New species of *Rubus* L. (Rosaceae) from Wales and the Welsh Marches

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ABSTRACT

The relationships and distributions of five brambles (*Rubus* L.) in the *Corylifolii* section occurring in Wales and the Welsh Marches are discussed. Three new species from this section and one from series *Hystrices* are described: **Rubus ariconiensis** A. Newton & M. Porter, **sp. nov.**, **R. iscanus** A. Newton & M. Porter, **sp. nov.**, **R. vagensis** A. Newton & M. Porter, **sp. nov.** and **R. segontii** A. Newton & M. Porter, **sp. nov.**

KEYWORDS: Apomictic species, distribution, brambles.

INTRODUCTION

Considering their abundance in many regions, the brambles of sect. *Corylifolii* Lindl. have been a neglected component of the genus *Rubus*. In his conclusions to a review of the section, Edees (1975) noted "Much remains unknown. A great deal of fieldwork must be done and probably many more taxa described before a comprehensive account can be written." Visits to many parts of Britain have corroborated this view. Growing in profusion in the hedges of the southern Welsh Marches are several brambles of the *Corylifolii* section which have puzzled generations of batologists. Recent research has shown that four of these brambles are widespread in South Wales and the West Midlands; these and their allies are discussed below and three are described as new species. The opportunity is taken to describe a new bramble of the *Hystrices* series from North Wales.

THE SPECIES

Rubus iscanus A. Newton & M. Porter, **sp. nov.**

Turio arcuatus in apricis fusco-purpureus pruinosus obtuse angulatus faciebus planis glabrescens glandulis stipitatis sparsis aculeis crebris plerumque ad angulos dispositis aequalibus patentibus rectis vel obfalcatis aculeisque brevibus raris armatus.

Folia (3)–5-nata pedata imbricata superne parce strigosa inferne capillis simplicibus vestita. Foliolum terminale apice cuspidatum vel acuminatum, late ellipticum vel subrotundum basi emarginatum vel subcordatum inaequaliter serratum vel biserrate dentatum interdum lobatum petiolulo triplo longius; foliola infima subsessilia.

Inflorescentia cylindrica fere ad apicem foliosa inferne 2–4 foliis ternatis superne 1–3 foliis simplicibus instructa; ramuli inferiores foliis breviores 3–7 flori. Rachis vix flexuosa pilosa tomentosa aculeis 4–6 mm rectis vel declinatis validis glandulisque stipitatis nonnullis armata. Flores 3–4 cm diam.; sepala post anthesin reflexa mox fructum laxe amplectantia tomentosa albo-

marginata glandulis subsessilibus rubris ornatis. Petala rosea elliptica vel obovata interdum apice emarginata fimbriata; stamina stylos roseos vix superantia; anthera glabra; filamenta rosea; carpella glabra; fructus subglobosus.

