

SUSSEX BOTANICAL RECORDING SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER MAY 1997



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As you will know, the Recorders for E. and W. Sussex are appointed by the BSBI and, at my request and with Alan's agreement, BSBI has appointed as joint Recorder for VC 13:

Dr A.G.Knapp, 7 Trinity Close, Pound Hill, Crawley RH10 3TN

Most of you will also know that Alan has been for several years now organising our records onto a computerised database, and he has devised a programme for us which meets the requirements for the BSBI Atlas 2000 recording survey. I am very grateful to Alan for this, and for all his help with West Sussex records and his work for SBRS. Alan has included notes for new procedure for sending in your West Sussex records in his recording instructions in this newsletter.

With this extra work on hand Alan now retires as Field Meeting Convener for West Sussex, and we thank him for organising so many successful and useful meetings for us in the last seven years. Fortunately for us Frances Abraham, already well known to those members who come on field meetings, has agreed to take on this post and, with the support of the Committee, was unanimously elected at the AGM. Alan will see the 1997 meetings through as arranged, and now Frances will be pleased to hear from any member who has suggestions for future field meetings in West Sussex, with or without an offer to lead the meetings. Our thanks to Frances too for her particularly reliable recording, for editing these newsletters, and now for organising West Sussex field meetings also.

Mary Briggs

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1996 was a good year for the SBRS. Among a number of important events was the election of our President as President-Elect of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, a very well deserved honour as I am sure all our members will appreciate. We also had the publication of the Flora of the Ashdown Forest, a really remarkable work, for which our main thanks must go to Tim Rich. However, it would not have been possible without the hard work of many of our members in the intensive field recording involved. Tim is very busy and enjoying his important new job in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, but we shall certainly miss his enthusiasm and expertise in Sussex.

We have a great deal of recording to be done for Atlas 2000, so I expect 1997 to be a busy one for our members. I hope to attend as many field meetings as possible and look forward to seeing you at these.

Rod Stern.

NOTABLE PLANT RECORDS 1996 - VC13

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<i>Allium nigrum</i>	Barnham	DMD	Det. P.S.Green. Ex. hort.
<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i>	Crawley ponds	AGH	Decreasing as ponds are filled in, but still surviving.
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Old Erringham Farm & Clapham	PAH/AGH/ R & BC	3 records for this decreasing sp.
<i>Carex acuta</i>	N. of Newbridge Ebernoe Watersfield	PDLM FA MB/FA	
<i>Carex curta</i>	Mannings Heath St Leonards Forest	AGH "	A few tussocks
<i>Carex vulpina</i>	Nr Watersfield	FA	New record & interesting damp field habitat (our other records are from banks of rivers & ditches).
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> x <i>longifolia</i>	Whiteways Plantation	DCL	New hybrid to Sussex
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	Sullington	FA R & BC	9 new localities Refound at the Warren
<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Chichester	HWM	Old grassland nr Festival Theatre
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> ssp. <i>incarnata</i>	Ferring Rife	KR	Det. DCL. New ssp. for VC.
<i>D. incarnata</i> ssp. <i>pulchella</i>	" "	KR	Det. DCL. New ssp. for VC.
<i>D. incarnata</i> x <i>fuchsii</i>	" "	DCL	1st VC record.
<i>Dryopteris aemula</i>	Chithurst	NES	2nd colony found near reli of known colony.
<i>Elytrigia</i> x <i>laxa</i> (<i>E. repens</i> x <i>juncea</i>)	Shoreham	PAH	Det. T.A.Cope.
<i>Galium pumilum</i>	Wolstonbury	R & BC	Conf. by seed under microscope. 1st conf. record in Sussex since 1956, when Francis Rose recorded it also from Wolstonbury.
<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	Warningcamp Henfield Levels	FA SBRS	
<i>Herminium monorchis</i>	Didling Hill	MB	

