

BBS Summer Meeting: Co. Cork and Co. Kerry, 27 June–11 July 2009

The organizers of last year's summer meeting, **Sam Bosanquet** and **Chris Preston**, present their report of this exciting meeting which set out to explore the less well-known and under-recorded areas of Co. Cork and Co. Kerry in south-west Ireland.

Although many BBS parties and individual bryologists have visited south-west Ireland, they have usually gravitated towards known hot-spots where they were sure to find a rich assemblage of hyperoceanic species. The results of such 'honey-potting' are embarrassingly clear on species-richness maps such as those published by Preston *et al.* (2009). By the start of 2009, 441 species had been recorded from 10-km square V98, which includes all the famous sites around Killarney, Co. Kerry, whereas the total for V89 was just 5. Our original plan for the 2009 Summer Meeting was to visit the under-recorded areas of Cork in the first week and Kerry in the second, with a few visits to richer sites in Kerry. By a fortunate chance, the meeting coincided with an initiative by the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club to promote bryology in Ireland, and our plans for a recording meeting also provided an ideal opportunity for beginners from both Britain and Ireland to join more experienced bryologists in the field.

The attendance at the meeting surpassed our wildest dreams, with a total of 39 people joining the party for at least a day. Joan Bingley, Des Callaghan, Richard Fisk, Rory Hodd, Niklas Lönnell, Liz Kungu, Oliver Moore, Caroline Pannell, Chris Preston and Gordon Rothero were present for all or almost all the meeting, with Sam Bosanquet and Fionnuala O'Neill attending for the first week, and David Long and Maren Flagmeier for the second. Cillian Breathnach, Christina Campbell, Sebastien Cormont, Maria Cullen, Aidan Daly, Jo Denyer, Declan Doogue, Caitriona Douglas, Katy Duff, Howard Fox, Daniel Fuchs, Daniel Kelly, Rachel Kempson, Richard Lansdown, Neil Lockhart, Jessica Lu, Melinda Lyons, Caroline Mhic Daeid, Karen Moore, Miles Newman, Margaret Norton, Brendan O'Hanrahan, Aoife O'Rourke, Aisling Walsh and Jon Yearsley joined the group at various stages. Irish residents outnumbered British, but, being more local, tended to stay for shorter periods; we also welcomed guests from Canada, France and Sweden.

Part 1 – Co. Cork, 27 June–3 July 2009

SATURDAY 27 JUNE

A little recording was done on the way to the meeting. Sam visited two adjacent blank hectads in the Nagles Mountains (W69 & 79; H5), resulting in totals of about 150 species in each despite the very extensive coniferization of the hillsides. The conifers actually provided suitable conditions for humidity-demanding epiphytes, including *Daltonia splachnoides** and *Colura calyptrifolia* in both squares. Other highlights included *Fissidens fontanus** in the Blackwater River on the footings of Killavullen Bridge (W6499), *Aphanorrhagma patens** and *Bryum gemmiferum* further downstream near Fermoy (W7798), *Riccardia incurvata** on a forestry track in Gortroche Forest (W7195), and *Sphagnum flexuosum** in a flush near Tooreen (W6593). Richard Fisk visited the open rocky headland of Sheep Head (V7334; H3) and found *Riccia beyrichiana* and *Fossombronia caespitiformis* var. *multispira*,

with hyaline rhizoids, on a vertical peaty bank, and *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *S. tenellum* and others in peaty hollows. Des found some calcareous ground on Inchydoney Island (W33; H3) that held *Eucladium verticillatum*, *Fissidens adianthoides* and *Palustriella commutata*.

SUNDAY 28 JUNE (H3)

Ten people met at the headquarters on Sunday morning for a pep talk and a rash guarantee of *Daltonia* some time during the week (in the event, our parts of Co. Cork proved too exposed and *Daltonia* was not seen until week 2 in Kerry). We stayed relatively close to Clonakilty for the day, covering three blank hectads west and north-west of the town. The whole group started together at Castlefreke Woods (W3235; H3). Before we had left the car park, Oliver found *Riccia glauca* and *R. sorocarpa* growing together, and soon after we



found a low bank that supported a few plants of both *Anthoceros punctatus* and *Phaeoceros laevis**. This did little to prepare us for the spectacular sheets of fruiting *A. punctatus* by the footpath, which turned areas so black it looked as though there had been a series of small oil spills. The *P. laevis* had *Lophocolea fragrans* growing over it, giving everyone a chance to admire this pretty little liverwort. Male and female *Fossombronia incurva* were spotted on trampled gravel on the lake walk (W3335).

The group split after lunch. One car stayed in W33, being deflected by numerous keep out signs on Galley Head until they found Dirk Cove (W3432). *Microbryum rectum**, *Bryum donianum* and *Tortula viridifolia* were highlights on the coastal slopes here. Patches of probable *Palustriella commutata* on flushed cliffs could only be reached by 'a 20-yard swim and then a climb up a sheer rock face', which the team baulked at. Heavy rain in the afternoon ensured that they got thoroughly soaked anyway, but not before they had increased the hectad total to over 120 species. Castlefreke Church (W3336) also

held *M. rectum*, as well as *Didymodon nicholsonii**.

