

In this issue:

[Editorial](#)

[Botanical News
and Notes](#)

Recorders
Reports:

[Vascular Plants](#)

[Fungi](#)

[Lichens](#)

Editorial

Thanks to those of you who came to our AGM last month – I hope you had an enjoyable day. Although the cold snap at the start of the month was a bit of a shock, spring, and all the botanical delights it brings, is now with us. As a reminder of what's to come, this issue of the newsletter focuses on the Recorders reports from last year.

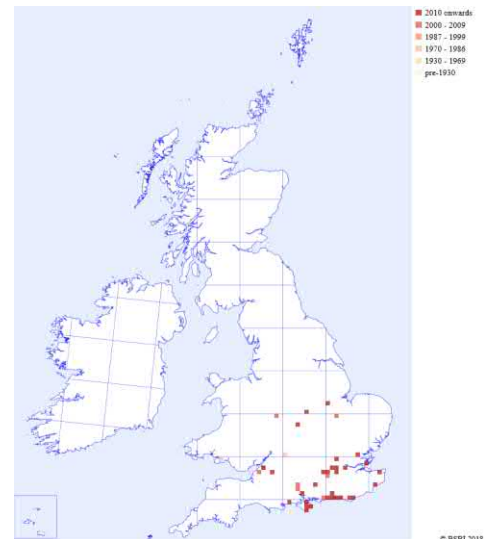
Tim (tim.purchases@gmail.com)

Botanical News & Notes

***Euphorbia maculata* - First Devon record for North American alien**

From David Cann

Although I have been at my present home for seven years and probably walked past *Euphorbia maculata* many times it was only in 2017 that I noticed it. It was growing in the gravel at the end of the drive to Libbets Well off Church Street, Crediton. Quite a small population and so far none seen anywhere else in Crediton. It is an annual and usually prostrate but can apparently grow to 6 inches. It has spread over North America, very much a weed rather than ornamental. (*An image of the plant is on the next page*)



BSBI Distribution map for *Euphorbia maculata*



Euphorbia maculata (image: David Cann)

Kickxia elatine* vs *K. spuria

Peter Reay and Roger Smith recently had an interesting email exchange, discussing the identity of a young, non-flowering *Kickxia* sp. plant that Peter and Lesley Austin found at Southdown Farm, near Bolberry in November 2017. Images are below. Peter suspected *K. spuria* from an examination of the leaf hairs and comparison with more obvious *K. elatine* growing nearby. The relative hairiness of the two species is an important feature in Poland's Vegetative Key (the leaf shape of the basal leaves in *K. elatine* are less hastate than those of the middle and upper sections of the plant, so in young plants may not be so useful in distinguishing the two species). However, it seems there is more

overlap that Poland implies. Roger pointed out that in Sell and Murrel's flora two subspecies of both plants are mentioned and the following descriptions are given:

K. elatine. Stems with short, slender glandular hairs and long pale simple glandular hairs, sometimes rather sparse, sometimes dense, branched from the base. Leaves with numerous sparse to dense, very short to long, pale simple glandular hairs and a few, short glandular hairs. Subsp. *elatine* usually rather sparsely hairy, subsp. *crinata* densely hairy. Plant relatively stout, densely hairy, the leaves more or less obtuse, the lower ovate to to indistinctly hastate.

K. spuria. Stems with numerous, short, glandular hairs and long, pale simple eglandular hairs, sometimes simple, sometimes with long lateral flowing branches. Subsp. *spuria* plant sparsely to moderately hairy, subsp. *integrifolia* plant densely hairy throughout.

Roger was of the opinion, based on his experience, that Peter's plant was young *K. elatine*. Clearly some care is required distinguishing between young plants of these two species.



Image: Peter Reay



Image: Peter Reay

Recorders' Reports - Vascular Plants

From Roger Smith

The majority of new county and vice-county records this year, mostly in VC3, were dandelions *Taraxacum* thanks to the efforts of John Day and John Richards, the BSBI *Taraxacum* referee. Also in VC3 the hybrid Eyebright *Euphrasia arctica* × *E. nemorosa* identified by Chris Metherell, the BSBI *Euphrasia* referee, amongst a collection of plants found by Pete Reay near Gidley Bridge, is new and some distance from nearest known population of *E. arctica*. In addition to these, the introduced African Lily *Agapanthus praecox* was reported by Kevin Ryland at Kingsbridge and Spotted Spurge *Euphorbia maculata* at Crediton found by David Cann are new to VC3 and Corsican Mint *Mentha requienii* at Meshaw by Bob Hodgson is new to VC4.

