

was staying; this had the prospect of some shelter. Theo Loizou had also arrived, so we split into two pairs, Theo and Jeff sampled the floor of a nice bit of Atlantic woodland, and Rachel and I looked at the rocks in a stream running through a steep-sided gully. We completed our morning work, but by this time even the best waterproofs were beginning to leak a bit, so we retreated to Rachel's holiday cottage for some lunch and to dry out.

Jonathan Sleath had promised to join us after lunch and, as he arrived, the rain stopped so we were able to pop out once more. Rachel took Jonathan to sample fallen logs, while the remaining three of us did the same for standing trees. Standing trees are sampled in three height zones, so we were able to carve up the work between us. We finished quite quickly in the now sunny conditions, so Jeff, Theo and I took in a sizeable woodland flush on the way back and left Rachel with her quadrat on the top of a species-rich and lush farm wall.

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

Rachel, Theo and Martin went south to look at more coastal areas in another 10-km square, while Jeff, who was going home at lunchtime, made a return visit to Barlosh Moss. Unfortunately, the rain had made the moss difficult to access, so Jeff was restricted to sampling muddy tracks with their attendant *Pohlia* species.

Meanwhile, further south we stopped just north of Ballantrae to sample some maritime rocks. Again, getting our noses into the quadrats proved instructive with the flora of the seaward and landward sides of the rocks proving different. *Syntrichia papillosa* and *Orthotrichum rupestre* (which would have been another VCR if the voucher had been retained) were found on the landward sides, as well as the more usual maritime suspects. We then moved on to a steeply sloping woodland at Knockdolian where we took in both trunk and ground flora, some old concrete walls by a stream and a base-rich flush in the hills; the latter having both *Calliergon giganteum* and *C. cordifolium*, so we were able to compare their field characters. Walking back

to the car at Knockdolian turned up a real surprise in the form of fertile female *Lunularia cruciata* growing in some quantity on the sides of a damp ditch (NX119847). As far as I am aware, this is the most northerly record for this species in a fertile state.

As various folks had to leave on Sunday or early Monday, we concluded our fieldwork at this point, leaving the remaining team members to get back to more traditional 'square-bashing' for the remainder of the meeting.

Ayrshire provided an interesting focus for the week, despite the initial reservations of some members having glimpsed the more industrial nature of much of rural Ayrshire where the combination of coal mining, extensive forestry plantations and wind farms have destroyed many bryophyte habitats. However, we were fortunate to be able to visit some of the more interesting and beautiful areas that remain within the vice-county and the weather was kind to us, dry and bright and sunny for most of the week.

We are grateful for the assistance of SNH with a grant to pay for the cost of hiring rooms at Auchincruive for the evening identification sessions with microscopes. These were very well attended during the meeting. We are also grateful to the administrative staff of Auchincruive, SAC and especially Peter McDonald for arranging the loan of microscopes for the week to augment those brought by members, enabling many more people to benefit from the evening sessions. Also thanks to Graham King for patiently waiting each night to lock up for us after the evening identification sessions which, on occasions, extended to 23.30. Thanks to Gill Smart for suggesting sites, and for helping with arrangements and access to SWT sites, to NTS for help with access to Culzean, and to Bargany Gardens and Carnel Estates for allowing us to record on their ground.

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Rare and Interesting

Mark Hill presents the ninth instalment in his occasional column reporting recent rare and interesting records.

Five new localities for nationally rare Grimmiaceae demonstrate the importance of geology for these rock mosses. Fiona Cameron found *Grimmia arenaria* on mountain screes rich in heavy metals; all previous records were from the lowlands. A new English locality for *Schistidium pruinosum* is from limestone dolomitized by an intrusion of lava. Two records of *Grimmia elongata* (one not reported in full) are, like other recent Lakeland records, on Skiddaw Slate.

Buxbaumia viridis has turned up at yet another locality in eastern Scotland; clearly it is not as rare as had been feared. Norfolk was and still is the British stronghold of *Sphaerocarpos*. Mary Ghullam found a field with thousands of plants of both species. *Rhytidiadelphus subpinnatus* in north Wales and *Sphagnum balticum* in mid-Wales are boreal mosses for which there is apparently plenty of suitable habitat (wooded valleys and raised bogs), but which are nevertheless very rare in Britain though commoner in Scandinavia. By contrast, *Gongylanthus ericetorum* is a southern plant, absolutely at its northern limit with us; it is reported from a new locality in Guernsey. Finally, there is a status report for *Dialytrichia saxicola*, always very rare, but now apparently restricted to a single station.

Martin Godfrey reports one interesting occurrence of sex organs and another of capsules. *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans* was found with capsules in two separate places in Devon. Perhaps it has been overlooked in a fruiting state; there are currently only 14 fruiting records in the BBS database. Reports of fruiting *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* in Derbyshire and Devon were omitted as not quite sufficiently 'interesting'. Graham

Motley finds it frequently with capsules in south Wales, but those of us who live in central and eastern England almost never see it so adorned.