Another group recorded north of Clonakilty in W34 (H3). The fen around the lough north-east of the town (W3943) produced *Calliergon cordifolium* as reward for a wade through waist-high *Equisetum* vegetation, but conditions were not sufficiently calcareous for richer pickings. The highlight of the day was *Entosthodon fascicularis* on a bank by a field at Drohidachlair (W3545). The final tally of nearly 70 species was swelled later in the week by recording in Clonakilty itself (W3741–3841), which included *Syntrichia papillosa** on street trees, *Gymnostomum viridulum* on an old wall, *Syntrichia ruralis** and *Physcomitrium pyriforme**.

The hillier W24 (H3) was the third target square. This area was far enough inland to hold epiphytic *Colura* and *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia* in its conifer plantations, although no *Daltonia* was seen. Rocks above Lough Atarriff (W2546) held the only *Racomitrium* spp., *Andreaea rothii* subsp. *falcata* and *Hedwigia stellata* seen during the day, but the lough itself had very high water levels, as did the larger Curraghickey Lake. Promising north-west-facing slopes at Maulanimrish (W2049) held *Fissidens celticus*, *Jubula hutchinsiae* and *Trichocolea tomentella*, but most of the area had been coniferized and had ditched streams. Nevertheless, this proved to be the richest hectad of the day, with a total of over 130 species.

MONDAY 29 JUNE

(H3, EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED)

Forecast dry weather tempted two groups to the hills east of Bantry (H3), while two others visited woodland squares between Cork and Bandon (H4). The Nowen Hill hectad (W15) promised to be one of the better areas in central H3, and sure enough produced nearly 200 species, albeit without any outstanding rarities. A patch of *Telaranea europaea*



◁ Far left. Admiring bryologists at Castlefreke crowd around to see *Anthoceros punctatus* on 28 June.
Caroline Pannell

◁ Left. *A. punctatus* at Castlefreke. Sam Bosanquet



△ *Telaranea europaea* at Nowen Hill on 29 June. Sam Bosanquet

on a peat ditch side under dense spruce (*Picea*) in the Nowen Hill plantation (W1354) was new for the W 100 km square and suggests it may be the next *Colura/Daltonia* to benefit from conifers. Nowen Hill itself (W1453) had patches of base-rich rock, with *Plagiochila bifaria*, *Neckera crispa* and *Platydictya jungermannioides**, and a deep gully with boulders and hazels in its bottom. Rory spotted large cushions of *Herbertus aduncus* from 30m away before we had even entered the gully, and sure enough it abounded there, along with huge patches of *Campylopus setifolius* as tall as a bryologist. Other notable species in the gully included a colony of *Plagiochila heterophylla* on the south-facing wall, plentiful *P. exigua* and *Trichostomum hibernicum**, and small quantities of *Grimmia torquata**, *Bazzania tricrenata* and *Radula aquilegia*. The north-facing crags above were generally poor, but held a single patch of *Campylopus gracilis** among *C. atrovirens*. Further recording in the hectad included a bog at Farnane (W1655) with stubbornly non-fertile *Cephalozia macrostachya*, and roadsides and river banks at Keenrath Bridge (W1856) with *Scleropodium cespitans**. The *Molinia*-dominated

top of Mullaghmesha (W05SE) was the main target for the second group. The approach from the west included *Jubula hutchinsiae*, *Metzgeria leptoneura*, *Plagiomnium elatum**, *Trichocolea tomentella* and abundant midges in a gully, and a rock with *Adelanthus decipiens* on a sheltered hillside. Boulders by two loughs supported *Ulota hutchinsiae**, *Ptychomitrium polyphyllum* and *Dicranum scottianum*.

Daniel, Aisling and Jessica visited Shippool Wood (W5654; H4), where Daniel has surveyed the vascular plants in the past. The woodland held a good range of species, including *Jubula hutchinsiae*, *Cephalozia lunulifolia*, *Orthotrichum tenellum* and fruiting *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. The fourth party were nearby in two squares near Bandon. Beech woods on the south side of the Bandon River (W4654) – with *Pohlia lutescens** and *P. melanodon** – and a churchyard and street trees in Bandon itself (W45W) produced 85 species. Kilcrea Castle and Friary (W56E; H4) was the richest site in H4 visited during the day, and had *Bryum donianum* growing on the Friary walls and *Epipterygium tozeri* on the Castle moat. *Fissidens incurvus** was found at Tuough Bridge (W5162; H4), and forestry tracks at Ballincourneenig (W5365; H4) rounded the day off with *Blasia pusilla**, fruiting *Phaeoceros laevis** and *Calliergonella lindbergii*. The total for W56 was 115 taxa.

TUESDAY 30 JUNE (H3)

Wet weather hit overnight, so we tackled coastal woodlands south-west of Clonakilty. Sam briefed the group to look for *Cephaloziella turneri* on earth overhangs on estuary banks, and sure enough it was found at two new sites after more than 50 years without a record from Cork or Kerry. Liz, Richard, Des and Joan did the hectad closest to Clonakilty, starting with a churchyard in Ross Carbery (W2836) that held 51 bryophyte species. *Trichocolea* grew in wet valley woodland at Connonagh Bridge (W2438). The ravine at Leap (W2036) held *Jubula* and *Lophocolea fragrans*, and Liz collected *C. turneri** from an adjacent coastal bank. Finally, exploration

of the coast at Mill Cove produced *Hedwigia stellata* and *Frullania fragilifolia*.

