



Sussex Botanical Recording Society



NEWSLETTER

May 1998

President's Message

Good wishes to you all for a very enjoyable and rewarding recording season, especially successful in filling in the underworked areas and the under recorded species for Atlas 2000 highlighted by Alan's maps and lists.

Those of you who are BSBI members may have been disappointed by the Atlas recording progress map published in *BSBI News* No. 78 April 1998. This shows both East and West Sussex with one dot only in each; these are for the single 10km. sample disks sent by Alan last year on request as confirmation that his programme is compatible with the system for the Atlas recording at Monks Wood.

Trevor Dines, BSBI Atlas 2000 Co-ordinator, says of his map this year that it was prepared in early March - by mid-March Alan had sent in disks for 15 x 10km. squares (or hectads), four of which are already shared by neighbouring Counties, from West Sussex and 5 hectads. for East Sussex. This is a good proportion of our totals, and by the end of next winter we hope to have sent in the remainder. Watch the Atlas coverage map space for better (complete?) coverage in Sussex when published next.

Mary Briggs

Chairman's Note

In addition to our interesting programme of meetings this year, there are other outings with a botanical flavour organised by Natural History Societies and local groups of Sussex Wildlife Trust. Some of our members are leading these, and I am conducting a visit to the Trust's attractive Leythorne Meadow Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Chichester, which unfortunately clashes with the SBRS meeting at Hammer Wood on June 4th. Let us hope for good weather this year, especially July 3rd - 5th for the 'joint' meeting with the BSBI.

Rod Stern

Newsletter editor

Frances Abraham
Old School House
Ebernoe, Petworth West Sussex
GU28 9LD
Tel. 01428 707325

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Chairman's Note	1
Hon. Secretary's Note	1
Autumn Get-together	1
Recorders Notes	2
Grid references	3
Luzula note	4
Festuca arundinacea note	4
Alien plant status	4
Hybrid sloes	5
Euphrasia request	5
Notice of Black Poplar talk	5
Notable records for VC 14	6-8
Notable records for VC 13	8-9
SBRS Officers	9

Autumn get-together - change of date

Please note that the date of the Autumn Get-together at Staplefield Village Hall has been changed to

10.00 am on 31st October 1998

Hon. Secretary's Notes

Moss Workshop

For those of you who are attending the Moss Workshop at Staplefield on 26th September please remember to bring your microscope, hopefully we will have a few extra ones available.

Guermonprez Collection

Those who have booked for the Guermonprez collection in Portsmouth, I will be in touch with you direct later in the summer with the arrangements.

Autumn get-together

Lunch and tea will be available at the Get-together and members are invited to bring books and plants for sale as usual.

New members wanting directions to Staplefield please contact me on 01243 781238.

Louise Matcham

Recorders notes

Alan Knapp

Our Atlas 2000 recording is progressing well thanks to all of you who have contributed records. The number of species recorded in each of the 10km squares is shown on the following map.

4		258	264	255	414	671	692	800	462	280	119			
3	322	662	624	546	456	458	517	761	458	467	439	359	522	
2	426	479	653	806	659	680	558	551	437	537	523	436	526	65
1	515	766	573	817	708	783	732	722	732	383	445	162		
0	392	600	284					384	441	282				
9														
	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	

In 1997 we sent off data for two 10km squares (TQ01 & TQ50) and this year we have sent off data for fifteen more where the number of records exceeded 650. These were SU70, SU80, SU82, SU91, TQ00, TQ10, TQ11, TQ20, TQ21, TQ23, TQ30, TQ33, TQ40, TQ42 and TQ43. In the case of SU70 we included data from Hampshire which makes the total number of species 696. We have also sent data from the shared 10km squares, SU72, SZ79, SU83 and SU93, to the vice county recorders who are responsible for those squares. This does not mean that recording should stop in the squares where we have sent the data off already. We will continue to gather new data and will send an update of all new records at the end of the Atlas 2000 recording period.

During 1998 it would be very helpful to get as many records as possible from those squares with "low scores". Remember that many common species are still missing from a number of squares. A couple of examples will illustrate this - *Cymbalaria muralis* is missing from SU81, SU93, TQ50, TQ53 & TQ81 and *Stellaria holostea* from TQ20, TQ30, TQ60, TR01, TV49, TV59 and TV69 where they are shown as present in the Sussex Plant Atlas.