Stem low-medium arching, angled with flat sides, brownish-purple on exposed sides, pruinose, initially with short tufted or simple hairs becoming almost glabrous, with scattered sessile glands and occasional short-stalked glands; prickles c.15–25 per 5 cm mainly on the angles but some on the faces, ± equal, 5–6 (−7) mm, about equal to the stem diameter ± straight or slightly upswept at the tip, patent or slightly declining, purple with straw coloured tips, rarely one or two short prickles c. 1 mm. Leaves pedate, leaflets (3–) 5, imbricate, mid-green, slightly strigose above, soft beneath rather thinly clothed with simple hairs; terminal leaflet c. 7.5 × 6.5 cm, broadly elliptical, ovate, obovate or subrotund with an acuminate or cuspidate apex c. 1 cm and emarginate or cordate base, compound serrate or unevenly biserrate with flat or slightly undulate margin, the petiole c. 1/3 as long as the lamina; basal leaflets subsessile or with petiolules up to 2 mm; petioles about the same length or slightly longer than basal leaflets, coloured like the stems, with rather dense spreading simple or tufted hairs and occasional very short stalked glands, c. 12–15 ± straight, slightly declining prickles c. 2 mm. Flowering branch with 3-foliate leaves below and up to 3 simple leaves above, usually leafy almost to apex; inflorescence cylindrical consisting of a terminal head of a few flowers borne on widely diverging peduncles and pedicels with several ± distant axillary peduncles shorter than their leaves (bearing up to 7 flowers). Rachis slightly flexuose coloured like the stem with dense whitish spreading and adpressed simple or tufted hairs and stellate hairs, sparse to frequent sessile or short-stalked glands, several straight slightly declining stout-based prickles 4–6 mm, crimson with straw coloured tips; peduncles clothed like the rachis but with denser more adpressed hairs so that they appear greyish in colour, prickles straight slightly declining, up to 4 mm; pedicels clothed as peduncles but with shorter hair and prickles ± straight patent or slightly declining, up to 3 mm, sparse to frequent dark red short or very short stalked glands especially just below the flowers. Flowers c. 3.5 cm in diameter; sepals greyish-green with dense felt and short simple hairs, few short acicular prickles, occasional short stalked glands and few or many subsessile glands, white-margined, short pointed, reflexed at petal fall, erect to clasping in fruit; petals c. 15 × 10 mm bright pink elliptical to obovate, sometimes notched or erose at apex, with short hairs on the margins; stamens slightly exceeding styles, filaments pink, anthers glabrous; styles pink or pink-based; carpels glabrous, receptacle glabrous or slightly hairy; fruit small-medium ± round sometimes partly abortive, consisting of rather few drupelets. Flowering from June to September.

HOLOTYPUS: Canal bank, Llangynidr, Brecs., v.c. 42, GR SO/165.195, 20 June 1992, *M. Porter* (**NMW**).
ISOTYPI: **BIRM**, **BM**.

The bramble takes its name from the Roman name (Isca) for the River Usk. *Rubus iscanus* is one of the first brambles to flower in the Usk valley, its large pink blooms being conspicuous from early June in thickets and hedges from Brecon to the Severn estuary. It has also been recorded from localities scattered across Monmouthshire (v.c. 35), from the Usk to the Wye. A specimen at **NMW**, collected from Mounton near Chepstow by W. A. Shoolbred in 1892, was determined as *R. eupectus* (Sudre) W. C. R. Watson by Watson in 1949.

R. iscanus has been recorded from v.cc. 34, 35, 36 and 42. Its known distribution is shown in Fig. 1.

Rubus ariconiensis A. Newton & M. Porter, **sp. nov.**

Turio arcuato–decumbens in apricis rubiginosus angulatus superficiebus planis vel concavis vix pruinosus glabrescens aciculis glandulisque stipitatis 0.5–4 mm longis sparsis, aculeis aculeolisque 1–7 mm longis nonnullis glanduliferis haud ad angulos limitatis e basi lata rectis vel declinatis vel devexis copiose armatus. Folia (3-) 5- nata, pedata. Foliola contigua superne parce strigosa inferne capillis simplicibus brevibus vestita, foliolum terminale (c. 7 × 4.5 cm) ellipticum cuspidatum basi integra vel emarginata margine denticulata. Foliola infima sessilia vel subsessilia; petioli foliolis

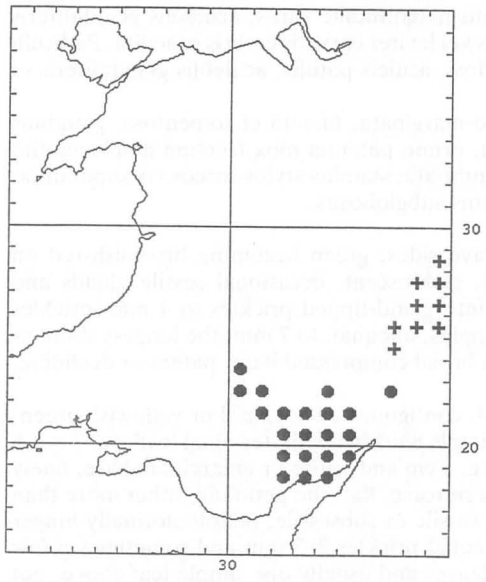

FIGURE 1. Distribution of *Rubus tenuiarmatus* (+) and *R. iscanus* (•).