RECORDS 1996 - VC 13 - continued:-

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>	Kirdford	PT	On cleared woodland rides.
<i>Legousia hybrida</i>		JAW/HH	Edge of downland cornfield.
<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	Thorney Island	HWM	Up to 50,000 plants! (33 in 1995). Seed collected for Kew Seed Bank, Wakehurst.
<i>Moenchia erecta</i>	Nr Benbow Pond Hurstons Warren Watersfield	SBRS FA FA	
<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	Amberley Mount	AGK	300 plants. "In '94 & '95 difficult to find any".
<i>Myosurus minimus</i>	Thorney Island Amberley Wild Brooks Aldsworth	HWM FA NJHS	In quantity. 2 new sites. New record for Sindle's Farm.
<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	Nr Trundle	JAW/HH	
<i>Parapholis incurva</i>	Bognor	SD	
<i>Petrorhagia nanteuillii</i>	Shoreham	B & GWB	1st sighting since previous site destroyed by building in 1970's.
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Littlehampton Shopping Centre	DMD	(cf HE 1994 recording this rare Sussex grass from new filling station at Sainsburys, Chichester, by petrol pumps. Both records highlight the importance of giving the status of the plant with your record - enabling the assessment as native, well-naturalised & long-established, or casual,
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>		DMD	"Probably introduced with Chrysanthemum cuttings from the Canaries".
<i>Puccinellia rupestris</i>	Bognor	SD	
<i>Radiola linoides</i>	Slaugham	AGH	In quantity along rides.
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i>	Thorney Island	HWM	Seed collected for Kew Seed Bank, Wakehurst.
<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	Chichester	HWM	Nr Festival Theatre. Thousands of plants in bare patches on old grassland.
<i>Salix purpurea</i>	Burpham	FA/FPP	Conf. R.D.Meikle. (Required as insect fodder for research at Univ. of Sussex)

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RECORDS 1996 - VC 13 - continued:-

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
Salix triandra	Pulborough	DJC	Also on R.Arun from MB's window at 9 Arun Prospect
Senecio inaequidens		DMD	New to Sussex in '95 - & since spreading.
Teesdalia nudicaulis	Nr Benbow Pond	TCGR	SBRS meeting.
Trifolium ornithopodioides	Sullington Warren	R & BC	
Viola canina x riviniana	Nr Benbow Pond	TCGR	SBRS meeting. 1st record for VC.
Zanichellia palustris	Henfield Levels	SBRS	

Compiled by Mary Briggs

RECORDERS' INITIALS

AGH	Arthur Hoare	LBB	Breda Burt
AGK	Alan Knapp	MB	Mary Briggs
AN	Alan Newton	NES	Nick Scott
AS	Tony Spiers	NJHS	Nick Sturt
AWJ	Wilberforce Jones	PAH	Paul Harmes
B & GWB	Betty & George Bishop	PDLM	Paul Maurice
DCL	David Lang	PKV	Pat Verrall
DJC	David Curry	PT	Peter Taylor
DLV	Dennis Vinall	R & BC	Ron & Beryl Clough
DMD	David Donovan	RDR	Rob Randall
FA	Frances Abraham	RHJ	R.H.Jones
FPP	Frank Penfold	SD	Simon Davey
HH	Hilda Horder	TCGR	Tim Rich
HMP	Helen Proctor		
HWM	Howard Matcham		
JAW	Judy Wilson		
JS	Jonathon Simons		
KR	Kate Ryland		

