

the authors on their splendid publication, and also to mark the occasion by presenting each of them with a framed copy of the very effective cover illustration by

Robert Gillmor, arranged by Jill Sutcliffe (Ron's boss at English Nature).

Field excursion to Snowdonia

On Sunday 11 September most participants joined the field excursion to Nant Gywnant. We concentrated on the bryophytes in a stand of ash-alder woodland above Hafod Rhisgl (mostly in SH6552) on the east slopes of the valley opposite Snowdon. It has an impressive Atlantic flora on rock outcrops, boulders and trees and in seepage zones and stream gullies. *Plagiochila spinulosa* and *P. punctata* were frequent; *P. bifaria* was also detected, and Gordon Rothero located *P. exigua* and a patch of *P. atlantica**. *Jubula butchinsiae* was locally abundant on wet rocks by the main stream, and mats of *Riccardia palmata*

outshone *Nowellia curvifolia* on many rotting tree trunks. *Conocephalum* attracted attention, with big shiny patches of *C. conicum* and dull smaller growth of *C. salebrosum* growing in close proximity. The rarities *Radula voluta* and *Sematophyllum demissum* were refound, both in very small quantity.

Before dispersing, in the early afternoon we moved to Pont Aberglaslyn (SH5946), south of Beddgelert, to admire *Fissidens polyphyllus* which grows in considerable abundance in the riparian zone of the Afon Glaslyn at this locality.

Reports of local meetings

A regional meeting in south-west Scotland, October 2005

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This meeting was planned as a square-bashing exercise to cover poorly recorded 10-km squares within one hour's journey of Hightae in Dumfries over a long weekend. The seven participants came and went as time allowed; the core team stayed in a self-catering house at the invitation of Liz Kungu. New vice-county records are denoted with an asterisk.

On Thursday 6 October, David Chamberlain

and Liz Kungu stopped off en route from Edinburgh in a square around Crawford John in Lanarkshire (v.-c. 77). Red Moss produced 14 species of *Sphagnum*, including *S. angustifolium**, *S. subsecundum**, *S. teres* and *S. warnstorffii*. The relatively base-rich flushes that supported the last two species also contained *Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum* and *Tomentypnum nitens*. A visit to the abandoned limestone workings at Whitecleugh turned up *Leiocolea badensis* and

Thuidium assimile, and a brief stop by eroding peat above the Duneaton Water brought to light *Odontoschisma denudatum** and *Hypnum imponens**.

Friday 7 October started with a quick foray around our base, which led to the discovery of *Schistidium crassipilum** on the roof, and *Cryphaea heteromalla* and *Leskea polycarpa* on elders in the garden. The party, now four, then headed for the valley of the Scar Water in Dumfries (v.-c. 72), starting up a rocky ravine at Chanlockfoot, where *Conocephalum salebrosum**, *Tritomaria exsecta*, *Grimmia hartmanii*, *Loeskeobryum brevirostre* and *Orthotrichum tenellum** were recorded. A lunch stop on Glenwhargen Craig added *Schistidium strictum* and *Tortella densa**. Despite the drizzle, the find of the day, *Schistidium agassizii**, was discovered on Polgowan Craigs, growing with *Grimmia ramondii*. On the return journey down the Scar Water a brief visit was paid to the ravine of the Carlingstane Burn where *Philonotis arnellii* was added. By the end of the day the total of recorded taxa topped the 200 mark, not bad for a square that was previously almost completely unknown bryologically.

Gordon Rothero called in on Rankinston in Ayrshire (v.-c. 75) on his journey down, and despite muttering something about extracting blood from stone, managed to find a few vice-county records on what turned out to be a largely industrial site. He also recorded *Barbilophozia barbata*, *Archidium alternifolium*, *Fissidens dubius* and *Plagiomnium affine*.

At the instigation of David Long, we devoted Saturday 8 October to two squares in Roxburghshire (v.-c. 80). The morning was spent on the limestone around Larriston, where *Conocephalum salebrosum**, *Rhynchostegiella teneriffae* and *Schistidium platyphyllum* were recorded on rocks by the burn, and *Entodon concinnus* and *Thuidium assimile* were seen on exposed soil around the lime workings. During the afternoon a posse of two visited Lairds Linn and Sundhope Burn, where *Entodon* was again seen, along with *Anomobryum julaceum**. Old records

for *Leiocolea alpestris*, *Orthotbecium intricatum* and *Seligeria recurvata* were also confirmed. The remaining three headed westwards for a conifer plantation at Merrylaw. Sam Bosanquet predicted the presence of, and duly found, *Colura calyptrifolia** on a sheltered willow. Close by, the trunks of a grove of sycamores supported *Metzgeria temperata**, and *Calliergonella lindbergii* was found on a forestry track.

