

Rare and interesting

Oli Pescott & Chris Preston

present the 16th instalment in this column reporting recent rare and interesting records.

Presumably many bryologists, like us, read the published records in *Field Bryology* with at least half an eye on the implications for their own recording. What species are advancing towards our 'patch'? Are our neighbours already finding plants which we might be overlooking? Several such bryophytes appear in the current set of 'Rare and Interesting' records. Some are distinctive, such as *Frullania tamarisci*, *Nowellia curvifolia*, *Antitrichia curtispindula* and *Leucodon sciuroides*, others rather more easily overlooked, including *Sematophyllum substrumulosum* and perhaps *Orthotrichum speciosum*.

Another feature of this set of 'Rare and Interesting' records is provided by the reports of sporophytes in four liverworts in north Wales, all detected by the lynx-eyed hepaticologist Tim Blackstock. Although all the species are widespread, at least in the west, few of us will have seen any of them in fruit. Do the rest of us overlook sporophytes elsewhere, or are these species particularly likely to fruit in the the oceanic conditions of north Wales? And if the latter, is a changing climate increasing the likelihood that they will do so in the future?

The records below also document new finds

of nationally rare or scarce species in Britain, as well as new sites for such recently recognised species as *Dialytrichia saxicola*, *Grimmia tergestina* and *Pterygoneurum papillosum*. We also include reports of the unexpected discovery of calcifuge species in counties with predominantly calcareous soils, saxicolous species in areas of 'soft' geology and shade-tolerant species growing indoors in churches. All evidence of the glorious unpredictability which adds so much to the enjoyment of bryological recording.

Thanks are due to all the Regional Recorders who sent in Rare & Interesting records for publication.

Altitude

***Lophozia perssonii*. 57:** Calcareous soil on semi-bare stony ground, edge of limestone quarry, 330 m alt., Tunstead quarry near Buxton, SK09497483, 2016, T.L. Blockeel. Previously recorded from Carboniferous limestone quarries in the Peak District, but this record is 100 m higher than previous ones. Tunstead is one of the major operational quarries near Buxton.

***Sematophyllum substrumulosum*. 6:** Conifer plantation, 189 m alt., Kilmington, ST76003760, 2017, S.L. Pilkington. This was the altitude record for just 18 days, until replaced by the next record. It is also the second record for North Somerset. **41:** On sloping trunk of Spruce, NE-facing conifer plantation, 430 m alt., W of Glyncorrwg, SS86339935, 2017, S.D.S. Bosanquet. This is the first upland record of this species. As SDSB points out, these records raise the intriguing possibility that *S. substrumulosum* could be frequent in upland-edge plantations.

Dispersing or increasing

***Cephaloziella divaricata*. 29:** Frequent scattered



△Fig. 1. *Nowellia* log, Sheringham Park, East Norfolk. M. Ghullam

small patches on crushed granite hoggin, with *Pogonatum urnigerum*, Criminology Dept, Sidgwick Site, Cambridge, TL44285798, 2016, C.D. Preston, *conf.* D.A. Callaghan. This is only the second record in this very calcareous county since 1960.

***Frullania tamarisci*. 18:** On *Salix cinerea*, 117 m alt., Epping Forest, TQ433991, 2016, K.J. Adams. The first record for Essex was in 1985 when it turned up in Hatfield Forest (v.c. 19) on *S. caprea*. A long absence ensued, until two more records were found for Essex in 2011 (*S. cinerea*) and 2012 (*Quercus robur*). KJA comments that the plant appears to be becoming established in Essex from the west, confirming a recent range expansion as an epiphyte in eastern England. **28:** Epiphytic on base of birch (*Betula*) tree, 24 m alt., Brecks Forest, TL829910, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. Only the second recent record for both West Norfolk and Norfolk as a whole; possibly a part of the expansion posited above.

***Nowellia curvifolia*. 27:** On large decorticated *Pinus sylvestris*, 65 m alt., Sheringham Park, Upper Sheringham, TG13374156, 2017, M. Ghullam. The second East Norfolk site, growing with *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Calyptogeia fissa*, *Herzogiella seligeri*, *Tetraxis*

pellucida and other species (Fig. 1). **28:** Rotting tree trunk, Frost's Common, TL94439336, 2016, C.R. Stevenson & J. Masson. Only the third record for West Norfolk.

***Antitrichia curtispindula*. 6:** Ash (*Fraxinus*) tree, Black Down, Mendip Hills, ST49045781, 2017, S.L. Pilkington. On an epiphyte-rich tree; only the second recent record. **28:** Epiphytic on young oak (*Quercus*), 14 m alt., Wootton Woods, TF65132405, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. The third record for West Norfolk in recent years.

