

Rare and interesting

Oliver Pescott & Chris Preston
present the 13th instalment in this
column reporting recent rare and
interesting records.



△Fig. 1: O'Sullivan's Cascade in Killarney National Park - a site for *Calypogeia suecica*. J Denyer

This is the first set of 'R&I' we have compiled since we took over as BBS Recording Secretary from Mark Hill in January. Mark's instalments proved to be very useful when the editors of the forthcoming BBS Atlas were revising the species accounts, so we have been encouraged to continue the series. The records of the maximum and minimum altitudes of British and Irish bryophytes have been thoroughly reviewed for the Atlas, so we have excluded a category for 'Altitude records' until the new limits are published.

The highlight of the records below must be the rediscovery of *Calypogeia suecica* in Ireland, but there are several records of rare British bryophytes as well as records of locally rare and expanding species. Des Callaghan's records from the Lizard illustrate how even the best-worked areas can still turn up important records. The only disappointment is the absence of any Scottish records, but maybe we can expect a bumper selection for the next issue? Meanwhile, many thanks to the Regional Recorders who contributed the records.

Nationally rare or scarce

***Calypogeia suecica*. H1:** On rotting root in a dark recess, 50 m alt., O'Sullivan's Cascade, Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry, V91498844, 2013, Hodd and Denyer (Fig. 1). The first Irish record since it was found here in 1967; listed as Regionally Extinct in the Irish Red List (Lockhart *et al.*, 2012).

***Lophozia perssonii*. 29:** A few small clusters on bare chalk on narrow path at north end of Ickleton Pit, TL492426, 2013, Shanklin. A new site for this nationally scarce species.

***Moerckia flotoviana*. 67:** In a basic flush (NVC: M10), 300 m alt., south of High Midgeholme, NY6468558006, 2010, O'Reilly. Second county record; the first record was on the coast.

***Riccia bifurca*. 1:** On thin soil over serpentine in a cattle-grazed pasture, 76 m alt., near Windyridge Farm, West Lizard SSSI, SW6730816274, 2014, Callaghan. The largest known population of this rare species. The plant was present within nine 10 m OS grid cells, significantly more than the five at the previous largest population at Polkerth Farm.

***Riccia huebeneriana*. 67:** Draw-down zone of

reservoir, Colt Crag Reservoir, NY925783, 2013, McLay. Refound at this locality, its only county site, for the first time since 1971.

***Scapania gymnostomophila*. H1:** In a crevice of a base rich cliff, 690 m alt., west of the summit of Mullaghanattin, V73737716, 2013, Hodd. The second county record and only the fourth post-1970 Irish hectad.

***Bryum torquescens*. 29:** South-facing chalk grassland, Devil's Ditch nr Swaffham Prior, TL57616522, 2014, Hill. The only site in the county, where it has been recorded at long intervals (in 1903, 1958 and 1976).

***Sematophyllum demissum*. 48:** Low sandstone rock beside stream in lightly grazed woodland, 212 m alt., Coed Graig Uchaf, SH6450226650, 2014, Callaghan. A new site for this nationally rare species.

***Tortula vahliana*. 25:** On the vertical bank of a disused pit, Tunstall, TM351555, 2012, Fisk (Fig. 2). A new site for this nationally rare species.

***Weissia multicapsularis*. 1:** Clayey soil at the edge of a steep track leading onto horse pasture, partially shaded by adjacent heathy scrub, closely associated with *Oxyrrhynchium bians*, *Pleuridium acuminatum* and *Weissia controversa*, 64 m alt., Kennack to Coverack SSSI, Gwendreath, The Lizard, SW7317, 2014, Callaghan. A single small patch (5 x 5 cm). The second (and only post-1970) record from The Lizard.

Regionally notable

***Anthoceros agrestis*. 17:** Soil on edge of wet track, growing with *Fossombronia pusilla*, 170 m alt., Dewdney's Well, Winterfold Forest, TQ073434, 2013, Wallis. A rare species in Surrey.

