



# BBS Spring meeting 2022: Truro, 26 March–1 April

**Philippa Thompson** describes a hastily organised but very successful meeting

The 2022 Spring meeting was held in Cornwall. Originally planned for Hungary, the rapid emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID in December 2021, and the uncertainties about travelling abroad, made it seem sensible to relocate to the UK. There had not been a BBS meeting in Cornwall since 2000 and although bryophyte recording in Cornwall has received a lot of attention over the years, including the production of two floras, by Jean Paton in 1969 and by David Holyoak in 2010, much recording has been carried out only at tetrad level and some of the sites have not been visited for some time.

△ Figure 1. Daffodil fields above Merthen Wood.  
*Chris Preston*

In addition, it presented an opportunity for those of us who were less experienced to visit some of the interesting habitats that Cornwall has to offer in the company of experts.

The geology throughout most of the county is uniformly acidic except for the serpentine and gabbro found around the Lizard Peninsula, but Cornwall does have a humid and equable climate that favours an interesting diversity of Atlantic species. We were fortunate to obtain access to several private estates. The Atlantic woodlands on the eastern side of the county

offered possibilities. We also visited sites on the granite of Bodmin Moor, St Austell, Penwith and Carnmenellis, and there were several excursions to coastal sites, including the Lizard, the Helford River and the sand dunes at Phillack Towans. It would have been good to visit the communities associated with mining activities in Cornwall, but, sadly, we were unable to include much in the way of industrial habitat owing to the complications thrown up nowadays by Health and Safety regulations.

As we were incorporating localities from both East and West Cornwall, a house was booked in the centre of Cornwall, Trethurffe Manor in Ladock, just north of Truro, to serve as headquarters for the week. There was some concern as to whether the meeting would be able to take place at all, but in the end, despite the short notice, a group of 28 people came together. Some members stayed at Trethurffe and others in holiday accommodation nearby. A few attendees were local, including Jean Paton, the author of the *Liverwort Flora of the British Isles* and mentor to so many of our longer standing members. Jean lives close to Ladock and was able to accompany us on three of our field days. The other attendees for all, or part, of the week were Wendy Tyler-Batt, Tom Blockeel, Andrew Branson, Margaret Crittenden, John Day, Alex Dombrowski, Billy Dykes, Pete Forrest, Paul Gainey, Claire Halpin, Roy Jeffrey, Liz Kungu, Young Jun Lee, Peter Martin, David Pays, Sharon Pilkington, Mark Pool, Chris Preston, Tim Purches, Gordon Rothero, Jeff Scott, Jonathan Sleath, Alastair Stevenson, Matt Stribley, Philippa Thompson, Lise Vittrup and Sharon Yardy.

### 26 March

The meeting kicked off on the Saturday afternoon with an excursion to Ladock Wood (SW8851, SW8950), close to headquarters. There was a

minor panic as Philippa lost her car keys just as she was supposed to set off to meet the group (keys subsequently located neatly placed on the roof of the car!). Claire stepped into the breach, met up with people at Ladock Community Hall and accompanied them up to Ladock Wood. The recent long, dry spell had made bryologising very difficult. Some members were relatively new to the discipline but, with the help of spray bottles, they were introduced to some common woodland species. Claire found a *Leucobryum* just before returning to the vehicles. The rest of the afternoon was spent around Ladock Community Centre (SW8950) looking at 'grots' in the car park.

### 27 March

On the Sunday about half the group elected to visit Cabilla, a private rewilding estate on the edge of Bodmin Moor. The site consists of undisturbed ancient wood, predominantly oak, growing over granite clutter in a steep-sided river valley. Peat cores indicate that there has been continuous woodland cover here for 3,500 years.

The first lesson of the day was not to try to change the batteries on a Lichen Candelaris hand lens in the field! Philippa tried and dropped a screw. Much time was spent looking and Claire nobly resisted the urge to say, 'I told you so!' Fortunately, Billy and Alex arrived late, so that Philippa had time to find it. Meanwhile, the remainder of the party headed along the track past the beaver dam, splitting into two groups – one for the eastern monad (SX1569) that had quarries marked on the map, and the other for the western square (SX1469). Gordon was the only person in the western group with wellies and he spent a lot of time in the water whilst everyone else scoured the woods. There was a lot of *Fissidens polyphyllus* along the river which also yielded *Rhynchostegium alopecuroides* and