Castletownshend Wood (W1831–1832) looked the most promising of the estuarine woodlands, and its promise was enhanced by the owner telling us that he had been shown *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney fern) there several years ago. We failed to relocate the fern, but were more than happy instead to find large patches of *Telaranea europaea* and *Cephalozia crassifolia** co-dominating peaty ground under rhododendrons. The deep shade and heavy rain necessitated the use of Jessica's mobile phone light to locate suitable material for identification: true 21st century bryology! The *Cephalozia* was a good way from its few known sites in Kerry, Galway and Mayo, and was especially surprising giving the generally unremarkable flora in the planted woodland. The deepest gully supported *Jubula*, *Trichocolea*, *Bazzania trilobata*, *Plagiochila spinulosa* and fruiting *Hyocomium armoricum*, and Sam clambered down to the estuary bank to locate a large colony of *Cephaloziella turneri*. The final tally of 101 taxa was enhanced by another 30 or so in Skibereen (W1233–1333), including *Orthotrichum tenellum** on a street tree.

Chris, Niklas and Caroline volunteered to do the day's furthest squares. Their churchyard at Church Cross (W0632) held *Bryum donianum* and *Microbryum rectum* again, as well as *Phaeoceros laevis* and *Pleuroidium subulatum*. *Pohlia bulbifera* and *Riccia subbifurca* on a heathland track east of Meen Bridge (W0435) enlivened the lunch stop, and helped take the hectad total to over 100. A move inland to the wasted landscape of clear-felled plantations and drained bogs north-west of Skibereen provided one of the sternest challenges of the first week. The highlight was a sand quarry at Dromore (W0645), which also held *R. subbifurca*, *R. sorocarpa*, *Fossombronina caespitiformis* subsp. *multispira*, *Campylopus subulatus** and *Pohlia andalusica* on a damp track, and *Racomitrium ericoides** nearby. *F. maritima* was fruiting freely on a decrepit wall top just north of Dromore Bridge (W0645), and fruiting *Bryum*

*radiculosum** was collected from a bryologically grim churchyard at Dromore, which, as so often in Ireland, was mainly car park. Finding a good conifer plantation proved difficult, although Niklas located a little *Colura* on Glanatnaw Hill (W0648). W04 produced 80 taxa in all.

WEDNESDAY 1 JULY (H3)

Lough Nambrackderg and the coum above it (W0364) were the main target of the day. They lie below Co. Cork's highest mountain, Knockboy, and are both rockier and more humid than those seen on Nowen Hill on Monday. The flora is generally similar, with *Herbertus aduncus*, *Bazzania tricrenata*, *Campylopus setifolius* and plentiful small Lejeuneaceae, but has a few additional species, including *Anthelia julacea*, *Dicranodontium denudatum*, *Pterogonium gracile* and *Ulota hutchinsiae*. The unexpected highlight of the day, and the best find of the entire meeting, was a lough-side boulder with an abundantly gemmiferous *Grimmia* which Gordon said looked wrong for *G. hartmanii* and Niklas suggested looked very similar to Scandinavian *G. anomala**. He took some home and confirmed that it had abundantly papillose, straight leaves and large gemmae on the leaf tips: key features of this new species for Ireland and the British Isles. *Isothecium holtii** grew on the same boulder and the *subsquarrosa* form of *Grimmia lisa* was nearby. Rory found *Douinia ovata** on a boulder, and Gordon spotted both *Sphenobolopsis pearsonii** and *Metzgeria leptoneura** that were last recorded in Cork on this site by Milne-Redhead in 1955. *Odontoschisma elongatum*, mixed with *Nardia compressa* and algal gunk on the lough margin was the second record for West Cork and the fourth for Ireland.

Hectad-bashing in four squares north of Clonakilty was never going to compete with such riches, but the two parties made a good fist of things and recorded several new species for the county. The 156 taxa in W25 included *Plagiomnium cuspidatum** at Ballynacarriga (W2850), *Porella pinnata** and *Fissidens monguillonii** submerged below Manch

Bridge (W2952), and abundant *Hedwigia integrifolia* and fruiting *Campylopus pilifer* on round-backed rock outcrops on Gunnerly Hill (W2255). A similar mix of rocky ground, conifer plantations and villages in W26 produced 150 taxa, with highlights such as *Sphagnum contortum** in a flush on Carrigarierk (W26A), *Campylopus subulatus* and *Pohlia drummondii** on a forestry track at Gorteen (W2261), and *Schistidium platyphyllum** and *Fossombronia foveolata* on the north bank of Lough Allua (W2165). W35 supported about 100 species, including more *P. pinnata* at Murragh Bridge (W3854) and *Leptobryum pyriforme** on shaded brickwork at St Mary's Church, Desertserges (W3853), and W36 held 80 or so. The vascular plants *Elatine hexandra* (six-stamened waterwort) and *Limosella aquatica* (mudwort) were growing on the margin of the reservoir north-west of Kilmurray (W3768), but it was too early in the season for any notable bryophytes.

