

The Botanical Section

President and Recorder—W. WATSON, D.S.C., Cedene, Cheddon Road, Taunton.

Vice-President—F. K. MAKINS, B.A., Sunny Hill, Bruton.

Hon. Secretary—A. D. HALLAM, M.A., B.S.C., Somerset County Museum, Taunton Castle.

Assistant Hon. Secretary—MRS. A. D. HALLAM, M.A., Red Tiles, Wild Oak Lane, Taunton.

Hon. Treasurer—C. J. BARTLETT, Highland View, Cheddon Road, Taunton.

Committee—The above, with N. G. HADDEN, E. J. HAMLIN, Cmdr. R. D. GRAHAM and Mrs. CROKER FOX.

THE thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on 4 April 1946. The Hon. Secretary reported that five of the seven field meetings held during 1945 had been well attended, but wet weather had prevented attendance at the remaining two meetings. The Wild Flower Table at the Taunton Public Library had been maintained. The Hon. Treasurer reported a balance of £7 16s. 8d. as at 31 December 1945.

The six field meetings held in 1946 were all well attended. In a wet season the Section was fortunate in having a fine afternoon for every meeting. On 16 May a party of thirteen visited Minchcad Warren, the President being the leader. Among the species found were: *Silene conica*, *Cynoglossum officinale*, *Erodium maritimum*, *Trigonella ornithopodioides*, *Lycopsis arvensis*, *Elymus arenaria*. *Ranunculus baudotii* was found in a bog. Fourteen members spent a day at Britty Common on 13 June, the leader being the President. *Pinguicula lusitanica* was found in flower after a long search. *Drosera anglica* was noted, but *D. intermedia* was not found. Other species noted were *Potamogeton polygonifolius* and *Carex pulicaris*. On 4 July a large party attended a meeting at Shapwick Heath, led by Cmdr. Graham. *Habenaria viridis* and *H. conopsea* were found in a wet meadow. Other species noted were *Epipactis palustris*, *Utricularia vulgaris*, *Osmunda regalis*, *Urtica urens* and *Galium vaillantii*, the last being in an arable field. On 29 July a party of sixteen, led by Mr. Makins, spent an afternoon in lanes and cornfields near Charlton Mackrell. The following species, among others, were found: Wild liquorice, *Bupleurum rotundifolium*, *Anagallis cœrulea* (the true plant), Chicory, *Euphorbia exigua* and *E. platyphyllos*, *Valerianella rimosa*, *Onobrychis sativa*, *Lychnis githago*, *Galeopsis angustifolia*, *Lithospermum arvense*, *Vicia gracilis*, *Linaria elatine*, *L. spuria* and *L. minor*, *Spergularia hybrida*. At Uphill, on 12 September, the President leading, *Aster linosyris* was found flowering abundantly within a small area. *Trinia glauca* was still showing, owing to the wet season. *Spiranthes autumnalis* was flowering abundantly on the hill-side. *Bupleurum tenuissimum* and

Trifolium squamosum were in flower and fruit. On 3 October a fungus-foray was held in Broad Wood, Dunster, by kind permission of Mr. G. F. Luttrell. Mr. Hadden led the party, which included members of the West Somerset Branch of the Society. In spite of the wet weather it was not a good season for fungi in any part of the county. The Razor-strop Fungus, *Polyporus betulinus*, was seen to have attacked birch trees damaged by the frozen rain of 1940.

Flower-tables were maintained during the summer of 1946 both at the Museum and at Taunton Public Library.

RECORDER'S NOTES

The bracketed numbers refer to the ten divisions into which Somerset was divided by Murray. Where plants are recorded by members of the Committee initials are used. Divisional or vice-county records are starred; for vascular plants the starred numbers refer to the county divisions; for non-vascular plants (bryophytes, lichens, fungi and algæ) the starred numbers refer to the vice-counties 5 and 6 into which Somerset is divided.

Ranunculus sardous Cr. In a small roadside pasture in the flats below Brent Knoll. *C. and N. Sandwith*. *Brist. Bot. in 1945*.

Aconitum napellus L. Bank of Bayley's Brook, near Shurton, Stogursey. Abundant and known for some years; increasing upstream. 2*. *A. D. and O. M. H.*

Nuphar luteum Sm. Sedgemoor (8). *E. J. H.*

Viola sylvestris Lam. and *V. odorata* L. Some interesting notes on these plants are given in *Brist. Bot. in 1945*.

Fumaria martini Clav. The Combe Down plant mentioned in these notes for 1945 was found by *N. Sandwith*, and recorded in *The Journ. of Bot.* (1921), 21.