△ Figure 2. Lunch in the sun at Cabilla. Sharon Pilkington

*Hygrohypnella ochracea*. A few good patches of *Plagiochila* were found, mostly *P. spinulosa* but some *P. punctata* too. Elsewhere, the hillside was dry and disappointingly dull and around noon (Wessex Group lunchtime) there was a lucky meeting with the other group at a juncture of monads and lunch was declared (Fig. 2). The main additions from the afternoon were luxuriant *Bazzania trilobata* cushions and *Dicranum scottianum* from the shaded rocks below the tor. The group exploring the eastern monad had much the same list of species but were able to add *Plagiochila bifaria* to the day's finds. Willow woodland above the beaver enclosure (SX1570) was disappointing, but about 40 species were recorded.

A small group led by Mark Pool visited Dannonchapel (SX0382, SX0482), an area of National Trust land on the stretch of north coast between Port Isaac and Tintagel. This was a tetrad with only two previous records, so it was thought to be worthy of further investigation. The area consists of a steep-sided valley leading down to the sea with partly wet woodland, oaks higher up and willows alongside a small stream. Lower

down there is sheep-grazed turf leading down to the coastal cliffs. There were many common species in the woodland, with a good amount of *Hookeria lucens* and some *Loeskeobryum brevirostre*. Some ruins gave them species of masonry and further down a few coastal species were recorded. Seventy-six different species were found in the two monads.

Everyone else made their way to the Luxulyan valley which is a council-owned Country Park consisting of a post-industrial wooded valley with the remains of old industrial buildings and a granite tor. Lists were made for three monads (SX0556, SX0656, SX0756). *Plagiochila bifaria* was recorded and *Pohlia lescuriana* and *Ulota crispa* were collected by Tom Blockeel. Jean Paton attended and by happy chance, was right on hand when Tom Blockeel found a specimen of *Fissidens celticus*, a species first described by Jean in 1965 (Fig. 3). Eighty-six different species were found during the day.

▽ Figure 3. Jean Paton and Tom Blockeel finding *Fissidens celticus*, Luxulyan valley. Peter Martin







△ Figure 4. The Withy Brook at Trebartha. Andrew Branson. Figure 5 (inset left). *Fissidens polyphyllus*, Trebartha. Chris Preston. Figure 6 (inset right). *Rhynchostegium alopecuroides*, Trebartha. Claire Halpin

### 28 March

On Monday nearly everyone drove north to Trebartha, a private estate on the north-eastern edge of Bodmin Moor comprising mature gardens and ponds, rising through mixed woods to open moorland with a granite tor. Mags, Jonathan, Philippa and Jean stayed in the valley bottom and worked their way around the lake (SX2677). They recorded over 80 species including *Cephalozia curvifolia*, *Brachythecium mildeanum* and the locally ubiquitous *Fissidens polyphyllus*.

The remainder made a beeline for the Withey Brook (more like a river) flowing down from the moor in a steep ravine (Fig. 4). Learning from the previous day, most people had opted for wellies, apart from the unfortunate Alastair who ended up removing boots and socks more than once during the day to cross the flood. A rich flora of western woodland bryophytes was recorded, including *Bazzania trilobata*, *Cephalozia curvifolia*, *Colura calyptrifolia*, *Lepidozia cupressina*, *Plagiochila bifaria* and *Loeskobryum brevirostre*. Alongside the river there was lots of



*Fissidens polyphyllus* (Fig. 5) together with *Fissidens rivularis*, *Heterocladium wulfsbergii*, *Isoetecium holtii* and *Rhynchostegium alopecuroides* (Fig. 6). The very small hyperoceanic liverwort *Harpalejeunea molleri*\* was recorded by Tom Blockeel on the south side and Gordon Rothero on the north side, a debracket for this species for vc 2 and confirmation of the importance of this site for

communities of oceanic specialists. Tunbridge filmy-fern *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* was admired among riverbank boulders. *Fossombronina incurva* was found in some disturbed ground by the river at the top of the gorge.

Unusually for Cornwall, a selection of Sphagnums was recorded by the group crossing to Hawk's Tor (SX2576), including *Sphagnum capillifolium* which would have been a vc 2 record if anyone had collected and confirmed it. *Frullania fragilifolia*, *Lepidozia cupressina*, *Andreaea rothii*, *Dicranum scottianum* and *Racomitrium obtusum* were found on and around the tor. A good find for the group working in the untenanted part of the estate on the north side of the Withey Brook was *Schistostega pennata*, found in a chink of a granite retaining wall.

