

(*Tortula acaulon*), *Pohlia camptotrachelata* and *P. wahlenbergii* were in over a third of those we visited. Only three fields had fewer than 10 species, the worst being an organic potato field at Crichneyled (v.-c. 93), where Liz and Ron found only *Oxyrrhynchium hians*. Ironically, the next worst, with seven species, was at Mosshead in the village of Whitehouse (v.-c. 92); in this field, *Leptobryum pyriforme* grew as protonema with tubers but we did not find leafy shoots. Two barley stubble fields were outstanding. Fred, Mark and Phil found one at Cultercullen (v.-c. 92) with 29 taxa, including, remarkably, *Pogonatum urnigerum* and *Polytrichum commune*. At Cornhill (v.-c. 94), Chris, Fred and Phil recorded

34 taxa, including seven liverworts: *Blasia pusilla*, *Fossombronia wondraczekii*, *Lunularia cruciata*, *Marchantia polymorpha*, *Riccardia chamedryfolia*, *Riccia glauca* and *R. sorocarpa*. The Cultercullen field had a low, damp area which had flooded in the past, and at Cornhill the lowest part of the field (with locally abundant *Lunularia*) was in the flood zone of the Burn of Boyne.

The weekend was successful in gathering data for SBAL and produced over 30 candidate new vice-county records. Loud laughter round the breakfast table on the Monday morning suggested that the party were leaving north-east Scotland in good heart.

Rare and interesting bryophytes in Britain and Ireland

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Background

The 'rare and interesting' feature was initiated last year (*Field Bryology* 83: 45-47) to provide a forum for notable records that do not qualify for the BBS vice-county recording scheme. The following records continue the series. I am conscious that for this issue I did not write round to solicit records, so the number is down. Please send more such records to me; they are interesting and I hope they will not be rare.

Categories of interesting record

- A** *Altitude*. A record from an unusually high or low altitude.
- D** *Dispersing*. New records of a species that may be increasing in frequency.
- F** *Fruiting*. Fruiting material of a rarely fruiting species.

- G** *Gametangia*. Male or female organs present in a species in which sex organs are rarely found, or in which one sex is rarely found.
- H** *Habitat*. A record of a species in an unusual habitat.
- N** *National*. A new site for a nationally rare species.
- P** *Previously under-recorded*. A species that may be frequent but which appears to have been overlooked in the past.
- R** *Rare*. A second or occasionally a third or fourth record for a vice-county of a regionally rare species.
- S** *Status*. A status report for a Red Data Book or other notable species at a known site.
- V** *Vegetatively reproducing*. A record of tubers, gemmae, bulbils or protonema-gemmae on a species from which they have rarely been reported.

Liverworts

46.6. *Plagiochila atlantica*. 69: about nine patches, on rock and tree bases, with *P. punctata*, *P. spinulosa*, *Bazzania trilobata* and *Hymenophyllum wilsonii*, Baysbrown Wood, Elterwater, NY31700435, March 2003, Mo Richards, det. Raistrick. The second record for the vice-county. **R.**

Mosses

4.3. *Polytrichastrum (Polytrichum) formosum*. 69: several patches with stems 15 cm long, submerged in water about 50 cm deep, *Littorella* zone, N side of Angle Tarn, Bowfell, NY244077, July 2004, Andrew Dalton, comm. Raistrick, det. Hill. A remarkable occurrence in a situation where *Polytrichum commune* would have been expected. **H.**

29.12. *Dicranum tauricum*. 39: on fallen oak bark with six immature sporophytes, which were just starting to swell on 14 May, in 500-year old sessile oak woodland, Brockton Coppice, Cannock Chase, SJ9819, May 2004, Godfrey. Very rarely with capsules; although it is common on the Chase, no more sporophytes were found despite extensive searches. **F.**

51.1. *Gymnostomum viridulum*. 45: with unexpanded capsules, on soil gaps on calcareous bank, West Williamston quarries, SN025062, March 2004, Bosanquet. The first British record of fruiting *G. viridulum*, which was found fruiting at Tralee, Ireland, by A.C. Crundwell. **F.**

60.16. *Tortula truncata*. 5: with sporophytes and tubers, on clay field margin (pH 7) in recently sown winter wheat field, with *Didymodon tomaculosus*, *Bryum rubens*, *Dicranella staphylina*, *D. schreberiana* and *Fossombronia wondraczekii*, Pennyland, S of Colebrooke, SX77139922, November 2004, Porley. This is the first report of tubers in this species in Britain; tubers have been reported from Belgium and are illustrated in Arts (1987). **V.**

69.20. *Grimmia lisae*. 45: frequent on sandstone rocks, south side of Angle Peninsula, just south of Black Cave, Angle, SM8700, February 2004, Bosanquet. The latest in a series of 12 records from south-facing sections of the Pembrokeshire coast; *G. trichophylla* has a contrasting distribution that includes the Mynydd Preseli uplands and igneous rocks on the north Pembrokeshire coast. **P.**

75.5. *Seligeria campylopoda*. 35: abundant on one 10 cm diameter piece of limestone well embedded in soil in a non-grassy patch of steep woodland, Graig,

Gilwern Hill, SO248124, December 2004, Bosanquet. The first Monmouthshire record of *S. campylopoda* away from the Wye Valley, where 10 colonies are known, and the first for the Carboniferous Limestone of the South Wales Coalfield. **N.**

83.2. *Ephemerum sessile*. 35: three patches in bryophyte-rich barley stubble, Pont y Rhydau, Coed y Fedw, SO435089, September 2004, Bosanquet. One of at least five cereal fields in the Dingestow/Coed y Fedw area that hold *E. sessile*, a species that is 'rarely if ever in arable fields' according to the *Atlas of the bryophytes of Britain and Ireland*. Nine colonies are now known in south Wales, most of them on reservoir margins, suggesting that this is a previously under-recorded species. **H, P.**

160.1. *Sanionia uncinata*. 28: epiphytic on apple, ca 2 m alt., The White House, Walpole Highway, TF514137, March 2004, Stevenson; epiphytic on apple, ca 50 m alt., The Royal Orchards, Pastons Clump, Flitcham, TF719279, March 2004, Stevenson. Second and third records for West Norfolk of a species first recorded from East Anglia (v.-c. 27) in the early 19th century, not seen again until 2002, and then found also in two adjacent vice-counties. The flush of records suggests a species that may be spreading as a result of some environmental change. **D, R.**

160.1. *Sanionia uncinata*. 29: epiphytic on apple in old orchard, Wisbech, TF447076, 2004, Stevenson. Second record for Cambridgeshire (see also comments on v.-c. 28 records above). **D, R.**

160.2. *Sanionia orthothecioides*. 111: grassy slope subject to salt spray, about 30 m from cliff edge, island of Copinsay SSSI, HY60980081, June 2004, McCance, det. Long; in lighthouse compound, Copinsay, HY614012, July 2004, McCance. Second and third records for Orkney of this coastal Boreo-arctic Montane species, whose British distribution is centred on St Kilda. **N, R.**

Contributors of records and people who have checked them

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Reference

Arts T. 1987. *Pottia bryoides* (Dicks.) Mitt., *P. lanceolata* (Hedw.) C. Müll. and *P. truncata* (Hedw.) B.& S. with rhizoidal tubers. *Lindbergia* 13: 130-132.