# The Botanical Section

*President*—W. Watson, D.Sc., A.L.S.
*Committee*—H. Downes, M.B., F.L.S., N. G. Hadden, E. J. Hamlin and H. S. Thompson, A.L.S.
*Secretary and Treasurer*—W. S. Parry, Monkton Elm, Taunton.

The twenty-fifth Annual Meeting was held at Taunton Castle, on 2 May 1935, Dr. Watson, President, in the chair. Fifteen other members were present. After the minutes were read and the accounts, showing a balance in hand of £8 12*s.* 1*d.* passed, the usual 10*s.* was voted to the upkeep of the Sharpham Moor Plot. The Report was presented and adopted, and all officers were re-elected. Places were suggested for field days, the final arrangements being left to the president and secretary. Some interesting plants were exhibited by members. Sympathetic reference was made to the long illness of Miss I. M. Roper, who had been so regular and useful an attender at these meetings. She died at a nursing home in Bristol on 8 June and will be much missed at these and other gatherings of naturalists.

The first field day was held on 23 May at Adcombe, under the leadership of Mr. C. J. Bartlett. Twenty-five members were present, the afternoon being pleasant and sunny. After leaving Corfe the party mounted the hill through the woods (by kind permission of Mrs. Dunbar). Among the plants noticed were Herb. Paris and a fine colony of Elecampane. Owing to the late spring no orchids were seen.

On 20 June nineteen members, with Mr. E. J. Hamlin as leader, met at Burton, near Stogursey, and walked across the fields to Shurton Bars. Considerable time was spent there, and the searchers' efforts were rewarded by finding Narrow-leaved Flax, Grass-leaved Vetchling, Bee Orchid, Pyramidal Orchid, Adder's Tongue, *Trifolium maritimum* and *T. striatum*. After tea at the Burton Inn the party visited Cannington Park Quarry, finding Wormwood, Henbit, *Trifolium subterraneum*,

*T. striatum* var. *erectum*, *Sedum album*, *S. reflexum* and (unexpectedly) many fine specimens of Bee Orchid. The Cheddar Pink, introduced many years ago by Mr. H. Corder, was flourishing on the cliff face. A few enthusiastic members afterwards explored the 'Park' itself, adding to the day's records Small-flowered Crowfoot, Lesser Broomrape and Fiddle Dock.

The Annual Conference of the South-Western Naturalists' Union was held at Ilfracombe from 7–10 June. An interesting meeting resulted, but few of our members were able to attend.

On 4 July Dr. Watson conducted a very successful survey of the vegetation of the R. Tone and the canal at Taunton under much more favourable conditions than in the similar expedition last year. All the duckweeds, including *Wolffia*, were seen, but no flowers were observed owing to the relative coldness of the water. The aquatic vegetation was fully a fortnight later than in 1934 but some of the Potamogetons were found in flower. In a sandy inlet of the river were several grasses of an alien or casual nature which had not previously been found in S. Somerset (v.c. 5). *Mimulus* was noted to have extended down the river at Firepool.

Twenty-three members and friends met on 25 July at Shapwick under the leadership of Mr. H. Corder. The moor on the east side of the road from the station to the village was worked before lunch, and the west side afterwards. This was a very interesting day, but nothing unusual was noted beyond a particularly extensive colony of *Osmunda*.

On 3 October a most interesting and delightful Fungus Foray was conducted by Mr. Hadden in Horner Woods. Over a hundred species were obtained and included some of the very poisonous fungi as the fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) and the death-cup (*A. pantherina*). *Mutinus caninus*, the lesser stinkhorn, was also seen. During the tea interval the fungi were named and shown on a separate table, and with their varied shapes and diversified colours, made a wonderful display. This new departure in our activities was much appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by the fifteen members present.

The following notes refer to some of the more interesting plants observed in 1935. * New to the division.

*Helleborus viridis* var. *Smithianus* A. Braun. (*H. occidentalis* Reut.). (3) Aisholt. *E. J. H.*

*Delphinium Ajacis* Reichb. (2)* Waste ground beyond Minehead Pier ; herb. *H. Slater*. Probably casual.

*Cardamine pratensis* var. *dentata* (Schultes). (2)* Holford. *W. W.*

*Hesperis matronalis* L. (6)* Northay. *W. W.*

*Lepidium Draba* L. (10) Near Frome Cricket Ground. *W. W.*

*Hutchinsia petraea* Br. (9) Near Charterhouse, *W. S. Parry*. A most important find on the Mendip plateau.