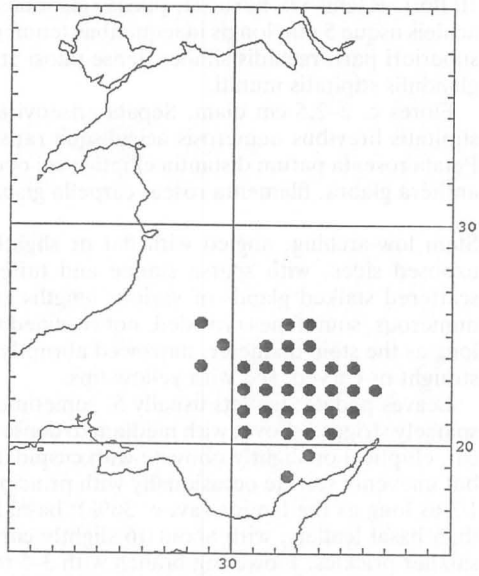

FIGURE 2. Distribution of *Rubus ariconiensis*.

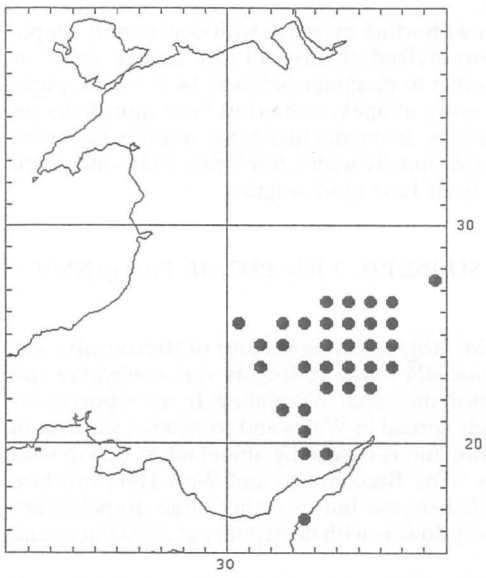

FIGURE 3. Distribution of *Rubus vagensis*.

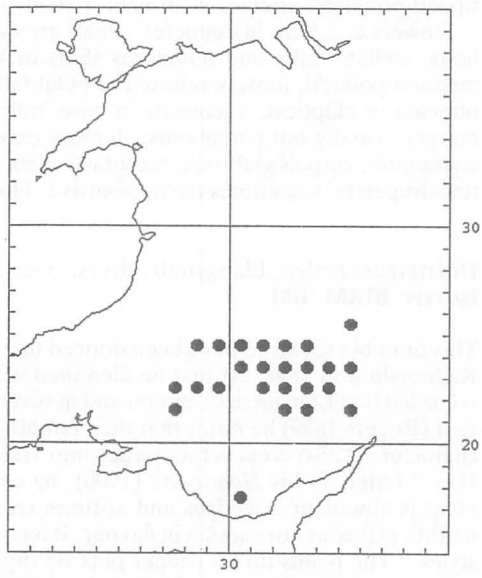

FIGURE 4. Distribution of *Rubus pictorum* excluding Scotland.

longiores aculeis – 3 mm longis curvatis nonnullis muniti. Inflorescentia angustata elongata infime foliis ternatis instructa ad apicem congestum aphylla, ramuli infimi et medii adscendentes 30–45°, 5–10 flori. Rachis vix flexuosa, pilosa, glandulis stipitatis magnitudine variis, aculeolis glanduliferis aculeis usque 5 mm longis inaequalibus tenuibus rectis vel leviter curvatis crebris praedita. Pedicelli superiori parti rachidis similes dense pilosi et tomentosi, aculeis patulis, aculeolis glanduliferis et glandulis stipitatis muniti.

