

Mark Hill presents the eighth instalment in his occasional column reporting recent rare and interesting records.

This batch of *Rare and Interesting* includes a greater number of nationally rare species than previous ones. Particularly notable are *Jamesoniella undulifolia* and *Buxbaumia viridis*, which are respectively critically endangered and vulnerable in Europe. Stewart Taylor has been keeping an eye on *B. viridis* in eastern Scotland and has found it to be more frequent than had been supposed. A pity that its capsules are such great mollusc food! The other nationally scarce species, the liverwort *Fossombronia caespitiformis* and the mosses *Didymodon icmadophilus*, *Grimmia elongata*, *Hygrohypnum molle*, *Paraleucobryum longifolium* and *Tayloria lingulata*, are not so rare at the European scale. Indeed, *P. longifolium*, thought only a few years ago to be extinct in Britain, is a common plant in much of Scandinavia. *H. molle* is recorded in Britain from only four hectads post 1989; two of the new records are in known hectads, but the third, from Beinn a'Bhuird, brings the hectad count to five. *G. elongata* is a BAP Priority Species not seen in England since 1987; Robert Goodison found a large colony that straddled two hectads.

Male plants of *Didymodon nicholsonii* were found in Cambridgeshire, apparently a second record of this sex in Britain. Ken Adams found abundantly fruiting *Didymodon vinealis*. This species is very common in south-eastern Britain, but is rarely seen with capsules, let alone with tens of thousands of them. Three records are of bryophytes in unusual habitats, one being a



△ Fig. 1. Setae of *Buxbaumia viridis* after a major herbivore attack. Stewart Taylor.

*Sphagnum* from a playing field, and the other two being *Orthotrichum* species that are normally epiphytic, but were found on a tombstone.

The regionally notable records are a mixed bag. Some such as *Anthoceros agrestis* and *Bartramia pomiformis* have declined markedly in parts of their range, so that a new population, especially a thriving one, is remarkable. Others such as *Ricciocarpos natans* in County Durham are at the northern limit of their British range and may perhaps be pushing northwards because of climate change. Likewise, *Lejeunea lamacerina* may be moving eastwards in Northumberland. In some counties, uneven recent recording may have resulted in species being overlooked; this may well be the case with *Didymodon acutus* in Surrey and *Sphagnum contortum* in South Northumberland. Finally the record of *Rhodobryum roseum* is a pseudo-vice-county record, because the previous one is thought by the county recorder to be unreliable.

### Nationally rare or scarce

64.3. *Fossombronia caespitiformis*. 45: soil at base of tree planted by major road, with *Phaeoceros laevis*, 30 m alt., verge of A477, Brotherhill,

Cosheston, SN005028, 2008, Bosanquet. 2nd record of a Nationally Scarce species. A few rosettes, on ground disturbed 2006. N.

30.2. *Jamesoniella undulifolia*. 98: in *Sphagnum* hummock in flushed mire, 5 m alt., coast just N of Bonnach Mor, Ardfern peninsula, NM77470385, 2006, Rothero 16002. Third Scottish locality for this species, which is critically endangered in Europe. N. 98: flushed mire, 40 m alt., coast W of Druim an Achanarnaich, Ardfern peninsula, NM76860275, 2006, Rothero 16001. Fourth Scottish locality for this species, which is critically endangered in Europe. N.

10.2. *Buxbaumia viridis*. 95: on rotting heartwood of fallen *Pinus sylvestris* overhanging a small river, 260 m alt., Abernethy Forest, NJ021176, 2007, Taylor. New locality for a very rare species. 15 very fresh capsules, 6 still with intact calyptra on 16 November. N. 95: amongst compact mosses on rotting but intact bark on the side of a fallen *Alnus glutinosa*, within a few metres of a small river, 260 m alt., Abernethy Forest, NJ021177, 2007, Taylor. New locality for a very rare species. 13 capsules and 9 setae without capsules on 3 November; another capsule had been eaten 13 days later. There had been 3 capsules during the previous growing season, January–



△ Fig. 2. *Didymodon icmadophilus* at Water of Ainack. Gordon Rothero

April 2007. N. 96: log, 280 m alt., Abernethy Forest, NJ008160, 2008, Taylor. New locality for a very rare species. Plant much affected by herbivory, with 66 setae and 7 remaining capsules (Fig. 1) in early February. N.