If you want to concentrate on particular squares I can supply you either with a list of all species recorded in a 10km square or a list of the "commoner" species not yet recorded from the square. Please send an SAE with your request. I can also bring lists to a field meeting - ring me up at least one week before the meeting and, if I am coming, I can bring it along. Please only ask for information for squares where there is a high chance you will do some recording. If you have a PC & send me a disk I can easily provide the information as ASCII text files for as many squares as you want.

Finally a couple of reminders. Please note down statuses - the most time consuming part of preparing the records for sending off to Atlas 2000 has been sorting out the status of non-native species where no information on status was provided by the recorders. (Please see reminder on page 4). Also, please remember that for unusual or difficult species you should get confirmation of the record from a member of the SBRs committee or from a BSBI referee.

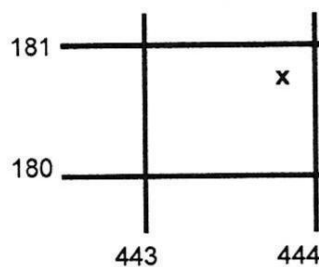
HOW TO GIVE A GRID REFERENCE FROM AN O.S. MAP

Incorrect grid references are a perennial source of confusion and, having discovered that a surprising number of the most surprising people are not getting them right, Frank Penfold gives us this clear explanation.

The margin of Landranger 1:50000 maps explains the method of estimating a six-figure reference which locates a point "to the nearest 100 metres". This is not really correct; what it does is to specify the intersection at the SW corner of a 100m. square. This means that a given point can be up to 141m. distant (ie. the diagonal distance). It is best to view a GR as defining a square rather than a point, as follows:

- a 2-fig. (eg. TQ41) defines a 10km. square.
- a 4 fig. (eg. TQ4418) defines a 1km. square.
- a 6 fig. (eg. TQ443180) defines a 100m. square.

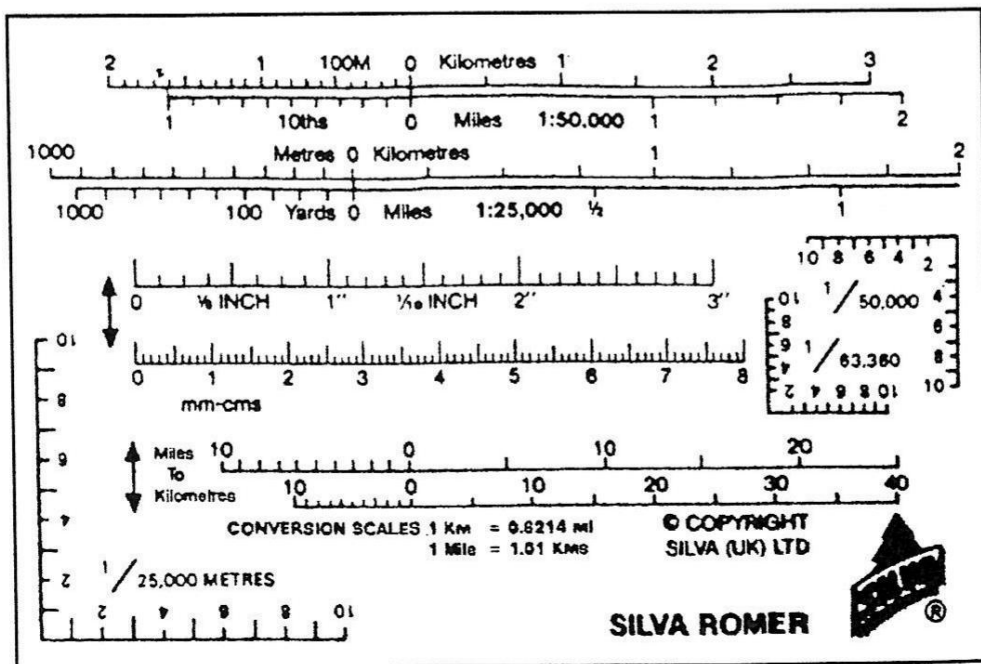
To specify a point within a 100m. square the SW corner intersection should be quoted:



Point x is at 443180;
not the nearer 444181

To give an actual example, take the Black Poplar by Isfield church. It is so near the SW corner intersection of TQ444181 that this could easily be given as the GR - but it would be wrong! The correct 6-fig. GR is TQ443180. An 8-fig. GR would be more precise but is unnecessary in most cases.

As a further aid we draw attention to the "Silva Romer", a clear plastic scale as used by navigators for quick and accurate 6-fig. GR's. The NE corner of the appropriate scale is placed on the location and the final figures are read off at the edge of the square, first horizontally and then vertically. Obtainable at £1.50 from outdoor shops such as Peglers of High Street, Arundel.



