

Rare and interesting

Mark Hill presents the 12th instalment in his occasional column reporting recent rare and interesting records.

In the run-up to the new BBS atlas, there have been so many records of nationally rare and scarce species that they could not possibly have all been included. The selection that you see here is determined merely by what was sent for R & I. Several records in ‘interesting’ categories are of nationally scarce species, but in unusual habitats or strange places. The only really rare species reported here is *Anomodon attenuatus*, which now occurs in the flood zone of just two rivers, the River Isla in Angus and the River Eden in Cumbria. It is curiously rare in Britain, having eleven post-1980 localities in Holland and being frequent in southern Germany.

The altitude record is also nationally scarce, and shows that *Pallavicinia* could in principle occur almost anywhere in its unremarkable moorland habitat. The fruiting record is of *Dicranum tauricum*, from its British headquarters in Staffordshire.

Most of the ‘interesting’ records this time are from unusual substrates or habitats. The most extraordinary is *Glyphomitrium daviesii* on a tree. Admittedly it was within a few hundred metres of other colonies of the plant, whereas (not reported here) Robin Stevenson’s *Cynodontium* sp. on a pear tree in Norfolk and Chris Preston’s *Hedwigia ciliata* on an elder in Cambridgeshire must have colonized from hundreds of

kilometres away. A colonist from the immediate vicinity was *Climacium dendroides* which had learnt to climb a tree. In the other direction, the normally epiphytic *Cryphaea heteromalla* was found on a wall and *Zygodon conoideus* was on a wall and thatch. There seems to be no particular reason for these deviant occurrences, but they serve to highlight the dynamism of bryophyte population processes.

Finally, Howard Wallis continues to turn up good things in Surrey, including another patch of *Trichocolea tomentella*. Proximity to London is no disadvantage for bryophytes.

Nationally rare or scarce

58.1. *Cephaloziella spinigera*. 17: among sphagnum in a valley mire, 45 m alt., Broomhall Heath, SU966666, 2011, HW Wallis. Fourth Surrey record since 1950.

56.11. *Campylopus pilifer*. 49: on a steep S-facing outcrop above cliff woodland, 50 m alt., Coed Tremadog NNR, SH560402, 2013, TH Blackstock. New locality for this nationally scarce species with only two other post-1980 records from the vice-county.

72.2. *Ephemerum sessile*. 17: on soil at edge of a ditch beside forestry track, 55 m alt., Sidney Wood, Chiddingfold Forest, TQ022344, 2012, TW Ottley & HW Wallis. Two fruiting patches about two feet apart; 4th Surrey record since 1950.

83.12. *Tortula atrovirens*. 14: on soil above beach, 5 m alt., just below Covehurst Wood, TQ850103, 2012, HW Wallis. Small patch with immature capsules; third VC record since 1950.

196.1. *Orthothecium rufescens*. 42: on periodically flushed limestone cliffs in ravine, 215 m alt., Cwm Clydach NNR, SO213124, 2013, SDS Bosanquet. Also SO214124, SO214123, 3 patches in all. 2nd Breconshire and S Wales record of this distinctive species, nearly 40 km

from the other site on an upland sandstone crag. **216.2. *Anomodon attenuatus*. 70:** on alder trunk in river flood zone, 40 m alt., R Eden bank opposite Hawkcliff Scar nr Hornsby, NY517495, 2011, M Lawley. This is about 4 km downstream from where he first found it in 2008. The species is now known from 4 monads in the hectad, occurring both on tree-bases and on rocks.

Altitude record

18.1. *Pallavicinia lyellii*. 44: on tall, tussocky *Molinia* bases in runnel across blanket bog, 475 m alt., near Cerrig Cedny, SN80394654, 2012, SDS Bosanquet & SL Pilkington. 7 non-fertile patches. The only previous record from above 300 m altitude was from Stradbally Mountain in South Kerry, and the discovery of a high altitude population of *Pallavicinia* in Wales raises the possibility of it being present elsewhere in the Welsh uplands. The current site is 7 km WNW of Waen Rydd SSSI, which supports the largest known colony of *Pallavicinia* in Wales, numbering several hundred patches among tussocky *Molinia* on a cut-over bog.

Fruiting

53.12. *Dicranum tauricum*. 39: on oak branch, 370 m alt., Swineholes Wood, nr Winkhill, SK04725023, 2011, MF Godfrey. Fifth post-2000 fruiting record of a species that was very rarely found with capsules last century.

Unusual habitat or substrate

29.1. *Colura calyptrifolia*. 41: on north-facing thatched roof, 100 m alt., Cottrell Park Lodge, ST079741, 2012, RV Lansdown & SDS Bosanquet. 2 tufts on very humid roof, a new habitat, but one recognized by SDSB as suitable less than one minute before *Colura* was detected by RVL.