By Sunday 9 October the party had reached a full strength of seven, and headed for Screel Hill in Kirkcudbright (v.-c. 73). On the approach a trek through a forest plantation brought to light *Fissidens curnovii** on rocks by a rivulet. *Cololejeunea minutissima**, *Colura* and *Microlejeunea ulicina* were recorded on sheltered willows. The crags on the hill supported good colonies of *Grimmia torquata*, which may account for the dubious old record of *G. elongata*, which we failed to rediscover. Associated species included *Gymnomitrium crenulatum* and *Kiaeria blyttii*. *Conocephalum salebrosum** and *Weissia rutilans* were added in a ravine along the Screel Burn. After lunch, David Long and Gordon Rothero headed home and the remainder split into two parties. A call at Barlocco, further west and down the coast, brought to light an interesting selection of ephemerals on a track, including *Anthoceros punctatus**, *Riccia subbifurca**, *Archidium alternifolium*, *Ephemerum serratum* and *Philonotis caespitosa**. *Brachythecium mildeanum** was also seen here. A quick visit to Heart Moss added *Plagiomnium elatum*. A visit to the coastal area around Almorness House proved disappointing, though *Sphagnum flexuosum** was found in a mire at the edge of a wood. A quick stop by a wall at Palnackie, as the light was fading, turned up *Drepanocladus aduncus** and *Schistidium crassipilum**.

On Monday 10 October a visit was made to Trowhill in Lanarkshire (v.-c. 77), east of Crawford, on the return journey to Edinburgh. A combination of misted lenses, driving rain and dreary commercial forestry hampered recording. However, *Sphagnum capillifolium** was seen. A valley bog by the Camps Water added *S. fuscum**

and *Syntrichia intermedia** was seen on a wall at Midlock Farm.

The contingent heading south stopped off in a further square in south-east Dumfries (v.-c. 72). *Colura cabyptrifolia** was recorded at Kerr plantation, again on willows among conifers. Rocks by the River Esk supported *Fissidens crassipes*, a local and southern species in Scotland, and *Schistidium platyphyllum*. A stop at Kerrbush Burn added *Jungermannia sphaerocarpa* and *Nardia compressa*. The sandstone by Turner's Linn at Chapelknowe proved to be quite base-rich, supporting *Campylostelium saxicola** and *Tetradontium brownianum*. *Anthoceros agrestis*, *Riccia glauca* and *Ephemerum minutissimum* were recorded in a barley field at Mossknowe.

This meeting was one of a series of informal regional excursions that have been held in Scotland over the past few years, outwith the

official field programme of the BBS. As we knew little or nothing in advance about the sites that were visited we were agreeably surprised how rich some of them proved to be; most of us left having added new species to our repertoires. As there is a need to cover as many as possible of the squares that are not at present adequately known in time for the next bryological atlas, there is every intention to hold more of these regional recording meetings over the next few years. Anyone interested in participating should contact me by e-mail (D.Chamberlain@RBGE.org.uk).

So what were the achievements of this excursion? We left with 28 new vice-country records under our belts. Ten squares were recorded, in nine of which we recorded between 100 and 200 species. More importantly, we have proved that one does not need to go much further into Scotland than Gretna to find bryologically rich and interesting ground.

New vice-county records and amendments to the *Census Catalogue*

All undated records are based on specimens collected in 2004; for specimens collected in earlier years the year of collection is given before the collector's name. Where the specimen bears a collector's number, this is given after the collector's name. All specimens are deposited in BBSUK, except where otherwise indicated.

Numbers and nomenclature follow Blockeel & Long (1998), *A check-list and census catalogue of British and Irish bryophytes*, with three exceptions. *Grimmia lisae* De Not. replaces *G. retracta* Stirt. *G. lisae* as described by Maier (2002) includes both *G. retracta* and what were previously considered to be forms of *G. trichophylla* (*G. trichophylla* var.

subsquarrosa (Wilson) A.J.E. Sm.). To avoid confusion the simplest solution seems to be to adopt *G. lisae* for all new records and to accept all old records of *G. retracta* as referring to *G. lisae*.

The tortured nomenclatural history of the plant which in the current *Census Catalogue* is called *Bryum imbricatum* (Schwägr.) Bruch & Schimp. is detailed by Holyoak (2004). Holyoak says that *B. imbricatum* may well refer to a different species and that our plant is conspecific with *B. archangelicum* Bruch, Schimp. & W. Gumbel, which is the earliest name available and so should be adopted. *B. archangelicum sensu stricto*