

ANGLESEY PLANTS IN 2005

The 2005 season has resulted in a smaller number of records for publication in this Bulletin; but some satisfying rediscoveries of species not seen for several years. This is timely, as it has allowed them to be added to the final draft of Anglesey's Rare Plant Register, the first edition of which should be available early in 2006.

The new A55 dual carriageway and its associated habitats continued to provide the bulk of the most exciting discoveries, through the work of Richard Birch, as ecologist acting for UK Highways, the managers of the road. The *Parentucellia viscosa* (Yellow Bartsia), first noted in 2003, has continued to expand to some 20 plants on the road bank near Caergeiliog. Even more interesting was the confirmation of a small colony of *Teucrium scordium* (Water Germander), first observed in 2004, on the drawn down margin of one of the balancing ponds near Bryngwran. Deciding on the status of these two has been difficult; but, in the absence of any evidence of known introduction, they are being treated as probably native.

The *Galinsoga quadriradiata* (Shaggy Soldier) recorded in 2004 from the side of the carriageway near Gwalchmai could not be found this year, so confirming that as a casual. However, in contrast, *Lactuca serriola* (Prickly Lettuce), first seen in 2004, has expanded to several plants at two localities near Valley, we now expect this to continue to spread, as it has done further east.

Blackstonia perfoliata (Yellow-wort) has been known on Anglesey since at least 1895, but only ever from the sandy margins of Red Wharf Bay, and in recent years restricted to a few plants in one or two small sandy fields - so the two new discoveries this year were unexpected. Richard Finch reported it as quite frequent in a disused quarry near Pentre Berw, with the appearance of being native, while very vigorous looking plants were reported from around the entrance to the Re-cycling Centre at Gwalchmai, with every appearance of having been sown there. Has any reader noticed Yellow-wort growing from seed mixtures?

Rediscoveries include *Carex pseudocyperus* (Cyperus Sedge) from its only Anglesey locality at the RSPB Valley Lakes reserve, it had been first noted there in 1895, but had not been seen for the last few years. Likewise *Carex vesicaria* (Bladder-sedge) was re-found by Sam Thomas in The Dingle at Llangefni. Bladder-sedge was also found in small quantity in one of the ponds constructed beside the new A55 near Gwalchmai and in great quantity in a pond near Llanlleiana. Another welcome re-discovery by Sam Bosanquet was of two flowering plants of *Coeloglossum viride* (Frog Orchid) at the North Wales Wildlife Trust's Cors Goch NNR. This means it is now known from just three locations on Anglesey, all in the SH48 hectad, and in two of these the number of flower spikes is in single figures only.

Publication of the new Red Data List in 2005 has highlighted the decline in many arable plants, resulting in the ranking of *Spergula arvensis* (Corn Spurrey) as Vulnerable, and *Stachys arvensis* (Field Woundwort) as Near Threatened. It was pleasing therefore in looking at ten or so arable fields this summer to find these two species present in every one, and to see *Kickxia elatine* (Sharp-leaved Fluellen) in two of them - perhaps intuitively only interesting looking fields were examined!

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