

# Sussex Botanical Recording Society

## Newsletter

No. 50

May 2000

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When the recording projects for 2000 were outlined at the AGM, long-term monitoring of known sites of our less common & threatened species was mentioned. Please do take this up, and if passing sites of our less common plants known to you, visit the site and note the number of plants this year, the number flowering, and the condition of the habitat (where there is public access, or with permission).

We receive more and more requests from local and national conservation bodies for information on these plants, often asking for records from sites which have been monitored over a number of years. We now have a simple form for the information required for a threatened species. These forms will be available at field meetings, or from the Recorders on request. NB: BSBI members will have received one of these forms in their April mailing. For Sussex plants could members please return any completed forms first to the Sussex recorders, who will send them on to Alex Lockton when entered.

Happy Recording to you all for 2000.

Mary Briggs

### Secretary's Note

#### Autumn Get-together

The Autumn Get-together will be held at Staplefield Village Hall on Saturday 4th November 2000 at 10.00 a.m. Soup and jacket potatoes will be available for lunch with tea and cakes later in the afternoon. I would welcome some help in the kitchen! Olwen and Michael Hollings will be showing some of their slides of Sussex plants and members are invited to bring books and plants for sale as usual.

We would be pleased to meet new members and any of you who have not previously attended our get-togethers. The map reference for Staplefield Village Hall is TQ 278279 and parking is on the roadside verge when the small car park is full. If you have difficulty with transport let me know and I will endeavour to arrange for someone to bring you.

Rita Hemsley

### Extra Field Meetings

#### Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> May

To look for *Ranunculus tripartitus* - Meet at Hailsham Leisure Centre - TQ 592096

#### Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> October

Bryophyte meeting - Meet at Staplefield Village Hall - Morning will be spent in the field looking for specimens - Afternoon in the Village Hall looking at them through microscopes. - A fun day with Howard Matcham.

### A Message From The Treasurer

Subscriptions for 2000 are now due for payment. The rates remain the same as for last year, £3.00 for an individual member and £4.50 for joint members living at the same address. Subscriptions may be paid at the Autumn Get Together or be sent to me at:

17 Hill Rise,  
Crowborough,  
East Sussex,  
TN6 2DH

Trevor Lording

### In This Issue

President's Message	1
Secretary's Note	1
Extra Field Meetings	1
Note from the Treasurer	1
Plantlife - A note from our Chairman	2
SBRS Chairman Honoured	2
Asparagus prostratus	3
Flora of Ashdown Forest	3
Note for new members	3
Biodiversity in Arun	4
Poa infirma	4
Selected Plant Records for VC 13	5
Selected Plant Records for VC 14	7
Recorders Initials	8
Small is beautiful	9
Ceratocarpus claviculata, early flowering	9
New SBRS Recording Card for 2000	10
Analysis of Sussex Atlas 2000 data	11
Where have all the (Rare) poppies gone	12

## A Note From Our Chairman

**Plantlife** - The Wild Plant Conservation Charity, has recently celebrated its 10th year and last year was pleased to accept the Prince of Wales as its Patron.

Among its most successful achievements has been the 'Back from the Brink' project. This is targeted at individual wild plant species and their habitats, which are seriously threatened in the British Isles. Plantlife carries out research and survey work, and implements practical action plans to restore and safeguard these endangered species in the places from which they have been lost.

Included in the list of species within the Back from the Brink programme are several in Sussex:

*Chamaemelum nobile* (Chamomile). This is not really threatened in S. England, but elsewhere it has gone from many sites.

*Filago lutescens* (Red-tipped Cudweed). Some SBRS members help annually in work on the site at Coates, in a project initiated by Tim Rich when he was Back from the Brink Officer at Plantlife.

*F. pyramidata* (Broad-leaved Cudweed). We have one of the best sites for this near Chichester.

*Gentianella anglica* (Early Gentian).

*Juniperus communis* (Juniper). Most sites in Sussex and S. England are carefully managed for this, but it has declined generally in Britain.

*Lycopodiella inundata* (Marsh Clubmoss).

*Pilularia globulifera* (Pillwort). This requires a very specialised habitat which is difficult to maintain.

*Ranunculus tripartitus* (Three-lobed Crowfoot). Some of our E. Sussex members have been helping Nick Stewart with this elusive species.