THURSDAY 2 JULY (H3)

We managed to duck under the heavy morning rain by going west under it to the Mizen Head peninsula. Gordon, Jo and Oliver were furthest west around Three Castle Head (V721), where mist swirled around the castles and *Tuberaria guttata* (spotted rock-rose) provided a floral diversion. *Fossombronia angulosa* was remarkably abundant here, filling in a gap and representing the most southerly Irish colony. A visit to calcareous dunes at Canawee (W7625) in search of David Holyoak's possible *Petalophyllum* colony produced only a small *Fossombronia*. An opportunistic stop in woodland east of Toormoor (V83) produced *Harpalejeunea*, although none of the party knew exactly where they were.

Sam, Des, Liz and Niklas covered V93 and had an unmemorable but ultimately productive day that resulted in records of over 170 taxa. The centre of Skull (V9231) held *Hygrohypnum luridum** in a 'sewer-like stream', a headland nearby (V9331) supported *Campylopus pilifer* and *Grimmia liseae*, and Des found *Sphagnum contortum* in Derryconnell Fen (V9533). The 400m Mount Gabriel



△ Top. *Harpalejeunea mollerii* at Lough Nambrackderg on 1 July. Niklas Lönnell

△ Bottom. Gordon Rothero, Des Callaghan, Aisling Walsh, Jessica Lu and Rory Hodd at Lough Nambrackderg. Niklas Lönnell

was the group's main site, as access was aided by a tarmac access road to the masts on the summit. There was no sign of the cluster of copper mines marked on the OSI map on the east side of the mountain, but the presence of *Grimmia funalis**, *Schistidium apocarpum*, *Tortella bambergeri** and *T. tortuosa* hinted at something funny in the rock. Sam dug up fruiting *Aneura mirabilis** from



beneath *Sphagnum subnitens* in woodland north-east of Mount Gabriel (V9335), Niklas found *Harpanthus scutatus*, Liz found *Lepidozia cupressina*, and *Fissidens taxifolius* var. *pallidicaulis** grew among abundant *Jubula* on the stream sides.

The remaining two parties went east to Mid Cork (H4) and East Cork (H5), where the soil is more fertile, the lanes leafier, and conditions generally lusher than in West Cork. One group visited a wood at Kilnaglery (W76K), where fruiting *Neckera complanata* was the highlight; a marshy field with *Physcomitrium pyriforme*; a churchyard at Crosshaven (W7960), with the first *Didymodon luridus* of the week, reflecting the more eastern nature



of the area; another at Minane Bridge (W7456) with dense mounds of *Bryum pallescens** under a dripping roof, and another *Bryum* in plant pots that was later identified by David Holyoak as Ireland's second record of *B. creberrimum**; and more woodland at Tracton (W7256) with *Pohlia melanodon*. Richard and Caroline found a 12x18 inch patch of scattered *Calyptrochaeta apiculata* on a tree fern trunk in Fota Botanic Garden (W7971; H5), confirming the origin of Fionnuala's 'new for Ireland' colony (O'Neill, 2009). Their list of 77 species provides a useful baseline for the gardens.

FRIDAY 3 JULY (H3)

Just to confuse things, Gordon's party went to another Lough Nambrackderg (meaning Lake of the Red Trout) (W16K), 12 km ESE of the one visited on Wednesday. This had *Porella obtusata* on boulders on its margins, *Campylopus subulatus* on the approach track, and *Campylopus atrovirens* var. *falcatus** on wet rocks above it. Somewhat basic rocks a short distance to the east held *Grimmia funalis* and *Glyphomitrium daviesii**, with *Amblyodon dealbatus**, previously recorded in south-west Ireland only on the Dingle Peninsula, in bryophyte mats on flushed sections. The 500 m hill above the lough was generally acid and dour, but added a few upland species. The 120 taxa recorded complement a list of oceanic species found by Sam and Chris further west in the hectad during their recce.

The remaining teams stuck close to home, visiting W43, W44 and W54 to the east of Clonakilty. None was particularly rich, but the last two provided relaxed and entertaining bryology and 125 taxa each. Local ecologist Rick Mundy showed one group the rockiest areas of Courtmacsherry Wood (W5242), where *Heterocladium heteropterum* var. *flaccidum*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Isothecium alopecuroides* and a few others suggest a reasonable history of woodland cover on the headland. The greatest diversity was on banks of till just above the high tide line, where *Epipterygium tozeri* and *Entosthodon attenuatus* were noted. Oliver was more excited about the three species of jellyfish washed up on the shore (the uncommon *Cyanea lamarckii*, as well as the common *Aurelia aurita* and *Chrysaora hyscoscella*) than any of the bryophytes. The Argideen River at Inchy Bridge (W4645) had *Porella pinnata* on its sides, as did the Bandon River at Baxter's Bridge (W4454). Female *Bryum pseudotriquetrum* var. *pseudotriquetrum** was collected from *Palustriella commutata* flushes near Burke's Bridge (W4348); the eastern species *Didymodon luridus* and *Syntrichia ruralis* were seen in Timoleague (W4743); and *Syntrichia laevipila* and *S. papillosa* were noted in Bandon (W4955).