32.2. *Lejeunea lamacerina*. 35: creeping over *Kindbergia* and *Thuidium* on ground under old yew tree in exposed churchyard, 80 m alt., St Peter's Henllys, ST267910, 2012, SDS Bosanquet. 3 x 3 cm patch in an unusual habitat for this humidity-demanding species, especially in SE Wales, where it is sparse even in optimal stream valleys.

22.3. *Grimmia laevigata*. 46: on rock set back from river, 15 m alt., Cenarth Falls, N bank of R Teifi, SN268415, 2013, SDS Bosanquet. Several patches on one rib of rock. First riverine record of this scarce species in west Wales: there are four sites on sunny coastal rocks and one on igneous rocks in a quarry. In southeast Wales it is scattered on sandstone roof tiles.

49.1. *Glyphomitrium daviesii*. 105: on thick nearly horizontal branch of oak at edge of wood, with *Frullania tamarisci*, 20 m alt., Ardlair, Letterewe Estate, NG9075, 2013, J Nieuwkoop. Extraordinary habitat for a species hitherto found only on rock, here with ripe capsules in June.

36.2. *Distichium inclinatum*. 41: on forestry track surfaced with limestone chippings, 350 m alt., Foel Fynyddau, SS783938, 2012, CR Hipkin & H Hipkin. Locally frequent in this unusual inland habitat for a species that is found mainly on dunes.

61.2. *Tortella bambergeri*. 33: on soil bank of woodland path, with occasional very small limestone chips and large amounts of *Tortella tortuosa*, 250 m alt., Cranham Woods near Cheltenham, SO885136, 2013, P Martin. Unusual habitat for a plant that is usually found in more open situations such as blocks of calcareous rock below crags and on open moorland.

71.1. *Micromitrium tenerum*. 14: on damp clay at the side of a track with damp ruts and



△Fig. 1: *Climacium dendroides* on tree trunk. P Jepson; [pjeponecology@btinternet.com](mailto:pjepsonecology@btinternet.com)



△Fig. 2: *Cryphaea heteromalla* on wall with *Orthotrichum anomalum* and *Schistidium crassipilum*. JH Dickson

a dried-up stream course, with *Ephemerum* sp., *Fossombronia wondraczekii* and *Pseudephemerum nitidum*, 45 m alt., Brede High Woods, TQ796202, September 2013, TW Ottley & HW Wallis. First record in Britain from a habitat other than non-calcareous mud in the draw-down of lakes, ponds and reservoirs. The species had been found nearby in 2009 and 2011 on mud in the draw-down zone of Powdermill Reservoir.

72.2. *Ephemerum sessile*. 44: on damp rushy track in conifer woodland, 220 m alt., Tumble, nr Ammanford, SN54981080, 2012, SDS Bosanquet. Locally abundant on track across “lost” heathland, long ago coniferized but apparent on 19th century maps. Most west Welsh records are from heathland tracks, and the species has not been found on any other forestry tracks in the area despite much searching of this habitat.

99.3. *Zygodon conoideus*. 41: on north-facing thatched roof, 100 m alt., Cottrell Park Lodge, ST079741, 2012, SDS Bosanquet & RV Lansdown. A few tufts in this extraordinary habitat for a near-obligate epiphyte; it was also present on all 3 thatched roofs examined at the nearby Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagan’s.

99.3. *Zygodon conoideus*. 44: wall of bridge, 70 m alt., Felingwm-uchaf, SN507247, 2012, SDS Bosanquet. Exceptional habitat for a near-obligate epiphyte, which was abundant and fruiting.

131.1. *Climacium dendroides*. 59: willow trunk in open woodland, 230 m alt., Darwen, SD7020,

2012, P Jepson & J Lowell. Remarkable habitat for a rhizomatous species, which must have crept up in fissures of the trunk. (Fig. 1).

205.1. *Cryphaea heteromalla*. 86: top of wall built 2007-8, 80 m alt., 15 Craigton Road, Milngavie, NS543753, 2012, JH Dickson. The first non-epiphytic record for Scotland. The curved wall top is of reconstituted stone. JHD first noticed the moss in 2009, just two years after the wall was built. The unsheltered position exposes the moss to the worst of the winter; apparently the hard winter of 2010-2011 had no ill effects. (Fig. 2).

Regionally notable records

37.1. *Trichocolea tomentella*. 17: by a spring head in mixed deciduous woodland with alder carr, 165 m alt., Great Foxmoor Wood, TQ122435, 2012, HW Wallis. Second site in Surrey since 1976; another large patch at TQ122434.

202.1. *Platygyrium repens*. 17: on sloping willow by river, 20 m alt., R Wey nr West Byfleet, TQ052580, 2012, HW Wallis. Small patch; 6th Surrey record since 1950 and first since 1996.

202.1. *Platygyrium repens*. 17: amongst *Hypnum andoi* on ash in wet woodland above a ghyll stream, 65 m alt., Birches Wood, TQ154388, 2012, HW Wallis. Small patch; 7th Surrey record since 1950 and second since 1996.

Mark Hill

e.moh@ceh.ac.uk