

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS – 2006

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New and interesting records of Island plants continue to be made, adding to an already well documented flora. This year particularly exciting records included the discovery of a population of Dwarf Sedge (*Carex humilis*) which must have been a previously overlooked native; the first records for many years of White Wall-rocket (*Diplotaxis eruroides*) and Spear-leaved Willowherb (*Epilodium lanceolatum*); and several good fern and fern allies records emanating from a field meeting of the British Pteridological Society in June. It was also pleasing to receive a number of records of hybrids. The Botanical Society of the British Isles are collecting hybrid records for a forthcoming new flora. Thanks are due to everyone who sent in records. All confirmed records are entered into an 'Aditsite' Access database, but not all of them find their way onto these pages. The abbreviations used at the start of the accounts are:

N. Native; C. Casual Alien; E Established Alien; P Alien Planted.

Hybrid Horsetail (*Equisetum x litorale*) (*E. arvense* x *fluviatile*)

N. A large population growing with both parents in valley marshland at the northern end of America Wood, Shanklin, 5682 PA, seen on field meeting of the British Pteridological Society in June. This is the first modern record; there is a single earlier Island record (1952) although it may well be overlooked.

Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*)

N. Recorded in some quantity from an unimproved meadow to the west of Ryde House, Binstead 5892 CP. This is a previously unrecorded site.

Hybrid Polypody (*Polypodium x mantoniae*) (*P. interjectum* x *vulgare*)

N. A few plants in Beacon Alley, near Godshill 5181 and damp valley in America Wood 5682. Seen on a field meeting of the British Pteridological Society in June. Conf Alison Paul. The first Island record.

Sea Spleenwort (*Asplenium marinum*)

N. Surviving on its single known boulder at Rocken End, St Catherine's Point 4975. The rock is now completely shrouded by elm re-growth and brambles. It was re-found by the British Pteridological Society in June.

Narrow Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*)

N. Re-found by the British Pteridological Society in June, in two locations in wet willow woodland: near Sandown waterworks 5885; and Alverstone Marsh 5785 GA. Only single specimens were found in each location.

Purple Clematis (*Clematis viticella*)

E. A large flowering plant scrambling over scrub on the landward side of Hamstead Duver 4191 HH. Clearly well established here, some distance from any garden. The first Island record from the wild.

Goldilocks Buttercup (*Ranunculus auricomus*)

N. A single plant found in the south-eastern arm of Chalkclose Copse, near Marks Corner 4692, mo. Not previously recorded from this ancient woodland.

Common Cudweed (*Filago vulgaris*)

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Atlas Poppy (*Papaver atlanticum*)

E. Well established on a garden wall at Hunnyhill, Newport 4989 SB.

Fig-leaved Goosefoot (*Chenopodium ficifolium*)

N. A single plant in a garden in Culver Road, Shanklin 5881 VB.

Upright Goosefoot (*Chenopodium urbicum*)

N. Two plants growing on waste ground near Limerstone 4482 PS/DB.

Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*)

N. Several old coppice stools in a restricted area of Tapnell Furze, Wilmingham 3687 HM. Tapnell Furze is largely plantation woodland but it contains two areas of ancient woodland. The lime stools are located within a clearly defined loop of part of the ancient woodland. There are also a few large oaks and field maples on and within the old woodbanks.

Sweet-William Catchfly (*Silene armeria*)

C. This showy plant was found as a casual pavement weed in Chapel Street, Newport 4988 BS. First Island record.

Sea Heath (*Frankenia laevis*)

N? Two plants growing in cracks in concrete forming the old mill wall at Dodnor 5091 SR. They are believed to have been growing here for a number of years.

Black Poplar (*Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia*)

N? A splendid, very old and gnarled pollard, growing alongside of Chilton Farm, near Brighstone 4182 TT. Apparently, the tree has changed very little in appearance over tens of years.

Marsh Yellow-cress (*Rorippa palustris*)

C. Found growing spontaneously in a flowerpot in a garden in Wilberforce Road, Brighstone 4282 MB.

New-Zealand Bitter-cress (*Cardamine corymbosa*)

E. Well established as a weed within the walled garden at Osborne House 5194 PS.

Pink Shepherd's-purse (*Capsella rubella*)

E. Still surviving in Newport. Recorded from Hunnycross Way, and several strong plants on a grassy verge between St Cross and Towngate Bridge, both 5089 SB.

White Wall-rocket (*Diplotaxis eruroides*)

C. A few plants were found on sandy waste ground by the revetment at the foot of Lake cliffs 5983 VB (Conf. EJC). This is the first modern record for this species.

