

Bryophyte Ecology Meeting

26-28 April 2013

Martin Godfrey reports on the meeting in Rhyd y Creuau, North Wales

△Above: Llyn Idwal. Martin Godfrey

Eight members met at lunchtime on 26 April at the FSC centre at Rhyd y Creuau, North Wales for the 2013 BRECOG meeting. These were Jeff and Joyce Bates, Rachel Carter, Cameron Fleetwood, Martin Godfrey, Dick Hayward, Lucia Ruffino and Malcolm Watling. That afternoon we made a visit to a local site in a small wooded stream valley at Pont Gethin which gave the opportunity for a bit of impromptu training in BRECOG techniques for the novices as well as the recording of the floras of woodland and water flushed rocks, tree trunks and fallen logs. We were all impressed by the carpets of *Isoetecium holtii* and *Loeskeobryum brevirostre* on the rocks by the river, especially as the former was abundantly fertile. In the evening Jeff brought us all up to date on the current project dataset and some of the analytical techniques he had been trying out; we are just getting to the stage where tentative patterns are starting to emerge.

On Saturday, 27th, we went to the area around Llyn Idwal. We had hoped that at least some of the team would be able to get onto the high ground but an overnight covering of snow on the tops, combined with low cloud on the Glyders, convinced everyone to stay low. Nevertheless there were some nice habitats to look at – rocks in the lake, lake margin grassland, wet and dry heath, crags, screes and flushes being the most notable. Despite the cold the weather was kind and we were able to get a good number of cards completed. The centre had provided some lab space so after dinner we spent some time checking IDs and doing our substrate pH measurements. Relaxation came in the form of rather good local microbrewery beers.

Snowdon was our target for Sunday, however, once we had parked up the rain and low cloud set in as only it can around the mountain. Nevertheless, we were able to get at some really nice bryophyte rich Atlantic oak woodland,



△Above: Lucia Ruffino, Martin Godfrey and Joyce Bates in a flush community. [Martin Godfrey](#)

▽Below: Cameron Fleetwood records stream bryophytes at Pont Gethyn. [Martin Godfrey](#)



with the odd stream as well as the more usual woodland habitats so we were a content, if very soggy, team who dispersed that afternoon.

Although during our outings we don't tend to find the rarities often associated with more conventional BBS meetings, even so I can strongly recommend BRECOG work to novices and improvers as concentration on identifying the species in your quadrats is a sure way of learning all of the common plants in your area as well as getting to grips with new things when you visit places outside your comfort zone.

Keep an eye on the "Forthcoming Meetings" page of the BBS website for details of the 2014 meeting – at the moment we are looking at Anglesey.

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