***Leucodon sciuroides* var. *sciuroides*. 30:** Two very small adjacent tufts on over-mature elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Pegsdon Hills, TL12052921, 2017, C.D. Preston. The only records from Bedfordshire since 1950 are from Tilsworth (1984) and Tilbrook churchyard (1992), the latter originally allocated to Huntingdonshire (v.c. 31) and therefore omitted from Outen's Flora.

***Scleropodium cespitans*. 29:** Mossy edges of tarmac path, Oakington churchyard, TL414648, 2017, R.H. Carter. This is the second record from tarmac in Cambridgeshire, a habitat reported more frequently in recent floras of Pembrokeshire (Bosanquet 2010) and South Hampshire (Stern 2010).



△Fig. 2. Typical capsule of *Grimmia orbicularis* with basal leaf cell detail (inset), North Somerset. P. Bowyer

Fruiting, gametangia or with gemmae

***Bazzania trilobata*. 48:** Extensive patch on bank in wooded ravine, 55 m alt., Coed Pengwern, N of Rhyd-y-Sarn, SH6942, 2016, T.H. Blackstock. Numerous immature sporophytes present; this is only the second fruiting record for north Wales.

***Plagiochila asplenioides*. 49:** On outcrop in mildly base-rich ravine, 239 m alt., Afon Dulyn above Tal-y-Bont, Conway Valley, SH7568, 2016, T.H. Blackstock. A mixed-sex patch with immature sporophytes. This is the first fruiting record for north Wales since 1833.

***Porella platyphylla*. 52:** On exposed upper wall of medieval castle, 9 m alt., Beaumaris Castle, SH606762, 2016, T.H. Blackstock. Another mixed-sex patch with immature sporophytes; these are the first records for both males and sporophytes for north Wales.

***Trichocolea tomentella*. 48:** On wet rock face in ravine, 68 m alt., Coed Pengwern, N of Rhyd-y-Sarn, SH696426, 2016, T.H. Blackstock. The species was found with late immature

sporophytes; this is the second fruiting record for north Wales.

***Brachythecium glareosum*. 23:** On flint at the edge of deciduous woodland, 238 m alt., Lower Dean Woods, SU708927, 2017, D. Morris & O.L. Pescott. A shy-fruiting species, being dioicous. There are only 2 records of this species in fruit in the BBS database!

Nationally rare or scarce

***Ricciocarpus natans*. 27:** Abundant in meadow pond, 40 m alt., East Carleton, TG18110124, 2016, M. Ghullam. The first 21st-century record from East Norfolk.

***Dialytrichia saxicola*. 6:** Riverside alder, 37 m alt., By Brook, Box, ST82556896, 2016, S.L. Pilkington & J. Grant. Frequent along the River Avon between Melksham and Bath in 2016. This is the first record from a tributary river (the 'By Brook').

***Dicranum polysetum*. 17:** On an earth bank in very wet woodland, 30 m alt., Havering Farm, SU991545, 2016, H.W. Wallis. **28:** On floor of damp woodland, 2 m alt., Mow



◀Fig. 3. *Pterygoneurum ovatum* - very hoary plants, top of mainline railway embankment, Charlton Mackrell, N. Somerset. S. Pilkington

Fen, Shouldham Warren, TF6610, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. The fifth record from West Norfolk.

***Grimmia orbicularis*. 6:** A few patches on sunny limestone rocks, Uphill, ST31485847, 2017, P. Bowyer. A new hectad for the vice-county. (Fig. 2).

***Grimmia tergestina*. 23:** Cotswold roof tile, 107 m alt., Broughton Castle, SP418382, 2016, P. Martin. Second record for Oxfordshire; the first was by the same recorder at Burford Church (SP253124) in 2007.

***Hedwigia ciliata* var. *ciliata*. 88:** A hand-sized patch with other bryophytes on top of a boulder, 355 m alt., Derculich Burn above Strath Tay, NN877543, 2016, O. Moore. The second record for Mid Perthshire of this nationally scarce species.

***Plasteurbhynchium striatulum*. 6:** On N-facing limestone sea cliffs with *Marchesinia mackaii*, Middle Hope, Weston-super-Mare, ST34006653, 2017, S.L. Pilkington. A new hectad record.

***Pseudoleskeella catenulata*. 88:** Several small patches growing with other calcicolous plants

on NW-facing rock outcrop below the summit, 628 m alt., Tom an Fhurain, NN86395623, 2016, O. Moore. A new locality in Mid Perthshire for this nationally scarce moss.

***Pterygoneurum ovatum*. 6:** On a crumbling, sun-baked, railway embankment, Sug Hill, Charlton Mackrell, ST52312868, 2016, S.L. Pilkington. A thriving population. (Fig. 3).

***Pterygoneurum papillosum*. 6:** Limestone grassland, Collard Hill, Street, ST48583428, 2016, S.L. Pilkington. An extension of the Polden Hills population, in eroded, clayey, blue lias grassland.

***Pylaisia polyantha*. 6:** Hedgerow, Gurney Slade, ST63824978, 2016, S.L. Pilkington & J. Bennett. One of a cluster of new records in the area.