There were several other significant finds of rare or under-recorded native species. In South Devon an old record of the very rare hybrid fern *Asplenium* × *jacksonii* recorded near Ashburton in the nineteenth century, published by Alston (1940), has just come to light and several important additions to our fern records were made by the British Pteridological Society during their September field meeting, most significantly new sites for the gametophyte stage of Killarney Fern *Trichomanes speciosum*. A single plant of Bladderseed *Physospermum cornubiense* found at its last known site on a verge at Blaxton by Mary Breeds, John Day and Hilary Marshall is the first record of a plant, once

locally common in this part of the county, since 1987. Mossy Stonecrop *Crassula tillaea* has a long history at quarries in the Bickleigh Vale where a remnant population was last seen during a DAB meeting in 2008. A new population found by Kevin Ryland in the well-recorded buffer zone at Dawlish Warren must be a recent colonist, perhaps from Praa Sands in Cornwall. Thorow-wax *Bupleurum rotundifolium*, a weed of arable fields but always rare in Devon, had more or less disappeared from the British flora by 1960. More recently we had one good record from Plymouth in 2006 and now two have come along together, at Dartington reported by Mike Ingram, and at Membury reported by David Allen. Last year Andy Byfield was fairly sure he had found Heath Dog-violet *Viola canina* so he and I revisited the site in late spring and found a number of plants flowering amongst a large but very local population on Plaster Down, the first record of this plant from South Devon since 1936. Several alien species have also been seen for the first time in many years in VC3: Hairy Vetchling *Lathyrus hirsutus*, Bur Forget-me-not *Lappula squarrosa*, Pearly Everlasting *Anaphalis margaritacea* and the recent colonists, New Zealand Bitter-cress *Cardamine corymbosa* and Narrow-leaved Ragwort *Senecio inaequidens* show signs of expanding their range.

In North Devon False Fox-sedge × Remote Sedge *Carex × psuedaxillaris* was identified at RAF Chivenor by Bob Hodgson and Mary Breeds during an outing with the North Devon Botany Group. It had been recorded on twelve occasions before 1939 but, although both parents are still relatively common, not since then. Bob Kirby's report of Frog Rush *Juncus ranarius*, from Northam Burrows is not far from its only other Devon stations on Lundy, where it was last seen in 1934, and Braunton Burrows where it was last seen in 1986 by Len Margetts and Bill Tucker. It is a plant of damp brackish habitats, may well be under-recorded, and should be looked for in suitable places.

I would like to thank everyone who sent me their records and to encourage all members to do the same. All records are valuable whether or not they appear in these pages and will add value to other publications at local and national levels. I would also like to thank the specialist referees for their time and interest.

ABBREVIATIONS

BSBI	Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland
DAB	Devonshire Association Botany Section
BPS	British Pteridological Society
DJA	D. J. Allen
LA	L. Austin
AJB	A. J. Byfield
IJB	I. J. Bennallick
MB	M. Breeds
AC	A. Cunningham
DCGC	D. C. G. Cann
NC	N. Cousins
JJD	J. J. Day
LD	L. Davies
RF	R. FitzGerald
MG	M. Gardiner
RMH	R. M. Hodgson

JJI	J. J. Ison
MI	M. Ingram
AK	A. Knott
RIK	R. I. Kirby
IL	I. Lakin
ML	M. Lock
CM	C. Metherell
JPM	J. P. Martin
HM	H. Marshall
MN	M. Newman
TP	T. Purches
PDP	P. D. Pullen
AJR	A. J. Richards
FJR	F. J. Rumsey
KR	K. Rylands
PJR	P. J. Reay
MS	M. Stribley
CJS	C. J. Smith
PAS	P. A. Smith
RENS	R. E. N. Smith
LT	L. Tucker
ST	S. Taylor
AV	A. Vaughan

Bold type indicates a herbarium specimen held by that person.

Signs

/	introduced plant, a neophyte.
//	introduced plant, an archaeophyte.
†	(before species name) new County record, (before VC) new Vice-county record.
VC3	Vice-county 3, South Devon.
VC4	Vice-county 4, North Devon.

All records apply to 2017, unless otherwise stated. The numbers before the names of the species refer to page numbers in Smith, Hodgson & Ison (2016). Order, classification and English names follow the Stace (2010) and *Taraxacum* records Dudman & Richards (1997). Statements regarding rarity apply to Devon unless otherwise stated.

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- Alston, A.H.G. **1940**. Notes on the supposed hybrids in the genus *Asplenium* found in Britain. *Proc. Linn. Soc.* 152: 132-144.
- Dudman, A.A. & Richards, A. J. **1997**. *Dandelions of Great Britain and Ireland*. Botanical Society of the British Isles, London.
- Smith, R., Hodgson, B. & Ison J. **2016**. *A New Flora of Devon*. The Devonshire Association, Exeter.
- Stace, C. A., **2010**. *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press, 3rd Edn., Cambridge.