32.1. *Paraleucobryum longifolium*. 92: rocks on margin of lochan, 945 m alt., Dubh Lochan, Beinn a'Bhuird, NO095990, 2007, Flagmeier & Rothero. Third record for v.-c. 92. N.

54.6. *Didymodon icmadophilus*. 94: on S-facing limestone crags in ravine, 430 m alt., Water of Ailnack, NJ145150, 2007, Rothero (Fig. 2). Second locality in Banffshire and in some abundance, often growing through cushions of *Schistidium atrofussum*. N.

69.9. *Grimmia elongata*. 70: soil-filled crevices in large blocks of Skiddaw Slate (Kirkstile Formation), 710 m alt., Grasmoor, Lad Hows Ridge, NY178199, 2008, Goodison, conf. Porley (Fig. 3). 2nd record since 1970, several cushions. R.

85.1. *Tayloria lingulata*. 92: in large flush with *Meesia uliginosa* and *Cinclidium stygium*, 850 m alt., Glas Choire, N of Glas Maol, on E side of burn, NO1677, 2005, Rothero 15177. A second locality for S Aberdeenshire, fruiting



△ Fig. 3. *Grimmia elongata* cushions at Lad Hows.  
Robert Goodison

as usual, and present in at least one other flush in the area. N.

161.7. *Hygrohypnum molle*. 92: on stones in flush, 950 m alt., Coire an Dubh-lochain, Beinn a' Bhuid, NO092992, 2007, Flagmeier & Rothero. Second site for v.-c. 92 and with sporophytes. N. 97: in stony flush/burn at base of coire, 920 m alt., Coire a'Mhadaidh, Stob Coire Easain, Grey Coires, NN2372, 2005, Rothero 15229. Second site in v.-c. 97. N. 97: on granite rocks in spring and burn, 1,100 m alt., below the main gully at the head of Coire an Lochain, Aonach Mor, NN1973, 2005, Rothero 15202. Third site in v.-c. 97, fruiting abundantly. N.

#### Fruiting and gametangia

54.4. *Didymodon nicholsonii*. 29: on compacted gravelly track, Anglesey Abbey, TL52936231, 2008, Preston. Plants with frequent male inflorescences. There is only one previous report of male plants of this species in the British Isles, from a tarmac lane at Pucketty Farm, Faringdon, Oxfordshire. G.

54.8. *Didymodon vinealis*. 18: on sloping concrete by reservoir, 5 m alt., Walthamstow reservoirs,

TQ3589, 2008, Adams. Tens of thousands of capsules in a plant that seldom fruits in Britain, all with helical setae, some even coiling round each other. F.

#### Unusual habitat

1.19. *Sphagnum compactum*. 59: in wet acidic grassland in unmown part of playing fields, 170 m alt., adjacent to the A6119 at Pleckgate High School, Blackburn, SD676304, 2007, Crook, conf. Hodgetts. Second record for the county since 1960; several clumps present. This artificial habitat is highly unusual for a species that is normally found in heathland. H, R.

117.1. *Orthotrichum lyellii*. 27: on tombstone; see under *O. pulchellum* below. H.

117.17. *Orthotrichum pulchellum*. 27: epilithic on fine-grained sandstone tomb slab, overhung by *Castanea sativa*, 27 m alt., Earlham Cemetery, Norwich, TG21290887, 2008, Ellis & Stevenson. Three supposedly obligate epiphytes – *O. pulchellum*, *O. lyellii* and *O. affine* – were all growing on the same piece of rock. H.

#### Regionally notable records

60.2. *Lejeunea lamacerina*. 67: wet sandstone river cliff, 165 m alt., Towsbank Wood, River South Tyne, NY682568, 2007, O'Reilly & O'Reilly, conf. Hodgetts. 2nd record for the county and first since 1956. R.