***Douinia ovata*. H20:** Crevice in north-facing granite boulder, 480 m alt., Turlough Hill,



△Fig. 2: *Tortula vahliana*. R Fisk

Co. Wicklow, O0749100044, 2014, Hodd, Denyer and BBS Dublin Group. A rare species in eastern Ireland.

***Gymnomitrium obtusum*. 67:** North-facing block scree, Sewingshield's Crags, Hadrian's Wall, NY801701, 2014, McLay. Refound at one of only two sites for the county, where it was last recorded in 1973. Exceptionally abundant at this site.

***Kurzia sylvatica*. 68:** Hepburn Crags, NU0724, 2013, Northumberland BBS Group. Third county record.

***Marsupella stableri*. 48:** Submerged on rocks in lake, 550 m alt., Llyn y Gadair, SH706136, 2013, Bosanquet. An intriguing habitat for this species, and the first record for over 30 years from this, its southern-most British site.

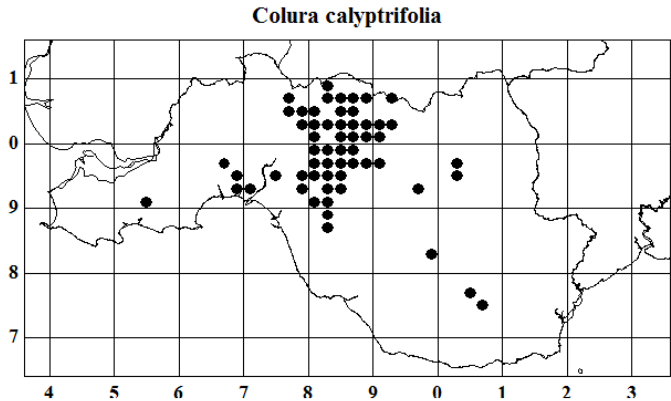
***Riccia cavernosa*. 67:** Draw-down zone of reservoir, Colt Crag Reservoir, NY97, 2013, McLay. The first county record since 1971. Abundant and in found three tetrads.

***Scapania compacta*. 17:** On soil at damp corner of church wall, 100 m alt., Church of St Mary Magdalene, South Holmwood, TQ172448, 2013, Wallis. A rare species in Surrey.

***Scapania scandica*. H20:** Acidic bank beside

Rare and Interesting

▷ Fig. 3: *Colura calyptrifolia*: tetrad records in Glamorgan in 2013.
S Bosanquet



access road, 550 m alt., Turlough Hill, Co. Wicklow, O072999, 2014, Hodd, Denyer and BBS Dublin Group. Only the second record for Wicklow.

***Amblyodon dealbatus*. 44:** Frequent in 5 x 5 cm area of tufa flush with over 30 old sporophytes, Foel Fawr, SN73361917, 2013, Bosanquet. The first inland Carmarthenshire record since the early 20th century.

***Didymodon acutus*. 17:** Compacted chalky soil on grassy slope, 145 m alt., Betchworth Quarry, TQ2021,5120, 2014, Wallis. Also a rare plant in Surrey.

***Didymodon umbrosus*. 41:** On north-facing wall of cathedral, Llandaff Cathedral, ST15587812, 2013, Stewart. Only the fourth record from South Wales.

***Distichium capillaceum*. 67:** Slightly basic rock outcrops, West Dipton Burn woods, NY913614, 2014, McLay. The first county record since 1967.

***Pterogonium gracile*. 68:** On wet rocks in upland ravine, just upstream of Hethpool Linn, NT9018628283, 2013, Northumberland BBS Group. The second record for the vice-county, and the first since 1950.

***Racomitrium heterostichum*. 17:** On gravestone, 150 m alt., St Mark's Churchyard, Peaslake, TQ085444, 2013, Wallis. A rare species in Surrey.

***Scleropodium touretii*. 24:** On soil under *Fraxinus excelsior*, 100 m alt., Naphill Common, SU8295496955, 2013, O'Leary. Rare inland in south-east England.

***Weissia rutilans*. 17:** On soil at the site of an old grave, 105 m alt., St John's Churchyard, Churt, SU854385, 2013, Wallis. A rare species in Surrey.

Dispersing or increasing

***Cololejeunea minutissima*. 67:** On *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Whittle Dene, NZ076645, 2014, McLay. The second county record, where it was first found in 2012.

