

Mark Hill presents the 10th instalment in his occasional column reporting recent rare and interesting records.

With the current high level of recording, it is to be expected that bryologists will find new localities for nationally rare or scarce species, and this instalment of *Rare and Interesting* shows some good examples. The highlight is a second record of the very rare *Seligeria brevifolia*, previously known from only four sites in Britain, and now found at a second site in Derbyshire. *S. brevifolia* is distinctive in its large peristome (reaching 0.2 mm or more) in relation to the size of the urn. Microscopically it differs from the similar *S. acutifolia* and *S. pusilla* in the exothecial cells arranged in more or less regular rows.

Howard Wallis, working mainly in Surrey, has shown that the county retains much of the interest that it had when Jack Gardiner was recording in the 1970s; it may even have improved. He lists *Cephaloziella spinigera*, *Lophozia capitata*, *Riccardia incurvata*, *Atrichum tenellum* and *Ephemerum sessile* from the Surrey heaths. Fiona Cameron reports *Grimmia incurva* from the Lake District, a good addition to her many finds of Grimmiaceae in north-west England. Just to the east, Rod Corner and Jeremy Roberts have re-found the declining 'rich fen' species *Cinclidium stygium* and *Tomentypnum nitens* in the North Pennines.

In Wales, the indefatigable Sam Bosanquet has detected a new site for the lead moss *Ditrichum plumbicola*. Richard Lansdown found the liverworts *Cephaloziella calyculata* and *Fossombronia husnotii* in Glamorgan, here for the first time away from the Gower Peninsula. It is notable that almost nobody seems to call *F.*

*husnotii* by its new name *F. caespitiformis* subsp. *multispira*. Perhaps British bryologists are not convinced by the Stotlers' assertion that rhizoid colour is not a character that signifies a difference at species rank (or at any other taxonomic level for that matter). The British may be fatuously dragging their feet, but *F. husnotii* has not yet disappeared.

There are two new altitude records from blanket bog in the North Pennines. That for *Hypnum imponens* is only a small increase and the plant may well have been present for a long time. *Plagiothecium curvifolium*, on the other hand, appears to have increased in many parts of Britain as a result of people planting conifers. Perhaps its appearance at a substantially higher altitude is the result of increased propagule pressure in what is undoubtedly a mobile species. The third altitude record is a low-altitude record, of *Rhizomnium magnifolium*, from Abernethy Forest in eastern Scotland.

Of the two records that are rare with fruit, *Dicranum tauricum* is clearly rare with capsules everywhere, even in its British 'headquarters' of Staffordshire. The same may also be true for *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*, of which only 0.3% of records (27 out of 8,600) are signified as fruiting in the BBS database. Of bryophytes in unusual habitats, one is of an occurrence on asphalt of *Schistidium rivulare*. One wonders if it could follow *Didymodon nicholsonii* in establishing widely away from water.

Of the numerous bryophytes that appear to be increasing, four are reported here. Two of them, *Lophocolea bispinosa* and *Hennediella macrophylla*, are introduced from the Southern

Hemisphere, and have spread slowly over several decades. The other two are indigenous epiphytes, which have spread rapidly.

Finally, there are six regionally notable records of species that are not nationally scarce. As usual, they are a mixed bag, and indeed are only a small selection from the more numerous list of records which were kindly sent by the correspondents.

### Nationally rare or scarce

**10.1. *Riccia cavernosa*. 14:** on mud, draw-down of reservoir, 25 m alt., Powdermill Reservoir, TQ 79901985, 2009, Howarth, conf. Long. Second East Sussex record since 1970.

**16.1. *Fossombronina husnotii*. 41:** sandy grassland sloping up from marine high water mark, about 5 m alt., west of Ogmores-by-Sea, SS863748, 2009, Lansdown, conf. Bosanquet. Occasional in scattered bare patches. First Glamorgan record off the Gower Peninsula, made on survey for Vale of Glamorgan Council.

**22.3. *Riccardia incurvata*. 17:** on exposed sandy soil in shallow depression at edge of wet heath, 65 m alt., Pirbright Ranges, Folly Bog, SU921610, 2009, Wallis. Gemmae abundant. Third record for Surrey since 1950.