Part 2 – Co. Kerry, 4–11 July 2009

SATURDAY 4 JULY (H1)

We moved from Clonakilly to Tralee, the HQ for the second week, taking the opportunity to do some recording in South Kerry (H1) en route. The main party visited the Upper Glashagorub River (V96Z) and Coomclogherane Lake (V96Y), where they found *Grimmia lisae** and *Odontoschisma elongatum** by the Lake. The rocks by the cascades above were slightly basic and produced *Eremonotus myriocarpus* growing in cushions of *Anoetangium aestivum* and a few scattered stems and patches of *Trichostomum hibernicum*. Further up, the scree and crags were disappointing by the very high standards of south-west Ireland, the best find being *Grimmia torquata*. Richard Fisk and Joan Bingley both looked at lowland sites in V96, adding numerous species to the day's total and taking the number of species now known from this hitherto almost unrecorded square to 196. A second

party looked at Lough Akinkeen (W0165) and the steep NNE-facing cliffs of Caoinkeen (W0164), a fine site marred only by a most inappropriately placed plantation of stunted conifers near the lake. They also found *O. elongatum** by the lough and *Trichostomum hibernicum* above. Sam revelled in the diversity of liverworts on the cliffs, including *Adelanthus decipiens*, numerous tufts of *Plagiochila exigua*, and *Radula aquilegia*. Niklas found several patches of *Hageniella micans*, the first seen during the meeting, on sloping rocks.

SUNDAY 5 JULY (H2)

A remarkably large group gathered in the Aquadome car park for the first day of the Kerry week. Sam led one group, including six visitors from the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC), to look at Shronowen Bog (Q9940, R0040; H2). This cutover produced 14 species of *Sphagnum* – including one



hummock of *S. fuscum* and a few of *S. austinii* that had presumably colonized an old peat cutting at a time when part of the bog was intact – but the best finds were *Calypogeia sphagnicola**, a single, non-fertile patch of *Cephalozia macrostachya**, several male patches of *Pallavicinia lyellii** growing on *Molinia caerulea* tussocks in a deep peat cutting, and *Orthodontium lineare** on a cutting face. After the IPCC group left, remaining members of the party did useful recording by the R. Feale in Listowel (Q9933), where Liz found *Epipterygium tozeri** on the earthy river bank, and in a river valley at Scotia's Grave near Tralee (Q8310).

Three other groups tackled hitherto unrecorded squares in North Kerry. David Long led a foursome to R00, south-west of Castleisland, an area of hills dissected by numerous streams which produced 146 species including large patches of *Daltonia splachnoides* at the base of willows in the ditch surrounding a conifer plantation. *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia* and fruiting *Metzgeria fruticulosa* were recorded as well as the expected *Colura calyptrifolia*.

Gordon led a less-experienced party to similar terrain around Beennageeha Mountain (Q92) and returned with rave reviews (perhaps aided by *vin rouge* supplied by Maria at lunch) for his impromptu teaching in the field as well as a list of 100 species, including *Sphagnum teres** in a flushed mire. Chris took the final group to a more lowland square near Abbeydorney, Q82, where 95 species (including *Sphagnum fimbriatum**) had been recorded before they ran out of habitats to visit and went on to the coast. There they found *Fossombronina angulosa** at Mooghaunnamarve (Q7328) and *Entosthodon fascicularis**, *Schistidium maritimum** and *Tortula viridifolia** west of Glenderry (Q6929), records which suggest that the North Kerry coast has been ignored recently by bryologists.

◁ Far left. *Adelanthus decipiens* at Caoinkeen on 4 July. Niklas Lönnell

◁ Centre. *Hageniella micans* at Caoinkeen. Sam Bosanquet

▽ Niklas Lönnell and Sam Bosanquet looking at *Grimmia ramondii* at Lough Akinke. Caroline Pannell



MONDAY 6 JULY (H1 AND H2)

For the following two days the party divided into montane and lowland groups. On 6 July the montane party visited Lough Googh on the south side of Macgillycuddy's Reeks (V8483; H1). The approach to the lough and the cliffs immediately above was acidic and rather unrewarding, although *Bryum donianum* was found in a crevice in a more calcareous rock just below the lake at 460 m, the first record above 300 m in the British Isles. The lake itself provided another site for *Odontoschisma elongatum* and *Campylopus shawii* grew on the slopes above. Eventually the main party hit good ground in V8383 with areas of the northern hepatic mat species *Anastrepta orcadensis*, *Bazzania tricrenata*, *B. pearsonii*, *Herbertus aduncus* (frequent), *Mastigophora woodsii* and *Scapania ornithopodioides*. *Porella obtusata* on rocks at 650 m was 250 m above its published upper altitudinal limit, and *Plagiochila bifaria* was found at 700 m, 270 m above the previous record. A calcareous rock outcrop with *Asplenium viride* provided *Conocephalum salebrosum** on a species-rich ledge at 700 m – the first record for the meeting and a striking demonstration of its preference for more upland and calcicolous habitats – and Gordon detected *Isopterygiopsis muelleriana** in a nearby crevice, the third vice-county record of a species which in Ireland is only known from South Kerry. Meanwhile a splinter party led by David Long had worked their way along rocks west and north-west of the lake, encountering good ground more rapidly and finding *Douinia ovata* as well as many of the hyperoceanic liverworts listed above.

