

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

VASCULAR PLANTS 1987

Records in the following list add to, or modify, the information in *The Flora of Somerset*. The nomenclature of the list is that used in the *Flora*. The name of each species is preceded by its number in Dandy's *List of British Vascular Plants* (1958). The vice-county is indicated followed in brackets by the number of the botanical district. Following the locality is the 10-Km National Grid square, the year of finding if before 1987 and the name of the contributor. New vice-county and district records are marked *. Alien species are marked †. Names of contributors and referees not printed in full are abbreviated as follows:

R.S. Cropper	RSC	P.J.M. Nethercott	PJMN
Dr. R.E. Daniels	RED	J. Poingdestre	JP
S. Fisher	SF	R.D. Randall	RDR
D.E. Green	DEG	R.G. Roe	RGR
I. Green	IG	Mrs I.G. Roe	IGR
P. Green	PG	Dr. A.J. Silverside	AJS
Mrs E.J. McDonnell	EJMcD	W.H. Tucker	WHT

PTERIDOPHYTA

- 4/7 **Equisetum sylvaticum** L. – Wood Horsetail
6(10) Compton Common, Compton Dando, ST 66, 1985.
M.W.J. Paskin.
- 4/9 × 5 **Equisetum x litorale** Kühlew, ex Rupr. (*E. arvense* x *fluviatile*)
6(10*) Emborough Pond, ST 65, 1985. Miss I.F. Gravestock.

ANGIOSPERMAE

- 38/2 **Helleborus viridis** L. ssp. **occidentalis** (Reut.) Schiffn. – Green Hellebore
6(5*) Aller Wood, ST 43, 1986. JP.
- 46/11 **Ranunculus lingua** L. – Greater Spearwort
6(5*) Northstreet Moor, Langport, ST 42, 1985. SF. Probably a throw-out from cultivation.
6(9) Clapton Moor, ST 47, 1986. Mrs M.A. Silcocks. First record in the Gordano Valley since 1914.
- 55/1 **Nymphaea alba** L. – White Water-lily

- 6(10) In the river Chew at Keynsham, ST 66, 1986. Miss B. Price.
- 58/4 **Papaver hybridum** L. – Rough Poppy
6(5) Cornfield, Westonzoyland, ST 33, PG. First V.C. record since 1948.
- 66/6b **Fumaria muralis** Sond. ex Koch ssp. *boraei* (Jord.) Pugsl. – Common Ramping Fumitory
6(5) Moorlinch, ST 33. P & IG. Also reported recently at Burnham (8) and Worle (9). This taxon seems to be becoming more frequent in North Somerset.
- 74/2 **Raphanus maritimus** Sm. – Sea Radish
5(2) Near Hinkley Point, ST 24, 1985. RED.
- 74/3 †**Raphanus sativus** L. – Garden Radish
6(9*) North Drove, Nailsea Moor, ST 47, 1985. P. Rooney.
- 76/2 †**Rapistrum rugosum** (L.) All. – Bastard Cabbage
5(3*) Waste ground, Chilton Trinity, ST 33, IG. First V.C. record since 1966.
- 87/1 **Hornungia petraea** (L.) Reichb. – Hutchinsia
6(10) Re-found on a garden wall at Millard's Hill where it was referred to in Marshall's Supplement (1914) but was thought to have died out, ST 74. Mrs G. Read.
- 88/5 **Cochlearia danica** L. – Danish Scurvy-grass
6(10*) By main road, Keynsham, ST 66. T. Rice et al. A further example of the occurrence of this maritime species derived from salting and gritting icy roads.
- 94/4 **Draba muralis** L. – Wall Whitlow-grass
6(8) Railway bank, North Brewham, ST 73, 1966. C.A. Howe. Still there, 1986. RSC.
- 97/3 **Cardamine impatiens** L. – Narrow-leaved Bitter-cress
6(9) Ball Wood, Congresbury, ST 46. RSC.
- 103/ †**Matthiola longipetala** (Vent.) DC. ssp. *bicornis* (Sibth. & Sm.) P.W. Ball – Night-scented Stock
6(8) Roadside near Wells, ST 34. PG. First record of this escape since 1935.
- 153/1 †**Amaranthus retroflexus** L. – Common Amaranth
6(5) A weed in mangold fields, Moorlinch, ST 35. P & IG.
- 157/1 **Halimione portulacoides** (L.) Aellen – Sea Purslane
5(2) On cliffs east of Hurlstone Point, SS 84, 1967. J.H. Crothers. Still there 1984.
- 163/5 †**Malva pusilla** Sm. – Small Mallow
6(5*) Waste ground, Middlezoy, ST 33. IG. First Somerset record since 1957.
- 168/5 †**Geranium nodosum** L. – Knotted Cranesbill
6(10*) Established on roadside, Millard's Hill, ST 74. RG & IGR.
- 168/8 †**Geranium macrorrhizum** L. – Italian Cranesbill
6*(10*) Established on roadside, ST 74, 1976. RG & IGR. Still there 1987.
- 171/2 †**Impatiens capensis** Meerb. – Orange Balsam
6(9*) By sea-wall, Portishead, ST 47, 1986. Mrs H.E. Titchen.
6(9) Among reeds, Berrow, ST 25. IG.

