

SOMERSET NATURAL HISTORY

RECORDERS' NOTES

BOTANY 1977

VASCULAR PLANTS

The name of each species is preceded by its number in J. E. Dandy, *List of British Vascular Plants* (1958) and in Dandy's subsequent revision, *Watsonia*, 7 (1971), 157-158. Following the locality is the ten-kilometre National Grid Square. The bracketed numbers refer to the ten Districts into which Somerset was divided by R. P. Murray, *Flora of Somerset* (1896). Figures in bold type refer to vice-counties. District and vice-county records are marked * and aliens†.

Contributors are identified by their initials:

J.A.	Mrs. J. Appleyard	C.M.B.	Miss C. M. Bellefontaine
J.V.C.	J. V. Carrington	L.J.M.	L. J. Margetts
R.G.B.R.	R. G. B. Roe		

PTERIDOPHYTA

- 5/1 **Osmunda regalis** L.
6 (8) Marshy copse, Common Moor, Glastonbury, ST54. R.G.B.R.

ANGIOSPERMAE

- 48/1 **Myosurus minimus** L.
5 (3) Abundant on droves below Stoke St. Gregory, ST 32. R.G.B.R.
- 81/1 †**Cardaria draba** (L.) Desv.
5 (3) Parkfield Walk, Taunton, ST 22. R.G.B.R.
- 98/3 †**Barbarea intermedia** Bor.
6 (5*) Weed in arable field, Compton Dundon, ST 43. R.G.B.R.
- 162/2 **Tilia cordata** Mill.
5 (3) By old pond, Bishops Hull, ST 22. J.V.C.
- 183/2 **Genista anglica** L.
5 (3) Gortnell Common, West Buckland, ST11. J.V.C.
- 211/11/117 **Rubus prolongatus** Boulay & Letendre
5 (2*) Path between Minehead and Bratton, SS94. L.J.M.
- 211/11/123 **Rubus cardiophyllus** Muell. & Lefèv.
5* (2*) Under bracken on S. slope of moor above Woodcombe, Minehead, SS94. L.J.M. det. A. Newton.
- 211/11/165 **Rubus vestitus** Weihe & Nees
5 (2) Under bracken on S. slope of moor above Woodcombe, Minehead, SS94. L.J.M. det. A. Newton.
- 211/11/191 **Rubus leyanus** Rogers
5 (1) Light woodland, Tarr Steps, Winsford, SS83; (2) Damp area in woodland, North Hill, Minehead, SS94. L.J.M. det. A. Newton.
- 211/11/304 **Rubus retrodentatus** Muell. & Lefèv.
5 (2*) Under bracken on S. slope of moor above Woodcombe, Minehead, SS94. L.J.M.
- 211/11/356 **Rubus dasphyllus** (Rogers) Rogers
5 (2) Common under bracken, S. slope of North Hill, Minehead, SS94. L. J.M. det. A. Newton.
- 232/7 **Sorbus torminalis** (L.) Crantz
5 (3) Two young trees on former reservoir site, Quants, West Buckland, SS11. J.V.C.