The lowland party started at Ballyseedy Wood (Q8612), an 'SAC' (Special Area of Conservation) by the River Lee, south of Tralee (H2). The assertion in the *Site Synopsis* that this alluvial woodland is 'very undisturbed and apparently infrequently visited by man' was belied by the brown tourist signs pointing to it from the main road! It provided over 70 species, including *Jubula hutchinsiae*, spotted by Declan Doogue. The (very) lowland squares Q71 and Q72 north of Tralee (H2) proved less rewarding, with the

▷ Top left. *Pallavicinia lyellii* at Shronowen Bog on 5 July. Richard Lansdown

▷ Top right. Planning the next move after a little *vin rouge* (5 July)! Caroline Pannell

▷ Bottom left. *Hypnum callichroum* at Lough Googh on 6 July. Niklas Lönnell

▷ Bottom left. *Fossombronina angulosa* at Clashmelcon on 7 July. Niklas Lönnell



walls of Ardfert Cathedral (Q7821) too scrubbed to support anything of interest, though *Syntrichia papillosa** was found on a roadside lime tree in Ardfert and *Tortella nitida* was in the churchyard at Church Hill (Q7516).

Sam recorded in two extensively coniferized hectads (R20 & R21) in Mid Cork (H4) on his way back home, finding just over 120 species in each. *Daltonia splachnoides* was the main bryological feature of this area, as it grew not only on willows by streams through conifer plantations, but also on conifer stumps, a roadside sycamore and on willows in a moorland mire. *Sphagnum magellanicum**, *Pellia neesiana**, *Riccardia latifrons**, *R. palmata** and even *Solenostoma gracillimum** were among the common species vouched for the county for the first time, along with the somewhat less mundane *Hygrohypnum ochraceum** and *Straminergon stramineum**.



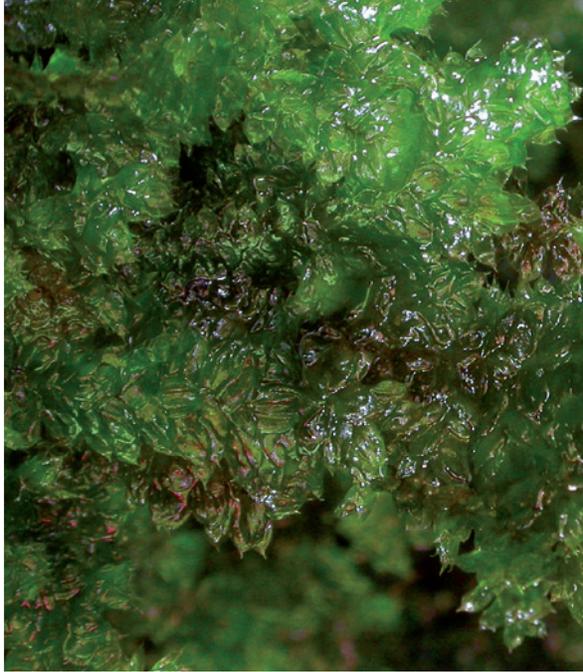
TUESDAY 7 JULY (H2)

On 7 July one lowland party tackled R02, a square at the north end of the Glanaruddery Mountains with a typical North Kerry mixture of small settlements, streams and bridges, cutover bog and forestry. They did well to record 128 species, including *Aloina aloides** on mortar between the bricks of a churchyard shrine at Knocknagashel (R0520), *Aphanorrhagma patens** on a field margin by the Glena River at Ford, *Dicranella cerviculata** on a roadside bank at Knockaunnaon (R0224), *D. rufescens** nearby on the side of a forest track and *Pohlia camptotrachela** in a cattle-poached marsh at Muingwee (R0322). However, they failed to find *Daltonia*, despite much searching. The other lowland party looked at a range of sites in Q83, Q93 and Q94. Joan searched for and found *Bryum pallescens** below the masts on Knockanore Mountain (Q9142) and later, near Derryco graveyard

(Q8837), we found it growing luxuriantly in large masses in what appears to be its favourite Kerry habitat, the sides of farm buildings with corrugated metal roofs and the ground immediately below. More *Fossombronia angulosa*, *Physcomitrium pyriforme** and *Schistidium maritimum* were found in a narrow coastal valley north of Clashmelcon (Q8136–8273) where the stream very inconveniently wiggles its way along the line separating tetrads D and I.

Richard Fisk perceptively collected material of *Lunularia cruciata* at Ford from a population of both sexes on a roadside bank and kept it fresh in Suffolk; within a month the female plants produced ripe capsules. *Lunularia* was frequent in south-west Ireland and apparently more variable than it is in eastern England (e.g. some populations had thalli with a reddish tinge), perhaps a reflection of a greater propensity towards sexual reproduction.