***Colura calyptrifolia*. 41:** On willow with *Radula complanata* at edge of conifer forest, Upper Crugau Wood, SN8306, 2013, Hipkin and Hipkin. This was the first of 135 records made by these recorders in a total of 47 tetrads in the county in 2013 (Fig. 3).

***Microlejeunea ulicina*. 67:** On Sitka spruce, 270 m alt., Jock's Close, Kielder Forest, NY7345974006, 2013, O'Reilly. The third record for the county, where it was first found in 2008.

***Dialytrichia mucronata*. 44:** Abundant on paths and walls above River Tywi, central Carmarthen, SN410197, 2013, Bosanquet. Completely absent (or so rare it avoided detection) when Bosanquet recorded in the same area in 2003.

***Orthotrichum speciosum*. 20:** Ash trunk in rough ash and nettle scrub in an abandoned chalk pit, 160 m alt., Northchurch Common, SP97720964, 2012, Tipper. This is one of three local records, and only the second for the county, of a nationally scarce but increasing epiphyte. The first county record was from 3



△Fig. 4: *Lejeunea mandonii* growing within the recesses of serpentine outcrops on heathland. D Callaghan

km west of this site; the first for v.c. 24 was 3 km north of that.

***Ulota coarctata*. 25:** On branch of oak, Sudbourne, TM4153, 2013, Fisk. Second v.c. record.

Fruiting, gametangia or with gemmae

***Anomodon viticulosus*. 31:** Base of Field Maple on stream bank, 21 m alt., Compartment 26, Monks Wood NNR, TL1944979763, 2013, Burton. Although it rarely fruits in eastern England, Horrill (1973) noted that it fruited freely at this site and Nick Hodgetts found fruits in the same monad in 1987.

***Pleurozium schreberi*. 26:** Chalk grass heathland, 38 m alt., Thetford Heath, TL846801, 2014, Burton. A single seta with the remains of one capsule. A species which is rarely found fruiting in the south of Britain, despite regularly fruiting in a zone extending from northern Scotland across southern Scandinavia (Longton & Greene, 1969).

Unusual habitat or substrate

***Lejeunea mandonii*. 1:** Deep within the recesses of serpentine outcrops on heathland that has been burnt recently, 65–68 m alt., Downas Valley, SW7384617923 and SW7617517093, 2014, Callaghan (Fig. 4).

***Lejeunea patens*. 46:** On tarmac at edge of minor



△Fig. 5: *Daltonia splachnoides*; a new altitude record at 620 m a.s.l. R Hodd

road at woodland edge, 120 m alt., Cwm Einion, SN6971794392, 2013, Callaghan.

***Daltonia splachnoides*. H1:** On open rocks on corrie floor, 620 m alt., Coimín Grin, Macgillycuddy's Reeks, Co. Kerry, V8303884396, 2013, Hodd (Fig. 5). This is also a new altitude record.

Oliver Pescott & Chris Preston

e olipes@ceh.ac.uk

References

- Horrill, A.D. (1973)** Bryophytes, in R.C. Steele & R.C. Welch (eds), *Monks Wood: a nature reserve record*, pp. 88–95. Nature Conservancy, Huntingdon.
- Lockhart, N., Hodgetts, N. & Holyoak, D. (2012)** *Rare and threatened bryophytes of Ireland*. Holywood: National Museums Northern Ireland.
- Longton, R.E. & Greene, S.W. (1969)** Relationship between sex distribution and sporophyte production in *Pleurozium schreberi* (Brid.) Mitt. *Annals of Botany* **33**: 107–126.

Contributors and checkers of records

BBS Dublin Group, T.H. Blackstock, T.L. Blockeel, S.D.S. Bosanquet, M. Burton, D. Callaghan, J.L. Denyer, R. Fisk, M.O. Hill, C. Hipkin, H. Hipkin, R.L. Hodd, D.G. Long, Northumberland BBS Group, A. McLay, S.V. O'Leary, J. O'Reilly, J. Shanklin, B. Stewart, C. Tipper, H.W. Wallis.