- 120 *Lycopodium clavatum* L. – Stag’s-horn Clubmoss. VC3. Pizwell, SX674786, ST.
- 125 *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense* (L.) Sm. – Tunbridge Filmy Fern. VC3. Many colonies, Great Mis Tor, SX5576, BPS. Surprisingly, the first record from this tor.
- 127 *Trichomanes speciosum* Willd. – Killarney Fern. VC3. The gametophyte stage in two places at Shaugh Prior SX535636, and at Great Mis Tor, SX563770, BPS.
- 129 *Asplenium* × *jacksonii* (Alston) Lawalrée (*A. scolopendrium* × *A. adiantum-nigrum*) – Hart’s-tongue Fern × Black Spleenwort. †VC3. On a bank near Ashburton, SX66 or SX67, 1872, Jas. Richards (ex Jones); Miss Bickford (ex Jones), Alston (1940). First and only record for VC3.
- 132 *Phegopteris connectilis* (Michx.) Watt – Beech Fern. VC3. Relocated at Yarner Wood, SX776791, AK. On a grassy bank with *Dryopteris* species at Warren House, SX674805, BPS.
- 135 *Polystichum* × *bicknellii* (H. Christ) Hahne. (*P. setiferum* × *P. aculeatum*) – Soft-shield Fern × Hard-shield Fern. VC3. Disused railway line at Tavistock, SX475743, BPS conf. FJR.
- 136 *Cyrtomium fortunei* J. Sm. VC3. Two plants in wall, Fatman’s Alley, South Brent, SX6960, PJR & PDP. Probably subsp. *clivicola* (Makino) Tagawa, FJR.
- 136 *Dryopteris affinis* (Lowe) Fraser-Jenk. subsp. *paleaceolobata* (T. Moore) Fraser-Jenk. – Golden-scaled Male-fern. VC3. Warren House, SX6780, BPS. Near Blackdown Rings, SX718520, 2016, JJD, MS. These are the second and third VC3 and County records.
- 146 *Berberis vulgaris* L. – Barberry. VC3. Two bushes in woodland, Ashleigh Bottoms, Blaxton, SX474628, JJD, MB & HM. A small tree in a hedge at Pinhay, SY317908, DJA & ML.
- 177 / *Paeonia officinalis* auct. – Garden Peony. VC3. On railway embankment, South Brent, SX6960, assumed to be this species, PJR.
- 181 *Crassula tillaea* Lest-Garl. – Mossy Stonecrop. VC3. In quantity at the southwest end of the buffer zone, Dawlish Warren, KR conf. JJD.
- 189 *Lotus tenuis* Waldst. & Kit. Ex Willd. – Narrow-leaved Bird’s-foot Trefoil. VC3. Field boundary at Dartington, where it was last recorded some time before 1939, SX795620, NC.
- 190 *Lotus subbiflorus* Lag. Hairy Bird’s-foot Trefoil. VC3. On track near Brocks Farm, SX840757, JPM.
- 199 / *Lathyrus hirsutus* L. – Hairy Vetchling. VC3. Nursery weed at Dayspring plants, near Exeter, SY002929, RF. First Devon record since 1910.
- 253 / *Potentilla indica* (Jacks.) Wolf – Yellow-flowered Strawberry. VC3. Maryknowle, SX724393, LD.
- 259 / *Acaena novae-zelandiae* Kirk – Pirri-pirri-bur. VC4. Trackside in Molland Wood, SS702343, RMH.
- 260 *Alchemilla xanthochlora* Rothm. – Pale Lady’s-mantle. VC4. Several plants Molland Wood, SS702343, RMH.
- 282 / *Elaeagnus macrophylla* Thunb. – Broad-leaved Oleaster. VC3. One bush in hedge Lympstone, SY011840, 2016, JJI, possibly an escape from a nearby nursery. The Maer, Exmouth, RMH & JJI, SY0080, probably planted.
- /† *Euphorbia maculata* L. – Spotted Spurge. VC3. Several plants naturalising in gravel Libbets Well, Crediton, SS835002, DCGC.
- 311 *Viola canina* L. – Heath Dog-violet. VC3. Thousands of plants in a shallow depression on Plaster Down, SX514724, AJB & RENS. First confirmed record for VC3 since 1936.
- 317 *Hypericum maculatum* Crantz. – Imperforate St John’s-wort. VC3. Catherine Park Wood, Week, SX776623; Sharkham Point, SX9354; both JJD.