The large upland party went to the Slieve Mish





Mountains, looking at the upper Curragheen River and the wet cliffs of Goragh (Q70U, Z). There was a huge population of *Radula voluta* on rocks in the river, where *Isothecium holtii* was also seen on boulders. *Radula carringtonii* (on a dripping rock face), *Ptilidium ciliare** and *Scapania ornithopodioides** were found on higher ground (but vouchers of the last two were not collected). David Long was particularly pleased to find, after much searching, a fine colony of both male and female plants of *Moerckia hibernica** on a quite ordinary wet rock ledge on a north-facing slope at 440 m, only the fourth Irish record. His subgroup then walked into Q80E, a much less well-recorded square, where Barnanageehy corrie turned out to be dreary *Molinia*-dominated ground, but where the open valley running from it had *Heterocladium wulfsbergii** on a boulder in the stream at 302 m, its highest recorded altitude in the British Isles, *Tetradontium brownianum** under an overhanging rock and *Daltonia* on a streamside willow.

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY (H1)

We all headed westwards as the weather forecast suggested that it was a good day for visiting Brandon Mountain, which on previous days had been wreathed in dense cloud. It appears to have a damper microclimate than areas further east and even the party which visited the low-

lying Loch an Mhonain (Q4808, at 152 m) saw a range of hyperoceanic hepatics, including *Herbertus aduncus*, *Plagiochila exigua* and *Radula aquilegia*. As so often in Kerry, the hyperoceanic species were already recorded for the vice-county, whereas *Racomitrium ericoides**, growing by the side of the track to the loch, was new. A larger group climbed Brandon Mountain from Faha on the east side and started to record when they reached the chain of small lochs and waterfalls south-east of the summit. Gordon almost immediately dived, hobbit-like, into a crevice between boulders though which water was trickling and emerged with *Cyclodictyon laetevirens*, which at an altitude of 425 m was almost 100 m above its previously recorded upper limit. As we ascended the chain of lochs we noted the altitudes at which species were found, and by the end of the day we had also established new upper limits for *Lophocolea fragrans* (425 m, in the *Cyclodictyon* hole), *Adelanthus decipiens* (625 m), *Calypogeia arguta* (680 m) and the three tiny liverworts *Colura calyptrifolia*, *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia* and *Harpalejeunea molleri*, which were very frequent on rock outcrops in this valley up to at least 700 m. *Conocephalum salebrosum* was seen in one place, again on an upland (675 m), basic rock outcrop. On higher ground the northern hepatic mat species began to

< Top left. Lines of *Anthelia julacea* at Brandon Mountain on 8 July. *Caroline Pannell*

< Top right. *Cyclodictyon laetevirens* at Brandon Mountain. *Niklas Lönnell*

< Bottom. Bryologists in spectacular scenery near the chain of small lochs south-east of the summit of Brandon Mountain. *Caroline Pannell*

appear, with a spectacular abundance of *Herbertus aduncus*. Other notable finds included *Amphidium lapponicum*, *Campylopus shawii*, *Ctenidium molluscum* var. *condensatum**, *Leptoscyphus cuneifolius*, *Plagiothecium cavifolium** and *Sphenobolopsis pearsonii*. Des collected the rare *Racomitrium macounii* on a damp rock face in Q4711. All were seen in ideal conditions and with the backdrop of spectacular views down the valley and eastwards along the Dingle peninsula.

Whereas the largest party made their way gradually upwards, David, Rory and Maren formed a splinter group of ardent hepaticologists who headed straight for the high ground. They found two colonies of *Adelanthus lindenbergianus*, close to where Nick Hodgetts had discovered it the previous year, but like the main group they searched carefully for *Scapania nimbosea*, last seen on Brandon in 1968, but could only find *S. ornithopodioides*. However, Rory, returning to the mountain later in the year, did rediscover two small patches of *S. nimbosea*, growing within a few feet of ground he had searched that day.

THURSDAY 9 JULY (H1 AND H2)

After the exertions of the previous day, there was more demand than usual for the lowland alternative on 9 July. This involved a search of coastal heathland and small valleys on the north side of Kerry Head (H2), where 70 species were, rather surprisingly, found in the fragmentary square Q63, including *Weissia perssonii** on the cliff top and *Fossombronina angulosa* and *Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *polymorpha** by a small stream. After a rather cursory survey of Q73, which produced *Didymodon nicholsonii** at St Dahillan's Well, we moved inland to Moanveanlagh Bog (H2), an impressively raised bog with a large and spectacular population of *Sarracenia purpurea* (pitcherplant). Its bryophyte flora appeared to be limited but included *Sphagnum austinii* and handsome hummocks of *S. fuscum*. The montane party returned to the Dingle peninsula (H1), starting at the Connor Pass, Q50C and working

▷ **Top.** Rory Hodd, Maren Flagmeier and Liz Kungu board the 'BBS helicopter' to take them to the top of Mangerton (9 July). *Caroline Mhic Daeid*