Flores c. 2–2.5 cm diam. Sepala griseoviridia albo-marginata, hirsuta et tomentosa, glandulis stipitatis brevibus numerosis aciculisque raris vestita, primo patentia mox fructum amplectantia. Petala roseata parum distantia elliptica vel obovata fimbriata; stamina stylos roseos vix superantia; anthera glabra, filamenta rosea; carpella glabra; fructus subglobosus.

Stem low-arching, angled with flat or slightly concave sides, green becoming brownish-red on exposed sides, with sparse simple and tufted hairs, glabrescent, occasional sessile glands and scattered stalked glands of various lengths grading into gland-tipped prickles to 4 mm; prickles numerous, sometimes crowded, not confined to the angles, unequal, to 7 mm, the longest about as long as the stem diameter, narrowed abruptly from a broad compressed base, patent or declining, straight or curved, red with yellow tips.

Leaves pedate; leaflets usually 5, sometimes 3 or 4, contiguous or not, mid or yellowish green, sparsely strigose above, with medium to dense short simple hairs beneath; terminal leaflet c. 7 × 4.5 cm, elliptical or slightly obovate with cuspidate apex c. 1 cm and entire or emarginate base, finely but unevenly serrate occasionally with principal teeth retrorse, flat, the petiolule rather more than 1/3 as long as the lamina (av. c. 36%); basal leaflets sessile or subsessile; petiole normally longer than basal leaflets, with about 16 slightly curved ± equal prickles 2–3 mm and sometimes a few smaller prickles. Flowering branch with 3–5 ternate leaves and usually one simple leaf above, not leafy to apex. Inflorescence consisting of a compact terminal head of up to 10 flowers, 3–7 cm in length, with distant ascending axillary peduncles up to 8 cm, usually shorter than their leaves, bearing about 5–10 flowers mainly in a terminal cluster with one or two distant below; rachis almost straight, becoming reddish on exposed side with numerous spreading and adpressed simple and tufted hairs, numerous stalked glands from short to long grading into gland-tipped pricklets, frequent straight or slightly curved patent or declining unequal prickles up to 5 mm; pedicels with dense mainly spreading simple or tufted hairs, stalked glands of various lengths grading into gland-tipped pricklets, prickles ± straight, patent, 1–3 mm.

Flowers c. 2.5 cm in diameter; sepals greyish-green with white margins, with dense short simple hairs, stellate hairs and numerous short or very short stalked glands and rare acicles, short or medium pointed, loosely reflexed at petal fall, later erect to clasping; petals c. 14 × 9 mm, pink, obovate or elliptical, ± cuneate at base, notched or erose at apex, numerous very short hairs on margin, usually not contiguous; stamens exceeding styles, filaments lilac-pink, anthers glabrous; styles pink, carpels glabrous; receptacle glabrous or occasionally with a few hairs; fruit round with few drupelets, sometimes partly abortive. Flowering from June until August.

HOLOTYPUS: hedge, Llangynidr, Brecs., v.c. 42, GR SO/162.193, 9 July 1992, *M. Porter* (**NMW**). ISOTYPI: **BIRM**, **BM**.

This bramble seems to have been noticed first by W. M. Rogers during his tour of Breconshire and Radnorshire in 1898. At first he identified it as *R. marshalli* Focke & Rogers var. *semiglaber* and recorded it at Llangorse Common and in several places in the upper Wye valley. In the report of his visit (Rogers 1899) he notes that the bramble is "widely spread in Wales and somewhat variable in character. It also crosses the border into Herefordshire and is especially abundant at Cusop near Hay." Later, in his *Handbook* (1900), he comments "The Breconshire and West Herefordshire plant is abundant in hedges and at times recalls *R. dumetorum* but its rather large drupelets are neither glaucous nor caesian in flavour. It has very showy flowers with deep pink petals, stamens and styles." The petals turn a deeper pink on drying.

From a study of A. Ley's herbarium at **BIRM**, which includes several gatherings of this plant, it appears that from about 1903 Rogers referred it to *R. diversifolius* Lindl., which at this time was used as a collective name for several hystrican *Corylifolii* including *R. tuberculatus* Bab. However,

as E. S. Edees (1975) has pointed out, *R. diversifolius* is a nom. superf. illegit. for *R. vestitus* Weihe & Nees: the Breconshire and West Herefordshire plant is therefore described above as a new species.