- 235/2 **Sedum telephium** L.
5 (1*) Light woodland, Tarr Steps, Winsford, SS83, 'looking native'. L.J.M.
- 254/4 **Epilobium lanceolatum** Seb. & Maur.
5 (2) On wall, Porlock Weir, SS84. L.J.M.
- 254/6 †**Epilobium adenocaulon** Hausskn.
5 (2*) Waste ground by sea, west of Porlock Weir, SS84. L.J.M.
- 325/17 **Rumex palustris** Sm.
5 (3*) Ditch by drove, West Sedgemoor, below Stoke St. Gregory, ST32. R.G.B.R.
- 328/1 **Urtica urens** L.
5 (2) Cabbage field, Bratton Lane, Minehead, SS94. L.J.M.
- 329/1 **Humulus lupulus** L.
5 (2) Hedgebank, Bratton Lane, Minehead, SS94. L.J.M.
- 425/1×2 †**Mimulus guttatus** DC. *M. luteus* L.
5 (2*) Stream at Worthy, west of Porlock Weir, SS84. L.J.M.
- 430/25 †**Veronica crista-galli** Steven
6* (10*) Banner Down, Batheaston, ST76. Well-established in two places. R. D. Randall, *comm.* R.G.B.R. A native of the Caucasus: formerly in East Sussex, but now apparently extinct there.
- 444/1 **Verbena officinalis** L.
5 (2) Waste ground near sea, west of Porlock Weir, SS84. L.J.M.
- 494/5 **Valerianella dentata** (L.) Poll.
6 (5) Green Lane, Charlton Mackrell, ST52. R.G.B.R.
- 533/1 **Chrysanthemum segetum** L.
5 (3) Arable field, south-east of Milverton, ST12. C.M.B.
- 663/47 **Carex acuta** L.
6 (5*) Ditches at Ablake, 1972 (det. A. C. Jermy) and Kings Moor, Long Sutton, ST42. R.G.B.R.
- 683/7 †**Bromus diandrus** Roth
5* (2*) Roadside, Dunster, ST94. J.A. and R.G.B.R. *conf.* C. E. Hubbard.
- 692/2 †**Avena ludoviciana** Durieu
6* (5*) Weedy pasture near Stawell, ST33. R.G.B.R.

A. D. HALLAM

Recorder

FYNE COURT FUNGUS FORAY

In spite of the rather dry autumn, over 100 species of Fungi were identified within the Fyne Court grounds on Sunday, 9 October, 1977. The lawns around the buildings and arboretum yielded good numbers of typical grassland species, including the rather uncommon *Lepiota friesii*. Conspicuous Agarics were uncommon in the woodland areas except for some fine specimens of *Lepiota rhacodes* and large numbers of *Collybia peronata* near the north path. An interesting find was the Discomycete *Rutstroemia echinophila* growing on fallen Chesnut cupules. There was also a good number of Dog Stinkhorns near the pond.

Fyne Court is situated on the edge of the Quantocks, a very rich area for mycologists, and there is little doubt that further forays will greatly increase the species list, particularly in the woodland area. From a conservation point of view, it would be helpful to leave as much fallen timber as possible and avoid too much tidying. The laurel areas are particularly poor in fungus species.

Miss Margaret Holden gave valuable assistance in producing this report, as did Dr. D. Reid of Kew who identified the problematical species, marked (*).