- 179/1 **Rhamnus catharticus** L. – Buckthorn
5(3) One bush in scrub, Pitminster, ST 11. RGR. First record in district 3 since 1911.
- 206/17 **Vicia bithynica** (L.) L. – Bithynian Vetch
6(10) Meadow hedge, Upper Littleton, ST 56, 1986. R. Janes.
- 207/1 **Lahyrus aphaca** L. – Yellow Vetchling
6(10) Hedgerow of old strawberry field, Cheddar, ST 45. J.M. Boyd. First record on Mendip for many years.
- 207/2 **Lathyrus nissolia** L. – Grass Vetchling
6(5) Pit Hill, Moorlinch, ST 33. EJMCD.
- 207/5 †**Lathyrus tuberosus** L. – Tuberous Pea
6(9) Re-discovered at Cheddar where it has not been reported since 1954, ST 45. J.M. Boyd.
6(10) Re-discovered also near Keynsham where it was last recorded in 1907, ST 66. J. Aldridge.
- 207/6 **Lathyrus sylvestris** L. – Narrow-leaved Everlasting Pea
5(1*) Roadside, Upton, ST 03. RGR. Probably introduced with gravel for gritting in winter.
- 225/14 **Rosa rubiginosa** L. – Sweet Briar
6(10) A bush at base of old colliery spoil heap, Radstock, ST 65. DEG.
- 225/15 **Rosa micrantha** Borrer ex Sm. – Small-flowered Sweet Briar.
6(9 & 10) A special survey during 1985 by PJMN located this rose on Mendip from Crook Peak to Shuteshelve and a little in the Cheddar Gorge, on Tickenham Hill, near Clevedon Court and on Walton and Weston Commons. Also sparsely by the towpath under Leigh woods.
- 225/17 **Rosa agrestis** Savi
6(9) In his 1985 rose survey PJMN located this species, which was previously thought to be extinct in Somerset, on Wavering Down (good colony), Brean Down in small quantity, Middle Hope (mostly hybrids) and a few bushes on Tickenham Hill and Walton Common, Hybrids, mostly with *R. stylosa*, occurred at all these places.
- 227/ †**Cotoneaster franchetii** Boiss.
6(9*) One bush established in old quarry, Uphill, ST 35. PG.
- 229/1 × 2 **Crataegus x media** Bechst. (*C. laevigata* x *monogyna*)
6*(9*) Hedge at Weston-super-Mare between bushes of the parent species, ST 36. RSC.
- 232/6/3 **Sorbus devoniensis** E.F. Warb. cv 'Theophrasta'
6*(9* & 10*) One large tree, small trees and saplings in the Avon Gorge, ST 57, and one sapling on Tickenham Hill, ST 47, 1986. PJMN. Probably derived from planted trees in Sneyd Park, Bristol.
- 239/14 **Saxifraga rosacea** Moench – Irish Saxifrage
6*(8*) A garden plant naturalized on the disused railway near Shepton Mallett, 1983, ST 64. Mrs N. Vaughan-Davies det. Prof. D.A. Webb.
- 254/3 × 2 **Epilobium x limosum** Schur (*E. montanum* x *parviflorum*)
6(5) Waste ground, Stawell, ST 33, P & IG.
First record in district 5 since 1916.