*Salvia pratensis* (Meadow Clary).

*Ephemerum stellatum* (Starry Earth-moss). Found by Howard Matcham near Chichester. A very rare species of arable land.

*Pallavicinia lyellii* (Ribbonwort). There are two important sites for this liverwort on the sandrocks in East Sussex.

*Riccia huebeneriana* (Violet Crystalwort). This liverwort may have gone from Sussex because pond water levels are kept up by anglers.

*Baeidia incompta* A lichen. Now very rare due to elm disease.

*Cladonia peziziformis* A lichen. Perhaps lost from Leonardslee.

*Lecanactis hemisphaerica* Churchyard lichen.

*Tolypella prolifera* (Great Tassel Stonewort). Recently refound at Amberley Wild Brooks where it had not been seen for 15 years.

Plantlife now has 22 nature reserves around Britain, recent acquisitions including a large area of the Flow Country in Caithness and Deep Dale in the Peak District National Park. Nearer home, it has Furnace Meadow and Brick Kiln Rough at Ebernoe, which are well worth visiting on a good summer day.

Rod Stern

## SBRS CHAIRMAN HONOURED

Rod Stern, a founder member of Plantlife, was presented with the Plantlife Award for Outstanding Contribution to Plant Conservation by their President, David Bellamy, at the Plantlife AGM in December last year.

Congratulations to you, Rod!

## ***Asparagus prostratus*, Wild Asparagus, in West Sussex**

*Asparagus prostratus* (*Asparagus officinalis* subsp. *prostratus*), Wild Asparagus is a Red Data Book species in Britain, and is included on the Priority Biodiversity Species list. I have recently been investigating its distribution in Britain with Quentin Kay and my wife Lindi. Historically it has often been confused at least nomenclaturally with the cultivated Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis* subsp. *officinalis*) to which all the old Sussex records have in recent years been referred.

I have now found three separate herbarium records of the historical occurrence of *A. prostratus* on Shoreham Beach which appear to have been previously overlooked or doubt has been attached to their identity. The records are:

1. Shingly beach, Shoreham, July 1877, Mrs. Bell Oakeshott (Booth Museum; presumably this is the record cited by Arnold 1887, 1909).
2. Shoreham Beach, c. 1889, C. E. Salmon (Natural History Museum).
3. Shoreham Beach, September 1895, T. Hilton (Booth Museum; I am suspicious that the Hilton record from Southwick Beach cited by Wolley-Dod 1937 may be this record, or it may have been in both sites?).

These are the first confirmed records for Sussex and the most easterly in England, the nearest others being Portland and possibly Poole in Dorset (it occurs further east in France, Belgium and Holland). I assume with the long history of building and development and absence of recent records that it has long gone from Shoreham Beach.

Another *Asparagus* record from shingles near the first sluice bridge at Eastbourne by F. C. S. Roper (Roper 1875) is also an interesting record, but was suggested to be *A. officinalis* subsp. *officinalis* (=var. *campestris* Syme) and I have not seen any material in **BTN**, **BM** or **NMW**.

### **References**

- ARNOLD, F. H. (1887). *Flora of Sussex*. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., London.  
ARNOLD, F. H. (1907). *Flora of Sussex*. 2nd edition. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., London.  
ROPER, F. C. S. (1875). *Flora of Eastbourne*. John van Voorst, London.  
WOLLEY-DOD, A. H. 1937. *Flora of Sussex*. Chatford House Press, Bristol.

**Tim Rich, Department of Biodiversity and Systematic Biology,  
National Museum & Gallery, Cardiff CF10 3NP**

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### **Notes for new members of the SBRS**

The committee has produced a set of notes which are aimed primarily at helping new members of the society who are less familiar with botanical recording to understand the aims and methods of the society. They contain sections on the aims and activities of the SBRS, recording and the use of recording cards, plant identification, plant names, equipment, a list of useful books and a glossary. We are in the process of finalising the contents and will have copies available for those who want one at field meetings and indoor meetings.

**SBRS Committee**

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### **Flora of Ashdown Forest**

Now available - some copies of the *Flora of Ashdown Forest*. The covers differ from the original but the text is identical. The cost is £15 of which £5 will be donated to conservation funds of the Forest. Please get in touch with Pat Donovan. 01825 733344

**Madeline Reader**

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## BIODIVERSITY IN ARUN

The President asked me to represent SBRS at the Arun DC Biodiversity Symposium held at Felpham on 16th March.