*Schistostega pennata* was also found by Tim Purches who split off from the crowd and availed himself of the permission to record in Upton wood (SX2478, SX2479, SX2579). A local resident generously allowed him to park outside his house and accompanied Tim for part of the day. Tim added 66 species to the five previous records from this tetrad. Other species of interest included *Cephalozia curvifolia* and a large patch



△ Figure 7. Celebratory dinner at Trethurffe, 28 March. Claire Halpin

of *Trichocolea tomentella*.

It had been decided to host a meal for Jean Paton at Trethurffe on Monday night, to celebrate the publication of *A supplement to the Liverwort Flora of the British Isles*. Unfortunately, it was not possible to accommodate everybody, but all those who had known Jean for many years were invited. Everyone worked hard after a long day in the field to make it happen and somehow 20 guests sat down to dinner, with main dishes prepared by Jonathan and Mags, home-made cakes provided by Anne Branson and a generous contribution from Jeff of port and stilton (Fig. 7). The whole event gave lie to the suggestion that asking bryologists to work together is like trying to herd cats! It was a magnificent effort and especial thanks go to Jonathan Sleath, whose idea it was, and who very generously produced the principal item on the menu.

## 29 March

The next day Chris, Sharon Yardy and Pete Martin had a slightly disappointing visit to Zennor (Fig. 8) on the Penwith Granite coast (SW4438). However, *Grimmia lisae* and *Fossombronina angulosa* were found and Andrew,



△ Figure 8. Zennor Head. *Claire Halpin*

who was recording further along the cliff path, found an area of slight base enrichment with *Frullania fragilifolia*, *F. microphylla* and *Tortella nitida*.

After a stint in the café and an ‘arty farty’ visit to see the Mermaid of Zennor in the church (not really allowed on a serious BBS meet), the group headed off for Rosewall Hill (SW4839), an old mine site on granite overlooking the sea. This was found to be overgrown and difficult to navigate. The rocks were dominated by Grimmiaceae:



△ Figure 10. *Scorpiurium circinatum*, Phillack Towans. *Gordon Rothero*

*Grimmia lisae*, *G. trichophylla*, *Hedwigia stellata* and *Racomitrium obtusum* (mostly the awned form), but *Dicranum fuscescens* was found on the rockfaces of the small tor.

A large group headed off to Phillack Towans (SW5739) to look for *Bryum dyffrynense*. This is an old sand quarry under private ownership amongst the dunes (Fig. 9). *Scorpiurium circinatum* was promptly identified, the only record of this species during the week (Fig. 10). Sadly, *B. dyffrynense* was not located

▽ Figure 9. The sand quarry at Phillack Towans. *Philippa Thompson*







△ Figure 11. *Fossombronia angulosa*, Carn Galver. Gordon Rothero



△ Figure 12. *Tortula solmsii*, Carn Galver. Jonathan Sleath

but Jonathan successfully cultivated a *Bryum gemmiferum* at home. He also found *Thuidium delicatulum*\*, a debracket for vc 1 and a new site for this species. Jun spotted *Petalophyllum ralfsii* and as the group got their eye in, several more plants were found. A list of 30 species was compiled before the group moved on to visit Carn Galver, an old Heritage mining area under National Trust management on the Penwith granite coast, south of Zennor. Here, the group recorded in two monads (SW4136, SW4236) along a stream valley working down to the sea. Lunch by some old mine buildings produced *Gymnostomum viridulum*. Gordon found *Tritomaria exsectiformis* beneath a rock in the path and nearby in the bryophyte turf, some *Scapania scandica*. Spectacular cushions of *Fossombronia angulosa* were admired beneath a waterfall just above the sea (Fig. 11) and *Tortula solmsii* was relocated by Matt Stribley on some adjacent old mine buildings (Fig. 12). Seventy-five species were recorded in the two monads.