- 254/13 †**Epilobium brunnescens** (Cockayne) Raven & Engelhorn – New Zealand Willowherb
5(1*) Simonsbath churchyard, SS 73. WHT.
- 262/3 **Callitriche obtusangula** Le Gall – Blunt-fruited Waterstarwort
5(2) Ditches on Wick Moor, Stogursey, 1985, ST 24. RED.
- 277/2 **Torilis arvensis** (Huds.) Link – Spreading Bur-parsley
6(5) Abundant in arable fields at Middlezoy and Stawell, ST 33, P & IG.
- 308/1 †**Levisticum officinale** Koch – Lovage
6(5*) Garden escape, Stawell, ST 33. PG.
- 319/7 **Euphorbia platyphyllos** L. – Broad-leaved Spurge
5(2) Arable fields at Hinkley Point, 1985, ST 24. RED.
- 319/14 × 15 †**Euphorbia esula** L. sensu lato – Leafy Spurge
5(2*) Arable land near disused farm, Hinkley Point, 1985, ST 14. RED.
- 320/1/3 **Polygonum rurivagum** Jordan ex Boreau
6(10) Dumped soil, Saltford, ST 66. RDR.
- 320/19 × 20 †**Reynoutria japonica** Houtt. × †**R. sachalinensis** (F. Schmidt) Nakai
6*(9* & 10*) By the towpath, Rownham, and at Belmont Hill, ST 57, A.C. Leslie conf. J. Bailey.
- 325/17 **Rumex palustris** Sm. – Marsh Dock
5(4) By the river Isle, Drayton, ST 42. SF. First record on the Levels south of Langport.
6(8) Dune marsh, Berrow, ST 25. PG. First record here since 1906.
- 343/16 **Salix repens** L. – Creeping Willow
6(10) Boggy springhead, Chelwood, ST 66. RGR.
- 382/1 **Centaurium pulchellum** (Sw.) Druce – Lesser Centaury
6(9) Fry's Hill, Axbridge, ST 45. RSC. First record on Carboniferous limestone since 1915.
- 401/3 **Buglossoides arvensis** (L.) I.M. Johnston (*Lithospermum arvense* L.) – Field Gromwell
6(8) Disturbed ground, Chilton Polden Moor, ST 34. RSC.
- 416/9 †**Verbascum blattaria** L. – Moth Mullein
6(5) Roadside, Middlezoy, ST 33. IG.
- 430/2 **Veronica anagallis-aquatica** L. – Blue Water-speedwell
5(2) Ditch on Wick Moor, Stogursey, 1985, ST 24. RED. First record in district 2 since 1935.
- 435/1/1 **Euphrasia micrantha** Reichb. – Slender Eyebright
5(2) The Chains, Exmoor, by Hoar Oak Water, SS 74. JP.
- 435/1/15 × 1 **Euphrasia confusa** Pugsl. × **E. micrantha** Reichb.
5*(1*) Roadside banks on Exmoor, as near Landacre Farm, Comer's Gate and on Winsford Hill, SS 83. AJS.
- 445/3 × 4 × 5 **Mentha x smithiana** R.A. Grah. (*M. aquatica* x *arvensis* x *spicata*) – Tall Mint
5(4) By the river Isle, Drayton, ST 42. SF & IG. First confirmed record in V.C.5 since 1959.
- 452/1 **Acinos arvensis** (Lam.) Dandy – Basil Thyme
5(3) Rough grassland, Thurlbear, ST 22. Dr B.P. Thurlow. First record in V.C.5 since 1941.