A full room covered a wide range of interests with a lively discussion. Before us was Arun DC's Biodiversity Action Plan and we were invited to comment on our vision for our local countryside in 20 years' time in order to influence Arun's next revision. This all descends from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, bringing the philosophy and policy right home to all.

Many suggestions can only be realized at a higher level, such as revision of the CAP and regional planning. Of more local impact there was concern over current regulations on hedges. I spoke against proposals for more tree planting in our area, but supported encouragement of livestock and grazing under a less-intensive regime.

There was, of course, demand for a better framework of legal protection and funding, but we must await the result of the proposed Countryside Bill before there can be greater specification. Another main strand was the need for greater public awareness by education at all levels.

It is intended that our views will feed through to the Habitat and Species Action Plans of the Sussex BAP. The Sussex Wildlife Trust is a constituent member of the Sussex Biodiversity Partnership and of course relies for much of its scientific data on societies such as ours. I have assumed that our members are well versed in this new technical jargon; "biodiversity" just means "variety of life".

The Rio philosophy asserts the total dependence of Man on the natural world.

Frank Penfold.

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### *Poa infirma* Kunth - Early Meadow-grass

As a Sussex plant, this species has only been recorded recently. The first record was for a colony at Kingston Buci, near Shoreham-by-Sea, found in early 1998. The second record was made by three botanists from Hampshire, who found it at Lancing in early 1999. Both of these records were, of course, for VC 13. The turn of the millennium has produced records for VC 14 East Sussex. These so far are from Pevensy Bay, Tidemills at Newhaven, a rough car park in Stanmer Park and Holywell, Eastbourne. I hope that when you read this the picture may have changed yet again following the field meeting in March.

*Poa infirma* is distinct from *Poa annua* in that the anthers are very much smaller (circa. 0.3mm) and the panicle branches do not deflex when the spikelets fall. It is usually a yellowish-green in colour.

Paul Harmes

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## A SELECTION OF NOTABLE PLANT RECORDS 1999 - VC 13

Species	Location	Recorder	Comments
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	West Grinstead	SBRS	Well Land Farm.
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	Yapton	EJC	
<i>Arum italicum</i> ssp. <i>neglectum</i>	Shoreham	R&BC	
<i>Bromus racemosus</i>	Kingsfold	AGK	
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Adur, Eatons Farm Nr. Stopham Bridge	E&NS S.Allen	N. bank Rother
<i>Carex muricata</i> ssp. <i>lamprocarpa</i>	Terwick Churchyard Linchmere Churchyard	PMD PMD	
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	Ambersham	AGK	
<i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	Ford	DMD	
<i>Chenopodium murale</i>	Shoreham	EB	Road near bus stop. Conf. AGK.
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Harting Down	DN	
<i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	Rogate Crawley	PAH AGK	
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Chichester	J. Welsh	Along Roman walls.
<i>Epilobium lanceolatum</i>	Tillington	AGK	
<i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i>	Swanbourne Lake	DCL	
<i>Erucastrum gallicum</i>	Highdown Chalkpit	ROF	'Known for years'
<i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i>	Twineham Green Northchapel Barlavington Nr. West Grinstead Edburton	AGK FA FA SBRS R&BC	
<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	Amberley Station	HH	In runner bean bed
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Washington	AGK	By Rock Lane
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	Pagham	HH	4 plants
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Elmer	HH/JAW	
<i>Herminium monorchis</i>	Storrington	E&NS	
<i>Herniaria glabra</i>	Littlehampton	EB	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sussex record. (Introd.?)

