

Introduction and Acknowledgements

Introduction

This Flora is an account of all vascular plants found growing wild in Devon from the earliest record, Danish Scurvey-grass *Cochlearia danica*, reported in 1633, to the present day and, like its two predecessors, it has been undertaken by members of the Botany Section of The Devonshire Association.

There have been earlier accounts of the Devon flora, the most recent being the *Atlas of the Devon Flora* (Ivimey-Cook 1984). This maps records made mostly between the 1950s and early 1980s, but little attention was given to critical groups or garden escapes and many old records were given a simple, cursory entry. Before this, the *Flora of Devon* (Martin & Fraser 1939) summarised all that had been published from the earliest times together with records collected by The Devonshire Association Botany Section. It records every species found growing wild in Devon including those in most of the critical genera. It is used here as the primary source of records made before 1939 but every effort has been made to check original sources and add additional information where appropriate.

The current project was first suggested at the Annual General Meeting of the Botany Section of The Devonshire Association in 2000, by which time both the Flora and the Atlas were out of date, many new records had been published in the annual reports in *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, critical species had been examined in light of more recent taxonomic ideas and new field work had been conducted throughout the county. Little was done until 2005 by which time two of the authors had retired from full-time employment and it was clearly the right time to get on with the project. Field work continued while the species accounts were being prepared but a line for the inclusion of records has been drawn at the end of 2014, by which time all the individual species accounts had been written and typeset. Records collected during 2015 and subsequently will be added to the Association's database and the more interesting published in the annual reports in *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* as they have been since 1910.

Devon is a very large county, with a very rich flora. Nevertheless, it was decided at an early stage to include accounts of every species ever found in the wild, including all those in the critical genera, but not to map the most common and widespread ones in order to keep the size under some sort of control. At one time it was hoped to include charophytes, bryophytes and lichens as well, but the county charophyte records were not readily available, the bryophyte recorders were not ready to publish and the lichens are already well-served by Barbara Benfield's *The Lichen Flora of Devon* (Benfield 2001). Had these been included the final published work would have been truly monumental!

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All maps have been produced using MapMate ©.

In the Chapter headed Devon Landscapes, Figures 3 and 4 were produced by Tim Farewell, and Figures 5, 6 and 7 were compiled by Sue Rodway-Dyer (Plymouth University).

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- Frontispiece: Roger Smith
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– and in the species accounts:

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: *Asplenium × jacksonii* © The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Reproduced with the consent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

David Allen: *Lilium pyrenaicum*

Lesley Austin: *Trifolium incarnatum* subsp. *molinerii*

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Paul Etherton: *Coincya wrightii*

Roger Hamling: *Vicia bithynica*, *Cotoneaster ignotus*, *Hammarbya paludosa*

Bob Kirby: *Salicornia pusilla*, *S. fragilis*, *Hypopitys monotropa*, *Datura stramonium*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*

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*littoralis*, *Ulex gallii*, *Polygala vulgaris*, *Filipendula vulgaris*, *Rubus altiarcuatus*, *R. vigorosus*, *R. albionis*, *R. purbeckensis*, *R. prolongatus*, *R. subinermoides*, *R. sprengelii*, *R. adscitus*, *R. cinerosiformis*, *R. sempernitens*, *R. coombensis*, *R. micans*, *R. leyanus*, *R. rilstonii*, *R. scaber*, *R. tuberculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *P. argentea*, *Geum* × *intermedium*, *Alchemilla xanthochlora*, *Rosa arvensis*, *R. × pseudorusticana*, *R. × andegavensis*, *R. × dumalis*, *R. tomentosa*, *R. sherardii*, *Prunus avium*, *Sorbus anglica*, *S. porrigentifomis*, *Cotoneaster cooperi*, *C. dielsianus*, *Rhamnus cathartica*, *Urtica urens*, *Parietaria judaica*, *Quercus cerris*, *Q. robur*, *Myrica gale*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Euonymus europaeus*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Euphorbia helioscopia*, *E. portlandica*, *E. cyparissias*, *Elatine hexandra*, *Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia*, *Salix alba*, *S. viminalis*, *S. aurita*, *Viola hirta*, *V. 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