A recent survey of its distribution has shown that *R. ariconiensis* occurs in v.cc. 35, 36, 42 and 43. It is particularly abundant in that part of Herefordshire west of the River Wye which in post-Roman times formed the Kingdom of Irching or Archenfield, thought to have derived its name from the Roman settlement of Ariconium. The bramble is common in hedges but also occurs in woods and thickets and reaches an altitude of 370 m on the limestone cliffs of Craig-y-cilau near Crickhowell. When growing in shade, as at Mouse Castle near Cusop, the flowers remain deep pink but the stem armature is much reduced. *R. ariconiensis* is allied to *R. tuberculatus*, *R. vagensis* and *R. tenuiarmatus*.

The known distribution is shown in Fig. 2.

Rubus vagensis A. Newton & M. Porter, **sp. nov.**

During fieldwork to trace the distribution of *R. ariconiensis* a closely related bramble was encountered in hedges in several places in Herefordshire. At first it was thought that this might be the long-lost *Rubus tenuiarmatus* described by Edwin Lees in *Botany of the Malvern Hills*, 2nd ed. (1852), where he mentioned that it grew in hedges and thickets about Great Malvern. During the following decade *R. tenuiarmatus* was recorded on several field meetings of both the Woolhope Club (based in Hereford) and the Worcestershire Naturalists. Then suddenly it disappeared from the batological scene, submerged by C. C. Babington under *R. balfourianus* Blox. (*R. nemorosus* Hayne & Willd.). Later however he seems to have lost faith in this judgement (MS notes in **LIV**).

In 1993 specimens of the Herefordshire bramble collected during 1991–2 were compared with the type specimens of *R. tenuiarmatus* at **CGE**, at the time thought to be the sole surviving herbarium specimen, upon which the account in *Brambles of the British Isles* (Edees & Newton 1988) was based. The type specimen was collected at Bromsgrove Lickey in Worcestershire (v.c. 37) in October 1850 by William Mathews, a life-long friend of Edwin Lees. Comparison was made difficult both by the age of the type and the fact that it was collected so late in the year. The two brambles are indeed similar in many respects but there are significant differences which are noted in Table 1; consequently the Herefordshire bramble is described below as *Rubus vagensis*. Vaga as a Latin name for the River Wye was an invention of 16th century scholars (Bannister 1916).

TABLE 1. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN *RUBUS TENUIARMATUS* AND *R. VAGENSIS*

Character	*R. tenuiarmatus*	*R. vagensis*
T. S. stem	Almost round	Distinctly angled
Number of largest prickles per 5 cm of stem	(6–) 10 (–14)	(15–) 20 (–25)
Largest prickles	Very slender	Stronger with wider base
Terminal leaflet shape	Ovate	Obovate – suborbicular
Terminal leaflet tip	Acuminate	Cuspidate
Leaf colour	Bright green	Mid – dark green
Leaf margin	Jagged – sharply biserrate	Shallowly serrate with some principal teeth retrorse
Number of petiole prickles	(5–) 9 (–12)	(10— 16 (–21)
Petal colour	Bright pink	Very pale lilac pink often fading to off-white
Filament colour	White	Usually lilac pink, darkening when dried
Carpels	± glabrous, sometimes one or two hairs	Hairy
Fruit size	Small – medium	Medium – large