- 355 *Cardamine impatiens* L. – Narrow-leaved Bitter-cress. VC3. One plant on track on Canonteign Down above Hyner Farm, SX831821, RENS & JJD. VC3. One plant was also seen on the track through the wood where first found in 2012.
- 356 / *Cardamine corymbosa* Hook. f. – New Zealand Bitter-cress. VC3. In paving cracks on garden terrace at Park Farm near Kingsbridge, SX7342, LD. Probably imported with nursery garden plants.
- 364 *Brassica oleracea* L. – Wild Cabbage. VC3. In two places at Jennycliff, SX490524 and SX491522, IJB. First localised records from this area.
- 368 *Crambe maritima* L. – Sea-kale. VC3. Hopes Nose, SX9463, PAS. Four plants on beach below Beer Head SY224879 and one at Under Hooken, SY217879, DAB det. RENS.
- 400 *Scleranthus annuus* L. – Annual Knawel. VC3. Ten plants by bridleway, Pudsham Meadows, SX727743, HM.
- 401 / *Herniaria glabra* L. – Smooth Rupturewort. VC3. In gutters outside garden in Highweek where it was introduced about 30 years ago, SX846717, RENS.
- 418 *Atriplex laciniata* L. – Frosted Orache. VC3. Locally common on beach at Under Hooken, SY218879, DAB det. RENS.
- 429 / *Impatiens capensis* Meerb. – Orange Balsam. VC3. Six plants between Fairmile Bridge SY0897 and confluence with River Otter, River Tale, MN.
- 439 / *Aucuba japonica* Thunb. – Spotted Laurel. VC3. Disused Railway at Tavistock, SX4774, JJD.
- 448 / *Vinca major* L. var. *oxyloba* Stearn. – Greater Periwinkle. VC4. Established in a lane near Dolton, SS558119, JJD.
- 458 / *Lappula squarrosa* (Retz) Dumort. – Bur Forget-me-not. VC3. In yard where birds had been fed, West Stoke Farm, SX694710, MG det. IJB. First Devon record since 1929.
- 465 / *Nicandra physalodes* (L.) Gaertn. – Apple of Peru. VC3. One plant casual at Cockington, SX890638, 2016, JJD.
- 466 / *Physalis peruviana* L. – Cape-gooseberry. VC3. One plant on waste ground, Plymouth Hoe, SX474539, JJD.
- 468 / *Nicotinia forgetiana* Hemsl. – Red Tobacco. VC3. Four plants on waste ground, Plymouth Hoe, SX474539, JJD. Second VC3 and Devon record.
- 475 *Sibthorpia europaea* L. – Cornish Moneywort. VC4. Confirmed presence and in several new sites on Exmoor, SS7444, SS7544, SS7545, SS7743, SS7744, SS7646, SS7943, SS7845, sometimes in several locations, RMH and NDBG.
- 480 *Plantago maritima* L. subsp. *intermedia* (Gilib.) Lange. – Greater Plantain. VC4. Frequent in middle reach of the draw-down, Wistlandpound Reservoir, SS644419, JJD.
- 487 *Scrophularia scorodonia* L. – Balm-leaved Figwort. VC3. Cornworthy, SX8356, JJD.
- 487 / *Sutura cordata* (Thunb.) Kuntze – Bacopa. VC3. Pavement weed, Exmouth, SX9980, RMH & JJI.
- 495 / *Nepeta* × *faassenii* – Bermans ex Stearn (*N. racemosa* × *N. nepetella*) Garden Catmint. VC3. Small plants spreading into pavement crevices from planted stock, Plymouth Hoe, SX476539, JJD.
- 502 / *Mentha requienii* Benth. – Corsican Mint. †VC4. Two patches on roadside in Meshaw, SS758196, RMH.
- 507 † *Euphrasia arctica* Lange ex Rostrup × *E. nemorosa* (Pers.) Wallr. – Arctic Eyebright × Common Eyebright. VC3. Roadside verge, Gidley Bridge, SX6563, PJR det. CM. First record of this hybrid in Devon and some distance from the nearest known population of *E. arctica*.

