

The Botanical Section

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

1948

THE thirty-eighth Annual General Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on 18 March 1948. The Hon. Treasurer reported a balance of £9 1s. 1d. as at 31 December 1947. Mrs. Sandwith was elected an honorary member of the Section.

Six field meetings were held in 1948. On 29 April a small party visited the Avon Gorge under the leadership of Mrs. Sandwith. A patch of *Helleborus viridis* was observed in Leigh Woods. A good specimen of *Ulmus plotii* was seen near the Clifton end of the Suspension Bridge. At St. Vincent's Rocks *Potentilla verna* and the alien *Allium roseum* were in flower. A single specimen of the Bristol Rock-cress was noted. At Minehead Warren on 22 May the following species were found in flower: *Cynoglossum officinale*, *Erodium maritimum*, *E. moschatum*, *Trigonella ornithopodioides*, *Lycopus arvensis*, *Elymus arenaria*. *Silene conica* was seen further east than it had been noted previously. The Horned Poppy was coming into flower. The visit to Butleigh Wood, planned for 16 June, had to be cancelled, owing to the refusal of the owner to allow access to his land. Instead, a party of members went to Britty Common. The Bog Bean was already over. Among the species seen were *Ranunculus lenormandi*, *Hypericum humifusum* and *Drosera anglica*. *Pinguicula lusitanica* was flowering abundantly. The main party of members intending to visit Brean Down on 1 July unfortunately missed the bus at Burnham, and had to be content with a visit to Berrow, where they found, among other plants, *Oenanthe fistulosa*, *Oe. lachenalii*, *Eryngium maritimum* and *Euphorbia paralias*. There was a good show of *Epipactis palustris* in a marshy patch not far from Berrow Church. *Scirpus holoschoenus* was not seen. The three members who reached Brean Down reported that many of the plants they had expected to find were over, owing to the early season. The White Rock-rose, however, was still in flower. A large party, led by Mr. Makins, spent a very profitable afternoon at Charlton Mackerell on 21 July. Among species found in the lanes

between cornfields were *Astragalus glycyphyllos*, and *Cichorium intybus*. Around the edges of the cornfields were found *Anagallis foemina*, *Bupleurum rotundifolium*, *Valerianella rimosa*, *Lychnis githago*, *Linaria spuria*, *L. elatine*, *L. minor* and *Specularia hybrida*. Several plants of *Silene noctiflora* were seen. A dried capsule of *Papaver hybridum* was found in the corn. On Thursday, 12 August, a small party spent the afternoon, in cold, windy weather, at Catcott Heath. Most of the plants usually found there at that time of year were over. *Ranunculus lingua* was still flowering. The Marsh Pea was in fruit.

A flower table was maintained at the Museum during the spring and summer. The Card Index of the Flora of Somerset was deposited at the Museum during November and December for members to consult. A copy of the *Flora of Gloucestershire* was added to the Library of the Society.

1949

The thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on 24 March 1949. Twenty members were present. The resignation of Dr. Watson from the office of President, which he had held for twenty-three years, was accepted with regret. The meeting heard with pleasure that Dr. Watson was still willing to act as Recorder. Mr. W. E. Palmer was elected President. The Hon. Treasurer reported a balance of £11 3s. 1d. as at 31 December 1948. It was proposed that an investigation of the distribution of certain plants in the county should be carried out. It was left to the Committee to work out a scheme for the furtherance of such an investigation.

Six field meetings were held in 1949. On 23 April Commander Graham led a party of members at Dawlish Warren. *Romulea parviflora* was found, somewhat sparingly, in flower. *Teesdalia nudicaulis* was found to be widely distributed on the Warren. This surprised some members, who had searched the Warren repeatedly with the late Mr. W. D. Miller, and had only found it in one spot, near the *Romulea*. The following are the most noteworthy of the many other species seen: *Erodium cicutarium* var. *pimpinellifolium*, *Trifolium subterreneum*, *Trigonella ornithopodioides*, *Euphorbia segetalis*, *Ornithopus perpusillus*, *Hypochaeris glabra*, *Moenchia erecta*. On 2 June a small party, led by the Hon. Secretary, visited the neighbourhood of Dulverton. From Dulverton Station the route lay through woods bordering the Exe and Haddeo Rivers to Bury, and then over the hill to Morebath. The fine development of the ferns was particularly noticed, and twelve species were recorded, including *Dryopteris borreeri*, which appeared to be as frequent as *D. filix-mas*. Several patches of the well-established alien *Valeriana pyrenaica* were seen between Bury and Hartford. Among other species found were *Luzula sylvatica*, *Lathyrus montanus*, *Polygonum*