<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Lavington	FA	On bare ground by sand pit
<i>Lemna minuta</i>	Plaistow	AGK/AGH	
<i>Luzula x borrieri</i>	Handcross	AGK	
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Heyshott Green West Heath Common Spring Farm	E&NS SBRS AGK	
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Arundel Park Halnaker Chalk Pit	D.Bangs HWM	2 sites 35 clumps
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Duncton Cornmon	FR	1998 record
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	West Chiltington	F.Dougherty	Thousands at Cattlestone Farm. Not seen before
<i>Orchis morio</i>	West Grinstead	SBRS	
<i>Persicaria pennsylvanica</i>	Crawley	AGK	1st Sussex record
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	West Dean Woods	EB	
<i>Poa infirma</i>	Lancing  Littlehampton Pagham	P.Stanley/ P.Selby/E.Clement As above As above	Sea Front  2 <sup>nd</sup> Sussex record
<i>Polypogon viridis</i>	Nr. Worthing Station	EB	Det. PAH
<i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i>	Nr. Hardham	FA	
<i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i>	Wey & Arun Canal	TAL	
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	South Stoke	FA/AGH/AGK	
<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>	Springhead Hill	Judy Steedman	Where scrub cleared
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	West Chiltington	F. Dougherty	Cattlestone Farm introduced
<i>Ranunculus hederaceus</i>	Waltham Brooks West Heath Common	FA SBRS	
<i>Ranunculus parviflora</i>	W.Meads Shopping Centre	JAW	
<i>Setaria verticillata</i>	Henfield	PAH	
<i>Sium latifolium</i>	Walberton Palliugham Quay Barnham	DMD AGK DMD	
<i>Stellaria pallida</i>	Pagham	AGK	

Stellaria pallida	Lancing	P.Stanley/P.Selby/ E.Clement	
	Hove	As above	
Thalictrum flavum	Waltham Brooks	FA	
Torilis arvensis	Mid Lavant	AGK/AGH	
Torilis nodosa	Runton	JAW	Walnut Tree pub
Trifolium fragiferum	Runton	JAW	Walnut Tree pub
Trifolium ornithopodioides	Elmer	E&NS	
Trifolium striatum	Coates	SMS	
Trifolium suffocatum	Pagham Elmer	AGK E&NS	
Veronica agrestis	Lancing	EB	
Wahlenbergia hederacea	Crawley	AGH	Buchan Park
Mary Briggs			

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#### A SELECTION OF NOTABLE PLANT RECORDS 1999 - VC 14

Species	Location	Recorder	Comments
Agrostemma githago	Mt. Caburn	JAC	
Alopecurus aequalis	Weirwood Res.	RAN	
Aquilegia vulgaris	Birling Gap	HMP	
Artemisia absinthium	Malling Down, Lewes	O&MH	
Asplenium trichomanes ssp. quadrivalens	Mayfield	TAL	
Asteriscus maritimus	Eastbourne	D.Nicolle	1 <sup>st</sup> record for VC 14
Carex muricata ssp. lamprocarpa	Uckfield Churchyard	PMD	
Conyza sumatrensis	Crowborough town centre	TAL	1 <sup>st</sup> record for TQ 50
Crocsmia paniculata	Crawley Down	AGH	
Cyclamen hederifolium	East Chiltington	AGK	
Elymus caninus	Seddlescombe	SBRS	
Erophila glabrescens	Guestling Pevensey Castle	AGK SBRS	
Euphrasia anglica	Hadlow Down Churchyard	PMD	

Galeopsis angustifolia	Pevensey Bay	CMPR	
Gaudinia fragilis	Upper Dicker	HMP	
Gnaphalium luteoalbum	Nr. Falmer	AS	
Hypericum elodes	Forest Farm Three Cups	PJR	
Malva neglecta	Buxted	PMD	
Medicago polymorpha	Iden	RSP	
Oenanthe pimpinelloides	Upper Dicker	HMP/NFS	
Potamogeton acutifolius	Pevensey	PDLM	
Potamogeton obtusifolius	Pevensey	PDLM	
Ranunculus pencillatus	Lindfield	DJC	
Ranunculus tripartitus agg.	Hailsham	NFS	Pond
	Milton Hyde	NFS	
	Wartling Wood	NFS	
	Hooe Common	NFS	
Salix triandra	Lindfield	DJC	
Saxifraga tridactylites	Pevensey Castle	SBRS	
Scandix pecten-veneris	Nr. Berwick	DLV	
Setaria viridis	Haywards Heath	PAH	
Spergularia rubra	Catsfield	SBRS	
Spianthes spiralis	Hollingbury	RIH	
Tephrosieris integrifolia ssp. integrifolia	Nr. Clayton	DJC	
Utricularia australis	Icklesham	SBRS	

A special mention should be made to Peter Davys who has sent in many hundreds of *Ulmus* records during 1999.