F. Penfold and A. Whitbread

WANTED

Precise locations for *Festuca arundinacea*

The SBRS has been contacted by Dr. David Gibson who is Associate Professor of Plant Biology in the Department of Plant Biology at the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in the USA for information about sites for *Festuca arundinacea* in Sussex.

David is making a study of this species and will be visiting Sussex next year for a short period. While he is here he would like to examine the plant in some of its UK sites. As he will only have a very limited time here he would like to have information about the precise localities of any sites so he can find them easily.

We have agreed to help and would therefore like to ask anyone who finds any sites for

Festuca arundinacea during 1998 or who already knows of any sites to send the precise details to me so I can gather them together and pass them on to David Gibson at the end of the summer. Note - if you happen to find a site in any of the counties adjoining Sussex that would also be helpful, provided it is not too far away.

Could you note the 6 figure grid reference and give a precise description of the spot or a sketch map of where the plants were found. Thanks very much for your help,

Alan Knapp

Luzula species - a useful tip.

Alan Knapp

When in full flower or fruit *Luzula forsteri* and *Luzula pilosa* can be readily distinguished from each other but they are not so easy to sort out when they are just coming out. I found a *Luzula* in early March just coming into flower which I thought was *L. forsteri* but could not be certain. I was looking in Stace's flora for distinguishing features when I came across the following comment under the description of *L. pilosa* - "Differs from *L. forsteri* in leaves obtuse to truncate at apex (with minute point in *L. forsteri*)".

On examining my specimen there was the minute point at the leaf apex, confirming it is was *L. forsteri*. This is a useful vegetative feature but be warned - when Stace says the point is minute he means it. A x10 lens is the minimum and x15 or greater is preferable! I suspect there are many more useful identification tips around. If you know some which you find particularly useful why not share them with the rest of us by sending them to Frances Abraham for publication in future Newsletters.

* * * * *

Alien Plant Status - a reminder

Alien (non-native) species need to be distinguished by one of the following letters.

- E** Established - present in the wild for 5 years and is spreading vegetatively or is effectively reproducing from seed.
- S** Surviving - present in the wild for 5 years and is neither spreading vegetatively nor reproducing effectively from seed.
- C** Casual - present briefly ie. for less than 5 years or intermittently.
- P** Planted deliberately in a 'wild' situation, not established.

HYBRID SLOES

Request for an Autumn Survey

By Mary Briggs

In both Surrey and Hampshire it has been found that *Prunus x fruticans*, which is *P. spinosa x domestica*, Blackthorn and Wild Plum, is much more frequent than *P. spinosa*, the Common Blackthorn, which we have until now assumed to be the common species.

Clive Stace in *New Flora of the British Isles* gives the hybrid as "fertile and variable", and it usually has larger leaves and larger flowers (but near Toat, Pulborough, David Curry found in 1997 a bush with tiny flowers, flowering some weeks after the general Blackthorn flush - which was finally determined as *P. x fruticans*). However, the decisive character for determination is the stone in the ripe fruit.

In *Prunus spinosa* the stones are spherical. In the hybrid the stones are flattened on both sides (or occasionally on one side only with the hybrid variability).

WARNING: Hybrid, more or less plum shaped stones can occur in spherical fruits. Joyce Smith, Recorder for Surrey, advises that "munching your way through the sloe population" is the best way to ascertain the hybrid frequency, adding that she hopes that we will all enjoy this!

We look forward to your munching records this Autumn, showing the population frequency of the hybrid sloes in Sussex.

Editor's note

A more enjoyable alternative to munching might be sipping - sloe gin made with the hybrid is very good but lacks the zip of that made with the hybrid.

EUPHRASIA SPECIES

A Request for specimens

By Paul Harmes

Just a gentle reminder that in September there is to be a BSBI Recorders' Conference at Lancaster University. One of the workshops will be held by Dr. A. J. Silverside, BSBI Euphrasia Referee. I would like to take some specimens of this taxon from Sussex for verification. If you would like to collect specimens, mount them on a sheet of A4 card/stiff paper (one card per colony) together with date, location and grid reference. It is necessary to collect 4 to 6 typical specimens from each colony, atypical plants are even more confusing. Please ensure that sheets reach me by 1st September 1998. I will, of course, inform collectors of the Referee's deliberations.

Many thanks

BLACK POPLARS

A talk by Frank Penfold

We are delighted that Frank Penfold will give a talk on our native Black Poplar *Populus nigra ssp. betulifolia* at the Autumn Get-together on October 31st.

