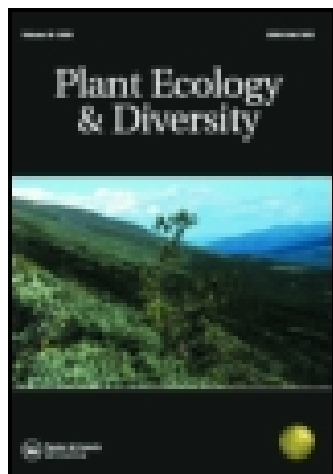




Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tped18>

III. Notes on *Carex punctata* and other Plants found in the Parish of Colvend, Kirkeudbrightshire

Rev James Farquharson ^a

^a Selkirk

Published online: 01 Dec 2010.

To cite this article: Rev James Farquharson (1873) III. Notes on *Carex punctata* and other Plants found in the Parish of Colvend, Kirkeudbrightshire , Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, 11:1-4, 478-481, DOI: [10.1080/03746607309468025](https://doi.org/10.1080/03746607309468025)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03746607309468025>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever

or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

III. *Notes on Carex punctata and other Plants found in the Parish of Colvend, Kirkcudbrightshire.* By the Rev JAMES FARQUHARSON, Selkirk.

The parish of Colvend, in the S.E. of Kirkcudbrightshire, lying between the western flanks of Criffell and the estuary of the Urr, possesses peculiar attractions for the field naturalist. The geologist will find much to interest him. Granite is the prevailing rock in the parish, rising into numerous low hills, very far indeed from being productive in an agricultural point of view, but giving variety to the landscape by their broken and rugged aspect. Along the sea-shore, which presents in many places bold and lofty cliffs, syenite and trap appear, as well as granite, and many instructive sections occur where these rocks are in contact with lower Silurian strata and with millstone grit, the latter, at some points, being tilted at a high angle and twisted. I doubt whether the sea, owing to the muddy nature of its bed, would produce much to attract the marine zoologist; but the entomologist may expect to find a rich field of observation, for the climate, though moist as usual in the S.W., is peculiarly mild, and that salubrity which renders Colvend shore a favourite resort for those who seek the sea-side in summer and autumn cannot fail to multiply the objects of his research.

But these brief notes have to do with the botany of the parish. For the variety of its plants, and for rare and interesting species, Colvend is remarkable. Its rough hills, its numerous lochs and bogs, its seaboard, here breaking into lofty cliff or steep bank, there extending into muddy estuary or salt marsh, combine to render it a most inviting locality for the field botanist. Nor are its botanical treasures unknown. Colvend has the advantage of possessing a resident botanist in the Rev. Mr Fraser, who has explored almost every nook of his extensive parish, and whose genial society adds to the pleasure of a hunt for the rarer plants of his neighbourhood. In the Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, Session 1863-4, Mr Fraser has published an account of the botany of Colvend, and the list of plants there given, with their localities, will

serve as a guide to any one visiting the parish with botanical intent. To this list I refer below. It notes, with few exceptions, the choice plants of the district.

But that, notwithstanding Mr Fraser's keen scrutiny, some plants remain to reward other explorers, was proved last autumn by the discovery of *Carex punctata*, a species new, I believe, to Scotland. On the 16th of August, Mr Fraser and I, in the course of an excursion, had scrambled down the steep, densely wooded bank at the mouth of Southwick Water, when our attention was attracted by a carex growing in a few scattered tufts on moist rocky ledges at the foot of the bank. In some respects it resembled *Carex distans*, but had not the habit of that species. In colour it was more of the hue of *Carex pallescens*, but the arrangement of the spikelets and the form of the fruit were different. We found other specimens about half a mile to the east, on moist rocks near a waterfall in front of which a singular isolated mass of Silurian rock, known as "Lot's Wife," rises in pyramidal form from the level muddy shore. On examining the specimens afterwards, by aid of Hooker and Arnott's Flora, I determined the species to be *Carex punctata*. This conclusion was afterwards confirmed by Professor Balfour, to whom I sent specimens. Some days later I found the plant about three miles westward on the shore, there also on ledges of wet rocks, at a romantic spot marked on the Ordnance Map "Gutcher's Isle," and well known to excursionists in the district as Glenstocking. The plants were few in number, as at the station at Lot's Wife, so that should this notice lead any collector of plants to visit the locality, I must beg that specimens be gathered with a sparing hand, else this interesting carex may be extirpated.

