

Recording Secretary's report

Unfortunately the report of the Recording Secretary in the Annual Report circulated with the last *Field Bryology* was his report for 2018, not the report for 2019 as intended. It should be replaced by the following.

Recording Secretary

Around 60 datasets were received directly in 2019; these currently await processing, but based on recent years the total number of records received via this route must exceed 50,000. Those received via iRecord number over 11,000 for the same period; Regional Recorders not reviewing incoming data through this platform are clearly missing an opportunity to engage new bryologists. There were around 30 direct requests for the Society's raw data or summaries this year; requests supported individual recorders, bryological consultants, and the planning of BBS field meetings, e.g. through the provision of vice-county "wants" lists. The number of direct requests to the Recording Secretary does not capture the numerous downloads of BBS data from the NBN or GBIF. Other work this year has included another edition of 'Rare and Interesting' for *Field Bryology*, more work on improving the UK Species Inventory for bryophytes (the UKSI is the taxonomic dictionary underlying the NBN Atlas and iRecord), and supporting the production of the 2018 interim Census Catalogue by the Recorders.

Three new Regional Recorders were appointed in 2019: Peter Creed replaced Jacqui Wright in v.c. 22 (Berkshire); Julia Masson took on v.c. 28 (West Norfolk) after Robin Stevenson's sad passing (Robin had held the Recordership since 1990); and Steven Heathcote takes on v.cc. 53 & 54 (Lincolnshire) from Mark Seaward, who had also been in post since 1990. On behalf of the BBS I thank the new Recorders for taking on their duties, and the previous Recorders for all of their excellent work. The complete list of Regional Recorders (kept up-to-date with assistance from the website editors) can be viewed at <http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/bbs/Bryodiversity/recorders.htm>

As usual, I thank staff at BRC, particularly Steph Rorke & Siobhan Edney, for supporting me and the BBS in various ways, and Ambrose Baker and Claire Halpin for the website updates.

Oliver L. Pescott, 12th February 2020

Regional Recorder vacancies

As most BBS members will know, the Society runs two recording schemes with accompanying databases: the Vice-county Recording Scheme, which keeps track of which species are known, or were formerly known, from each vice-county; and the BBS (Distribution) Mapping Scheme, which holds records made at any spatial scale to allow for the periodic publication of atlases and related analyses relating to species' occurrences (Preston *et al.*, 2012). Regional Recorders are of course integral to both projects, as they will normally be, or will become, those who know a vice-county, or broader region, best. The principal role of Regional Recorders is to receive distributional data collected in their region by individual bryological recorders and, with these recorders' approval, to forward records

at intervals (e.g. at the end of each year) to the Recording Secretary for eventual inclusion in the BBS database. Whilst a list of Regional Recorders is maintained on the BBS website (it is currently the first item under the “Recording” heading), along with vacancies, several recent retirements of Recorders overseeing sets of vice-counties make this a good time to advertise the list of vacancies more widely. Other duties of a Regional Recorder include: liaising with and encouraging members active in their region, e.g. by organising local forays, offering advice on determinations, etc.; making her/his existence known to the local officer of the relevant conservation body (e.g. Natural England), Wildlife Trust and others (e.g. museum) with an interest in biological recording in the region; and, being aware of existing regional herbaria and, where possible, encouraging their continuation and/or future development. Enquiries from members for the vacancies below are most welcomed at olipes@ceh.ac.uk. Note that whilst Regional Recorders are expected to become familiar with the bryoflora of their area, this is always a work in progress, and, as such, lower levels of experience should not be considered a bar to being appointed.

Preston, C.D., Blackstock, T.H., Bosanquet, S.D.S., Godfrey, M.E., Hill, M.O., Holyoak, D.T. & Rothero, G.P. (2012). *Bryophyte Recording Handbook*. British Bryological Society, Plymouth. <https://websites.rbg.org.uk/bbs/Resources/BBS%20Recording%20Handbook.pdf>

Vice-county number	Vacant Vice-county	Vice-county number	Vacant Vice-county
20	Hertfordshire	H9	Clare (including Aran Islands)
30	Bedfordshire	H10	North Tipperary
48	Merioneth	H11	Kilkenny
49	Caernarvonshire	H12	Wexford
50	Denbighshire	H15	South-east Galway
51	Flintshire	H16	West Galway
60	West Lancashire	H17	North-east Galway
71	Isle of Man	H24	Longford
91	Kincardineshire	H25	Roscommon
93	North Aberdeenshire	H26	East Mayo
94	Banffshire	H27	West Mayo
95	Moray (Elginshire)	H28	Sligo
96	Easternness (including Nairnshire)	H29	Leitrim
107	East Sutherland	H30	Cavan
109	Caithness	H31	Louth
112	Shetland	H32	Monaghan
C	Channel Islands	H33	Fermanagh
H3	West Cork	H34	East Donegal
H4	Mid-Cork	H35	West Donegal
H5	East Cork	H36	Tyrone
H6	Waterford	H37	Armagh
H7	South Tipperary	H39	Antrim
H8	Limerick	H40	Londonderry

New Census Catalogue – Call for Records

A new Census Catalogue will be published in 2021 to replace the current 2008 edition and later interim versions. In the new CC, the bracketing date will be moved from 1960 to 1970, meaning that any taxon not recorded in a vice-county in the last 50 years will be bracketed. It will also adopt the names and taxonomic concepts to be published in the forthcoming British and Irish Checklist.

