many *Polygonum viridis*, Barry & Jane Goater & Tony Mundell 13 Jul 2006.

Teucrium botrys (Cut-leaved Germander) Six mature plants and 50 seedlings at Little Park Farm, Field F16, Abbots Ann 329451 on northern headland, mostly 20-30m from field entrance, John Moon 2 Aug 2006. Field not cultivated for last two years so difficult to know if this population will persist.

Thalictrum flavum (Common Meadow-rue) One plant beside fishermen's path alongside Dever at MOD Barton Stacey, Area 6, 43418, John Moon 25 Sep 2006.

Thesium humifusum (Bastard Toadflax) Magdalen Hill Down, 17+ plants at 50562912, 12+ plants at 50552915 and 30+ plants at 50362925, HFG meeting 6 Aug 2006.

Urtica urens (Small Nettle) One plant in a field entrance west of Berry Court Farm, Nether Wallop 296355, John Moon 1 Aug 2006.

Utricularia minor (Lesser Bladderwort) Eelmoor Marsh, about 150 flowering stems in pool by Dennis Gate 83985354, Chris Hall 14 Jun 2006. It has also colonised another pool, near Foden Gate 84215361, several patches around margin, Chris Hall 7 Jun 2006.

Valeriana dioica (Marsh Valerian) Elvetham Heath, several populations in Sheepmoor Carr and the alder carr in the northern parts of the LNR, c.807559, 890558, Chris Hall Jul/Aug 2006.

Verbena officinalis (Vervain) In some quantity along the stretch of woodland ride running NE-SW through Heart Copse, south of Alresford Golf Course, c.585307, Alida Butcher 3Aug 2006.

Viola lactea (Pale Heath Violet) Eelmoor Marsh, 30 plants in grazed lawn by Whirlwind Track 84645351, Chris Hall 3 May 2006. Eelmoor Marsh, 28 plants on verge of Guy Track near cattle grid 84545373, also 700 plants estimated in central grass heath 84485348 / 84515347, and small numbers in mown heath to west 84405347 and south 84505345, all Chris Hall 25 May 2006. Bartley Heath, seven plants on the bank towards north end 72825351; locally plentiful to south of pylon at 72845338 / 72855339, 130 plants, Chris Hall 5 May 2006. Peter & Jane Vaughan sent Tony Mundell photos from Bartley Heath 72895348, near the pylon, taken on 14 May 2006, and Tony judged them to be *V. lactea*. Peter showed the plants to Tony on 26 Aug 2006, who agreed that with leaf blades 2.2 times as long as wide, at least some of this colony were the pure species, although others could be the hybrid *V. lactea x riviniana* which often occurs with *V. lactea*.

X Dactyloglossum mixtum (Hybrid Frog x Common Spotted Orchid) On 26 Aug Rachel Remnant mentioned to me that a plant thought to be this had been found in summer 2006 near the northern end of Gentian Pit at Noar Hill (I interpreted her directions as c.74103199). I went but it was too late to find even the dead spike. This needs checking in 2007.

Compiled 28 Nov 2006.

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**To receive *Flora News* via email,
please contact Natalie Rogers (details overleaf)**



Sphagnum training day - photo by Catherine Chatters

If you would like to keep up to date with the events taking place in and around Hampshire, then why not join the species e-group? Hantsspecies is a discussion group for the various Hampshire Species Groups, which are co-ordinated by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

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

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Potentilla palustris by Jutta Manser