Papaver rhœas L. One plant at Steart (2) with pure white flowers. *E. J. H.*

P. lecoqii Lam. Abundant in field, Bristol Road, Bridgwater (5). *E. J. H.*

Geranium columbinum L. Cornfield, Charlton Mackrell (5).

Oxalis stricta L. In Cannington allotments (3*).

Medicago lupulina var. *willdenowiana* Koch. Near Newton St. Loe (10*). *J. P. M. Brennan* in *Brist. Bot. in 1945*. Apparently new for district 10. It has been previously recorded for divisions 3, 4 and 9.

M. denticulata Wild. In cultivated fields at Rowford, near Taunton (3). Only one previous record for district 3.

Rosa stylosa var. *garroutei* Rouy of Wolley-Dod's *British Roses* (1931) is given from Tickenham (9) by *C. and N. Sandwith* in *Brist. Bot. in 1945* under *canina* × *stylosa* var. *systyla* Baker. Two bushes have been under observation for many years and a description is given. For Rouy's variety *garroutei* I have records for districts 2, 3 and 8.

- Rosa*. Some other critical notes on this genus in *Brist. Bot.*
- Bellis perennis* L. A 'sport' with ray-florets absent and disc-florets virescent on an open roadside bank by the road to Cheddar from Axbridge. *J. P. M. Brenan, Brist. Bot.*
- Trifolium pratense* var. *americanum* Hartz. Charlton Mackrell (5*).
- Onobrychis viciæfolia* Scop. Charlton Mackrell (5). For this district only one record previously.
- Trifolium incarnatum* L. In cornfield, Langborough, near Wick, Stogursey (2*). *A. D. and O. M. H.*
- Lathyrus nissolia* L. Farrington Hill, Stogursey (2). *A. D. and O. M. H.*
- Potentilla norvegica* L. On side of Hope Corner Lane, Taunton (3*). A casual previously recorded from poultry runs in districts 2 and 4.
- Senecio vulgaris* var. *radiatus* Koch. On waste ground and on sidings near both the railway stations at Shepton Mallet (8). *J. P. M. Brenan*. This plant also occurs in similar situations at Frome, Highbridge, Portishead and Brent Knoll.
- Sedum dasphyllum* L. This was collected at Kilton (2) in 1918, but omitted from previous notes.
- Senecio squalidus* L. Dunball (5). *E. J. H.* Introduced and spreading all over the county.
- Valerianella rimosa* Bast. Cornfield, Charlton Mackrell (5*) and Nether Stowey.
- Tanacetum vulgare* L. Stogursey (2). *A. D. and O. M. H.* King's Cliff, North Petherton (3). *E. J. H.*
- Erigeron canadense* L. On hard ground in Taunton School Grounds. This has now been recorded from districts 3, 4, 8-10. See note for 1945 in regard to its extension.
- Specularia hybrida* (L.) A.D.C. Cornfield, Charlton Mackrell (5). Gapper so long ago as 1822 collected this plant in the same locality.
- Anagallis fœmina* Mill. Abundant in cornfield at Charlton Mackrell (5). Most of the plants with blue flowers were true *fœmina*, but some belonged to the blue-flowered form of the scarlet pimpernel.
- Lithospermum arvense* L. Dunball (5). *E. J. H.* Charlton Mackrell (5).
- Hyoscyamus niger* L. Several plants on Bristol Road, Bridgwater (5). *E. J. H.* (? introduced with sea sand).
- Euphrasia anglica* Pugsf. Between Edford and Nettlebridge (10). See *Brist. Bot.* in 1945.
- Lamium amplexicaule* L. Steart (2*). *E. J. H.*
- Ballota nigra* L. with white flowers, Charlton Mackrell (5). No previous records known for Somerset.
- Galeopsis speciosa* Mill. Owing to its casual nature, this is not given in Murray's *Flora* or Marshall's *Supplement*, but it was found in plenty on cultivated ground between Ashcott Station and Glastonbury by *N. Sandwith*, and recorded in *The Journ. of Bot.* (1921), 22.