A very special thank you to all those of you who took the time to go out recording and to send in their records. Without your contribution we would not have done such a thorough job.

Paul Harmes

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## RECORDERS' INITIALS

AGH	Arthur Hoare	HWM	Howard Matcham
AGK	Alan Knapp	JAC	John Cole
AS	Tony Spiers	JAW	Judy Wilson
CMPR	Kate Ryland	NFS	Nick Stewart
DCL	David Lang	O&MH	Olwen & Mike Hollings
DJC	David Curry	PAH	Paul Harmes
DLV	Dennis Vinall	PDLM	Paul Maurice



## Recorders Initials cont.

DMD	David Donovan	PJR	Peter Russell
DN	Derek Newson	PMD	Pat Donovan
EB	Betty Bishop	RAN	Rachel Nicholson
EJC	Jean Clunes	R&BC	Ron & Beryl Clough
E&NS	Elizabeth & Nick Sturt	RIH	Rita Hemsley
FA	Frances Abraham	ROF	Rene Folkerd
FR	Francis Rose	RSP	Robert Pile
HH	Hilda Horder	SBRS	Sussex Botanical Recording Society
HMP	Helen Proctor	SMS	Silvia Simkin
		TAL	Trevor Lording

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## SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Huge amounts of time, effort and money are spent on keeping some uncommon or rare plants going, so it is rather reassuring to find one treasure that is quietly managing on its own.

In 1981, Elizabeth Rich discovered a small colony of *Helleborus viridis* (Green Hellebore). Its presence in TQ52 was surprising in itself as the soil is certainly not calcareous, though its situation by a stream in old neglected hazel coppice fits the usual pattern.

The site is at a stream junction far from dwellings and it is interesting to speculate on how the three separate groups have spread, even moving across one of the stream gullies. Badger or other mammal feet are a possibility as the place also seems to be a crossroads.

Elizabeth has kept an eye on the plants since they were first noted and from 1996 they have been monitored more particularly by me. The news is good. This attractive plant gracing a secret woodland corner at a rather dreary time of year seems to be gradually multiplying on its own. The number of sets has increased from 35 in 1996 to 67, including 17 seedlings, in 2000. The number of flower spikes seems to fluctuate: 45 in 1996, through 28, 27, and 27, rising again to 41 in 2000. Fortunately the site is unlikely to be "developed" and the plants should be able to survive in peace for many more years.

R.A. Nicholson

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## *Ceratocapnos claviculata*, Climbing Corydalis flowering in March

During a recent walk through Abbots Wood, near Arlington, *Ceratocapnos claviculata* (Climbing Corydalis) was found to be flowering profusely on March 19th. The Flora of the British Isles (CTW) gives the flowering times as June to September. These plants were flowering almost 2 1/2 months earlier than expected!

I had previously seen *Ceratocapnos claviculata* growing in a young pine plantation, nearby. The undergrowth of bracken and brambles has grown up and the previously recorded plants could not be found.

However, *C. claviculata* is now thriving by a bridleway, bordering the plantation. I counted 41 plants in a 55 yard length, nearly all with numerous flowers. Most of the plants were growing on top of a bank created when the ditch by the track was cleared out. The partial shade and lack of excessive competition from other vegetation seems to suit the plants.

The early flowering of this species brings into question its status as an "annual" plant. The plants seem to have flourished throughout the winter. I wonder if the early flowering date is a record?

Helen Proctor

## New SBRS recording card for 2000

As we needed to get more recording cards printed we have taken the opportunity to replace them with a new version. A paper copy of the new card is attached to this newsletter. The re-design has allowed us to make changes and improvements in the following areas:

- To redesign the front of the card for easier use. There is now more space to write in the names and locations of species and the upper part of card is simpler with the removal of some sections, which were almost never completed by recorders.
- To correct three errors in the 1996 card.
- To update the nomenclature to match the latest views (*Field Flora of the British Isles*, Clive Stace, pub. Cambridge University Press, 1999). This involves some changes in names, which are detailed below, and also changes to indicate where species now have several sub species. In some cases the sub species are on the card, while others like *Hedera helix* and *Molinia caerulea* are now marked with a \* to indicate an aggregate.
- To remove some species and change what we have designated “plus” plants – i.e. those scarcer species for which we would like more detailed data. These changes are based on the frequencies of occurrence for species noted during our Atlas 2000 recording. For example *Alopecurus aequalis*, *Carex curta* & *Carex rostrata* have all been removed as they are all now very scarce in Sussex and *Coeloglossum viride*, *Convallaria majalis* & *Cuscuta epithymum* have all become “plus” species.
- To add some species (mostly, but not all, aliens) which have become much more common or are more commonly recorded. For example we have added *Lemna minuta*, *Lonicera nitida*, *Poa humilis* & *Ranunculus peltatus*.