Frank has been botanising in Sussex for nearly 50 years and will be well - known to most SBRS members. He was Chairman of the Sussex Wildlife Trust for 25 years and from 1965 to 1972 he chaired the Sussex Flora Committee, forebear of the SBRS. He has been interested in Black Poplars for many years and is the founder and Chairman of the Black Poplar Working Group, which aims to record and, eventually, propagate the Sussex specimens of this rare and magnificent tree.

Notable Plant Records 1997 - West Sussex - VC13

Species	Location	Recorder	Comments
<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	Slinfold	AGK/SBRS	2nd record
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Southwick Slinfold	B&RC AGK/SBRS	Dominant Mayweed at this site Bank of old railway
<i>Apera spica-venti</i>	Coates	TCGR	Fields near castle
<i>Artemisia verlotiorum</i>	Nutbourne	RIH	
<i>Asarina procumbens</i>	Harting	SBRS	1st record. Plant now gone.
<i>Calamagrostis epigeios</i>	East Head Shoreham	E&NS EB	Old MB record Near Cement Works
<i>Carex curta</i>	Midhurst Comm. Ambersham Comm.	E&NS ME	
<i>Carex divisa</i>	East Head	E&NS	
<i>Carex elongata</i>	Nr. New Bridge, Wisborough Gr.	FA	One plant. Last seen by MB & ECW 3km to south in 1983
<i>Carex vulpina</i>	N. of New Bridge, Wisborough Green	AWJ & Joan Stoddart	1996 record. By old course of R. Arun. conf. 1997 by AOC & ACJ
<i>Catabrosa aquatica</i>	Fishbourne Marsh	SBRS	HWM record.
<i>Epilobium roseum</i>	TQ12	DJC	Det. G. D. Kitchener
<i>Euphorbia platyphyllos</i>	Edburton	B&RC	
<i>Filago lutescens</i>	Watersfield	FA	2nd current site. With <i>Filago vulgaris</i>
<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Felpham	DMD	
<i>Galium parisiense</i>	Bignor	Phil Wilson	1st record. In unseeded fallow area adjacent to ADAS re- seeded area.
<i>G. x pomeranium</i>	Mill Hill	AGK	<i>Galium verum</i> x <i>mollugo</i>
<i>Inula helenium</i>	Edburton	B&RC	
<i>Juncus subnodulosus</i>	Leythorne	RCS/SBRS	
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Stopham	AWJ	1995 record - 3rd known site.
<i>Medicago truncatula</i>	Shoreham	EB	1st record. On shingle with <i>M. polymorpha</i> , <i>M. lupulina</i> , <i>M. arabica</i> & <i>Vulpia ciliata</i> <i>ssp. ambigua</i> .
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Amberley	MB/AGK	'Over the garden wall'.

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Species	Location	Recorder	Comments
<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	Nr Burton Pond Slinfold	MMS et al. SBRS	Not recorded there before as planted.
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	Billingshurst Graffam	SMS AGH	In churchyard.
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Pagham Harbour	Reserve Warden	325 flowering spikes (16 in '96)
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	West Harting	SBRS	
<i>Petrorhagia nanteuilii</i>	Pagham/ Church Norton	Reserve Warden	694,865 plants on shingle spits and dunes ! Of these 661,072 were on the Church Norton side. (In 1990 there were under 30,000 and in 1996 151,000 were counted.
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	West Dean Woods	EB	
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Shoreham	EB	On shingle.
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Amberley West Burton	BPS MB/J&PF	On both sides of road on line dividing SU and TQ ! Recorded in August - late summer flush.
<i>Potamogeton x salicifolius</i>	Wey & Arun canal , New Bridge	AGK	<i>P. lucens x perfoliatus</i>
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	West Heath Common	HE	3rd recent record.
<i>Prunus x fruticans</i>	N. of Pulborough	DJC	<i>P. spinosa x domestica</i> . Late flowering. Very tiny flowers & a few spines.
<i>Radiola linoides</i>	Ambersham Common	FR/ME	" In vast quantities"
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Burgess Hill Lavant	PAH E&NS	In thousands
<i>Rosa stylosa</i>	Chichester Canal Blinks Wood TQ12	RCS/SBRS SBRS	
<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	Nr. Chichester Additional site SU90	JAW E&NS	" <i>Phacelia</i> sown, <i>R. pulcher</i> came up instead !"
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Edburton	RIH	
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Watersfield	FA	
<i>Scorpiurus vermiculatus</i>	Lancing	C. Pennell	In garden.
<i>Sorbus x thuringiaca</i>	Durford Wood nr. Liss	FR	<i>S. aria x aucuparia</i> . 1st record.
<i>Symphytum orientale</i>	Amberley	MB/EJC/V&SJH & J&PF	Edge of the Wild Brooks.

cont.....