- 534 / *Onopordum acanthium* L. – Cotton Thistle. VC3. Two plants on a new hedge bank, Hemerdon, SX577587, JJD.
- 535 // *Silybum marianum* (L.) Gaertn. – Milk Thistle. VC3. Two plants at edge of barley crop, Southdown Farm, SX7037, PJR & LA.
- 540 *Lapsana communis* L. – Nipplewort. VC4. Lundy, SS1344, JJD. First Lundy record since 1973.
- 542 / *Tragopogon porrifolius* L. – Salsify. VC4. On waste ground, Meshaw, SS758196, RMH.
- 545 *Mycelis muralis* (L.) Dumort – Wall Lettuce. VC4, On wall and in churchyard, Sticklepath, SX639940, RMH.
- † *Taraxacum oellgaardii* C.C.Haw. – a dandelion. VC3. Dunkeswell Church, ST141078, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. VC4, Morchard Bishop, 2016, LT det. AJR. First county records of this British endemic.
- † *Taraxacum akteum* Soest & Zevenb. – a dandelion. VC4, Morchard Bishop, 2016, LT det. AJR. First county record.
- † *Taraxacum berthae* C.C.Haw. – a dandelion. VC3. Mesic grassland at Shallowford Common, SX694751, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. First county record of this British endemic.
- 552 *Taraxacum cambricum* A.J.Richards – a dandelion. VC3. Laneside verge, Ramshorn Down, SX789741, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. Third localised record for VC3 of this British endemic.
- † *Taraxacum fulvicarpum* Dahlst. – a dandelion. VC3. Bethel Cross, near Ilsington, SX782742, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. First county record of this widespread British endemic.
- 554 *Taraxacum marklundii* Palmgr. – a dandelion. †VC3. Grass verge between Lydford and Brentor, SX493831; Hedgebank at Higher Sigford, SX781747, 2016; both **JJD** det. AJR. First VC3 records of this widespread British native.
- † *Taraxacum pruinaum* M. P. Christ. – a dandelion. VC3. National Trust car park at Lydford, SX501831 and SX501832, **JJD** det. AJR. First Devon record of an uncommon species.
- /† *Taraxacum kernianum* Soest, Hagend. & Zevenb. – a dandelion. VC3. On a grassy hedgebank at Pridhamsleigh, SX751678, **JJD** det. AJR. First Devon record of this uncommon introduced species.
- /† *Taraxacum densilobum* Dahlst. – a dandelion. VC3. In a flower bed at Wolford Chapel, ST137052, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. First Devon record of this uncommon introduced species.
- 555 *Taraxacum atactum* Sahlin & Soest. – a dandelion. VC3. Laneside grass verge, Bethelcombe Cross, SX787743; hedgebank at Higher Sigford, SX781747; both 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. Third and fourth VC3 records of this widespread British and Irish species.
- 555 *Taraxacum sahlinianum* Dudman & A.J.Richards – a dandelion. VC3. Laneside hedgebank at Higher Sigford, SX781747, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. Fourth VC3 record of this British endemic.
- 555 *Taraxacum hamatiforme* Dahlst. – a dandelion. VC3. Grass verge by track, Lemon Valley, SX848707, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. Second localised VC3 record.
- 561 / *Taraxacum laeticolor* Dahlst. – a dandelion. VC3. Hedgebank at Higher Sigford, SX781747, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. Fourth Devon and VC3 record of a widespread introduced species.
- /† *Taraxacum horridifrons* Rail. . – a dandelion. VC3. Summerhill Lane, Ashburton, SX744692, **JJD** det. AJR. First Devon record of a locally distributed species.
- 561 / *Taraxacum chrysophaenum* Rail. – a dandelion. VC3. Hedgebank at Higher Sigford, SX781747, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. Third Devon and VC3 record of an uncommon introduced species.
- † *Taraxacum mimulum* Dahlst. – a dandelion. VC3. Trago Mills car park, SX822745, **JJD** det. AJR. First Devon record of a nationally rare dandelion known from just nine sites.

- / *Taraxacum amplum* Markl. – a dandelion. VC3. Pridhamsleigh, SX751678, **JJD** det. AJR. First Devon record of a species known from just 12 sites in England.
- /† *Taraxacum nitidum* Hagend., Soest & Zevenb. – a dandelion. VC3. Laneside at Bethel, SX782742, 2016, **JJD** det. AJR. First Devon record of a species scattered across England and Wales.
- † *Taraxacum 'atrocollinum'* – a dandelion. VC3. In three places on lane sides at Higher Sigford, 2016, SX781745, SX781747, **JJD** det. AJR. A new species, with several more locations in Somerset, still to be formally named.
- 576 / *Anaphalis margaritacea* (L.) Benth. – Pearly Everlasting. VC3. Ham Woods LNR, SX463579, CV conf. **RENS**. First record since 1978.
- 581 / *Aster novi-angliae* L. – Hairy Michaelmas-daisy. VC3. Urban border weed, Newton Abbot, SX855714, **RENS**. First localised record for VC3 and second for Devon.
- 597 / *Senecio inaequidens* DC. – Narrow-leaved Ragwort. VC3. At Warren Point, Dawlish, SX990802, KR. Fourth VC3 and Devon record and remote from the other three.
- 600 / *Doronicum × willdenowii* (Rouy) A. W. Hill (*D. pardalianches* × *D. plantagineum*) – Willdenow's Leopard's-bane. VC4. Roadside at Firestone Cross, SX667931, RMH.
- 602 / *Ambrosia artemisifolia* L. – Ragweed. VC3. Self-sown below bird feeders, Park Farm near Kingsbridge, SX7342, LD.
- /† *Bidens ferulifolia* (Jacq.) DC. – Fern-leaved Beggarticks. VC3. On ledge above culvert Bovey Tracey, SX814782, **JJD** & AC. First county record of a widely grown garden plant.
- 619 / *Fatsia japonica* (Thunb.) Decne. & Planch. – Fatsia. VC3. Garden throw-out established at Chaddlewood, Plymouth, SX553558, **PDP**.
- 627 *Oenanthe lachenalii* C.C.Gmel. – Parsley Water-dropwort. VC3. About ten plants by stream, The Maer, Exmouth, SY010801, **JJD**. First record from this site since 1983.
- 630 *Physospermum cornubiense* (L.) DC. – Bladderseed. VC3. One plant on verge at Blaxton, SX472627, **JJD**, **MB** & **HM**. Last seen here or anywhere else in Devon in 1987.
- 630 *Bupleurum rotundifolium* L. – Thorow-wax. VC3. One plant, a greenhouse weed, Dartington, SX793623, **MI** conf. **RENS**. One plant, a weed of cultivation, Land House, Membury, ST260051, **DJA**. These are the second and third recent records for VC3 and Devon.
- 639 / *Acorus calamus* L. – Sweet-flag. VC3. Fishing lake at Smallhanger Waste, SX576593, **JJD**.
- 640 *Arum italicum* Mill. subsp. *neglectum* (F.Towns) Prime. – Italian Lords-and-ladies. VC3. On old woodland bank near Plympton Castle, SX543558, **PDP**. A little outside its core area but looks to be native.
- 643 *Lemna trisulca* L. – Ivy-leaved Duckweed. VC3. In ponds at Saltram, SX520553 and Tessier Garden, Torbay, SX921656, **JJD**.
- 662 / *Fritillaria meleagris* L. – Fritillary. VC3. Establishing at North Brentor Church, SX482813, **JJD**.
- 665 *Neottia nidus-avis* (L.) Rich. – Bird's-nest Orchid. VC4. Three plants on woodland edge Combe Martin, SS593453, **MB**.
- 665 *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall. Autumn Lady's-tresses. VC3. A few flowering plants in Wolborough churchyard, SX855703, **CJS**. About 30 plants on private lawn, Budleigh Salterton, SY065820, **AV**.
- /† *Agapanthus praecox* Willd. – African Lily. VC3. Naturalised on footpath, Beacon Road, Kinswear, 2007, **IL** & **KR**.