The regionally notable records are mixed. Surrey has been rather neglected since Jack Gardiner's time; Howard Wallis demonstrates that many species survive in their old localities while epiphytes (mostly not listed here) and *Lophocolea semiteres* are spreading – just as they are in much of England. Jeff Bates found *Cololejeunea minutissima* at a second station in Berkshire; it has already been found in numerous localities in some of the adjoining counties. On the other hand, *Porella arboris-vitae* in Surrey, *Dicranum spurium* in North Hampshire, *Meesia uliginosa* in Roxburghshire, *Pterogonium gracile* in Derbyshire and *Sphagnum magellanicum* in Sussex were always rare there and are likely to be decreasing rather than spreading.

Nationally rare or scarce

3.2. *Sphaerocarpos texanus*. 27: along the edge of a maize strip and the edge of the field, with *Riccia glauca*, *S. michelii*, *Barbula convoluta*, *Bryum dichotomum*, *Bryum rubens*, *Bryum violaceum* and *Dicranella staphylina*, 60 m alt., Felbrigg Hall Estate, between Felbrigg and Roughton, TG202383, 2009, Ghullam.

Thousands of plants of *S. michelii* and *S. texanus* growing together along a 120 m strip.

72.1. *Gongylanthus ericetorum*. C: in a little damp pan on an earthy hilltop, 45 m alt., Guernsey, Pointe de la Moye, WV296743, 2009, David.

Abundant in this new locality for a rare liverwort found in only three other places in the Channel Islands since 2000.



1.28. *Sphagnum balticum*. 46: with *S. magellanicum* on cut peat surface by raised bog, 330 m alt., Cors Craig y Bwlch, near Ystradmeurig, SN71376978, 2009, Bosanquet.

New site in Ceredigion for a very rare species that has been seen in only three other British localities since 2000 and has been found only once before in Wales, on Cors Fochno in 1967.

11.2. *Buxbaumia viridis*. 106: on a fallen, rotting birch in a *Picea abies* plantation, 170 m alt., Ballavoulen near Boath, 7 miles north-west of Allness, NH577742, 2008, Raistrick.

Single sporophyte in a new locality for this nationally rare species.

21.8. *Schistidium pruinosum*. 57: on igneous intrusion in limestone valley, 170 m alt., Black Rock Corner, Wye Valley, near Ashford-in-the-Water, SK179698, 2008, Blockeel 37/367.

Second county record. The previous Derbyshire record was also from an intrusion of lava in a limestone valley. The two Derbyshire sites are apparently the only ones known in England. The species has recently been found in Wales and occurs more widely in Scotland.

△ **Left.** *Gongylanthus ericetorum* on Pointe de la Moye. Charles David

Centre. *Grimmia arenaria* (right) with *G. donniana* (left) on scree, Sand Hill. Fiona Cameron

Far right. The scree habitat of *Grimmia arenaria*. Fiona Cameron

22.9. *Grimmia arenaria*. 70: In metal-rich block scree, with *G. elongata*, *G. atrata* and *Silene uniflora*, 530 m alt., Sand Hill, near Grasmoor, NY 1868721303, 2008, Cameron, conf. Bosanquet. Second county record.

22.9. *Grimmia arenaria*. 70: Fruiting in block scree with *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and *Oedipodium griffithianum*, 666 m alt., Foxes Rake, Scafell, NY2105506624, 2008, Cameron, conf. Bosanquet.

Third county record. Most earlier records are from lowland drystone walls in North Wales. The Cumbrian records raise the altitudinal limit by 470 m and establish scree as the primary natural habitat.

22.10. *Grimmia elongata*. 70: on slabs of Skiddaw Slates, 640 m alt., Gaskale Crags, NY169217, 2008, Goodison.

Third recent record for v.-c. 70; many hundreds of tufts here and nearby on Whiteside; this and a subsequent discovery on Grisedale Pike confirm that the plant was much overlooked in the second half of the 20th century.

74.2. *Dialytrichia saxicola*. 22: silty concrete by brook, 40 m alt., Bow Bridge, Cholsey, by confluence with River Thames, SU606867, 2009, Bates & Preston.

Rediscovery of the plant at Bates' 1988 locality, perhaps now the only extant British site as the host tree at its other recent site is dead, with *D. saxicola* persisting in August 2005 on fallen bark.

189.3. *Rhytidiadelphus subpinnatus*. 48: on flat ground in steep-sided valley, 100 m alt., east bank of Afon Eden, Coed y Brenin, SH721269, 2008, Bosanquet.