An area of former granite quarries in the Carnmenellis massif, south-west of Falmouth, (SH7230, SH7231, SH7330, SH7331) was visited by a select group of five. The group

parked outside the former Bosahan Quarry and were immediately impressed by the size of the waste granite blocks nearby. An area of flat waste ground produced *Bryoerythrophyllum ferruginascens*, while *Schistidium apocarpum* was growing on discarded concrete. A scramble over the spoil down into a stream valley added to the list, while a period of bushwhacking in the valley (courtesy of the loan of Pete Forrest's wellingtons) added plentiful *Hookeria* and at least one good population of *Loeskeobryum brevirostre*. Lunch taken, Bosahan Quarry itself was checked which produced *Riccia sorocarpa* and *R. subbifurca*. Also found were *Myriocoleopsis minutissima*, *Scapania compacta*, *Ptychomitrium polyphyllum* and *Racomitrium obtusum*. The first was considered an interesting record away from the sea, although it seems nowadays to be turning up more frequently inland.

The other quarries proved disappointing, being full of water or heavily overgrown, however, more *M. minutissima* was discovered. En route to Higher Carvedras, Tom collected *Dicranella howei* from the side of the road, growing with *Didymodon tophaceus*. A spectacular bank of spoil was examined fruitlessly by Tom and Mark who



△ Figure 13. *Lophocolea bispinosa*, Caerhays. Jonathan Sleath

had hoped to refind *Hedwigia stellata*, the only species previously recorded from the tetrad back in 1833. However, *Bartramia pomiformis* and *Racomitrium obtusum*\* were found and a putative *Barbilophozia atlantica* which disappointingly turned out under the microscope to be *Lophozia ventricosa*. A total of 99 species was recorded for the tetrad.

Meanwhile, Sharon Pilkington and Claire decided to explore around St Anthony's Head. (SW8431, SW8432, SW8532). A little *Tortula* on disturbed bare ground near Place harbour proved to be *T. pallida*\*, new to vc 2. Another collection made here unexpectedly contained two stems of *Weissia wilsonii*, qualifying as a 'bonus bryophyte' and a new record for this rare species! On a bank nearby was a lovely patch of *Scleropodium touretii*. After lunch, with a fabulous view of the harbour, they found more *T. pallida* on a grassy sea cliff. As clouds were gathering with a few drops of rain, they decided to head back towards the car when they found a spring with huge tussocks of greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata*. Enthusiasm briefly rekindled, they recorded a few more species,

including *Oxyrrhynchium speciosum*, but then decided to go home and hit the microscopes.

### 30 March

On Wednesday the magnolia enthusiasts, Jean, Jonathan, Mags and Sharon Yardy elected to record in the grounds of Caerhays Castle (SW9641, SW9741). The beautiful gardens were admired, and 68 species were recorded in total, including *Phaeoceros laevis* and *Lophocolea bispinosa* (Fig. 13). The latter has jumped from the Isles of Scilly and is spreading rapidly throughout the south-west, including, appropriately, a lavish spread in the rockery outside Jean Paton's front door.

Everybody else met at Boconnoc, a large private estate to the east of the Fowey Estuary, with mature gardens, extensive woods, and an ancient deer park. Two groups elected to look at the monad around the main house (SX1460). The luxuriant bright green cushions around the main buildings foxed everyone until it was realised that they were very well grown *Dichodontium pellucidum*. Peter Martin spotted *Zygodon stirtonii* growing on the church and both Claire and Chris found the toothed *Cephaloziella turneri* (Fig. 14), rather unexpectedly, as it is usually associated with coastal creeks. This provoked a discussion about the microclimate at Boconnoc which is probably heavily influenced by warm, moist air rolling up the valley from the nearby Fowey estuary. *Lophocolea bispinosa* was recorded again and Matt found *Phaeoceros* which he collected to try to grow on. There was a damp shady grotto and magnolias and azaleas to admire. After lunch the group headed down into the park, finding *Chiloscyphus polyanthos*, *Fossombronina pusilla*, *Hygroamblystegium fluviatile* and *Fontinalis squamosa* in the stream. The highlight of the afternoon was a good patch of *Trichocolea tomentella* at the side of a stream-



filled working by the woods. Others had been recording at the other end of the square and found *Fissidens incurvus* and *Fossombronina pusilla*. Over 150 species in total were found in the monad.

Gordon, Liz, Jeff, and Tom also did some work in the southern part of the estate (SX1459, SX1559) which includes the ancient deer park, noted for its lichens. *Sematophyllum substrumulosum* was recorded in two monads and Liz collected some large specimens of *Aneura* from around an old granite trough for the Edinburgh herbarium.