- 671 *Dactylorhiza* × *hallii* (Druce) Soó (*D. maculata* × *D. praetermissa*) – Heath Spotted-orchid × Southern Marsh-orchid. VC3. In springline mire with both parents, Knapp Copse, SY156951, JJI & RMH. First localised record for East Devon.
- 694 // *Asparagus officinalis* L. – Garden Asparagus. VC4. Instow dunes, SS474309, 2014 and 2017, RIK. Last recorded in VC4 before 1939 in the same area.
- 701 *Juncus foliosus* Desf. – Leafy Rush. VC3. Ruddy Cleave, SX730740 and Halshanger Common, SX744738, JJD.
- 702 *Juncus ranarius* Songeon & E. F. Perrier – Frog Rush. VC4. In two places on seasonally inundated mud behind coastal dunes, Northam Burrows, SS445316 and SS446318, RIK. These are the first Devon records since 1986.
- 703 *Luzula* × *borreri* Bromf. ex Bab. (*L. forsteri* × *L. pilosa*) – Southern Wood-rush × Hairy Wood-rush. VC3. By public footpath, several with *L. forsteri* (*L. pilosa* nearby) highly infertile, Woodencliff Wood, SX756713, 2016, JJD.
- 717 *Carex* × *psuedaxillaris* K. Richt. (*C. otrubae* × *C. remota*) False Fox-sedge × Remote Sedge. VC4. Chivenor Royal Marine Base, SX4934, RMH & MB. First good record of this hybrid in Devon since before 1939.
- 748 / *Catapodium rigidum* (L.) C. E. Hubb. subsp. *majus* (C. Presl.) F.H.Perring & P.D.Sell. – Fern-grass. VC3. Several plants at Exeter bus station, SX924928, PDP.
- 748 *Catapodium marinum* (L.) C. E. Hubb. – Sea Fern-grass. VC4. In two laybys on the A39 North Devon link road, SS485283 and SS504291, RIK. Presumably taking advantage of winter salt application.
- 749 *Avenula pubescens* (Huds.) Dumort. Downy Oat-grass. VC3. Local in semi-improved field at the south end of Parr's Lane, SX860795, RENS. In two tetrads in the vicinity of Beer Head, SY2287 and SY2288, DAB det. RENS.
- 749 *Avenula pratensis* (L.) Dumort. – Meadow Oat-grass. VC3. Beer Head, SX2288, DAB det. RENS.
- 758 / *Phalaris minor* Retz. – Lesser Canary-grass. VC3. Amongst wheat, Southdown Farm, SX6938, PJR & LA.
- 764 // *Alopecurus myosuroides* Huds. – Black-grass. VC3. Amongst wheat, Southdown Farm, SX6938, PJR & LA.
- 771 / *Anisantha tectorum* (L.) Nevski – Drooping Brome. VC3. A small colony on Grand Parade, Plymouth Hoe, SX472536, JJD. First VC3 and Devon record since it was recorded at Devonport Docks in 1895.
- 777 *Hordeum secalinum* Schreb. – Meadow Barley. VC3. Frequent in semi-improved field at the south end of Parr's Lane, SX858796 & SX860795, RENS. A new location for this uncommon grass.
- 784 / *Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench – Great Millet. VC3. From birdseed on viaduct over River Plym, SX523596, RIK and TP conf. **RENS**.
- 784 / *Digitaria sanguinalis* (L.) Scop. – Hairy Finger-grass. VC3. From birdseed on viaduct over River Plym, SX523596, RIK.