Regionally notable

***Marchesinia mackaii*. 6:** Woodland limestone exposure, Gully Wood, Bathford, ST79486501, 2016, A. Rayner & M. Rayner. Unusual this far east in Somerset.

***Antitrichia curtispindula*. 15:** Stunted *Prunus spinosa*, 4 m alt., Dungeness, TR0618, 2016,



△Fig. 4. *Rhodobryum roseum* site, Druim Loisgte, Jura, with close up of plant below. F. Cameron

J. Hendey. JH revisited a patch found by a BBS meeting in 2000. In November 2016 the BBS South-East group found a great deal more over a larger area. JH suggests that this moss is certainly not declining at Dungeness, where it was first reported by E.M. Holmes in 1877.

***Eucladium verticillatum*. 28:** On damp stonework inside church, 1 m alt., Wiggshall St Mary Magdalen, TF598113, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. The third record from West Norfolk and an unusual find inside the church, although see R&I 15 (Pescott & Preston 2016) for another example.

***Grimmia trichophylla*. 28:** On sandstone gravemarker, 10 m alt., Parish Church, South Wootton, TF640227, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. The second recent record for West Norfolk, and the third for Norfolk as a whole.

***Hylocomium splendens*. 29:** In an area of chalky grassland, Sixteen Acre Plantation, Newmarket, TL66306210, 2016, M.O. Hill. A patch about 1 m across. The first record for the vice-county since 1979.

***Leptobarbula berica*. 28:** On brick gutter on the N side of the church, 10 m alt., Parish Church, South Wootton, TF640227, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. The second recent record for v.c. 28, and the fourth for Norfolk as a whole.

***Oxyrrhynchium speciosum*. 6:** Robust plants in swampy ground below *Salix cinerea* in willow carr, Chew Magna, ST586625, 2016, S.L. Pilkington. A rare plant in North Somerset.

***Rhodobryum roseum*. 102:** On heathy grassland over coastal rocks, Druim Loisgte near Ardfernal, Jura, NR564713, 2016, F. Cameron. New to Jura and the third record for the South Ebudes. (Fig. 4).

***Sphagnum teres*. 102:** Coastal grassy flush, Camas nam Meanbh-chuileag, NR 661895, 2016, F. Cameron. New to Jura and first record from the South Ebudes since 1981. (Fig. 5).



△Fig. 5. *Sphagnum teres*, Camas nam Meanbh-chuileag, Jura. F. Cameron.

Unusual habitat or substrate

***Barbilophozia attenuata*. 18:** In *Leucobryum juniperoideum* tufts, Great Monk Wood, Epping Forest, TQ4298, 2016, K.J. Adams. A rare species in eastern England outside Kent, with only four post-1990 hectad records. In its one Essex station in Epping Forest, first found in 1962, it has never been seen on its own, but has persisted in a patch c. 10 m across with all the plants completely dispersed and enveloped amongst *L. juniperoideum* tufts, with only the very tips of the shoots ever appearing above the surface. Nationally it seems to be confined to areas with an annual rainfall in excess of 1 m. KJA therefore suggests that it is dependent on the water stored in the spongy *Leucobryum* tufts to ride out summer droughts.

***Cololejeunea minutissima*. 27:** A small patch growing with *Tortula muralis* on N-facing brickwork of railway bridge, 30 m alt., Antingham, TG25683396, 2017, M. Ghullam.

***Ceratodon purpureus*. 17:** On thin soil over chalk, 65 m alt., Priest Hill LNR, TQ231616, 2016, H.W. Wallis. Locally quite common in this habitat.

***Orthotrichum speciosum*. 28:** Epiphytic on hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) in an area of dense scrub, 3 m alt., King's Lynn, TF634208, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. The sixth record for v.c.

28 (where it was first recorded in 2012) but on an unusual substrate.

***Syntrichia latifolia*. 25:** With abundant sporophytes on rotten steel piling (so rusty that there was no actual metal remaining), River Fromus, RSPB Abbey Farm, Snape, TM387577, 2015, R.J. Fisk. With it on this rather unusual substrate were *Syntrichia montana* and *Zygodon viridissimus*.

Contributors and checkers of records

K.J. Adams, BBS S.E. Group meeting, J. Bennett, T.H. Blackstock, T.L. Blockeel, S.D.S. Bosanquet, P. Bowyer, D.A. Callaghan, F. Cameron, R.H. Carter, R.J. Fisk, M. Ghullam, J. Grant, J. Hendey, M.O. Hill, P. Martin, J. Masson, O. Moore, D. Morris, O.L. Pescott, S.L. Pilkington, C.D. Preston, A. Rayner, M. Rayner, C.R. Stevenson, H.W. Wallis.

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Oli L. Pescott (e olipes@ceh.ac.uk)
& **Chris D. Preston**