▷ **Bottom.** Kerry Head (9 July). *Caroline Pannell*

from Lough Doon towards the Coumanare Lakes. The views towards Brandon and the Blaskets were excellent, but the bryophytes were initially disappointing, although *Anthelia juratzkana** was collected on wind-blasted and eroded ground below the Slievanea ridge. Gordon eventually found an excellent burn with *Lejeunea holtii* below the 'twin loughs' in Q5006, but only had 20 minutes to explore it. Meanwhile, David and Niklas headed to Loch an Duin, Q52I, and along the Scorid River. The slope above the lake produced *Hageniella micans*, and *Paraleptodontium recurvifolium* and on the lake shore itself David found fruiting *Haplomitrium hookeri*. The Connor Pass was the first (and for many years the only) Irish site for *Haplomitrium*, which was discovered 'near the mouth of the pass' by S.O. Lindberg. A third group had a more dramatic montane experience, as Caroline Mhic Daeid chartered a helicopter and whisked Maren, Liz and Rory to the top of Mangerton where they successfully relocated (and collected) *Ptilidium ciliare** and *Scapania ornithopodioides** in H2, as well as *Calypogeia azurea*. Then, coming down to earth, they spent the afternoon in Q91 (H2), recording 85 species, including *Fissidens celticus* in Glanageenty Forest (Q9414) and *Calypogeia sphagnicola* in a cut-over bog at Knockatarriv (Q9716).

FRIDAY 10 JULY (H1)

We had planned to look at the lower Curragheen River on the final day, but a dismal weather forecast proved depressingly accurate and we decided that the more open ground of Loch an Duin (Q50I) was a better place to visit in pouring rain. In the absence of Gordon, who was travelling home, Chris adopted the hobbit habit and duly unearthed *Cyclodictyon* growing with *Jubula* under boulders on the west side of the loch, again in a site through





△ *Dumortiera hirsuta* at Loch an Duin on 10 July. Niklas Lönnell

which water was trickling. Similar sites supported *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* (Tunbridge filmy-fern) and *Sibthorpia europaea* (Cornish moneywort). The 50 liverworts recorded at the site included *Adelanthus decipiens*, *Lepidozia cupressina*, *Marchesinia mackaii*, *Plagiochila exigua* and *Radula voluta*. The group, although getting wetter and wetter as the day progressed, remained remarkably cheerful and Niklas rounded the meeting off in fine style by discovering *Dumortiera hirsuta* under a boulder in a small gully near the waterfall on the south side of the lake.

SUMMARY

It is easy to report in statistical terms on the recording we did during the fortnight. We visited 57 hectads in Cork and Kerry during the meeting, and a further six hectads during our recce earlier in the year. There was an average of 32 species (and

median of 4) recorded since 1950 from each of these squares before our visits; we recorded an average of 109 species (median 100) in each square to bring the overall average to 123 (median 113). We made just over 11,150 records, of which 5,700 were new hectad records, or, in other words, added 5,700 dots to the distribution maps. We can now have more confidence that apparent gaps in south-west Ireland for lowland species like *Syntrichia ruralis* and *Didymodon luridus* are genuine, rather than artefacts of recording; on the other hand the frequency of species such as *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia* as an epiphyte should now be more apparent on the maps. Much recording will be needed to paint a full picture of the distribution of Ireland's common bryophytes, but it felt as though the two weeks of the meeting went a good

way to filling a major gap in the coverage map (see opposite). Now somebody needs to continue the good work and fill in the new glaring hole just north-east of where we were.

It also proved possible to combine this degree of coverage with a reasonable level of precision in our recording. All but two of the 190 recording cards were at least as precise as a tetrad (the exceptions were the party who could not agree where they stopped in Cork and the inconvenient coastal site where the stream ran along the tetrad line in Kerry). We made over 100 records of Irish *Red Data Book* species, most of them with precise grid references, and over 100 new vice-county records. At least as valuable were the precisely localized records for many hyperoceanic species of restricted range.

It is less easy for us as leaders to assess the success of the meeting in other terms, but our impression was that everyone really enjoyed themselves. The mixture of beginners and experienced bryologists made it easier to cover 'dull' ground, as many members were happy to see a restricted

set of species rather than be overwhelmed by the richness of the hyperoceanic flora. The mix of people also added greatly to the fun. As always in Ireland, the British visitors were humbled by acts of kindness which we would be unlikely to encounter at home, such as the landlady at the end of the Clonakilty week who volunteered to wash clothes for all the members of the party, free of charge, or

the Aquadome employee in Tralee who ensured that the car park was opened up at least an hour before the advertised time every day, so we could rendezvous there. Fortunately, there is still plenty of recording to do in Ireland, and thus many excuses to return.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In organizing this meeting from afar, we were more than usually dependent on help from others. All the participants contributed in different ways, but we would particularly like to thank Neil

Lockhart for help in preparing the programme, Melinda Lyons for circulating details to the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club and Fionnuala O'Neill and Rory Hodd for their local knowledge of venues in Co.s Cork and Kerry respectively. We are grateful to the BBS for a contribution towards the travel expenses of our reconce.

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▽ Post-1950 coverage maps for Co.s Cork and Kerry pre- (top) and post-summer 2009 (bottom)