J. G. KEYLOCK

AGARICS

- Agaricus arvensis* Sch. ex Secr.
Agrocybe erebia (Fr.) Kühn. apud Sing.
Amanita vaginata (Bull. ex Fr.) Vitt.
Armillaria mellea (Vahl ex Fr.) Kummer
Clitocybe cerrusata (Fr.) Gillet
 flaccida (Sow. ex Fr.) Kummer
 fragrans (Sow. ex Fr.) Kummer
 infundibuliformis (Sch. ex Weinm.) Quéf.
 nebularis (Bat. ex Fr.) Kummer
 rivulosa (Pers. ex Fr.) Kummer
Collybia carbonaria (Vel.) P. D. Orton
 butyracea (Bull. ex Fr.) Kummer
 cirrhata (Schum. ex Fr.) Kummer
 cookei (Bres.) J. D. Arnold
 peronata (Bolt. ex Fr.) Kummer
Coprinus impatiens (Fr.) Quéf.
 lagopus (Fr.) Fr.
 micaceus (Bull. ex Fr.) Fr.
 plicatilis (Curt. ex Fr.) Fr.
Crepidotus mollis (Schaeff. ex Fr.) Kummer
 pubescens Bres.
 variabilis (Pers. ex Fr.) Kummer
Hygrophorus niveus (Scop.) Fr.
 psittacinus (Schaeff. ex Fr.) Fr.
Hypholoma fasciculare (Huds. ex Fr.) Kummer
Inocybe geophylla var. *lilacina* Gillet
Laccaria laccata (Scop. ex Fr.) Cooke
Lactarius blennius (Fr. ex Fr.) Fr.
 quietus (Fr.) Fr.
 subdulcis (Pers. ex Fr.) S. F. Gray
Lepiota cristata (Fr.) Kummer
 friesii (Lasch.) Quéf.
 rhacodes (Vitt.) Quéf.
Lepista nuda (Bull. ex Fr.) Cooke.
Marasmius rotula (Scop. ex Fr.) Fr.
Melanoleuca cinerascens Reid
 melaleuca (Pers. ex Fr.) Murr.
Mycena acicula (Schaeff. ex Fr.) Kummer
 alcalina (Fr. ex Fr.) Kummer
 galericulata (Scop. ex Fr.) S. F. Gray
 galopus (Pers. ex Fr.) Kummer
 inclinata (Fr.) Quéf.
 pura (Pers. ex Fr.) Kummer
 tenerrima (Berk.) Sacc.
Nolanea cetrata (Fr. ex Fr.) Kummer
Oudemansiella mucida (Schrad. ex Fr.) Höhnelt
 radicata (Relhan ex Fr.) Sing.
Paxillus involutus (Batsch ex Fr.) Fr.
**Pholiota squarrosa* (Müll. ex Fr.) Kummer
Pluteus cervinus (Schaeff. ex Fr.) Kummer
Psathyrella conopilea (Fr.) Pearson & Dennis
 gracilis (Fr.) Quéf.
Russula ochroleuca (Pers. ex Secr.) Fr.
Stropharia aeruginosa (Curt. ex Fr.) Quéf.
Tubaria furfuracea (Pers. ex Fr.) Gillet

GASTEROMYCETES

- Calvatia excipuliformis* (Schaeff. ex Pers.) Perd.
Lycoperdon perlatum Pers.
 pyriforme (Schaeff.) Pers.
Mutinus caninus (Huds. ex Pers.) Fr.
Phallus impudicus L. ex Pers.
Scleroderma verrucosum (Bull.) ex Pers.

APHYLLOPHORALES

- Bjerkandera adusta* (Willdo ex Fr.) Karst.
 **Calyptrata capula* (Holmskj. ex Fr.) Quéf. Small group on elder twig.
Chondrostereum purpureum (Pers. ex Fr.) Pouzar
Clavariadelphus junceus (Fr.) Donk.
 **Coniophora puteana* (Schum. ex Fr.) Karst. Underside of a buried log.
Coriolus versicolor (L. ex Fr.) Quéf.
Ganoderma adpersum (Schulz) Donk.
Heterobasidion annosum (Fr.) Bref.
Hymenochaete rubiginosa (Dicks.) Lév.
Laetiporus sulphureus (Bull. ex Fr.) Murr.
Mycoacia uda (Fr.) Donk.
Phlebia merismoides Fr.
Ramaria stricta (Fr.) Quéf.
 **Steccherinum ochraceum* (Pers. ex Fr.) S. F. Gray. Bracket hydneous form.
Stereum hirsutum (Willd.) Fr.
 rugosum (Pers.) Fr.
Typhula erythropus Fr.
 **Tyromyces fissilis* (Bourd. & Galz) Donk. On heart wood of beech.

HETEROBASIDIOMYCETES

- Dacrymyces stillatus* Nees ex Fr.
Exidia albida Huds.
Auricularia mesenterica (Dicks. per S. F. Gray) Pers.
Hirneola auricula-judae ([Bull.]Fr.) Schroet.