Turio arcuato-decumbens in apricis purpurascens angulatus superficiebus planis capillis simplicibus stellatisque vestitus, glandulis stipitatis numerosis, aciculis sparsis, aculeis aculeolisque usque 6 mm longis, haud ad angulos limitatis rectis vel leviter curvatis patentibus vel obliquis armatus. Folia (3-) 5-nata, pedata. Foliola contigua vel imbricata superne parce strigosa inferne capillis simplicibus stellatisque interdum vestita; foliolum terminale (c. 8 × 6 cm) late obovatum vel ellipticum apice cuspidatum basi integra vel emarginata margine denticulata. Rachis vix flexuosa pilosa tomentosa glandulis stipitatis numerosis aciculis sparsis aculeis aculeolisque 1–7 mm longis inaequalibus rectis fere patentibus numerosis praedita. Inflorescentia angustata elongata ad apicem aphylla; ramuli infimi et medii adscendentes foliis breviores, supremi pauciflores distantes. Flores 2.5–3 cm diam. Sepala griseo-tomentosa glandulis aciculisque ornata primo laxe reflexa tandem fructum amplectantia. Petala pallide roseo-lilacina elliptica vel late obovata fimbriata; stamina stylos virides vix superantia; filamenta pallide roseo-lilacina vel alba; antherae glabrae; carpella hirsuta; fructus subglobosus.

Stem low-arching, angled, becoming purple on exposed sides, with sparse to numerous short simple and tufted hairs, numerous stellate hairs, sparse or numerous short and medium stalked glands and occasional gland-tipped acicles; prickles 15–25 per 5 cm, not confined to the angles, mostly 5–6 mm but with some short prickles 1–2 mm and sometimes a few prickles of intermediate length, straight or curved, patent or declining, narrowed abruptly from a compressed base, purple with straw coloured tip. Leaves pedate; leaflets (3–) 5, usually contiguous, sometimes imbricate, mid to dark green with adpressed simple hairs above and dense short simple hairs beneath, with sometimes an underlayer of stellate hairs; terminal leaflet c. 8 × 6 cm, broadly obovate or suborbicular, with a cuspidate apex c. 1 cm and entire or slightly emarginate base, slightly unevenly but shallowly serrate with some principal teeth retrorse, flat, the petiolule 1/4–1/3 as long as lamina; basal leaflets sessile or subsessile; petiole about the same length or longer than basal leaflets with about 15 straight or gently curved declining ± equal prickles c. 3 mm.

Flowering branch with 2–4 ternate leaves below and 0–1 simple leaf above, not leafy to apex; inflorescence consisting of a narrow, cylindrical, rather open, few-flowered terminal head c. 4–8 (–10) cm and distant ascending axillary peduncles rather shorter than their leaves; rachis nearly straight, greyish-green or purple in colour, with spreading and adpressed short and medium simple or tufted hairs and dense stellate hairs, frequent to numerous medium and long stalked glands and rare acicles, numerous straight slightly declining unequal prickles up to 7 mm and a few shorter prickles 1–3 mm; pedicels with dense mainly adpressed short simple or tufted hairs and stellate hairs, stalked glands of various lengths but mostly longer than the indumentum, a few acicles and straight slender ± patent prickles 2–4 mm.

Flowers c. 2.5–3 cm in diameter; sepals greyish-green with dense stellate hairs and short or very short simple hairs, numerous short medium stalked glands and some acicular pricklets, short or medium pointed, weakly reflexed at petal fall, later erect to clasping; petals c. 14 × 9 mm pale lilac pink, broadly elliptical or obovate, sometimes shallowly notched or erose with hairy margin; stamens ± same length or slightly longer than styles, filaments usually pale lilac rarely white, anthers glabrous; styles pale green, carpels hairy; fruit round to oblong (15–20 mm) with 15–30 drupelets, sometimes partly abortive. Flowering June to August.

HOLOTYPUS: edge of wood, Aconbury, Herefs., v.c. 36, GR SO/518.327, 4 July 1992, *M. Porter* (**NMW**).
ISOTYPI: **BM**, **BIRM**.

Field studies during the past three summers have shown *R. vagensis* to be widespread and locally abundant in Monmouthshire (v.c. 35) and Herefordshire (v.c. 36). In a few places, e.g. Aconbury Hill near Hereford, *R. vagensis* and *R. ariconiensis* grow close together, but generally *R. vagensis* tends to replace its ally east of the River Wye and extends across Herefordshire to the Malvern Hills and Worcestershire (v.c. 37). There are specimens collected by A. Ley in Herefordshire at **BIRM** and **NMW**, usually determined as *R. diversifolius* Lindl. *R. vagensis* has been recorded from v.cc. 6, 35, 36, 37, 42 and 43. The known distribution is shown in Fig. 3.