*Brassica intermedia* Bor. (3) Norton Camp. *W. W.*

*Coronopus didymus* Sm. (5)* Bridgwater. *W. W.*

*Cerastium viscosum* var. *apetalum* (Dum.). (2) Abundant at Dunster Warren. *Mrs. Bedford.*

*Tilia ulmifolia* L. (3) Lyngford near Taunton. *W. W.*

*Geranium pusillum* L. (4) Sticklepath near Combe St. Nicholas. *Mrs. Gray.*

*Acer campestre* var. *leiocarpon* Wallr. (10) Frome. *W. W.*

*Ononis repens* var. *horrida* Lange. (3) Inland station at Badger Street. *W. W.*

*Ornithopus perpusillus* L. (2) Luxborough. *E. J. H.*

*Trifolium pratense* var. *americanum* Harz. (2)* Holford. *W.W.*

*T. procumbens* var. *majus* Koch. (2)*Holford ; (4)* Curland ; (8)* Bruton. *W. W.*

*T. striatum* var. *erectum* Leight. (3) Cannington Park. *E. J. H.*

*Sedum dasyphyllum* L. (2) Holford. *G. Watts.*

*S. reflexum* var. *albescens* Haw. (2)* Rodhuish ; herb. *H. Slater.*

*Callitriche truncata* Guss. (5)* Ditch below Stawell towards Parchey Bridge ; herb. *H. Slater.*

*Epilobium obscurum* Schreb. (5)* Bridgwater S. & D. Ry. Station. *W. W.*

*Pimpinella major* Huds. (5)* Seen by A. L. Still near N. Cadbury in 1903, and collected in 1935 by him between Sparkford and Wincanton. New to the county.

*Filago minima* Fries. (2) Luxborough. *E. J. H.*

*Senecio sylvaticus* L. (8) A non-radiate form of this species has been known for many years from Shapwick. *E. J. H.*

*S. vulgaris* var. *radiatus* Koch. (3)* Garden weed at Taunton ; (10) embankment near Frome Station. *W. W.*

*Centaurea solstitialis* L. (3) Garden weed at Bathpool. *C. J. Bartlett.*

*Silybum Marianum* Gaertn. Garden weed at (3) Taunton, *W. W.*; (4) Ilminster, *H. Downes*; (8) Sharpham. *W. W.*

*Hieracium sciaphilum* Uechtr. (9) Cleeve Combe. *W. W.* East Woodlands, near Frome, *leg.* H. F. Parsons, 1868, in herb. Taunton Museum as *H. vulgatum* and recorded as such in Murray, *Fl. Som.*

*Campanula latifolia* L. (2)* Stowey Mill, Cutcombe, in herb. *H. Slater; leg.* E. J. Hamlin, 1917.

*Veronica Anagallis-aquatica* var. *anagalliformis* (Bor.). (3) Firepool, Taunton. *W. W.*

*Verbascum Blattaria* L. (5)* Bridgwater, S. & D. Ry. Station. White-flowered form. *W. W.*

*Lamium purpureum* L. flore albo. (2)* Dunster Warren. *W. W.*

*L. hybridum* Vill. (8)* On railway side, Highbridge. *Miss A. Miller.*

*Ballota ruderalis* Koch. (10)* Ursleigh Hill near Pensford. New to the county. *H. S. T.*

*Nepeta Cataria* L. (10) Near Newton St. Loe; very variable. *H. S. T.*

*Polygonum calcatum* Lindman. (3)* Taunton. New to the county. Found in 1927 but not previously mentioned in these notes. *W. W.*

*Rumex crispus* var. *trigranulatus* Syme. (8)* Shapwick. This is not uncommon on our coasts, but rarely occurs inland. *W. W.*

*Ceratophyllum demersum* L. (4)* In a ditch near Muchelney on the Drayton side of the Parret. *W. W.*

*Orchis praetermissa* Druce. (4) Britty Common. *W. W.*

*O. elodes* Gris. x *maculata* L. (4)* Britty Common. *W. W.*

*O. elodes* x *praetermissa*. (4)* Britty Common. *W. W.*

*Potamogeton densus* L. (4)* Near Muchelney on the Drayton side of the Parret. *W. W.*

*P. pusillus* L. (4)* and (5)* Near Muchelney on both sides of the Parret. *W. W.*

*Scirpus lacustris* L. (5) Ditches between Bawdrip and Stawell ex herb. *H. Slater.*