ASCOMYCETES

- Aleuria aurantia* (Fr.) Fuckel.
Anthracobia macrocystis (Cooke) Boud.
Ascocoryne sarcoides (Jacq. ex Gray) Groves and Wilson
Calycella citrina ([Hedwig] Fr.) Boud.
Daldinia concentrica (Bolt ex Fr.) Ces. and de Not.
Dasyscyphus virgineus S. F. Gray.
Diatrype disciformis (Hoffm. ex Fr.) Fr.
Hymenoscyphus scutula (Pers. ex Fr.) Karst.
Hypoxylon fragiforme (Pers. ex Fr.) Kickx
Mollisia cinerea (Barsch ex Mérat) Karst.
Nectria cinnabarina (Tode ex Fr.) Fr.
Peziza repanda Pers.
Rhytisma acerinum (Pers. ex St. Amans) Fr.
Rutstroemia echinophila (Bull. ex Mérat) v. Höhnelt
Scutellinia scutellata (L. ex St. Amans) Lamb
Xylaria hypoxylon (L.) Grev.
 polymorpha Grev.

MYXOMYCETES

- Arcyria incarnata* (Pers.) Pers.
Craterium minutum (Leers) Fr.
Mucilago spongiosa (Leys.) Morg.

COLEOPTERA

While turning over my compost heap at Tatworth, in October, 1976, I found a number of beetles of the genus *Carpophilus*, which I was unable to track down in Joy's *Handbook*. The British Museum determined them for me as *C. marginellus* Mots. This beetle was first recorded in Britain in 1943 and W. A. Wilson in his *Coleoptera of Somerset* recorded specimens from Minehead in 1955.

Midelney yielded two interesting specimens in August, 1977: *Hedobia imperialis* L. from an old hawthorn hedge and *Hydrothassa hannoverana* F. from marsh plants along the River Isle. As far as I am aware, the *Hydrothassa* record is new to Somerset. In August 1977, I swept plants of *Lotus uliginosus* on a patch of boggy ground near White Vine Farm and obtained specimens of *Apion*. A recent paper by Dr. Morris (*Ent. Mon. Mag.*) had mentioned a species *Apion sicardi* Desbr. very similar to *Apion loti* Kirb. which had recently been found in this plant. The British Museum confirmed that my specimens were, indeed, *Apion sicardi* Desbr. and this is also a new record for Somerset. In October 1977, I found a specimen of *Mycetoporus lucidus* Er. in fungi at Forton near Chard.

My grateful thanks are due to Mr. Pope and Mr. Thomson of the British Museum Entomology Department and to Herr Dieckmann of Leipzig who have given me much help with the naming of these species.

G. L. FREWIN
 Recorder

MUNTJAC DEER, *Muntiacus reevesi*, IN SOMERSET

The muntjac, or barking deer originated in the mountains of southern China. It has become established in many parts of southern England following escapes from deer parks, mainly from Woburn, Bedfordshire, where it was introduced at the turn of the century. It is a small deer only 40-48 cm at the withers. It may be recognized by its small size, rounded back and chestnut-brown colour. When alarmed it raises its tail, which is white underneath. The antlers are short and pointed.

Muntjac are seldom seen, even though they may be well-established in an area, as they usually hide away during the day in thick vegetation. The best time to see them is probably in the late evening. They make single staccato barks which are repeated at short intervals, sometimes over long periods.

Muntjac have now certainly reached Somerset. Mrs. M. Ward has given me the following information from the west of the county. Slots were noticed after the snow of 1963 at Dunster and on Croydon Hill by Mr. E. Banks. Later Miss M. Shannon saw muntjac two or three times in the same area. Miss A. Kennedy heard one bark and saw a single one several times while riding on Croydon Hill and Rodhuish Common, and Miss R. Rickett saw single ones on several occasions near Luxborough. Also Mr. C. Thomas has had them in his kale at Lower Rodhuish.

There have also been reports of muntjac on the Wiltshire/Somerset border, but although typical frayings have been noted, no actual sightings have so far been reported. The writer of this note would be pleased to hear of further sightings from other parts of the county.

ERNEST G. NEAL