Rubus tenuiarmatus Lees

After a careful study of the lectotype at **CGE** in 1993, localities in Worcestershire where Lees had recorded *R. tenuiarmatus* were searched, resulting in its rediscovery in several of the old sites. In addition further specimens collected by William Mathews came to light in the herbarium of the City Museum, Worcester (**WOS**). An undated specimen collected by Lees from Great Malvern and labelled *R. diversifolius* Lindl. was found at **CGE** (*Babington no. 162*). This is the only specimen of *R. tenuiarmatus* collected by Lees we have seen and it probably dates from before 1850, since following the publication of *R. tenuiarmatus* in 1852 *R. dumetorum* var. *diversifolius* was dropped from the two later editions of *Botany of the Malvern Hills* (Lees 1852, 1868). Later in the 19th century batologists used *R. diversifolius* as a collective name for at least four hystrican *Corylifolii* and there is a specimen of *R. tenuiarmatus* at **BIRM**, collected by A. Ley near Whitbourne in Herefordshire in 1907 as *R. dumetorum* var. *diversifolius* Lindl. That it was so labelled by Ley was doubtless due to the inclusion of *R. tenuiarmatus* under *R. balfourianus* by Babington (1869) and its subsequent eclipse. Various comments by Lees after 1865 indicate that his concept of *R. tenuiarmatus* was broadened in later years: "It is a general bramble, the blueish fruit showing its affinity to *R. caesius*" (1867) and "When very well developed this becomes the *R. balfourianus* of Bloxam" (1868), deferring to Babington's view. However it is noteworthy that all the contemporary gatherings labelled *R. tenuiarmatus* that have been found so far clearly belong to the same taxon and closely match the lectotype.

The following exsiccatae have been seen, in addition to the lectotype: Bromsgrove Lickey, Worcs., 3 October 1850, *W. Mathews*, **WOS**; Uffmoor Lane, Halesowen, Worcs., 4 October 1850, *W. Mathews*, **WOS**; Huddington, Worcs., 12 August 1853, *W. Mathews*, **WOS**; Churchill, Kidderminster, Worcs., 23 August 1853, *W. Mathews*, **WOS**; Great Malvern, Worcs., undated, *E. Lees*, **CGE**, as *R. diversifolius* Lindl; Whitbourne, Herefords., 6 August 1907, *A. Ley*, **BIRM**, as *R. dumetorum* var. *diversifolius* Lindl.

During 1993 *R. tenuiarmatus* was recorded from the following sites in Worcestershire (v.c. 37): Lane near Clent, SO/926.784, A.N. & M.P., 19 July; Hollies Hill Lane near Belbroughton, SO/928.777, M.P., 31 July; Bridle path near Churchill, SO/876.795, M.P., 4 August; Broughton Green, SO/954.616, M.P., 25 August; Monk Wood near Sinton Green, SO/808.608, M.P., 25 August; Huddington, SO/941.576, M.P., 25 August; Upper Broadheath, SO/797.557, M.P., 25 August.

Additional information, particularly on floral structure, has provided a clear picture of a hitherto shadowy bramble. *R. tenuiarmatus* is more closely related to *R. vagensis*, *R. ariconiensis* and *R. tuberculatus* than to *R. nemorosus* under which it was submerged by Babington (1869). Watson (1958) equated *R. triangularis* (Ley) Edees with *R. tenuiarmatus* but the two brambles are very different, as Edees pointed out (1975). Both can be seen in hedges in the Teme valley along the boundary between Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

The known distribution of *R. tenuiarmatus* is shown in Fig. 1.