Recorders' Reports - Fungi

From Nicola Bacciu

Mild, damp weather persisting through December 2016 into January 2017 allowed a number of macrofungi to continue fruiting. On a visit to Fingle Woods (SX7489) in January, Jozsef Szocs found an unusual hedgehog fungus with a hollow stipe and central hole in the cap. Several new species of *Hydnum* had recently been described and this species, *Hydnum umbilicatum sensu lato* was subsequently confirmed by mycologists at Royal Botanic Garden; Kew.

Although the spring was generally dry, an April visit to Farley Water Farm (SS7446) in a humid valley, yielded several colonies of *Onygena equina* or Horned stalkball on putrifying sheep's horn. Outside of Scotland and Northern England, this fungus is rarely recorded as dead livestock is generally removed from the land shortly after death.

At the end of May David Allen gave Jeff Benn an unusually early *Amanita* with a pale warted cap to identify. Now called *Amanita solitaria* it used to be called *A. echinocephala* which better describes its appearance as having a spiny or prickly head. This fungus was collected under oaks at the edge of heathland at Quantock Turbary, Stockland (ST2205) but is more regularly seen on calcareous soils further east in Southern England. There are two historic records of this *Amanita* from the Lyme Regis undercliff – is it still there?

Cooler temperatures and increased rainfall at the end of July and into August precipitated a flush of rarely recorded fungus sightings countrywide. In Devon, during a bryophyte recording meeting at Fingle Wood, I found a small group of Golden Gilled Bolete *Phylloporus pelletieri* on a bank with beech and oak. This bolete has not been recorded in Devon this century and is unusual for not having pores on the underside of the cap, instead it has bright yellow, gill-like, lamellae.

Pam Barrett contacted me at the end of August concerning a toothed fungus she had found in Hembury Woods (SX7268). A visit the following day proved worthwhile with 3 species of stipitate (toothed) fungi being collected. Pam's fungus, growing with oak, was identified as *Hydnellum scrobiculata* though unusual in development. Nearby many fruitbodies of *Phellodon confluens* were found and a species relatively new to the UK, and yet to be confirmed by Kew, *Sarcodon joeides*. On cutting the otherwise beige fruitbody, the *Sarcodon* flesh instantly flushed a purplish hue which remained upon drying. This record may be important as the species is rarely recorded in Europe and could be added to the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species. Several other interesting fungi were also recorded in Hembury Woods that day including Horn of Plenty *Craterellus cornucopioides*, Amethyst chanterelle *Cantharellus amethysteus* and *Amanita mairei*.

Sadly, due to a lack of rain, the autumn fungus season was poor. Early in December a few more fungi began to appear and both Jeff Benn and I independently collected specimens of *Rhodocybe gemina*. Jeff's *Rhodocybe* was collected in an urban area of Tiverton and mine from under conifers at Bullers Hill, Haldon (SX8884). Though large, the red brown *Rhodocybes* with a flowery scent and pale pink spore print were initially difficult to assign to genus. Consequently, the genus is infrequently recorded by mycologists, particularly in Devon.

Lastly, John Day has recorded a number of fungal plant pathogens throughout the year, many new to Devon. The most interesting was *Gibberella gordonii* a hyper-parasite of Ergot; *Claviceps purpurea* var. *spartinae*, itself parasitizing the inflorescences of Cord grass (*Spartina anglica*) at Blaxton Quarry (SX4663). Another new species to Devon was the rust *Puccinia convolvuli* on the bindweed *Calystegium sepium* at Compass Cove (SX8849) and *Ramularia scrophularia* on the figwort; *Scrophularia scorodonia* at West Charleton marsh (SX7863)

Recorder's Report – Lichens.

From Barbara Benfield

We are often prompted not to forget our local patch rather than always thinking the best things are found somewhere else. Recently lichenologists in the lowlands have been looking at the seemingly unpromising habitat provided by young hazel and found that some lichen species are increasing in that habitat. My project last January was to look at local trees over 300 years old. This led to finding more interest in our well manured parish than I thought possible. A notable local find was the lichenicolous fungus *Tremella ramalinae*, a new record for England, which was growing on *Ramalina fraxinea* in my garden.

During the 2017 DA AGM at Newton St. Cyres *Psoroglaena abscondita*, which is Nationally Rare, was found in the Arboretum on the same pine as the bark signal moss *Sematophyllum substrumulosum*. This appears to be a new Devon record,

On a preliminary visit for the Devon lichen group meeting to Ashclyst Forest in March, two Nationally Rare species were found: *Absconditella lignicola* on a stump and the lichenicolous fungus, *Syzygospora bachmannii* on *Cladonia chlorophaea*.

In early April the Devon Lichen Group visited Farley Water, an area lying between Brendon Common and Barbrook, and it proved to be a rich and interesting site. On a fallen ash Nicola found the Golden Eye lichen, *Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*, which is the first record for VC4. This species seems to be relatively mobile and may be moving north. On a further visit in July Nicola discovered the Nationally Rare and Vulnerable lichen, *Biatoridium delitescens*, the first record for the county.