Perennial Wall-rocket (*Diplotaxis tenuifolia*)

E. One large plant recorded growing on the roundabout at Hillis Corner, Northwood 4793 PS.

Brookweed (*Samolus valerandi*)

N. A plant was found on a damp path by the coast on Osborne estate 5295 DB. It has not been recorded from this part of the coastline for many years.

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Wall Pennywort (*Umbilicus rupestris*)

N. One flowering plant was seen on a wall near the foot of Shanklin Chine 4479 MB.

Chinese Bramble (*Rubus tricolour*)

E. Well established by Bow Bridge, Freshwater 3487 GT (conf. Eric Clement) First established record.

Wild Pear (*Pyrus pyraeaster* subsp. *achras*)

P. A single, giant tree was located in scrub to the west of Old House, Bembridge School, and close to the coastal footpath 6486 TS. The circumference of the bole was measured as 12' at 18". The tree bore a heavy crop of well-rounded fruits. The tree is likely to pre-date Bembridge School. Old House was built as a hotel in 1883. This tree is likely to have been planted in the orchard alongside. Further evidence for this, is the occurrence of two old trees of cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) close by.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

N. A striking, yellow-fruited tree was found in a hedge line just east of Rew Lane, Wroxall 5478 DW. Hawthorns bore heavy crops in the autumn of 2006 making this sport particularly noticeable.

Hybrid Rose (*Rosa canina* x *micrantha*) (*R. x toddiae*) (female x male)

N. Chale Green 4779 PS (Conf. Roger Maskew) The first Island record of this uncommon hybrid.

Hybrid Rose (*Rosa canina* x *obtusifolia*) (*R. x dumetorum*) (female x male)

N. Southdown, Chale 4778; Kingston 4881 PS

Hybrid Rose (*Rosa canina* x *tomentosa*) (*R. x scabriuscula*) (female x male)

N. Single bush at top of Lake cliffs 5983 PS

Sherard's Downy-rose (*Rosa sherardii*)

N? Kingston 4881; several bushes in a hedge at Lynn Common, Havenstreet 5389, both PS.

Sweet-briar (*Rosa rubiginosa* sens.str.)

N. Three bushes on the south side of Mottistone Down 4184 PS. This is the least frequent of our sweet briars.

Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*)

N. Several trees towards the lower parts of Rew Copse 5477 CP. This is a previously unrecorded site for this plant.

Wild Service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*)

N. A single tree recorded from the south-eastern arm of Chalkclose Copse, near Marks Corner 4692 mo.

Spear-leaved Willowherb (*Epilobium lanceolatum*)

N. A long-established garden weed population was reported from Culver Road, Shanklin 5881 VB. This is the first modern record for this infrequent species.

Broad-leaved Spurge (*Euphorbia platyphyllos*)

N. Two previously unrecorded arable field sites were at Sandy Lane, Blackwater 5086 SB and by a footpath at Skinner's Farm, Northwood 4792 DB.

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Upright Yellow-sorrel (*Oxalis stricta*)

E. Recorded from a Brighstone garden 4282 PS. A new Island site.

Bur Chervil (*Anthriscus caucalis*)

N. A large clump found in dunes at Bembridge Point 6488 mo. This is a previously unrecorded site.

Knotted Hedge-parsley (*Torilis nodosa*)

N. A large plant recorded growing on a verge on the Industrial Estate, Daish Way, Newport 4990 SB.

Kangaroo-apple (*Solanum laciniatum*)

E. One large plant found at Homestead Farm, Shishford, near Newbridge 4188 DB.

Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*)

E. This plant made a fine show for several metres on south verge of the Downs Road over Mersley Down, 5587 RG. This is the first well established record of this plant, which is sometimes grown by farmers.

Narrow-leaved Lungwort (*Pulmonaria longifolia*)

N. Recorded from the south-eastern arm of Chalkclose Copse, Marks Corner 4692 mo. This is a previously unrecorded site.

Common Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia micrantha*)

C. Four plants found growing by a path edge on St Helen's Duver 6388 GT. This is the first Island record for this increasing alien species.

Slender Vervain (*Verbena rigida*)

C. A single plant growing on disturbed ground at an oil-well exploration site in Bouldnor Copse 3890, DB. First Island record away from cultivation.

Weasel's-snout (*Misopates orontium*)

N. Recorded from a front garden in Bannock Road, Whitwell 5178, a new location PS.

Hybrid Eyebright (*Euphrasia confusa* x *nemorosa*)

N. Recorded from slumped coastal cliffs at Bouldnor 3890, PS (conf. Alan Silverside). This is the first Island record for this hybrid.

Yarrow Broomrape (*Orobanche purpurea*)

N. It has long been known from Brading churchyard 6087 CP, but this year it was remarkably abundant and widespread within the yard.