- Utricularia minor* L. Between Ashcott and Glastonbury (8).
E. J. H. Plentiful on Street Heath along with *Sparganium minimum*. R. D. G. Both covered by Murray's localities, but may indicate that the plant is becoming more noticeable than formerly.
- Atriplex littoralis* L. On beach, half-a-mile south of Brean (9).
R. D. G. Is near the locality given in Marshall's *Supplement* and is an interesting find, but the material was in rather poor condition.
- Polygonum calcatum* Lindm. Some material from the beach at Uphill (9) belonged to this segregate of *P. aviculare*, its fruits being little trigonous and having convex sides.
- Melampyrum pratense* var. *hians* Druce, f. *minor* C. E. Britton in 'The genus *Melampyrum* in Britain', *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edinburgh*, Vol. 33, Pt. 4 (1943). The type specimen of this new form was collected on Dunkery Beacon by De T. Stephenson, who reported that it was growing among short heather and believed to be plentiful all over Exmoor. Certainly the var. *hians* is abundant there and very variable in regard to its size.
- Mercurialis annua* L. Cannington allotments (3) and Dunball (5).
E. J. H.
- Neottia nidus-avis* Rich. Thurlbear Wood (3). A. D. and O. M. H.
- Habenaria bifolia* Br. In wet ride, Thurlbear Wood (3). A. D. and O. M. H.
- Juncus bufonius* var. *congesta* Wahl. (= var. *fasciculatus* Koch.). Abundant on the edge of Berrow salt-marsh (8). C. and N. Sandwith in *Brist. Bot. in 1945*.
- Zannichellia gibberosa* Rehb. Abundant in a water bunker on the golf links at Berrow. Vice-county record for N. Somerset (6). *ibid.*
- Scirpus cernuus* Vahl. (= *S. filiformis* Savi in Marshall's *Supplement*). A single tuft in the salt-marsh at Berrow (8*). C. and N. Sandwith, *ibid.*
- Alopecurus bulbosus* Gouan. Stolford (2), on marshes by the sea.
A. D. and O. M. H.
- Festuca myuros* L. Old quarry, Thurlbear (3). A. D. and O. M. H.
- Polypodium vulgare* var. *serratum* Willd. Hedgebank, Quants, Leigh Hill, Blackdowns (3). A. D. and O. M. H.
- Azolla filiculoides* Lam. In a rhine near Brent Knoll. A. Fry.

FUNGI

- Geaster fimbriatus* Fr. Wood near Blagdon Water, v.c. 6. Leg. Miss Ashby.
- G. bryantii* Berk. This earth-star was collected on the Blackdowns near Culmstock, probably over the Devon border, but there is some possibility that it was obtained on the Somerset side. Its name was confirmed by A. A. Pearson.
- Coniothecium sphaerale* (Fr.) Keissl. Parasitic on the thallus of *Lecanora rupicola* (L.) Zahl. (= *L. sordida* Th. Fr.) at Hurlstone Point. Not previously recorded for Somerset.

Pharcidia dispersa (Lahm.) Wint. On the thallus of *Verrucaria aquatilis* Mudd., in a stream near Merridge, near Taunton. New county record.

LICHENS

Lecidea rivulosa Ach. On non-calciferous rock at Cheddar, and new for v.c. 6.

Biatora geophana (Nyl.) Th. Fr. On marly soil, Orchard Portman, is new for Somerset.

Bacidia muscorum var. *atriseda* Wheld. and Travis. On a soil-capped wall at Pyrland near Taunton. New for Somerset. The status of this plant is better as a form as it tends to merge into typical plants.

Leptogium callopismum (Mass.) Harm. Locality as before and also new for Somerset.

Verrucaria rheithrophila Zsch. In stream, Merridge. New for the county.

PUBLICATIONS

During the last few years the following articles, written by our members or referring to Somerset botany and not previously mentioned in these notes have been published.

- Boley, G. M. 'The Vegetation of Berrow, North Somerset'.
 1. 'The Salt-marsh Community', *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.* IX, Pt. IV (1942), 427-33.
 2. 'The Sand-dune Succession', *Ibid.* Pt. V (1943), 510-18.
- Makins, F. K. 'British Trees in Winter' (Dent, 1946).
 Reprint of 'Concise Flora of Britain' (Oxford, Clarendon Press).
- Sandwith, N. *Zannichellia gibberosa* Rehb. in North Somerset, v.c. 6. *North Western Naturalist*, Sept.-Dec. 1945.
- Sandwith, C. I. 'Bristol Botany in 1945', *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.* (1945), 471-3.
- Watson, W. 'The Lichens of Yorkshire', *Trans. Yorkshire Naturalists' Union*, 1946, 64 pages.
 'A forgotten Northern Naturalist', *The Naturalist*, 1946, April-June, p. 48. An account of John Bohler and his botanical work, especially in regard to lichens.
 'Notes on Lichens in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh', IV. *Trans. Bot. Soc. Edinb.* Vol. 34, Pt. 2 (1945), 233-43.