When using the card please write in as much data as possible on the rarer species (i.e. those not on the card or those marked +) as these are the ones for which we want to improve the quality of our information. There are now considerably more species marked with the aggregate symbol, \*. Where you see this, please consider looking in more detail and trying to separate the sub species. In many cases this is just as easy as keying out the species themselves.

Finally, please THROW AWAY your old cards (or recycle them) and move immediately to using the new card. We know this feels like waste but it is a very small price to pay as the use of the new cards will increase the quality of our recording.

You can get copies of the new cards from Paul Harmes or Alan Knapp – please send an A4 SAE or ask at the field meetings. We will do our best to remember bring along supplies to all meetings!

### Name changes

Aphan ine to Aphan aus

Arcti min min to Arcti min

Arcti min nem to Arcti nem

Arum neg to Arum ita neg

Arum ita to Arum ita ita

Bromu ramos to Bromo ramos

Cheir che to Ery cheiri. To avoid confusion the abbreviation of *Erysimum cheiranthoides* has been changed to Ery cheira. This entry therefore looks like:

Ery cheira  
cheiri

Crata x mac to x med

Dacty mac eri to Dacty mac

Fumar mur bor to Fumar mur (F. mur bor is no longer in Stace)

Ornit umb to Ornit ang

Rumex cri to Rumex crispus (to make unambiguous as R. cri could be R.cristatus)

Tilia x vul to Tilia x eur

Alan Knapp

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## Analysis of Sussex Atlas 2000 data

As mentioned in the last newsletter, here is some further analysis of our Atlas 2000 records. This is still a very limited analysis but it still throws up many questions. Hopefully you will find something of interest – if you have any comments or further information which might illuminate these observations please let us know. There is a wealth of further data waiting to be extracted – if you have an interest in receiving information on particular species please ask Alan Knapp.

There were 30 species which were recorded from all 10km squares – they are listed below and contain no surprises.

Acer pseudoplatanus	Hedera helix
Achillea millefolium	Heracleum sphondylium
Alliaria petiolata	Holcus lanatus
Anthriscus sylvestris	Plantago lanceolata
Arum maculatum	Plantago major
Bellis perennis	Poa annua
Centaurea nigra agg.	Prunus spinosa
Cirsium arvense	Ranunculus repens
Cirsium vulgare	Rubus fruticosus agg.
Crataegus monogyna	Rumex obtusifolius
Dactylis glomerata	Sagina procumbens
Galium aparine	Sambucus nigra
Geranium robertianum	Senecio jacobaea
Geum urbanum	Taraxacum sp.
Glechoma hederacea	Urtica dioica

What is surprising is the fact that there were nearly 400 species which occurred in only one 10km square. Some of these are accounted for by single records of critical species like *Rubus* or *Taraxacum*. These single records are not a real measure of the true distribution of these species but simply indicate that we have very few recorders able to separate these critical species. Removing these leaves 350 species with only a single record.

Many of the remaining plants are casuals but there are a number of native species. For a start, 40 hybrids between native species are recorded from only one square. In some cases, like *Ophrys insectifera* x *apifera* or *Prunella laciniata* x *vulgaris* the single records are almost certainly a true indication of their scarcity. Many, however, are almost certainly more widespread but are simply not recognised by most of us. We also have about 20 records of sub-species of more common species where only a few recorders have bothered to take identification down to the sub-species level – examples of these are *Gymnadenia conopsea* ssp.*conopsea* or *Eleocharis palustris* ssp.*vulgaris*.

