

# A Catalogue of the Rarer Plants of the Turf Moors of Somerset.

---

BY THOMAS CLARK.

---

IT will be observed that this catalogue is not strictly confined to rare plants; a few are admitted which are far from rare, as well as several others which, though not common, are of not unfrequent occurrence. My aim has been to give, so far as my knowledge goes, a more characteristic view of this wide and rich botanical field, than an account less extended could have given. Hence, in the genus *Carex*, and a few other genera, containing several species, I have given the whole which have been observed by me, whether rare or not. I have also given the whole of the Ferns, and of the Orchis tribe. The names of all the plants are those of the Botanical Society of London.

---

*Alisma ranunculoides*. Occasionally in shallow pits in the neighbourhood of Catcot drove. The common species, *A. plantago*, occurs in watery places in various parts of the moor, associated with *Typha latifolia*, *Iris pseud-acorus*, *Caltha palustris*, and other common marsh plants.

*Anagallis tenella*. Marshy fields towards the southern

border of the moor, frequently on the margins of gutter drains.

*Andromeda polifolia*. Frequent in the drier parts of the moor.

*Athyrium Filix-fœmina*. Occasionally in moist woody places, and on the banks of reenes and pits.

*Bidens cernua* and *tripartita*. Reenes near Burtle and other parts of the moor.

*Blechnum boreale*. Occasionally on the borders of the moor.

*Butomus umbellatus*. In reenes.

*Calluna vulgaris*. Plentiful in most parts of the moor.

*Carduus pratensis*. Frequently in marshy fields and other moist places.

*Carex ampullacea*, *filiformis*, *flava*, *hirta*, *intermedia*, *ovalis*, *panicea*, *paniculata*, *Pseudo-cyperus*, *pulicaris*, *riparia*, *vulgaris*, and *vulpina*. According to the *Cybele Britannica*, *C. filiformis* does not appear to have been heretofore recorded as a native of our county; nor, excepting a doubtful locality in Devonshire, of any county nearer to ours than Leicestershire. It grows plentifully towards the eastern end of the moor, about two miles north-west of Sharpam Park. The other species grow in the neighbourhood of Burtle, and the greater part of them, if not the whole, in other parts of the moor also.

*Cicuta virosa*. Watery places on the eastern side of Catcot drove.

*Comarum palustre*. Frequent in marshy places.

*Drosera intermedia*, (*D. longifolia* of Smith, Hooker, and Babington). Frequent in shallow partially dry pits and reenes.

*Drosera rotundifolia*. Frequent on the borders of pits and reenes, and in other moist places.

*Epilobium angustifolium*. Very abundant in most parts of the moor, particularly in the central and northern districts. It generally springs up in fresh earth, especially such as has been dug from several feet below the surface, as in the forming of new reenes. When the Glastonbury canal was dug, it appeared a year or two afterwards in great plenty on the banks, forming in the flowering season long red lines, conspicuous nearly a mile distant. The more common species of *Epilobium*, *hirsutum*, *palustre*, and *parviflorum*, occur in various parts of the moor.

*Erica Tetralix*. Plentiful in various parts of the moor; rarely with white blossoms.

*Eriophorum angustifolium*. Plentiful in most parts of the moor.

*Eriophorum vaginatum*. Plentiful towards the eastern part of the moor.

*Erysimum cheranthoides*. Towards Meare.

*Habenaria bifolia*. Occasionally in bushy places.

*Hieracium umbellatum*. Occasionally in the drier parts of the moor.

*Hippuris vulgaris*. In the Glastonbury canal.

*Hottonia palustris*. In reenes.

*Hyoscyamus niger*. Occasionally in droves.

*Hypericum elodes*. In watery places towards the eastern end of the moor.

*Juncus bufonius*, *compressus* var. *cænosus*, *conglomeratus*, *effusus*, *glaucus*, *obtusiflorus*, *squarrosus*, and *supinus*. In various parts of the moor.

*Lastrea dilatata*. Occasionally in bushy places, and on the borders of plantations.

*Lastrea Filix-mas*. Occasionally on banks, and in bushy places.

*Lastrea spinulosa*. About plantations and old decoy ponds.

*Lastrea Thelypteris*. Plentiful in moist ground near Burtle, and in other parts of the moor.

*Lathyrus palustris*. Near Burtle, on both sides of the railway and on the eastern side of Catcot drove; also on the northern side of the river Brue.

*Linum catharticum*. Occasionally in heathy ground.

*Listera ovata*. Occasionally in bushy places.

*Lysimachia nummularia*. Marshy fields, on the margins of reenes and gutter drains.

*Lysimachia vulgaris*. In reenes and watery places.

*Mentha arvensis*. In fields and cultivated ground.

*Mentha piperita*. On the southern border of the canal, about two hundred yards eastward of the Shapwick railway station.

*Menyanthes trifoliata*. Plentiful in watery places in various parts of the moor.

*Molinia cærulea*. Frequent throughout the moor.

*Myosotis cæspitosa*. Near Burtle.

*Myrica Gale*. Abundant in the drier parts of the moor.

*Myriophyllum verticillatum*. In reenes and pits.

*Narthecium ossifragum*. Plentiful in various parts of the moor.

*Nasturtium terrestre*. Frequent in various parts of the moor.

*Nepeta Cataria*. Edington road, and in a drove leading from this road eastward.

*Œnanthe Phellandrium*. In reenes.

*Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Towards Meare.

*Orchis latifolia*, *maculata*, and *morio*. Occasionally in marshy ground.

