*Barbula unguiculata*, *Bryum argenteum*, *B. bicolor* (with tubers as well as bulbils), *B. klinggraeffii*, *B. rubens*, *B. subapiculatum*, *B. violaceum*, *Dicranella schreberiana*, *D. staphylina*, *Ditrichum cylindricum* and *Tortula acaulon*. The next field, sloping down towards the marshes of the Thames estuary, was also in wheat stubble with an acid soil (pH 5.1). At first we thought it might have no mosses at all, but after an intense search, Fred Rumsey found scraps of *Barbula unguiculata*, *Dicranella staphylina* and *Tortula acaulon* at the very edge. We went to look at a dried-up pond on the marshes, whose mud had no bryophytes at all. So ended the least productive day (in terms of mosses found) that any of us had ever experienced; but the SBAL methodology was successfully demonstrated and we enjoyed ourselves after a fashion. What a contrast between these random fields and those examined for the SBAL meeting in November 2002 (*Bulletin* **80:** 27-29)! It now seems likely that in the south-east of England, the winter of 2003/04 will be a poor one for arable bryophytes, whereas last winter was notably good.

# Southern Group

Rod Stern

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**Bedelands Farm Nature Reserve (v.-c. 14), 2 November 2002**

This was inspected at the request of the Friends of Bedelands Farm Nature Reserve, who do much of the management for the owner (Mid-Sussex District Council). The Reserve is at the north end of the town of Burgess Hill.

Roy Ticehurst, the very enthusiastic leader of the Friends' team of workers, accompanied us. The site was unknown bryologically but looked promising with meadows and ancient woodland. However, it turned out to be on Weald Clay at its least interesting, and our survey was not helped by rain, which led to the abandonment of the visit in the early afternoon. The meadows were almost devoid of bryophytes and we were able to find only 30 common species in the woodlands. Malcolm McFarlane subsequently made a few return visits and was able to add some species to the list. However, Roy Ticehurst was very pleased with our visit, because the Friends are publishing a list of all the plants and animals that have been recorded in the Reserve.

**Woolbeding Common (v.-c. 15), 24 November 2002**

This is a National Trust property, and the leader of the excursion was Katherine Hearn. The site comprises heathland with mostly secondary woodland and a few boggy areas. The woodland had *Dicranum tauricum* and the two *Leucobryum* species as well as *Brachythecium velutinum*, which seems to be less common than it used to be in southern England. The boggy areas had *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Calliergon stramineum* and nine species of *Sphagnum*. The weather deteriorated during the day and we finished in steady rain.

**Ringwood Forest (east) (v.-c. 11), 19 January 2003**

This was one of the best-attended excursions, led by Rod Stern. The day was mostly fine but there had previously been heavy rain and some parts of the site were flooded. A wide range of acid-loving species was seen. The best of these were *Lophozia ventricosa* (found by Bryan Edwards), which is rare in Hampshire, and

*Odontoschisma denudatum*, which is confined to the south-west of the county.

**Adhurst Estate (v.-c. 12), 23 January 2003**

This property is just within v.-c. 12, near Liss. It had been recommended for a visit by Francis Rose, who met us at the start but was unable to be with us for our survey. Fred Rumsey, who is Regional Recorder for North Hampshire, led the meeting. The main interest is the riverine woodland bordering the River Rother, which contains alders and willows rich in epiphytes. Over 80 species were found, including *Epipterygium tozeri* on the riverbank, and several were additions to the 5-km square records of Alan Crundwell.

**Chappetts Copse and Hen Wood (v.-c. 11), 8 March 2003**

Rod Stern led the excursion to these adjoining woods, which are on chalk with some acidic drift material on part of Hen Wood. Chappetts Copse belongs to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and we were accompanied by Gwynne Johnson, a leading Trust member who lives nearby. It is one of the best sites in Britain for Narrow-leaved Helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*) but we were too early to see any sign of that. The bryophytes were not without interest, and included *Cololejeunea minutissima*, *Leptodon smithii* and *Seligeria calycina*.

Hen Wood has recently been bought by the nearby Bereleigh Estate from the Forestry Commission, and the Estate's forester Ron Patrick joined us for our visit. Several calcicoles were seen, but the most interesting species were mainly on acidic soils in the upper part of the wood. These included *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Lepidozia reptans*, *Leucobryum juniperoideum*, *Polytrichum longisetum* and *Rhynchostegiella litorea*. However, we failed to refind *Diplophyllum obtusifolium*, which was seen here by the leader over 20 years ago.

**Crockford Bridge (v.-c. 11), 19 October 2003**

This was another good meeting led by Neil Sanderson in the New Forest. The main interest here is the old marl pits, dug many years ago, which have a wide range of mainly calcicole species. These include *Riccardia incurvata*, *Calliergon giganteum*, *Campylium elodes*, *Drepanocladus cossonii*, *D. revolvens* and *Scorpidium scorpioides*. We also saw species of acid habitats in the nearby heathland and bogs, including *Riccardia latifrons*, *Splachnum ampullaceum*, *Warnstorfia exannulata* and, on a stream bank, *Fossombronia foveolata* (third record for South Hampshire).

**Beacon Hill National Nature Reserve (v.-c. 11), 22 November 2003**

Rod Stern led the meeting at this site where the main interest is the steep chalk grassland, which supports a good vascular plant flora, including orchids. Barry Goater said that it also has a good population of Silver-spotted Skippers, one of Britain's rarest butterflies. It was difficult for us to appreciate this on a day when we battled against rain and wind. There is also an area of semi-natural mixed broadleaf woodland.

The woodland bryophytes were mostly common species on the clay-with-flints; on steeper chalky ground we saw *Encalypta streptocarpa* and *Eurhynchium crassinervium*. The south-facing chalk grassland had very few bryophytes – the hot, dry summer probably didn't help in this respect. The north-facing slope was a little more productive with *Fissidens adianthoides*, *Seligeria calycina* and *Weissia brachycarpa* var. *obliqua*, as well as the larger and more conspicuous pleurocarps.