

# *Grimmia alpestris* in Wales

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## A confirmed British record of *Grimmia alpestris*

In a recent paper (Smith, 2004), the second author rejected *Grimmia alpestris* (F. Weber & D. Mohr) Schleich. as a British species as no confirmed specimen could be found.

However, the first author's herbarium contains a specimen of *G. alpestris* collected by his brother H. Werner from dry exposed siliceous rock on the upper part of Cader Idris, Gwynedd (v.-c. 48, Merioneth) in 2001 (herb. Jean Werner 7243 and BBSUK). The first author originally submitted the specimen to Eva Maier, who named it *G. alpestris*. Nick Hodgetts was informed, and asked that the specimen be sent to Ron Porley who, in November 2003, came to the same conclusion as Eva Maier. The second author confirmed the identification in May 2004.

The *Grimmia* was sparse, and it would be interesting to visit the site, where there are many Grimmiaceae colonies, to see if the species can be refound. As Cader Idris is an easily accessible and frequently visited mountain, it is curious that the plant has not been found previously. This is especially so as between about 1900 and the outbreak of the Second World War,

*Grimmias* were avidly collected in Wales, in many cases to the point of extinction.

According to Muñoz (1998), *G. alpestris* is common in the mountain chains of Europe and western North America, and is also known from scattered localities in Asia. It is mostly found on dry, exposed, siliceous rocks in open areas above the tree line between 1500 and 3400 m. Its occurrence at a much lower altitude in Wales is remarkable.

Although the Welsh material lacked sporophytes, about 90% of specimens examined by Muñoz (1998) had sporophytes.

## Acknowledgements

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## References

- Muñoz J. 1998. A taxonomic revision of *Grimmia* subgenus *Orthogrimmia* (Musci, Grimmiaceae). *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* **85**: 367-403.
- Smith A.J.E. 2004. Notes on British and Irish *Grimmia* species. *Field Bryology* **82**: 8-10.