*Osmunda regalis*. Frequent in various parts of the moor.

*Pedicularis palustris* and *sylvatica*. Frequent in marshy places.

*Peucedanum palustre*. Near the canal lock, and at various other places between the Edington and the Ashcot roads, on the southern side of the railway, generally in moist but not wet ground.

*Pinguicula lusitanica*. Marshy fields towards the southern border of the moor, not plentiful.

*Pinguicula vulgaris*. Rather plentiful in marshy fields towards the southern and eastern borders of the moor.

*Potamogeton pusillum*. In pits between the Catcot drove and Shapwick road.

*Polypodium vulgare*. On a bank about half a mile eastward of Catcot drove.

*Pteris aquilina*. Plentiful in the drier parts of the moor.

*Radiola millegrana*. Near Burtle.

*Ranunculus Flammula*. Frequent in moist and watery places, sometimes nearly three feet in height; a small creeping variety frequent on the margins of gutter drains.

*Ranunculus hirsutus*. Catcot drove, near Burtle.

*Ranunculus Lingua*. Plentiful about half a mile southward of the railway and a quarter of a mile eastward of Catcot drove. "Glastonbury moor, abundantly."—*Sole*.

*Rhinanthus Crista-galli* var. *angustifolius*, (*R. major* of Smith and Babington). On the banks of the canal, and in other parts of the moor.

*Rhynchospora alba*. In various parts of the moor, plentiful.

*Rhynchospora fusca*. In shallow, partially dry pits and reenes, in the heathy ground near the Shapwick railway station, and occasionally in other parts of the moor, sparingly interspersed with *R. alba*. The first information I had of the occurrence of this very rare plant in Turf Moor, was from Dr. Southby, who, about the year 1830, gave me specimens which he had gathered near the northern

border of the moor. He was the first, I believe, to publish this locality, and till lately I supposed that he was the first to discover it; but I now find that it was known to the late Wm. Sole, author of the *Menthæ Britannicæ*, as far back, at least, as 1782, for in his MS. flora of this date, which has been obligingly lent to me by my friend, T. B. Flower, of Bath, the plant is recorded, under the Linnæan name of *Schænus fuscus*, as growing in "Burtle Moor, near Mark."

*Rubus idæus*. In a drove by the side of an orchard, about a mile eastward of the Shapwick road, and half a mile southward of the railway, and again about a mile farther eastward, on the sides of a reene. Fruit amber-coloured, the prickly setæ of the stems a still paler colour; a variety which, in the wild state, is not recognised in the flora of either Withering, Smith, Hooker, or Babington, excepting that in a supplement of Hooker's *British Flora*, by Dr. T. Bell Salter, the fruit is said to be "rarely amber-coloured," and that the prickly setæ, which are usually dark red, are "pale in the plants bearing amber-coloured fruit."

*Rumex hydrolapathum*. Plentiful in watery places; frequently very large, the lower leaves sometimes thirty inches long and nine broad.

*Rumex palustris*. Plentiful in the neighbourhood of Burtle, and occasionally in other parts of the moor, springing up in newly prepared turf ground, after the surface has been removed a foot or two in depth.

*Sagina nodosa*. In the droves and other drier parts of the moor.

*Samolus Valerandi*. On the sides of pits and reenes.

*Scirpus cæspitosus*. In heathy ground near the Shapwick railway station, plentiful.

*Scirpus maritimus*. In reenes.

*Scirpus palustris*. In watery places, plentiful.

*Sium latifolium*. In watery places near Burtle.

*Sparganium natans*, *ramosum*, and *simplex*. Occasionally in shallow pits and reenes.

*Stellaria glauca*. Frequent in marshy ground.

*Thalictrum flavum*. In marshy ground and watery places.

*Triglochin palustre*. Frequent in marshy ground.

*Utricularia minor*. Occasionally in pits and reenes.

*Utricularia vulgaris*. Frequent and plentiful in pits and reenes.

*Vaccinium Oxycoccus*. Occasionally in marshy ground towards the borders of the moor.

*Veronica officinalis*. Occasionally in heathy ground.

*Veronica scutellata*. Frequent in marshy ground.

*Viola flavicornis*? Frequent in the droves and other comparatively dry places. I am not certain whether this is the *V. flavicornis* or one of the varieties of *V. canina* of the Botanical Society's Catalogue. A variety of this violet, whichever it may be, occurs occasionally with a large clear white flower, in various parts of the moor, if indeed it be not specifically distinct from either of our hitherto described violets.

*Viola palustris*. Occasionally in moist places.

*Wahlenbergia hederacea*. Near the Shapwick railway station, and occasionally in other parts of the moor.

---

The manuscript of Sole, before mentioned, contains the following plants which have not been observed by me, and no doubt there are still other rare species yet to be discovered. Sole was in the practice of paying annual visits to the moor, and it is not likely that so experienced a

botanist was in error as to any of the plants which he has recorded.

*Cladium Mariscus*. Glastonbury and Burtle moors; also near Wedmore.

*Helosciadium inundatum*. In turf pits in Glastonbury and Burtle moors; also near Wedmore.

*Ænanthe pimpinelloides*. Glastonbury and Burtle moors; also King's Sedgmoor.

*Parnassia palustris*. In old pits on Burtle moor.

*Polygonum minus*. Burtle moor, abundantly.

*Rhamnus frangula*. Glastonbury moor.

*Scutellaria minor*. Glastonbury and Burtle moors, abundantly.

---

---