NOTABLE PLANT RECORDS 1996 - VC14

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>TETRAD/COMMENTS</u>
<i>Adonis annua</i>	Crowlink	JS	TV59N
<i>Alchemilla glabra</i>	Ashburnham Place	SBRS	61X Refound after many years - see Atlas
<i>Carex nigra</i>	" "	"	61X
<i>C. strigosa</i>	" "	"	"
<i>C. viridula</i> ssp. <i>brachyrrhyncha</i>	Eridge Park	AWJ/RHJ	53R
<i>Chenopodium hybridum</i>	Brighton	AS	30C
<i>C. quinoa</i>	Warbleton	AWJ/RHJ	61P 1st record for VC.
<i>Conringia orientalis</i>	Brighton	AS	30C 1st record for VC.
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Falmer	AS	30P
<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	Ashburnham Place	SBRS	61X
<i>Medicago sativa</i> ssp. <i>falcata</i>	Camber	LBB et al	91P
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Falmer	AS	30P Refound after many years - see Atlas.
<i>Narcissus pseudo-narcissus</i>	Westmeston	DCL	31M
<i>Orobanche elatior</i>	Brighton	AS	30H
<i>Pilosella flagellaris</i> ssp. <i>flagellaris</i>	Berwick	DLV	50I 1st record for VC.
<i>Polygonum oxyspermum</i> ssp. <i>raii</i>	Brighton	Alan Lewis	30G
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Southease	AGK/PAH	40H
<i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i>	High & Over Crowlink	HMP/AGK PAH	50A TV59N
<i>Rubus caesius</i> x <i>ulmifolius</i>	Itford	AN	40H 1st record for VC.
<i>R. loganobaccus</i>	"	"	"
<i>R. newbridgensis</i>	Newbridge	RDR/PAH	43L Refound after many years - see Atlas.
<i>Rumex maritimus</i>	Litlington	PDLN	50A
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Winchelsea	LBB	91J
<i>Selaginella krausiana</i>	Ardingly	AGH	32J
<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>	Camber	Sprole Bolton	91P

RECORDS 1996 - VC14 - continued:-

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECORDER</u>	<u>TETRAD/COMMENTS</u>
Spartium junceum	East Dean	PKV	TV59J
Staphylea pinnata	Catsfield	PAH	71G
Tilia platyphyllos	Wych Cross	TCGR	43F
Umbilicus rupestris	W. Hoathly	Roger Cragg	33R
Veronica peregrina	Ashurst Wood	PAH	43D

Compiled by Paul Harmes

NOTE FROM THE HON. SECRETARY

Would members please note that there is a proposed visit to Portsmouth Natural History Museum on 18th October to view the Guermonprez herbarium and water colours. If you would like to take part in this trip would you please let me know as soon as possible so that I can get an indication of numbers and make the necessary arrangements with the museum.

Those members who were not able to attend the AGM would not have an opportunity to collect the up to date membership list. If you would like one of these please write to me with a stamped addressed envelope.

Autumn Get-Together at Staplefield Village Hall - 15th November 1997 at 10.00 a.m. The Speaker will be Mr Patrick Coulcher who will talk on the Cuckmere Valley. Soup and potatoes in their jackets will be available for lunch as usual followed by tea and cakes later in the afternoon. This is also an opportunity for you to "Bring-and-Buy" plants or books.

Louise Matcham
Hon. Secretary

Recording Notes

West Sussex (VC13) Records

From now on please send all records for West Sussex (VC13) first to Alan Knapp who is now joint recorder for VC13 with Mary Briggs. These records will be entered into our computerised records by Alan who will then pass them on to Mary. For general queries included with your records you may get an answer from either of us and similarly, if there is a need for more information either of us may be in contact with you. For correspondence other than submitting records there is no change.

Recording Cards

We are still receiving records on old recording cards - please **THROW THEM AWAY** and use the new cards. New cards are available from either Paul Harmes or Alan Knapp and we try to remember to bring a supply to field meetings. Although it may sound wasteful to throw the old cards away, some of the codes on these cards (which we use for computer entry - its a lot quicker typing 231 than *Bellis perennis*!) are incorrect. This means that we have a much higher chance of generating erroneous records when old cards are used and the checking is very time consuming. So, **ONLY USE NEW CARDS** please. The new cards are clearly distinguished by the presence of the year 1996 in the lower right hand corner of the side with the names printed on.