If you are a Regional Recorder, it is important that you submit any outstanding records to the Recording Secretary, Oli Pescott (olipes@ceh.ac.uk) by the end of January 2021. If you are a member, please send your records to your Regional Recorder by the end of 2020. New vice-county records and debracketings should continue to be sent to the Recorders for Liverworts and Mosses via the normal voucher system.

Recorders are encouraged to check potentially ambiguous names in their datasets before submission. For example, is it clear which of the various potential meanings of the name *Uloa crispa* different records refer to in your dataset? The current concept names in use in the BBS Mapping Scheme database are as follows:

Uloa crispa s.l. = *Uloa crispa sensu* Smith (2004) and *Uloa bruchii*.

Uloa crispa sensu Smith (2004) = *Uloa crispula*, *Uloa intermedia*, and *Uloa crispa s.s.*

Uloa crispa s.s., i.e. in the sense of Caparrós *et al.* (2016).

Note that using the exact names as per the BBS database is not essential if the records are unambiguous. For example, records for *Uloa crispa sensu* Smith (2004) could equally well be submitted as *Uloa crispula/intermedia/crispa* as the recorded taxon, as this clearly indicates the concept intended. Recorders are simply encouraged to be as clear as possible in relation to such recent splits.

Caparrós, R., Lara, F., Draper, I., Mazimpaka, V. & Garilleti, R. (2016). Integrative taxonomy sheds light on an old problem: the *Uloa crispa* complex (Orthotrichaceae, Musci). *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* 180: 427–451.

Future meetings

The Covid 19 situation has considerably changed the landscape as far as meetings are concerned. The following meetings have been organised but please check the website for developments brought on by the frequently changing government guidelines.

Spring meeting 2021: Lake District, Friday 9th–Friday 16th April 2021

The Spring meeting 2021 will be held from Friday 9th to Friday 16th April. The meetings will be based roughly around the central Lake District area. The high fells are under-recorded, so there will be a focus on recording these. However, there will be a number of more lowland sites/sites close to parking available to do each day as well. Sites include areas around Wastwater, Derwentwater, Loweswater, Ullswater, Ambleside and Thirlmere. Further information about the meeting will be provided closer to the time.

Future Meetings

Accommodation can be booked in Keswick and other areas such as Ambleside and Grasmere. It is advisable to book in advance because it is such a popular area with tourists.

To express an interest in taking part in the Spring meeting please contact the Meetings Secretary, Lucia Ruffino – luciaruffino65@gmail.com

Summer meeting 2021: Isle of Jura, Saturday 19th–Saturday 26th June 2021

The meeting scheduled for this summer is provisionally re-scheduled for 19th to 26th June 2021, depending on local Covid regulations and restrictions.

To express an interest please contact the local secretary, Fiona Cameron - fionacam68@gmail.com

Autumn meeting 2021: Merioneth, North Wales, Monday 13th–Friday 17th September 2021

We will be exploring the county of Merioneth (vc 48) which has everything from high, volcanic mountains to the great, species-poor uplands of the Migneint. There is a coastal strip with dune systems and saltmarshes, as well as numerous lakes and fantastic hidden river valleys. There are even the remains of a Carboniferous limestone quarry and a few scattered lime-kilns on the Ordovician 'limestone'.

We will be based at Plas Caerdeon, which is an Outdoor Education Centre in North Wales owned and run by Liverpool Hope University. It is situated between Dolgellau and Barmouth on the A496 (postcode LL42 1TH).

Further details will be provided closer to the time – check the website for updates.

Spring Meeting 2022: Hungary, Tuesday 5th–Wednesday 13th April 2022 (dates preliminary)

We will travel to different locations in the country by bus from Budapest and Eger, and will stay for some nights in each. Excursions will include calcareous grasslands and limestone rocks in the vicinity of the capital and in the Bükk Mts, NE Hungary (expected highlights: *Asterella saccata*, *Mannia fragrans*, *Oxymitra incrassata*, *Riccia ciliifera*, *Crossidium squamiferum*, *Mannia triandra*, *Bryum funkii*), volcanic grasslands and siliceous boulder scree at Börzsöny and Visegrád Mts (*Brachythecium gebeebii*, *Crossidium squamiferum*, *Grimmia plagiopodia*, *Lescuraea saviana*, *Syntrichia caninervis* var. *gypsophila*), saline grassland (*Entosthodon hungaricus*) and loess cliffs (*Hilpertia velenovskyi*) in the lowlands and forests in the colline Cserhát Mts (*Anacamptodon splachnoides*, *Zygodon forsteri*).

This plan may be affected of course by changes which could be imposed by the Covid 19 situation at the time, supposing that travel to Hungary is then possible. Further information about the meeting will be provided closer to the time. The meeting will be organized by Peter Erzberger, Berlin, and Beáta Papp, Budapest.

To express an interest in the meeting and for further information, please email erzberger.peter@gmail.com.

Lucia Ruffino, Meetings Secretary

e luciaruffino65@gmail.com