A northern group, recording in a poorly covered part of the estate (SX1461, SX1561) had not gone far before they sank to their knees to look at a diverse suite of ‘grots’ in crushed limestone near a building. Here were *Fossombronina pusilla*, *Lophocolea bispinosa*, *Riccia sorocarpa* and *Bryoerythrophyllum ferruginascens*, a promising start. *Plagiomnium rostratum*\* was recorded by the side of a limey path. Later, *Bryum pallescens* was found by Sharon Pilkington in the drip zone of a corrugated metal barn and a bank nearby yielded *Riccia glauca*, *Epipterygium tozeri* and the first sighting of *Fissidens celticus*, which was seen many times that day. There were neutral flushes amongst the alders near the stream which were glorious with great sheets of flowering opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*. Tim Purches determinedly plunged (literally) into these and was rewarded with some splendid mounds of *Trichocolea tomentella*, whilst sharp-eyed Andrew



△ Figure 14. *Cephaloziella turneri* from Boconnoc. Claire Halpin

spotted *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia* on a nearby tree (Fig. 15). After lunch another monad with no previous records at all was visited and 80 species were added to the card. The long walk back took them past the obelisk, with *Tortella nitida*, and fields containing very handsome but mucky-looking Dartmoor sheep. Lise later

▽ Figure 15. *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*, Boconnoc. Sharon Pilkington





◁ Figure 16. Bryologising at Kynance Cove.  
Sharon Yardy

worked out that a small, unfamiliar shrub that had puzzled them in the woodland was in fact the tea plant, *Camellia sinensis*.

The fourth group went up to Druids Hill, in the western part of the estate, where there were no previous records at all for the whole tetrad (SX1261, SX1360, SX1361). The woodland produced a good list of species, mostly common ones, but including *Harpalejeunea mollerii* from the trunk of an ash in a sheltered spot by the path. Good colonies of *Zygodon rupestris* were found on the trunks of old beeches and fruiting *Entosthodon fascicularis* was found on soil by the track. Returning downhill, four species of *Sphagnum* (including *S. squarrosum*) were recorded from a marshy springhead. Pete Forrest's wellingtons came into their own once more!

### 31 March

On Thursday, Poltesco (SW7215) was visited. This is a National Trust coastal site on the Lizard serpentine with a mix of ruined serpentine buildings, exposed outcrops, woodland, and maritime heathland/coastal grassland. *Marchesinia mackaii* and a known population of *Lejeunia mandonii* on the rocky banks of the valley were located by Tom and Matt and inspected by the rest of the group. Tom also pointed out cushions of *Rhynchostegiella teneriffae* growing in the river. *Porella obtusata*

was found growing on exposed boulders by the track on the way to the sea, along with *Grimmia lisae* and *Nogopterium gracile*. Lunchtime was spent basking in the sunshine in the shelter of a ruined building surrounded by little brown cushions of *Eucladium verticillatum* on the sunny side of the wall and *Frullania microphylla* and *Radula complanata* growing in the shade. After lunch, an arable field yielded *Riccia glauca* and *R. sorocarpa* along with a selection of Bryums, but the highlight of the afternoon was perhaps the magnificent cushions of *Porella obtusata*, found growing on an exposed outcrop on the clifftop.

Natural England are doing active management at Kynance Cove (SW6813), targeted with reference to the vascular plant assemblage. They showed interest in having as many quality records as possible to help them monitor the effects of this management on the bryophytes present, so a group of six decided to visit this very special site (Fig. 16). Competition for viewing rocks with 30 geology students did not prevent them rapidly finding *Frullania teneriffae*, *Porella obtusata* and *Grimmia lisae*. A search of the valley above the cafe also produced *Dicranella howei*\* from the side of a roadside ditch. This was the second record of this species of the week and was a new record for vc 1. Sitting having lunch on Lizard Down overlooking the Cove in the bright sunshine was in sharp contrast to news from Wiltshire reporting that it was snowing there. Because of



the dry weather *Riccia* species were sadly lacking. A peculiar small form of *Nogopterium gracile* caused some confusion owing to its resemblance to *Scorpiurium*. Eventually, Jun saved the day when he found a *Riccia* alongside a *Fossombronia* on a path. It was studied at length by the whole group and eventually keyed out as the rare *R. crozalsii*. Sadly, the utility of the data for informing the ongoing vegetation management programme will be limited by the lack of records, probably caused by the extremely dry conditions.