**58.1. *Cephaloziella spinigera*. 17:** wet heath with *Gymnocolea inflata*, *Cephalozia connivens* and *Sphagnum* spp., 45 m alt., Brentmoor Heath, south of Crater Pond, SU934607, 2009, Wallis, conf. Paton. Fourth Surrey record since 1950 at a new site.

**58.13. *Cephaloziella calyculata*. 41:** around exposed bedrock outcrops and bare ground in rabbit-grazed sandy grassland sloping up from marine high water mark, 5 m alt., west of Ogmores-by-Sea, SS863748, 2009, Lansdown, conf. Bosanquet. Scattered stands. First Glamorgan record off the Gower Peninsula, made on a survey for Vale of Glamorgan Council.



▲ *Riccardia incurvata*. David Holyoak

**66.10. *Lophozia capitata*. 17:** soil under heather near small stream on wet heath, 75 m alt., Wyke Common, Ash to Brookwood Heaths SSSI, SU914521, 2009, Wallis. Rare in Surrey, but apparently increasing.

**4.2. *Atrichum tenellum*. 17:** soil at edge of shady woodland path, 50 m alt., near Henleypark Lake, Ash to Brookwood Heaths SSSI, SU933534, 2009, Wallis. A few small plants at a site where Gardiner had known it in the 1970s.

**22.15. *Grimmia incurva*. 69:** boulder, 300 m alt., near Coniston, adjacent to Walna Scar Road, SD2796, 2010, Cameron, conf. Bosanquet. First record for vice-county since 1965.

**28.3. *Seligeria brevifolia*. 57:** on moist, vertical face of Millstone Grit rock in recess in low, north-facing cliff by moorland stream, near to *Tetradontium brownianum*, 425 m alt., Grindsbrook, Edale, SK1187, 2010, Blockeel. A single patch of several square centimetres with abundant sporophytes. Second record for Derbyshire of a species not known elsewhere in England. The site is on a small cliff subject to significant basic influence, indicated by small amounts of *Orthothecium intricatum* and *Ctenidium molluscum*. *S. brevifolia* is similar to *S. acutifolia* and *S. pusilla*, neither of which occurs in the Pennines on Millstone Grit.



▲ *Ditrichum plumbicola*. Graham Motley

**34.4. *Ditrichum plumbicola*. 46:** on lead mine spoil, 370 m alt., Esgair Gadfach Mine, Llanddewi Brefi, SN66745378, 2010, Bosanquet. Three patches in site that is 15 km from previously known mid-Wales localities.

**72.2. *Ephemerum sessile*. 17:** on soil at side of damp woodland track near small lake, 40 m alt., Snarham Land, Chiddingfold Forest SSSI, SU981357, 2009, Wallis. Third Surrey record since 1950.

**117.1. *Cinclidium stygium*. 66:** in mossy flush, 690 m alt., Sallygrain Head, NY790386, 2009, Corner & Roberts. First record for vice-county since 1981, refound at one of two of its original sites.

**141.1. *Tomentypnum nitens*. 66:** in mossy flush, 690 m alt., Sallygrain Head, NY790386, 2009, Corner & Roberts. First record for vice-county since 1980, refound at one of two of its original sites.

#### Altitude records

**118.2. *Rhizomnium magnifolium*. 96:** wet *Juncus* flush amid open juniper scrub, with opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage (*Chrysozplenium oppositifolium*) and common bryophytes such as *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and *Lophocolea bidentata*, 285 m alt., near Forest

Lodge, Abernethy Forest, NJ02221602, 2010, Moore, conf. Long. Low-altitude occurrence of a nationally scarce species not previously found below 420 m.

**181.7. *Hypnum imponens*. 66:** in blanket bog, 615 m alt., Great Eggeshope Head, NY946328, 2008, O'Reilly. New altitude record for Britain of nationally scarce species.

**197.5. *Plagiothecium curvifolium*. 66:** in blanket bog amongst woody *Calluna* debris with *Tetraphis pellucida* and *Lophocolea bidentata*, 610 m alt., Great Eggeshope Head, NY94593286, 2008, O'Reilly, conf. Holyoak. New altitude record for Britain, 120 m higher than previous one.