Frequent patches of this rare plant, in its second extant locality in north Wales. The habitat, flat ground by a river in a steep humid wooded valley, with *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, *R. squarrosus* and *Loeskeobryum brevirostre* nearby, resembles its habitat in south Wales.

Fruiting and gametangia

4.1. *Lunularia cruciata*. 75: on side of wet ditch, 20 m alt., Knockdolian, NX119847, 2009, Godfrey.

With female receptacles; a species that is rarely found with gametangia.

▽ *Grimmia elongata* at Gaskale Crags. Robert Goodison



183.1. *Ctenidium molluscum*. 39: damp drystone wall, Hall Dale, SK1353, 2009, Godfrey.

Capsules ripe; species is rarely found fruiting in Staffordshire.

199.1. *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. 3: well-shaded, acidic bank by footpath, 355 m alt., Fernworthy Reservoir, Dartmoor, SX671843, 2008, Pool.

Two fruiting colonies, 50 m apart, each with several capsules.

199.1. *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. 3: shaded acid bank in old sand pit, 200 m alt., near Castle Dyke, Ashcombe, SX922768, 2008, Pool.

Two capsules only.

Regionally notable records

1.5. *Sphagnum magellanicum*. 14: in a small valley-side flush, 140 m alt., Ashdown Forest, close to boundary bank with Broadstone Warren, TQ435327, 2009, Streeter.

New locality for a *Sphagnum* that is extinct in the two sites previously known in the vice-county.

16.5. *Entosthodon obtusus*. 17: on acidic, peaty soil by a wet ditch, 55 m alt., Oaken Wood, SU987337, 2008, Wallis.

First record since 1977.

23.3. *Porella arboris-vitae*. 17: on shaded chalky soil at base of small *Crataegus monogyna* 145 m alt., Juniper Top, Box Hill, TQ182526, 2006, Wallis.

The only Surrey site for this species, which was not refound during 2007–9, in spite of searching.

28.3. *Cololejeunea minutissima*. 22: North-facing slope in moist valley woodland leading down to

river, at about 1.5 m on moderately mature ash trunk, 85 m alt., Bowdown Woods BBOWT Reserve, near Thatcham, SU50656564, 2008, Bates.

Second record of this increasing epiphyte in Berkshire; young fruit visible inside perianths.

30.12. *Fissidens celticus*. 17: on the bank of a gill stream, 40 m alt., Sidney Wood, TQ018343, 2008, Wallis.

Second record since 1975, refound at a known site.

44.4. *Lophocolea semiteres*. 17: on soil at side of woodland footpath, 68 m alt., Epsom Common, TQ187608, 2008, Wallis, conf. Hodgetts.

Second record for the county of a species that is spreading in south-east England; numerous male shoots present.

53.6. *Dicranum spurium*. 12: on soil in dry heath dominated by *Calluna*, with *D. scoparium*, *Hypnum jutlandicum* and *Cladonia* spp., 70 m alt., Minley MOD area, east of Fleet Pond, SU832553, 2002, Norton, conf. Wallis.

Second extant locality for a species that has strongly declined in south England; refound 2009 by Fred Rumsey as rather small scattered plants mainly on and adjacent to the animal trackways through the Callunetum.

96.1. *Meesia uliginosa*. 80: on flushed clay bank with *Sedum villosum*, 373 m alt., east side of the Wrangway Burn, Teviothead, NY3656498239, 2005, Corner.

Second record for Roxburghshire of a species that is very rare in southern Scotland; 19 capsules were counted.

99.2. *Zygodon rupestris*. 17: on mature *Quercus robur* in woodland by a path, 50 m alt., Durfold



Wood, SU986327, 2008, Wallis and Howarth.

Third record since 1950.

112.1. *Rhodobryum roseum*. 17: in short, rabbit-cropped turf, 150 m alt., Headley Heath, TQ196535, 2008, Bannon, conf. Wallis.

Second record for Surrey since 1973, only four rosettes; 15 rosettes found on subsequent visit.

115.1. *Epipterygium tozeri*. 17: in silt on roots in flood zone of river, 15 m alt., River Mole in Winterdown Wood, part of Esher Commons SSSI, TQ122627, 2009, Wallis, conf. Matcham.

Second record in Surrey since 1950.

200.2. *Herzogiella seligeri*. 17: decaying, fallen beech, in woodland, 150 m alt., Netley Plantation (section 1 of Coombe Bottom SSSI), TQ074486, 2008, Wallis.

△ *Dicranum spurium* on Minley MOD area.

Fred Rumsey

Confirmation at known location, last found 1977.

209.1. *Pterogonium gracile*. 57: several patches on dolomitic limestone, 300 m alt., Carsington Pasture, SK241539, 2009, Blockeel 38/013.

Second record for Derbyshire, where *P. gracile* is restricted to strongly dolomitized limestone. These are the only known localities in central England.

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