69.1. *Blasia pusilla*. 69: on moist, clayey bank above stream, with *Palustriella commutata*, 130 m alt., Torver Low Common, nr Sunny Bank, Coniston, SD286925, 2007, Cameron. Second record for the county since 1960. R.

83.1. *Ricciocarpos natans*. 66: pond, 60 m alt., Brasside Pond, NZ2945, 1989, T.C. Dunn, comm. O'Reilly. Second record for the county since 1950; most northerly locality in Britain. R.

83.1. *Ricciocarpos natans*. 66: ponds, 125 m alt., Pesspool Lane Ponds, near Haswell, NZ393438, 1999, Dave Green & Julie Stobbs. Third record since 1950; refound in abundance in ditches by the ponds, 2007, O'Reilly. R.

85.2. *Anthoceros agrestis*. 27: in barley stubble on brown earth, pH 6.7, with *Riccia glauca*, *R. sorocarpa* and *Sphaerocarpos texanus*, 20 m alt., Blickling Estate about 1 km NE of Blickling Hall, TG189295, 2007, Norfolk and Suffolk Bryological Group. Third record since 1990; exceptionally abundant along 300 m of field edge to TG188292. R.

1.23. *Sphagnum contortum*. 67: basic flush next to lough, 255 m alt., Broomlee Lough, NY788695, 2007, O'Reilly & O'Reilly, conf. Hill. 2nd record for the county and first since 1966. R.

37.1. *Eucladium verticillatum*. 22: on tufa on the bank of a stream in woodland, 110 m alt., Hinksey Heights Nature Park, Oxford, SP489043, 2007, Wright. New location of a species which is rare in the county. R.

54.1. *Didymodon acutus*. 17: on compacted soil at edge of chalky path, 75 m alt., Juniper Bottom, TQ177528, 2007, Duckett, conf. Wallis. Second record for the county since 1977. R.

54.17. *Didymodon ferrugineus*. 45: on calcareous Coal Measures shale on road cutting, among *Trichostomum crispulum*, 100 m alt., A477 Pen-y-bont Cutting, Amroth, SN152094, 2008, Bosanquet. First confirmed record since 1950, frequent patches. R.

98.1. *Rhodobryum roseum*. 45: limestone turf on coast, 40 m alt., Bluck's Pool southern limestone, Castlemartin, SR889969, 2007, Bosanquet. Three patches, comprising 109 rosettes, of a plant that has not hitherto been reliably reported from the county. R.

110.2. *Bartramia pomiformis*. 27: on steep earth bank of lane with *Reboulia hemisphaerica* and *Pogonatum* sp., 20 m alt., 1.5 km SW of Erpingham, TG182306, 2007, Ghullam. Large quantity of a plant that has declined markedly in southern Britain. R. 27: on vertical earth bank, 1 m high, facing NNW in village, with *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Lunularia cruciata*, *Reboulia hemisphaerica* and *Atrichum undulatum*, 25 m alt., Itteringham, TG1444 3091, 2007, Ghullam. Large quantity, sparsely fruiting along 12 m of bank, of a plant that has declined markedly in southern Britain. R.

118.7. *Ulota phyllantha*. 67: on *Salix* in valley woodland, 160 m alt., Glen Cune, Kellah, NY6661, 2007, Bosanquet. 2nd record for the county and first since 1969 of a species that has increased in southern Britain. D, R.

170.2. *Scleropodium cespitans*. 67: sandstone rock faces by river, 130 m alt., River South Tyne, Crow Wood, NY674617, 2007, Bosanquet. Second record for the county and first since 1961. R.

195.1. *Hylocomium brevirostre*. 17: on ground in a thicket at edge of calcareous grassland, 95 m alt., lower slopes of Juniper Top, TQ179528, 2007, Howarth, conf. Wallis. First record for the county since 1980 of a species that has declined in southern England. R.

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