#### Fruiting

**53.12. *Dicranum tauricum*. 31:** fallen twig on ground in ancient woodland, 35 m alt., Brampton Wood, TL17627018, 2010, Preston. One clump with numerous sporophytes, the capsules young and unswollen, with several vegetative clumps nearby. This is only the fifth locality from which it has been found with capsules in Britain.

**189.1. *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*. 33:** north-facing slope limestone escarpment, 240 m alt., Crickley Hill Country Park, Cold Slad, SO929166, 2010, Lansdown. Dense beds with a few scattered capsules.

### Unusual habitat or substrate

**21.2. *Schistidium rivulare*. 67:** on shaded, old tarmac path, 50 m alt., north-west of Morpeth, NZ209868, 2008, McCutcheon and O'Reilly. Yet another aquatic species relishing asphalt.

**100.2. *Orthotrichum striatum*. 67:** on semi-shaded sandstone boulder near river, 230 m alt., River South Tyne near Kirkhaugh Station, NY697494, 2009, O'Reilly. Third record for county.

### Dispersing or increasing

**20.2. *Metzgeria consanguinea*. 67:** abundant on several young ash and hazel next to Hareshaw Burn in ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)–rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)–dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) woodland (W9), 160 m alt., Blakelaw Plantation, NY842844, 2008, Craft, McCutcheon and O'Reilly, conf. Rothero. Second record for v.-c. 67 of species recorded new in 2007.

**44.2. *Lophocolea bispinosa*. 13:** sandy soil at side of footpath, 55 m alt., Stedham Common, SU854219, 2009, Wallis. Small quantity; third record for West Sussex, providing evidence of expansion.

**86.2. *Hennediella macrophylla*. 26:** river bank, 5 m alt., Mildenhall, TL711743, 2010, Fisk. Second record for Suffolk.

**100.2. *Orthotrichum striatum*. 66:** on shaded elder near pond, 147 m alt., Norman's Riding Wood, NZ166610, 2009, McCutcheon. Third record for county.

### Regionally notable records

**17.2. *Moerckia flotoviana*. 66:** in exceptionally species-rich yellow saxifrage (*Saxifraga aizoides*)–*Ditrichum flexicaule* subcommunity of sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*)–common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*)–wild thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*) grass-

land (CG10c) in flood plain of sike, 390 m alt., Sand Sike, NY84333093, 2009, O'Reilly, conf. Bosanquet. First record for v.-c. 66 since recent taxonomic revision.

**74.4. *Calypogeia neesiana*. 13:** base of purple-moor grass (*Molinia*) at edge of quaking bog, 10 m alt., Hurston Warren SSSI, TQ074169, 2009, Wallis, conf. Matcham. Second record for West Sussex since 1950.

**23.8. *Racomitrium heterostichum*. 25:** lid of tomb, 40 m alt., Westerfield churchyard, TM 174476, 2010, Fisk. Covering about 30% of the surface. Second record for Suffolk.

**23.11. *Racomitrium ericoides*. 13:** on top of a sandy bank in old pit, with *Lophozia ventricosa* and *Lophocolea bispinosa*, 30 m alt., Midhurst Common, SU872210, 2008, Howarth, conf. Wallis. Second West Sussex record since 1950.

**100.12. *Orthotrichum sprucei*. 67:** base of purple willow (*Salix purpurea*) in flood zone of river, 40 m alt., east bank of River North Tyne, NY917663, 2009, McCutcheon and O'Reilly. Third record for vice-county.

**115.1. *Epipterygium tozeri*. 17:** on river bank in flood zone, 150 m alt., Broadmoor, Tilling Bourne, TQ136457, 2009, Wallis. Third Surrey record since 1950.

### Mark Hill

(e moh@ceh.ac.uk)

### Contributors and checkers of records

S.D.S. Bosanquet, F. Cameron, R.W.M. Corner, I. Craft, R.J. Fisk, P. Howarth, R.V. Lansdown, D.G. Long, H.W. Matcham, D.E. McCutcheon, O. Moore, J.A. Paton, J. O'Reilly, C.D. Preston, F.J. Roberts, G.P. Rothero, H.W. Wallis.