*Carex helodes* Link. (9)* Axbridge. *Mrs. Parry.*

*Phalaris minor* Retz., and *P. paradoxa* L. (3)* Both these aliens are new to S. Som. (v.c. 5). Inlet of R. Tone at Firepool, Taunton. *W. W.*

*Polypogon monspeliensis* Desf. (3)* Sandy inlet of R. Tone at Firepool, Taunton. *W. W.*

*Agrostis tenuis* var. *aristata* Parn. (4)* Britty Common. *W. W.*

*Bromus hordeaceus* var. *glabratus* (Doell.). (8) Shapwick. *W. W.*

*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb. (3) Near Sewage Works, Taunton. *W. W.*

*Agropyron repens* var. *Leersianum* Gray. (3) Norton. *W. W.*

*Ophioglossum vulgatum* L. (2) Near Monksilver ; (3) Cannington Park. *E. J. H.*

### Cryptogams

All collected and/or named by Dr. W. Watson or Mr. D. A. Jones. C.R.=County record. V.C.R.=Vice-county record.

### Mosses

*Acaulon muticum* C. M. and var. *minus* H. & T. Arable land near Taunton (5*). C.R.

*Heterocladium macounii* Best. Holford Combe, Quantocks (5*). First record for England. C.R.

*Hypnum giganteum* Schp. Sharpham Moor (6*). V.C.R.

### Lichens

*Parmelia exasperata* Carroll. Near Clutton (6*). V.C.R.

*Squamaria lentigera* D.C. On ground, Brean Down (6*). C.R.

*Aspicilia verrucosa* Krb. Purn Hill (6*). C.R.

*Biatora mutabilis* Fee. On yew, Cleeve Combe (6*). C.R.

*Acarospora veronensis* Mass. On wall near Taunton (5*). C.R.

*Bilimbia sabuletorum* var. *angustispora* Wats. Frome (6*). C.R.

*Buellia alocizoides* A.L.Sm. On Carboniferous Limestone, Purn Hill (6).

*B. colludens* Tuck. On stones, Greenaleigh Point (5).

*Placynthium majus* Harm. On limestone rocks, Sand Bay (6*). C.R.

*Collema cheileum* form *monocarpon* Cromb. Purn Hill (6*). C.R.

*Peltigera rufescens* var. *lepidophora* Wain. Upper Cheddon (5).

*Verrucaria myriocarpa* var. *pusilla* Arn. Purn Hill (6*). C.R.

*Staurothele ebborensis* Wats. Cheddar (6). Not seen in the county since 1917 when it was described from Ebbor Gorge. The late Miss Knowles gave several localities for it in her *Lichens of Ireland*.

*Arthopyrenia submicans* Arn. Sharpham Moor (6*). V.C.R.

*Microthelia atomaria* Krb. On trees, Cricklease near Chard (5*). New to Gt. Britain. Previously only recorded from Ireland. C.R.

*Belonia calcicola* Wats. Goblin Combe (6*). New to science. C.R.

*Lecidea crustulata* var. *viologranulata* Wats. Clatworthy (5*). C.R.

The following articles and notes referring to Somerset botany or written by our members are among those published in 1935.

A. Thompson. ' New Vice-County Records for Sphagna ', *Journ. of Bot.*, 51. Three are given from Hodder's Combe, Quantocks : *S. fimbriatum* var. *intermedium* Russ., *S. obesum* var. *canovirens* W., *S. crassicladum* var. *intermedium* W.

H. S. Thompson. ' Reservoir Vegetation during Drought ', *Journ. of Bot.*, 145–148 ; ' Obituary Notices ' :—J. E. Little, *ibid.*, 232, I. M. Roper, *ibid.*, 233. The latter gives an appreciation of the excellent work done by the late member of our Committee.

W. Watson. ' Lichenological Notes VIII ', *Journ. of Bot.*, 149–160. This contains many vice-county records for Somerset. One new species, *Belonia calcicola*, obtained from Goblin Combe, is described. It belongs to a genus not hitherto represented in the British Isles. *Lecidea crustulata* var. *viologranulata* is a new variety which was found at Clatworthy. *Leptogium massiliense* is recorded from Cleeve and Goblin Combes and was previously unrecorded from the British Isles. ' Lichens of Ingleton and District ', *The Naturalist*, 235–238. Contribution to the discussion on the ' Origin and Relationship of the British Flora ', *Proc. Roy. Soc., London*, 229–230.