Species	Location	Recorder	Comments
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Faygate	AGH	
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Amberley Wild Brooks	RJC/BPS	Refound close to old site where last seen by MB & V&SJH 1988. Borrer record.
<i>Verbascum speciosum</i>	Fontwell	E&NS	Roadside verge. 1st record.
<i>Veronica agrestis</i>	Arundel Trundle	E&NS HH/JAW	Increasing ? 1996 record.
<i>Viola x intersita</i>	Easebourne	TCGR/SBRS	<i>V. riviniana</i> x <i>canina</i> . 1st record. Nr Benbow Pond. 1996 record. Det. TCGR
<i>Wolffia arrhiza</i>	Nr Houghton	FA	Old Wolley-Dod record.

Compiled by Mary Briggs

Notable Plant Records 1997 - East Sussex - VC14

Species	Location/tetrad	Recorder	Comments
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Nr Lewes	PJR	Conf. DCL
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Ditchling Common 31J	B. Radcliffe	
<i>Carex acuta</i>	Nr Hailsham 60D	DLV	Conf. PAH
<i>Carex strigosa</i>	Hassocks 31C	PJR	Det. PAH
<i>Cicurbita macrophylla</i>	Five Ashes 52M	EJR	
<i>Cotoneaster rehderi</i>	Crawley Down 33P	AGH	
<i>Dactylorhiza x transiens</i>	Beech Estate 61Y	SBRS	Det. AGH
<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>	Seaford 40W	PDLM	
<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	Winchelsea 91I	SBRS	Det, AGK/PAH
<i>Epilobium roseum</i>	East Grinstead 33U	AGH	Conf. G. Kitchener
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Seddlescombe 72V	PR	
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Nr Hastings 81B	A. Burrows	
<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	Michelham 50U	PR	
<i>Polypodium x mantoniae</i>	East Hoathly 51N	PHW	Det. RJC

cont....

Species	Location	Recorder	Comments
<i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i>	Bowl Water 63V	SBRS	Det. AGK
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Winchelsea 91I	SBRS	Det. AGK
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	Nr Heathfield 52W	EJR	
<i>Rumex maritimus</i>	Berwick 50H	NJHS	
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Hamsey 41B	NJHS	
<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>	Brighton 30C	AS	

Compiled by Paul Harmes

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Recorders initials

AGH	Arthur Hoare	J&PCF	Joan & Peter Finch
AGK	Alan Knapp	MB	Mary Briggs
AS	Tony Spiers	ME	Mike Edwards
AWJ	Wilberforce Jones	MMS	Dr. Mike Shaw
B&RC	Beryl & Ron Clough	NJHS	Nick Sturt
BPS	British Pteridological Society	PAH	Paul Harmes
DCL	David Lang	PCF	Peter Finch
DJC	Rev. David Curry	PDLM	Paul Maurice
DLV	Dennis Vinall	PHW	Phyllis White
DMD	David Donovan	PJR	Peter Russell
EB	Betty Bishop	PR	Patrick Roper
EJC	Jean Clunes	RCS	Rod Stern
EJR	Elizabeth Rich	RIH	Rita Hemsley
E&NS	Elizabeth & Nick Sturt	RJC	Rob Cooke
FA	Frances Abraham	ROF	Rene Folkard
FR	Francis Rose	SBRS	Sussex Botanical Recording Society
HE	Hilary Englefield		
HMP	Helen Proctor	SMS	Silvia Simkin
HH	Hilda Horder	TCCR	Tim Rich
JAW	Judy Wilson	V&SJH	Vera & Stan Heyward

SBRS Officers

President	Mrs. M. Briggs,
Chairman	Mr. R.C. Stern,
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. T. Lording,
Hon Secretary	Mrs. L. G. Matcham,

County Recorders

East Sussex	Mr. P. A. Harmes,
West Sussex	Mrs. M. Briggs,
	Dr. A. G. Knapp,

Field Meeting Conveners

East Sussex	Mrs. P. M. Donovan,
West Sussex	Miss F. Abraham,

Committee Members

Mr. A. G. Hoare,
Mr. H. W. Matcham,
Mr. R. I. Clough,