Carex punctata most nearly resembles *Carex distans*,—indeed, it is difficult to give in written description characters sufficiently clear to distinguish it, although the habit and hue of the growing plant mark it very decidedly. The fertile spikelets are not set so wide apart as in *Carex distans*; the fruit is tumid, distinctly spreading, and has a much longer beak. But when you see the plant growing in separate dense tufts, with broad luxuriant foliage, handsome stalk, and light green colour, you mark it at once as

peculiar, and distinct from other species in the same group of its genus. As bearing on the distribution of the plant, it may not be unimportant to observe that Beaumaris and Menai are given as habitats previously known, those lying on the southern shore of the Irish Sea, while the new locality is on the northern shore of the same sea.

On the day when we found *Carex punctata*, Mr Fraser led me to stations for several rare plants—*Cladium Mariscus*, in Barnhourie Loch, not abundant, and very few plants flowering; *Drosera longifolia*, plentiful on the margin of the same loch; *Scutellaria minor*, a pretty little plant growing profusely in a bog behind Marbroy; *Lithospermum officinale*, by the Southwick Road; *Lychnis Viscaria*, on Lot's Wife; *Scrophularia aquatica*, under the bank eastward from Lot's Wife; and *Raphanus maritimus*, on rocks in the snugly-sheltered cove of Port-o-Warran.

At other times I picked up *Betonica officinalis* near Scaur, on the Urr; *Carlina vulgaris*, on steep ground by the sea; *Ornithopus perpusillus*, in dry fields; *Jasione montana*, *Genista tinctoria*, *Ulex nanus*, and *Sedum anglicum*, common in rough hilly ground; *Anagallis tenella*, *Carum verticillatum*, and *Hypericum elodes*, frequent by rivulets and in marshy places; *Typha angustifolia*, abundant in the Manse Loch, but sparingly in flower; *Lycopus europeus*, by that Loch; *Utricularia intermedia*, not in flower. Along the shore in muddy ground, *Statice Limonium*, *Salicornia herbacea*, *Suaeda maritima*, *Juncus maritimus*, and *Scirpus maritimus*; in salt-water pools, *Ruppia maritima*; on drier spots, *Thrinicia hirta*, *Verbascum Thapsus*, *Samolus Valerandi*, *Carex extensa*, and *Carex distans*; and on rocks at Castle Hill, *Crithmum maritimum* and *Asplenium marinum*.

From Mr Fraser's list I extract the following, which I did not observe during my visit to Colvend shore:—

“Plants found by the sea-side, either on the rocks or on the sea-shore:—*Apium graveolens*, *Astragalus glycyphyllos*, *Eryngium maritimum*, *Glaucium luteum*, *Primula veris*, *Primula elatior*.

“Plants found in the lochs, marshes, and mosses of Colvend:—*Equisetum hyemale*, *Isoetes lacustris*, *Lobelia Dortmanna*, *Nymphaea alba*, *Nuphar lutea*, *Osmunda regalis*,

Rhynchospora alba, *Typha latifolia*, *Utricularia minor*, *Vaccinium Oxycoccos*.

“Plants on the hills, in the fields, &c.—*Arenaria verna*, *Allosorus crispus*, *Convolvulus sepium*, *Genista anglica*, *Habenaria albida*, *Lysimachia vulgaris*, *Pyrola minor*, *Pyrola media*, *Viola lutea*, *Botrychium Lunaria*.”

Beyond the bounds of Colvend parish I gathered *Epipactis latifolia*, which grows in great profusion in Arbighland Woods, in the parish of Kirkbean; *Glaucium luteum* of great size on the gravelly shore of the Nith at Arbighland; *Antirrhinum majus* on the cloister wall of Dundrennan Abbey; *Lithospermum officinale* in Dundrennan churchyard; and *Serratula tinctoria* on the banks of the Dee at Tongland Old Bridge.

These notes merely give the results of a few holiday rambles, but they indicate a district peculiarly rich in rare Scotch plants, and well worthy of a visit and of more careful scrutiny.

IV. *Remarks on Chlorococcum vulgare, of Greville.*

By JAMES M'NAB.

Chlorococcum vulgare is a minute confervaceous plant, which forms the green powdery substance generally found on the stems of trees. This year it has been developed to a very large extent, not only on the healthy bark of forest, fruit, and ornamental trees and shrubs, but likewise on decaying wood, palings, walls, glass, slates, and even on iron railings. The Beech is the only smooth barked tree on which it occurs in large quantities, particularly in sheltered situations, and the only one on which, the author was inclined to think, it had an injurious effect, as the bark seemed to shrivel when infested with it. The only practical use of the plant, he thought, was the facilities it afforded for detecting depredators, such as boys who had been robbing orchards or harrying birds' nests, as they could not avoid being smeared with the green powder while climbing the trees.

Mr Sadler exhibited drawings executed by Mr F. M. Caird, with the chlorophyll extracted by spirit from the *Chlorococcum*.