Also in April a new site for *Lobaria scrobiculata* along with other members of the Lobarion community was found at Bovey Castle. *L. scrobiculata* has declined in Devon almost to extinction so this was a very welcome discovery. Farther north in VC4 Tony Holwill found two new sites for *Lobaria pulmonaria* at Shorleigh Bridge near Lake, south of Barnstaple and at Halmptstone Manor, south-east of Barnstaple.

Maxine Putnam was lucky enough to visit Lundy Island in July and aided by Tony John added 16 new lichens to the list of over 350 already recorded by James, Allen and Hilton during their visits in the 1990s. Some of these were common lichens with *Fuscopannaria (Moelleropsis) nebulosa* being the most notable. It was fortunate that access was possible to the very top of St. Helen's church tower at that time as a result of maintenance work being carried out.

Another visit in July to the River Tavy to look for some species found in the river 20 years ago failed to find the target lichens but *Porina rivalis*, (Nationally Rare) found just above Horndon Bridge was another new county record.

Last year I reported more sites at Emsworthy for the rare *Parmelia submontana* and in October this year Nicola found it at a new site not far from Emsworthy at Bonehill Down near Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

Nicola has continued to find rare and interesting lichenicolous fungi. This is cutting edge work so it isn't always known if all species evaluated are genuinely Nationally Rare until more data is gathered. Perhaps the most exciting find was a lichenicolous fungus new to Britain, *Didymocyrtis consimilis* on *Caloplaca cerina*, which Nicola found on an ash twig in Buzzards Wood, VC4. She also spotted *Epicladonia sandstedti* on *Cladonia coniocraea* at Bullers Hill, Haldon, VC3 which is a new species for the south west of England.

ABBREVIATIONS

DLG Devon Lichen Group
 NB Nicola Bacciu
 BB Barbara Benfield
 TH Tony Holwill
 MP Maxine Putnam
 IR International Responsibility
 NE Not Evaluated
 NR Nationally Rare
 NS Nationally Scarce
 P Priority National BAP species
 VU Vulnerable

New and Interesting Records

Abrothallus caerulescens (NR) on *Xanthoparmelia conspersa* Crockern Tor, Dartmoor SX 615 757. NB, January 2018

Abconditella lignicola (NR) at Ashclyst Forest SY 0099. March 2017

Arrhenia peltigerina (NR) Teigngrace Meadow, DWT reserve near Stover SX 841 759 NB, February 2018

Bacidia egenula (NS) on shaded stone wall at Halsinger SS 511 388. TH, November 2017

Biatoridium delitescens (VU, NR) on ash at Farley Water Farm SS 7445. The first record for the county. NB, July 2017

Didymocyrtis consimilis on *Caloplaca cerina* on an ash twig in Buzzards Wood NT SS 9111 This is the first British record for this LF. NB, April 2018

Epicladonia sandstedti (NS) on *Cladonia coniocraea* at Bullers Hill, Haldon SX 8785. This is the first South West record for this species. NB, December 2018

Fuscopannaria nebulosa (NS) near North West Point, Lundy Island SS 1348. The first record for the island. MP, July 2017

Lecanactis dilleniana (NS) on a low wall behind St. Petroc's church, Parracombe SS 674 449. TH and MP, June 2017

Lobaria scrobiculata (IR) Bovey Castle SX 7384. BB and NB, April 2017

Lobaria pulmonaria (IR) on oak at Shorleigh Bridge, Tawstock SS 558 306 and on oak at Halmstone Manor, Landkey SS 596 286. TH, July/August 2018

Parmelia submontana (NR) Bonehill Down near Widecombe-in-the-Moor SX 7377. A completely new site for this Nationally Rare species. NB, October 2017

Porina rivalis (NR) Horndon Bridge. Lichen recorded on riverside metamorphic rocks just above summer water level SX 5279. A new county record. BB and NB, July 2017

Pronectria pertusariicola (NR) on *Pertusaria pertusa* Bovey Castle SX 7384. NB, April 2018

Psoroglaena abscondita (NR) on pine bark in the arboretum at Newton St Cyres SX 876 980. January 2017

Sparria endlicheri (NS) in a dry underhang on Morte point SS 451 457. NB and MP, July 2018

Syzygospora bachmannii (NR) on *Cladonia chlorophaea* Ashclyst forest SY 0099. March 2017. This LF was also found on the same host at Bullers Hill, Haldon in December.

Teloschistes chrysophthalmus (NR, P) on fallen ash at Farley Water Farm SS 7446. This is the first record for VC4. NB, July 2017

Tremella phaeographidis (NE NR) on *Phaeographis smithii* at Halsinger SS 510 387. MP, November 2017

Tremella ramalinae (NE) on *Ramalina fraxinea* in a garden in Plymtree. ST050034. New to England. August 2017