Rubus pictorum Edees

A white-flowered bramble with very prickly and glandular stems is common in the foothills of the Black Mountains in Herefordshire and Breconshire. Herbarium studies revealed that this plant had been collected on numerous occasions by A. Ley and usually determined as *Rubus britannicus* Rogers. In his report of a field meeting of the Woolhope Field Naturalists' Club in the Black Mountains in 1897 Ley comments ". . . all through the district the hedges and bushy banks produced abundantly the rare bramble *Rubus britannicus*." W. M. Rogers recorded the plant as fairly frequent during his visit to Breconshire and Radnorshire in 1898. In his *Handbook* (Rogers 1900) it is recorded as *Rubus dumetorum* Weihe var. *britannicus* Rogers, from eleven vice-counties in England, Scotland and Wales.

W. C. R. Watson seems to have followed Rogers' wide interpretation of the taxon, although he mistakenly equated the Scottish representatives with his *R. iodnephes* of the Richmond (Surrey) district, but in 1975 E. S. Edees restricted *R. britannicus* Rogers to the plant of southern England with a specimen from Munstead, Surrey, collected by Rogers as lectotype. Following this separation, in 1980, the Staffordshire representatives were described as a new species *R. intensior*

Edees, and two years later their Scottish allies were segregated as *R. pictorum* Edees. This reorganisation left our Marches plant in limbo. Clearly it does not fit the restricted concept of *R. britannicus* Rogers, as described in Edees & Newton (1988). At first it seemed most likely, on geographical grounds, that it might be *R. intensior* Edees, but closer study showed our local examples differed from *R. intensior* in precisely those features which Edees (1982) used to distinguish *R. pictorum* from *R. intensior*. Comparison with the holotype and other specimens, including some authenticated by Edees, confirmed that our plant matched *R. pictorum* Edees. The striking violet-red colour of the stems is clearly shown and occasionally, as in Scottish *R. pictorum*, the flowers are pale pink in bud. Although some of the Herefordshire gatherings are more robust and prickly than much of the Scottish material examined, it is now evident that the plant from the Welsh Marches, formerly referred to as *R. britannicus* Rogers, is identical with *R. pictorum* Edees. However not all of Ley's determinations of *R. britannicus* can be accepted as this taxon: one sheet from Carmarthenshire (v.c. 44) in **BIRM** is *R. hylocharis* W. C. R. Watson and another from the same area is a mixture of *R. hylocharis* and *R. merlinii* A. Newton & M. Porter.

R. pictorum Edees has now been recorded from the following additional v.cc. 6, 35, 36, 41–44, adding an intriguing outlier to its previously known distribution, as shown on the map (Fig. 4).

Recent studies in North Wales, particularly the Lleyn peninsula, have found the following bramble to be widespread in the area. A description follows:

Rubus segontii A. Newton & M. Porter, **sp. nov.**

R. dasyphyllo similis, a quo praecipue differt facie grisea, turione minus pilosa, aciculis densioribus armata; foliis inferne primo griseo-tomentosis, foliolo terminali angustiori basi cuneata; inflorescentia ad apicem latiore, densiore, magis florifera; petalis albis attenuatis, sepalis insigniter per anthesin laxe amplectantibus. Copiose in Mona et Arvonia crescit.

Similar to *Rubus dasyphyllus*, from which it differs in details as follows: Plant with an overall greyish cast, stem less densely hairy, more closely beset with long acicular prickles; leaves at least at first grey-tomentose beneath, the terminal leaflet consistently narrow with a cuneate base. Inflorescence with a more substantial ultra-axillary portion, broader, denser and more floriferous at the summit. Petals white, narrow; sepals noticeably clasping in flower and fruit.

Holotypus: hedgebank, Penbodlas, Caernarvon, v.c. 49, GR SH/282.336, August 1991, *A. Newton* (**NMW**).

Frequent in Caernarvon and Anglesey. North Merioneth. First found by Babington c. 1850 in the Llanberis district: distributed by J. E. Griffith from Treffos and Pen-y-garnedd in Anglesey whence it was named "aggregate *R. hirtus*" in 1884. Many specimens were collected by W. C. Barton in 1922 around Portmadoc and Tremadoc and given the MS name 'portmadocensis' in his notes (**BM**). Widespread in the Lleyn peninsula (Conolly & Newton 1993).

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