Everyone else visited Merthen Wood, a nationally important ancient Atlantic woodland on the Helford River whose gnarled oaks go right down to low shale cliffs above the estuary. The group split up to do separate monads, although Gordon, seduced by these southern woodlands, disappeared before the groups split. He somehow found his group again later! Sharon P, Chris and Claire started at the creek (SW7326) where *Marchesinia mackaii* was an unexpected but very welcome find. The first of many colonies of the rare creek specialist *Ditrichum subulatum* (Fig. 17) was spotted within the first half hour,

soon followed by gorgeously fuzzy-looking *Cephaloziella turneri* (Fig. 18), which shares its very specific habitat with the *Ditrichum*. The creek banks, stream and oakwood near the coast were explored and 60 species were accumulated by lunchtime, including *Leucobryum albidum*. It was decided to explore the next inlet passing through some *Narcissus* bulb fields en route (Fig. 1) – there was a lot of *Phaeoceros laevis* and *Fossombronia*, probably all *F. pusilla*, and some *Dicranella staphylina* and *D. schreberiana*, but not much else and most of it was very crispy. The next wooded inlet at Polwheveral Creek yielded yet more *D. subulatum* and *C. turneri*, with fine-looking habitat for both species extending into the distance towards Groyne Point – another time! Sharon and Claire would have been happy to call it a day, but fortunately Chris was made of sterner stuff and so they carried on north to the next inlet. This was fortunate as Chris spotted an odd-looking baby *Hookeria* here, which on closer inspection turned out to be *Calypstrochaeta apiculata* growing along muddy banks where the stream met the creek (Figs 19, 20). This is a rarity

▽ Figure 17. *Ditrichum subulatum*, Frenchman's Creek.  
Claire Halpin



▽ Figure 18. *Cephaloziella turneri*, showing its 'fuzzy-looking' habit. Claire Halpin





< Figure 19. Sharon Pilkington (with Claire) demonstrating the narrow niche of *Calypstrochaeta apiculata* at Merthen Wood. Chris Preston

< Figure 20. *Calypstrochaeta apiculata*, Merthen Wood. Claire Halpin

in Cornwall and was a good find to finish with.

The other group had about 80 species on the list after exploring a monad further west (SW7226). When Gordon and Liz heard about the *Calypstrochaeta*, they wondered if they might have had the same thing but dismissed it as *Epipterygium tozeri*. Liz was berating herself for not collecting any when fortunately Jeff came to the rescue with a specimen which was indeed *Calypstrochaeta*, in a similar habitat to the specimen that Chris had found.

### 1 April

Sadly, Gordon and Liz had to leave the meeting early to catch a plane back to Scotland. However, they managed to fit a recording session into the Friday morning, in woodland just north of Truro (SW8148). They compiled a very respectable list of 75 species and Liz found *Polytrichum perigoniale*\* on a forestry track, another new record for vc 1.

A second group visited Frenchman's Creek (SW7425), starting at the picturesque old Cornish farmstead of Kestle Barton. At the creek mouth Sharon P. spotted *Calypstrochaeta* almost immediately. Soon after, *Ditrichum subulatum* was located and several people spotted *Cephaloziella turneri*. Photos of all three species were taken with varied success. The *Ditrichum* must have been the most photographed species of the week, probably with the worst results thanks to its small size and the difficulty of getting both leaves and sporophytes in focus. On the opposite bank of the stream, Sharon found some beautiful fruiting *Fissidens exilis* and some tiny *Epipterygium tozeri*. Lunch was eaten sitting





in a row along a mossy tree trunk among the golden-saxifrage and ramsons (Fig. 21). It was then decided to move on to Tremayne for the afternoon to hunt for...yes, *Ditrichum subulatum* again! The woodland at Tremayne (SW7225) seemed a little richer than at Frenchman's Creek so time was taken recording as they made their way down to the water. *Fissidens rivularis* was found growing on bedrock in the rocky stream that was passed en route. Jonathan was the first to find *C. apiculata* this time, in the same type of microhabitat as before. The mud was even deeper and more pungent here than in previous creeks, so a few gave up the *Ditrichum* hunt, but Sharon was made of sterner stuff and persevered until some *Ditrichum* was winkled out of hiding. Luckily, this was her last day, so her boots would have a chance to dry out and recover.