- 465/1 **Galeopsis angustifolia** Ehrh. ex Hoffm. – Red Hemp-nettle
6(10) Near Queen Charlton, 1985, ST 66. J. Aldridge.
- 466/1 **Nepeta cataria** L. – Cat-mint
5(3) Roadside, Ford Gate, ST 33. IG. First record in V.C.5 since 1926.
- 497/2 **Dipsacus pilosus** L. – Small Teasel
6(5*) Beer Wood, High Ham, 1986, ST 43, and West Wood, Somerton, ST 42. JP.
- 506/8 **Senecio vulgaris** L. f. **radiatus** Hegi – Rayed Groundsel
6(5*) Drove near Westonzoyland, ST 33. P & IG.
- 519/9 †**Aster x salignus** Willd. (*A. lanceolatus* Willd. × *novi-belgii* L.)
5*(3*) Escape on roadside, Ford Gate, ST 33. IG.
- 559/5 **Crepis biennis** L. – Rough Hawk's-beard
6(10) Persists near Queen Charlton, ST 66. J. Aldridge.
- 560/3/36 **Taraxacum faeroense** (Dahlst.) Dahlst.
5(1*) Sandyway Cross, Exmoor, SS 73. WHT. det. C.C. Haworth & A.J. Richards.
- 566/1 **Butomus umbellatus** L. – Flowering Rush
6(10) River Chew, Keynsham, 1986, ST 66. Miss B. Price.
- 577/9 **Potamogeton perfoliatus** L. – Perfoliate Pondweed
5(4) In river Yeo, Muchelney, ST 42. IG.
6(5) King's Sedgemoor Drain, Moorlinch, ST 33. P&IG.
- 597/1 **Gagea lutea** (L.) Ker-Gawl. – Yellow Star of Bethlehem
6(10) Wood at Litton, ST 55. RSC.
- 607/6 **Allium oleraceum** L. – Field Garlic
6(10) Avon Gorge, by the towpath, ST 57. IG conf. A.L. Grenfell.
†**Curtonus paniculatus** (Klatt) N.E.Br. – Aunt Eliza
6*(5*) Established escape on drove, Westonzoyland, 1981, ST 33. Mrs D. Maxwell. Still there. IG.
- 649/2 **Arum italicum** Mill. ssp. **neglectum** (Townsend) Prime
5*(2*) on debris below cliffs, Hurlstone Point, 1983, ST 84. C. Lawson.
- 649/2 **Arum italicum** Mill. ssp. **italicum** – Italian Lords and Ladies
5(3) Roadside near Staplegrove Church, ST 22. P&IG. First reported by W. Watson in 1939.
- 649/1 × 2 **Arum italicum** Mill. × **A. maculatum** L.
5*(3*) Two plants with the parent species near Staplegrove Church, ST 22. P&IG.
- 655/9 **Scirpus lacustris** L. ssp. **tabernaemontani** (C.C.Gmel.) Syme (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* (C.C.Gmel.) Palla) – Grey Club-rush
5(2) Marshy area, North Moor, Stogursey, 1985, ST 24 RED.
- 663/2 **Carex distans** L. – Distant Sedge
5(2) Damp pasture, Wick Moor, Stogursey, 1985, ST 24. RED.
- 663/38 **Carex humilis** Leyss. – Dwarf Sedge
6(9) Cross Plain, Compton Bishop, 1985, ST 45. PJMN.
- 663/81 **Carex dioica** L. – Dioecious Sedge
3(6*) Ringdown Common, Churchstanton, ST 11. I. Rich-

- ardson. Although now in Somerset this site is in the Watsonian vice-county of South Devon and this is only the second recent record in that V.C.
- 672/1 **Vulpia fasciculata** (Forsk.) Samp. – Dune Fescue
5(2) Sand dunes on Dunster Beach, ST 94. IG. First record in V.C.5 since 1849.
- 677/1 **Catabrosa aquatica** (L.) Beauv. – Whorl Grass
5(4) Ditches near Martock, 1986, ST 42. JP. Also at Long Load, ST 42. JP.
- 683/6 **Bromus madritensis** L. – Compact Brome
6(10) Roadsides in Weston- and Walton-in-Gordano, 1986, ST 47. Mrs M.A. Silcocks.
- 683/9 †**Bromus tectorum** L. – Drooping Brome
5*(4*) Fallow ground in nursery gardens, Merriott, ST 41. RGR.
- 683/15 **Bromus commutatus** Schrad. – Meadow Brome
5(2) In three places at Hinkley Point, 1985, ST 24 & 25. RED. First records in district 2 since 1914.
- 683/20 †**Bromus willdenowii** Kunth – Rescue Brome
5(2*) Casual in garden, Nettlecombe Court, ST 03. C.M. Wilson.
- 689/1 **Koeleria macrantha** (Ledeb.) Schultes – Crested Hair-Grass
5(3*) Calcareous grassland, Red Hill, Curry Rivel, 1986, ST 32. EJMCD.
- 690/1 †**Gaudinia fragilis** Beauv. – French Oat
5(2*) Re-seeded grassland and road verge, North and Wick Moors, Stogursey, 1985, ST 24. RED
- 708/5 **Alopecurus bulbosus** Gouan – Bulbous Foxtail
5(2) Salt marsh, Hinkley Point, 1985, ST 24. RED.
- 718/1 †**Echinochloa crus-galli** (L.) Beauv. – Cockspur
6(5*) In mangold fields, Moorlinch, ST 33. P&IG.
- 719/3 †**Digitaria sanguinalis** (L.) Scop. – Hairy Finger-grass
6(5) Roadside, Stawell, ST 33. PG.