Of the species occurring in only one square which were not hybrids or subspecies, 50 are, as far as we can tell, native:

Agrostis curtisii	Erodium maritimum	Minuartia hybrida
Alchemilla filicaulis ssp.vestita	Euphrasia confusa	Orobancha hederaceae
Althaea hirsuta	Euphrasia micrantha	Peucedanum palustre
Baldellia ranunculoides	Euphrasia tetraquetra	Pimpinella major
Bupleurum baldense	Festuca heterophylla	Potamogeton alpinus
Callitriche brutia	Filago pyramidata	Prunella laciniata
Campanula patula	Fumaria muralis	Rosa agrestis
Campanula rapunculoides	Fumaria vaillantii	Rumex palustris
Carex diandra	Galium parisiense	Scrophularia vernalis
Carex elata	Galium pumilum sens.str.	Seseli libanotis
Carex hostiana	Gentianella campestris	Silene conica
Cephalanthera longifolia	Geum rivale	Spartina alterniflora
Cicendia filiformis	Gymnocarpium robertianum	Spergularia rupicola
Cicuta virosa	Himantoglossum hircinum	Stellaria nemorum
Clinopodium calamintha	Limonium procerum	Viola tricolor ssp.tricolor
Dianthus deltoideus	Medicago minima	

If we compare our records with those from the *Sussex Plant Atlas* (SPA) together with records gathered in the period up to the publication of the SPA supplement, there are some species which have apparently declined very

significantly. The following table lists 12 species which were recorded in more than 20 fewer squares during our Atlas 2000 recording than they were in the SPA.

Species	No. of 10km records in Atlas 2000	No. of 10km squares in SPA with no A2000 records	No. of 10km squares in A2000 with no SPA records
<i>Aira caryophylla</i>	18	28	1
<i>Aphanes arvensis sens.str.</i>	30	22	0
<i>Chaenorhinum minus</i>	25	22	2
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	15	24	0
<i>Erysimum cheiranthoides</i>	14	21	3
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	24	22	1
<i>Glyceria notata</i>	16	21	2
<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	25	23	5
<i>Plantago media</i>	22	22	2
<i>Sagina apetala ssp. erecta</i>	19	35	0
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	29	21	0
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	22	20	6

As a check to see if the difference is due to a change in distribution rather than a decline in records, the number of 10km squares where we have Atlas 2000 records but no SPA records is also included in the table are. In only two cases (*Lepidium campestre* & *Trifolium arvense*) does this represent a significant fraction of the records indicating that for these two species some part of the difference is because we have records in different areas. For the other 10 species we see a very significant decline. The reasons for these changes are not clear in all cases. For *Euphorbia exigua* the difference is mainly because we have far fewer records off the chalk than was the case in the SPA which probably reflects a real decline due to changes in farming practice.

For *Glyceria notata* (*G. plicata* in the SPA) the main difference is in E. Sussex, where the change may again reflect loss of habitat in the form of wet ditches and ponds. One of the more mystifying declines is in records for *Plantago media*, like *Euphorbia exigua* the difference is represented mainly by a lack of records off the chalk although for this plant many of these were in churchyards which are much less likely to have changed. Could it be that we have simply not been recording it from churchyards. In order to test this idea could you please keep an eye out for *P. media* in the following squares (SU72, SU82, SU92, SU93, TQ02, TQ03, TQ12, TQ13, TQ22, TQ32, TQ42, TQ43, TQ62, TQ72, TQ82, TQ91 & TQ92) and let me know if and where you found it.

The two greatest apparent declines are for *Sagina apetala ssp. erecta* and *Aira*. The former has SPA records from every single 10km square in VC13 & 14. Could it be that we have been lazier than the SPA records and haven't bothered to separate the sub species of *S. apetala* or maybe it was over recorded in the SPA. In the case of *Aira caryophylla* there is no very strong pattern beyond the fact that we have no records at all for the eastern part of W. Sussex (squares TQ10 to 13 & TQ20 to 23).

Perhaps the reasons for these changes will become clearer when the Atlas 2000 results for the whole of the country are published and we can compare what has happened in Sussex with data from elsewhere.

Alan Knapp

### Where Have All The (Rare) Poppies Gone

Our Atlas 2000 recording produced rather few records of the scarcer poppies, *Papaver argemone* (Prickly Poppy) and *Papaver hybridum* (Rough Poppy). This is probably a true reflection of their increasing scarcity in recent years so I would like to gather more information about their current status. If you see either species anywhere in Sussex I would very much like to hear from you with as much information about the exact location, habitat, numbers and any associated species as you are able to provide.

Alan Knapp