Status and Other Information

When we supply information for Atlas 2000 we have to give information about the status of the plants. For many native species which are not grown in gardens this is straightforward but for some other species, especially aliens, species which can occur as planted or naturalised specimens (e.g. many non-native trees) and native species also grown in gardens (e.g. *Myosotis sylvatica*) we need you to include your best estimate of the status of the plant on your record cards. For plants with names printed on the card either write a symbol by the record or write a note on the other side of the card. For plants where you need to write in the names please include a comment on the status under "Other details". For those of you who are BSBI members the standard letters for the various statuses are explained in the green book "Atlas 2000 - Instruction Booklet". These can be summarised as follows:

N - Native (present in the area without the intervention of man)

A - Alien (not native). For these wherever possible further information should be included:

E - Established (present in the wild for at least 5 years and spreading vegetatively or reproducing by seed)

S - Surviving (present in the wild for at least 5 years but neither spreading nor reproducing effectively by seed)

C - Casual (present briefly or intermittently in the wild)

P - Planted

Finally, if in doubt about the status, there is U for unknown. If you can't remember these abbreviations then just write in a comment - e.g. "large patch apparently spreading", "not seen here previously", "single plant known here for several years" etc..

For the scarcer plants (those where you are asked to write information in on the card) it is very useful to have an estimate of the size of the population - this should be included in the "Other Details" column of the card.

Information Wanted

In checking our records before submitting the first batch of data to the BSBI for the Atlas 2000 project we have come across some records for unusual species for which we have no details. Before it is safe to submit these records we need more details.

If you can provide any information on the records in the following list please send whatever information you have to Alan Knapp. The minimum we need is confirmation of the record in that square and confirmation that it has been seen since 1986. Ideally we would also like a grid reference, a locality and its status.

- SU80 *Allium roseum*
- SU80 *Allium neapolitanum*
- SU80 *Berberis julianae*
- SU80 *Prunus persica*
- SU80 *Sempervivum tectorum*
- TQ00 *Crithmum maritimum*
- TQ10 *Cotoneaster bullatus*

Well known records

We have discovered that some rather well known sites for scarce plants are missing from our Atlas 2000 list. This is because we have been very strict about only using records submitted since 1987 and for some the well known sites no-one has actually submitted a record in that period - presumably because we all thought someone else must have submitted it. So, if you have such records please send them in. We will of course check and try to ensure that this has not occurred before submitting the data to the BSBI but there is always the possibility of error and it would be very frustrating to see a well known record omitted from the Atlas just because we all assumed it must be there.

Mary Briggs, Paul Harnes & Alan Knapp

Showing of Slides at Indoor Meetings

As there is usually a surfeit of slides at the Autumn Get-Together and a shortage at the AGM it has been decided to restrict the amount to a maximum of 15 slides per person at each meeting. If the slides shown are to illustrate a mini lecture and the talk demands that more than 15 slides be shown then this will be acceptable. If this is likely to be the case then let Arthur Hoare or any committee member know, we could then make the necessary arrangements for the afternoons slide show.

Although most of the slides presented for showing are clearly marked as to which way they are to be shown there are some that are not. It would greatly ease the presenter if the slides were spotted in the universally accepted manner, that is with a spot in the bottom left hand corner facing you while viewing the slide in the correct orientation.

Members who take prints and not slides are invited to exhibit them in the static displays around the hall if they so wish.

Arthur G. Hoare.

ATLAS 2000

The first sets of computerised records to be received for Atlas 2000 were ours for TQ01 (VC 13) and TQ50 (VC 14). These squares were chosen for submission first because they are those with the largest number of species recorded in their respective Vice Counties.

Alan Knapp

BREDE LEVELS FIELD MEETING 19th JULY 1997

Please note that the meeting place will be at TQ826183 on the main street through Brede, adjacent to the church. We will immediately move on from here.