Blue Globe-thistle (*Echinops bannaticus*)

E. A single flowering patch was found in scrubby, uncultivated ground near Parsonage Farm, Newchurch 5685 DB. First established record for this garden escape.

Great Lettuce (*Lactuca virosa*)

N? 11 plants growing through dumped hardcore at Thorley Street 3788 GT.

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N. Around 100 plants growing on the wall of Osborne House walled garden 5194 PS.

Argentine Fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*)

E. Seven plants on growing on a lane side near the town hall at Yarmouth 3589 PS.

Creeping Zinnia (*Melampodium montanum*)

Several plants growing in pavement cracks outside of Chine Inn, Shanklin 5881 DB, identified by Eric Clement, still in flower on 31 December. This plant is grown in window boxes and hanging baskets. It was first recorded as an escape, new to Britain in 2003. First Island record.

Gallant-soldier (*Galinsoga parviflora*)

E. Well established on the south facing bank of Ryde Canoe Lake, Ryde 6092 DB.

Large-flowered Tickseed (*Coreopsis grandiflora*)

E. Now well-established on a south-facing sunny bank by the main road at Arreton Barns, Arreton 5386, where it has been known for a number of years MB.

American Skunk-cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*)

E. Well established by the stream flowing through Saltmoor Copse at Robin Hill Country Park 5387 CP. The first Island record as an established species; it was not here 40years ago.

Italian Lords-and-ladies (*Arum italicum* subsp.*italicum*)

N. Well established clump in the education area, amongst bark chippings, at Parkhurst Forest 4890 DD.

Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*)

N. A few clumps in damp areas by the stream flowing through Saltmoor Copse, a part ancient woodland at Robin Hill Country Park 5387 CP.

Dwarf Sedge (*Carex humilis*)

N. Recorded for the first time on the north facing slope near the top of Afton Down 3685 PS (conf. David Pearman). The largest clump was 2m across and there were several small satellite patches. Clearly long established but overlooked at this site. This is a remarkable find, an almost certainly native site of a plant whose British headquarters are on chalk grassland in Wiltshire and Dorset. There is no previous suggestion that its distribution extended to the Isle of Wight. Although abundant in suitable sites within its core range, populations at the edge of its range on chalk are frequently small.

Rush-leaved Fescue (*Festuca arenaria*)

N. Found on Norton Spit 3589 PS (conf M. Wilcox). First recorded in 2004 at Norton Spit (PS).

Lesser Canary-grass (*Phalaris minor*)

C. A few plants found at Gatcombe 4885 SB.

Nit-grass (*Gastridium ventricosum*)

N. Around 30 plants in the field margin of a winter wheat crop on Bleak Down 5080 GT.

Annual Beard-grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*)

C. A few plants at the base of a wall at the south end of Arctic Road, Cowes 4994 SB.

Tor-grass (*Brachypodium pinnatum*)

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N. An invading clump located on the south slopes of Afton Down 3585 PS. This can be an aggressive coloniser of chalk grassland to the detriment of other species. It has been removed by the National Trust.

Hybrid Couch (*Elytrigia x obtusiuscula*) (*E. aetherica* x *juncea*)

N. This hybrid was found to be rather frequent on St Helen's Duver 6389 PS (conf. Tom Cope). First modern record for this hybrid.

Autumn Squill (*Scilla autumnalis*)

N. This plant had a good flowering year in August in its sole Island station, St Helen's Duver 6389. Remarkably, a number of plants were seen to be producing a second flush of flowers on 27th October.

Turkish iris (*Iris orientalis*)

E. Well established clumps of this white flowering iris were recorded from a ditch by the Military Road at Brook 3883 MB. The first Island record.

New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*)

E. A single plant with a flower spike was seen growing at the base of a wall by the coastal revetment at Bonchurch 5777 CP.

Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*)

N. Around 200 plants were recorded from the slumped cliffs near Brambles Chine, Colwell 3288 PS. This is further evidence that the Totland population is spreading eastwards.

Pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*)

N. There were around 20 plants in Brading churchyard, and others by the verge by Vicarage Lane, Brading 6087 CP. These are sites off the chalk.

Frog orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*)

N. A conservative estimate of 64 flowering plants was made on 9 July on the north side of Afton Down 3685, with more flowering stems just starting to appear mo.

Recorders

AM	Anne Marston	mo	Botany Group of IWNHAS
BS	Bill Shepard	PA	Pat Acock
CP	Colin Pope	PS	Paul Stanley
DB	David Biggs	RG	Richard Grogan
DD	Dave Dana	SB	Sue Blackwell
DW	Daphne Watson	SR	Sean Ridler
GA	Graham Ackers	TS	Tim Slade
HH	Hilary Higgins	TT	Tony Tutton
HM	Hugh Milner	VB	Vic Barnett
MB	Margaret Burnhill		

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