bistorta, *Mimulus langsdorffii* and *Alchemilla vulgaris*. Commander Graham led an expedition to Brean Down on 15 June. Among species noted were *Koeleria vallesiana*, *Carex humilis*, *Orobancha hederata* and *Hypericum montanum*. The White Rock-rose was abundant and a hybrid between it and the Common Rock-rose was found. Mr. E. F. Payne was leader at the meeting at Street Heath on 8 July, when the peat-bogs were more easily explored than usual, on account of the dry season. Among many characteristic plants the following were specially noted: *Drosera longifolia*, *Utricularia minor*, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, *Sparganium minimum*, *Carex pseudo-cyperus*, *C. lasiocarpa* and *Osmunda regalis*. On 32 July Mr. Makins once again led a party through the same cornfields at Charlton Mackerell as were visited at the same time last year. Most of the same plants were noted, but owing to the prolonged drought and hot weather some species were fruiting, which had been in flower at the same time last year, notably *Astragalus glycyphyllos*, while others, such as *Bupleurum rotundifolium*, were dwarfed. On 4 August Mr. Hamlin conducted the first visit to Holford since the war. *Sibthorpia europea* was seen in several places in the village, and *Anthemis nobilis* further up Holford Combe. *Mimulus moschatus* and *M. langsdorffii* were seen at the edge of the stream. Among the bog plants the following were noted: *Radiola linoides* (a single plant), *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Anagallis tenella* and *Hypericum elodes*. Several of the party walked to the head of Holford Combe and down to the top of Bincombe Hill, noting on the roadside behind Danesborough a fine specimen of *Molinia coerulea* var. *major*. Others who walked towards Shervage Wood saw *Littorella lucustris* on their way.

A flower table was maintained at the Museum during the spring and summer. The following books were added to the Society's Library: Ronald Good, *A Geographical Handbook of the Dorset Flora*, and Stella Ross-Craig, *Drawings of British Plants, parts I-III*.

RECORDER'S NOTES, 1948

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 non-vascular plants (bryophytes, lichens, algae and fungi) only vice-county numbers are used: v.c.5 for South or West Somerset and v.c.6 for North or East Somerset; asterisks similarly indicate new vice-county records.

Viola ruderalis Jord. Shute Shelve Hill, Axbridge (9).
Spergularia rubra Presl. This has appeared at Taunton (3) on my garden paths and I cannot satisfactorily explain its occurrence there.

- Claytonia perfoliata* Willd. Sand Bay, Weston-super-Mare (9), 1945, Miss M. Ashby. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)
- Hypericum hirsutum* L. A pale-yellow flowered form was noticed on Shute Shelve Hill, Axbridge (9). The flowers were almost sulphur-coloured.
- H. androsaemum* L. Side-lane near Blagdon Green (3).
- Geranium robertianum* L. A white-flowered form near Greenaleigh Point (2).
- Agrimonia odorata* Mill. *A. agrimonoides* L. Prior's Park Wood and Buncombe (3), E. G. Neal (teste Kew).
- Centaureum pulchellum* (Sw.) E. H. L. Krause. In quantity on a peat moor drove south of Shapwick Station (8), C. I. and N. Y. Sandwith. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)
- Antirrhinum orontium* L. Taunton School allotments (3), J. B. Kenyon. This has not been seen for many years.
- Melampyrum pratense* L. Britty Common (4).
- Linaria spuria* (L.) Mill. Street (8), E. F. Payne.
- Neottia nidus-avis* Rich. Shute Shelve Hill, Axbridge (9).
- Orchis latifolia* auctt. angl. Blackwater (6).
- Carex panicea* var. *tumidula* Laest. Britty Common (4).
- C. disticha* Huds. Marshy ground at Failand tan-pits (10), I. W. Evans. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)

CRYPTOGRAMS

HEPATICIS

- Leptoscyphus anomalus* (Hook.) Mitt. On wet ground near Dunkery Beacon. New for v.c.5.
- Reboulia hemisphaerica* (L.) Raddi. Cleeve Toot, David Coombe. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)
- Pallavicinia lyelli* (Hook.) Gray. On peat near Shapwick Station, C. I. and N. Y. Sandwith. This is new for v.c.6, and for the entire county of Somerset. An unverified report of this species from Black Down was given in Dr. W. Watson's 'Liverworts of Somerset', *Proc. Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 1920. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)
- Lophosia excisa* (Dicks.) Dum. Shapwick Heath, 1946, C. I. Sandwith. New for v.c.6. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)
- L. incisa* (Schrad.) Dum. Westhay Heath, 1946, C. I. Sandwith. New for v.c.6. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)
- Cephalozia connivens* (Dicks.) Lindb. Westhay Heath, 1942, C. I. and N. Y. Sandwith. New for v.c.6. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)
- Lepidozia setacea* (Web.) Mitt. Westhay Heath, C. I. and N. Y. Sandwith. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)
- Scaphania nemorosa* (L.) Dum. Track in Leigh Woods. Dr. E. W. Jones. (*Bristol Botany in 1947.*)

LICHENS

- Biatora granulosa* var. *escharoides* (Ehr.) Rehm. On ground below Dunkery Beacon. New for v.c.5.
Coriscium viride (Ach.) Wain. West of Dunkery Beacon.