Two carloads chose to visit the Lizard. One group headed east (SW7011) along the coast where Pete Martin found *Fissidens crispus* in a hedge bank. Good patches of *Scleropodium touretii* were seen and *Tortula viridifolia* was found along with *Riccia sorocarpa*. The most southerly café in England was visited, with its terrace that overlooks the sea, in hope of finding bryophytes. There were none, but it was thought polite to stop for a cream tea.

Meanwhile, the other group, after spending some time inspecting the margins of the path looking for *Chenia leptophylla* and *Hennediella stanfordensis* (sadly without success), headed slightly east to a known *Riccia* site where Matt, to the delight of the group, showed them *Riccia nigrella* and *R. glauca*. An arable field was inspected, behind the car park, which disappointingly, in the dry conditions, offered up nothing more than another, rather dried up *R. sorocarpa*. After lunch the group headed westwards along the cliff path, stopping to inspect the *Fissidens crispus* growing on soil in



△ Figure 21. Lunch at Frenchman's Creek. Sharon Pilkington

a crevice behind a bench, and then working inland along a green lane. At the edge of Lizard village itself (SW7012) a large patch of mixed bryophytes growing on tarmac kept the group engaged for some time and was found to be covered in *Dialytrichia mucronata* and *Didymodon nicholsonii*. This was the only record of *Dialytrichia* during the week although Claire and Philippa had seen it at Tregargus wood when reconnoitring for the meeting in January.

Friday evening, everybody repaired to the Truro Arms, met up with Jean Paton again and had a farewell meal after a very productive and enjoyable week in the field.

### Summary

Just under 3,000 records were collected during the week with three debrackets and four new vice-county records. Several of the sites were at the invitation of landowners, or organisations, that were desirous of obtaining records to inform the management of their land. No amazing new habitat was discovered, but data were recorded at monad resolution and brought up to date. It was satisfying to make new records for *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia* and *Harpalejeunea molleri* at Boconnoc, and to re-find *Harpalejeunea* at Trebartha. New sites for *Cephaloziella turneri*, *Calypstrochaeta apiculata*, *Ditrichum subulatum* and *Weissia wilsonii* were also found.

*Dicranella howei* was recorded at four different localities during the week, showing that it may be widespread in the south of Britain, but easily overlooked. Further work is required

to determine its true distribution, now that its characters have been described by Blockeel (2020). Another species that could have been overlooked is *Tortula pallida*. It was found by the shore in two places at St Anthony's Head. It resembles *Tortula caucasica* quite closely so plants growing close to the shore should be examined carefully for leaf shape (Bosanquet, 2021). It was satisfying to find *Thuidium delicatulum* in the sand dunes of Phillack Towans, a new site for West Cornwall and a debracketing.

Following the publication of Tom Ottley's article in *Field Bryology* (Ottley, 2021) there were several records of *Racomitrium obtusum* from both East and West Cornwall, confirming the suggestion that this might be the most frequent member of the *R. heterostichum* aggregate, at least in this area.

*Leucobryum* was found quite frequently throughout the week. With reference to the forthcoming work on *Leucobryum*, to be published in *Journal of Bryology* (Ottley *et al.*, in press), nearly all the specimens collected in this meeting and subsequently examined microscopically, turned out to be *Leucobryum albidum*\*. A single specimen of *L. juniperoideum* s. str. was verified, collected from a possibly more humid woodland. There were several field records, all from woodland, of *L. glaucum sensu lato* and of *L. juniperoideum sensu lato*. Given the new information about *Leucobryum* taxonomy, those that were not checked using the new key should, perhaps, all be regarded as *Leucobryum* agg. What appears certain from the work undertaken this week is that *Leucobryum albidum sensu* Ottley *et al.* (in press) occurs fairly frequently in the Atlantic woodlands of Cornwall and this is supported by several existing herbarium vouchers held in NMW and critically determined by Tom Ottley.

The weather was magnificent for the whole

week, if rather dry for the bryophytes. Thank you to everyone who joined for all or part of the meeting and to all who contributed advice and ideas for putting it together. A special thank you to Matt Sibley who gave magnificent support in finding sites and contacts, and who shared his impressive knowledge of Cornwall with a very green bryologist. Enormous thanks also to Claire Halpin who helped to research excursions and gave her support in all sorts of ways. I am extremely grateful to all the landowners and managers who gave permissions and advice and have left me with such a positive feeling at the end of my visit to their little country beyond the Tamar. Lastly, thank you to all those of you who gave me their literary contributions that have helped me to put all this together!

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