R.G.B. ROE, *Recorder*

LEPIDOPTERA 1987

A cold and wet Spring and Summer did nothing to encourage the lepidoptera, and as a result few records were received; in fact some have stated that 1987 was one of the worst years on record. Some insects, usually widespread and common, were sparse and uncertain and these included *Celastrina argiolus* (Holly Blue), *Nymphalis io* (Peacock), *Pararge aegeria* (Wall), *Polygonia c-album* (Comma), *Aphantopus hyperanthus* (Ringlet), and *Lycaena phlaeas* (Small Copper). Migrants were few and far between but a highlight was the sighting of *Vanessa cardui* (Painted Lady) at Chew Valley Lake on 7 Jan 1988, included because it is so unusual and also as a reminder of the mild winter, *Nymphalis antiopa* (Camberwell Beauty) was recorded at Fivehead near Taunton on 17 Oct by Lt Col W.D.H. Duke (*The Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologists' Society*, Vol 47, No 358, February 1988).

Towards the end of August and in early September there was an improvement in the weather and large numbers of *Aglais urtica* (Small Tortoiseshell) were on the

wing; at Upper Swainswick near Bath, 35 were counted on one Michaelmas Daisy plant, and with the approach of colder weather corresponding numbers appeared in the house preparing for hibernation. Likewise *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral) appeared in numbers, mostly observed on rotting fruit, 42 being counted on one sunny morning.

It was heartening to note the re-appearance of *Strymonidia w-album* (White Letter Hairstreak) at Englishcombe near Bath, a species which has not yet recovered from the ravages of Dutch Elm Disease.

An interesting list of butterflies, deailed below, was submitted by Mrs Julia Small of Langford Budville, Wellington:

Polygonia c-album (Comma), *Polyommatus icarus* (Common Blue), *Pieris napi* (Green-Veined White), *Maniola tithonus* (Hedge Brown), *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), *Melanargia galathea* (Marbled White), *Anthocharis cardamines* (Orange Tip), *Vanessa cardui* (Painted Lady), *Nymphalis io* (Peacock), *Vanessa atalanta* (Red Admiral), *Aglais urtica* (Small Tortoiseshell), *Pararge aegeria* (Speckled Wood), *Aphantopus hyperanthus* (Ringlet).

MOTHS

A selection of moths taken at light at Upper Swainswick, Bath:

Abraxas grossulariata (Magpie), *Phalera bucephala* (Buff Tip), *Euphyia bilineata* (Yellow Shell), *Luperina testacea* (Flounced Rustic), *Spilosoma lubricipeda* (White Ermine), *Noctua pronuba* (Large Yellow Underwing), *Euschesis comes* (Lesser Yellow Underwing), *Plusia gamma* (Silver 'Y'), *Lithosia lurideola* Common Footman), *Plusia chrysitis* (Burnished Brass), *Callimorpha jacobaeae* (Cinabar), *Pterophorus pentadactyla* (White Plume), *Biston betularia* (Peppered Moth), *Arctia caja* (Garden Tiger), *Nypena proboscidalis* (The Snout), *Agrotis exclamationis* (Hart & Dart), *Smerinthus ocellata* (Eyed Hawk Moth), *Deilephila elpenor* (Elephant Hawk Moth), *Orthosia gothica* (Hebrew Character), *Apamea lithoxylaea* (Light Arches), *Phlogophora meticuloso* (The Angle Shades), *Colostygia pectinataria* (Green Carpet), *Chloroclysta miata* (Autumn Green Carpet), *Lycia hirtaria* (*Brindled Beauty*), *Euproctis similis* (Yellow Tail).

BRYAN W. MOORE, *Recorder.*