1949

- Fumaria capreolata* L. Huish Champflower (3), *F. House*.
F. purpurea Pugsl. As weed in cultivated ground, Huish Champflower (3), *F. House*.
Erysimum cheiranthoides L. Dunball (5), *E. J. H.*
Sisymbrium orientale L. (*S. columnae*, Jacq.), Bridgwater (3), *E. J. H.*
Silene noctiflora L. Charlton Mackerell (5), *E. J. H.*
Radiola linoides Roth. Holford (2), a single plant, *E. J. H.*
Alchemilla vulgaris L. Raised bank between Chipstable and Waterrow (3), *F. House*.
Poterium officinale A. Gray. On wet hillside near Exford (1), *leg. Dr. Kennels, com. F. House*.
Rubia peregrina L. On banked wall, Huish Champflower (3), *F. House*.
Erigeron canadense L. Burnham churchyard (8), *E. J. H.*
Achillea ptarmica L. By stream-side, field above Bury (1), *F. House*.
Anthemis arvensis L. Near Raleigh's Cross (3), *F. House*.
Leontodon autumnalis var. *sordidus* Bab., Winsford Hill, on way to Tarr Steps (1), *F. House*.
Wahlenbergia hederacea (L.) Reichb. Banks of Tone, Bulland Valley (3), *F. House*.
Linaria minor Desf. Shute Shelve Hill (9).
Orobanche minor Sm. Street (8), *E. F. Payne*.
Sibthorpia europaea L. On bank overhanging shaded streams above Tanner's Bridge, Huish Moor (3), *F. House*.
Chenopodium polyspermum L. St. Audries (2), *E. J. H.*
Amaranthus retroflexus L. St. Audries (2), *E. J. H.*
Polygonum bistorta L. Manor Farm, Huish Champflower (3), *F. House*.
Salix atrocinerea Brob. (*S. cinerea* auctt. angl.) var. *oleifolia* (Sm.). Heydon Hill, Huish Champflower (3), *F. House* and *F. G. Browning*.
Epipactis helleborine (L.) Crantz (*E. latifolia* Sw.). Bulland Valley and in Huish Champflower (3), *F. G. Browning* and *F. House*.
Orchis incarnata L. Huish Moor (acid type) (3), *F. G. Browning* and *F. House*.
Juncus articulatus L. Tassel-galled by *Livia juncarum*, Huish Moor (3), *F. G. Browning* and *F. House*.
Typha angustifolia L. This has been recorded from Berrow Marsh (9) and *Mr. E. J. Hamlin* found a spike which had been broken off, but he could not see any plants growing.

CRYPTOGRAMS

FILICES

Athyrium filix-foemina var. *erectum* Syme, Huish Champflower district (3) and is the characteristic form there. *F. G. Browning* and *F. House*.

Polystichum setiferum (Forsk.) Waynar [*P. angulare* (Krb.) Presl.]. Huish Champflower (3), *F. G. Browning* and *F. House*.

Thelypteris oreopteris (Ehr.) C. Chr. Huish Champflower and Chipstable (3), *F. G. Browning* and *F. House*.

Dryopteris borrieri Newm. (*Lastraea filix-mas* var. *paleacea* Moore). Huish Champflower (3), *F. G. Browning* and *F. House*.

HEPATICS

Leptoscyphus anomalus (Hook.) Mill. Dunkery. New for v.c.5.

LICHENS

Cladonia glauca var. *cenotea* (Flk.) Leight. On thatch near Triscombe, 1946. New for Somerset.

Usnea subcornuta Stirt. Crowcombe (*teste* Motyka). New for Somerset.

U. fibrillosa Mot. On larch, Culbone Hill, *leg.* A. Sowter, *det.* W.W. New for Somerset.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

C. I. and N. Y. Sandwith, 'Bristol Botany in 1947', *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.*, XXVII, Part IV, 1947, 203-8.

G. I. and N. Y. Sandwith, 'Bristol Botany in 1948', *ibid.*, Part V, 1948, 383-92.

These two publications contain many Somerset records.

A. A. Pearson, 'Notes on Bucknall's Drawings of British Fungi', *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.* XXVII, Part III, 1946, 177.

Cedric Bucknall was born in Somerset, and many of the specimens drawn by him were collected in this county.

W. Watson, 'The Average Times of First Flowering for Somerset Plants', *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XCIII (1947), part ii, 108.

A. R. Clapham and H. Godwin, 'Studies of the Post-glacial History of British Vegetation'. VIII, 'Swamping Surfaces in Peats of the Somerset Levels'. IX, 'Prehistoric Trackways in the Somerset Levels', *Phil. Trans. Royal Society*, Series B, Vol. 233, No. 599, 1948, 233.

H. Godwin, 'Studies in the Post-glacial History of British Vegetation'. X, 'Correlation between Climate, Forest Composition and Peat Stratigraphy in Sub-boreal and Sub-atlantic peats of the Somerset Levels', *ibid.*, Series B, Vol. 233, 1948, No. 600, 275.

A. D. HALLAM