

If there is a theme to this edition of Rare and Interesting, it is perhaps the notable contributions from a number of new recorders, rather than one arising from the nature of the observations themselves. It is wonderful to see so many new people contributing to recording in so many areas of the country, and of course making significant discoveries at the same time. One of the results of this industry is a significant crop of records of nationally rare and scarce species (defined as those recorded in either 1–15 hectads (10 x 10 km squares) of the British national grid, or 16–100 hectads respectively (Pescott, 2016)). Many of these records also represent outliers or new areas in relation to the known species' ranges in Britain and Ireland, e.g. for *Cladopodiella francisci*, *Daltonia splachnoides* and *Herzogiella seligeri*. It will be interesting to see with time whether these represent the effect of increased recording effort in better detecting small, scattered populations on the margins of suitable areas, or actual shifts in ranges.

Elsewhere in the records below we have such joys as a new population of *Sematophyllum demissum* in Wales, unusual records of both *Bryum klinggraeffii* and *Campylium protensum* fruiting in Britain, suburban *Leucodon sciuroides*, epilithic *Platygyrium repens* and a beautifully illustrated documentation of *Metzgeria violacea* displaying its characteristic “herbarium blue” in the field, presumably as a result of our exceptionally dry and hot summer. As always, thanks are due to all the Regional Recorders who sent in their ‘Rare & Interesting’ records for publication.

Altitude

***Syntrichia papillosa*. 35:** On *Sambucus nigra*, 390 m alt., Ty Rheinallt, Blaenafon, SO231096, 2017, S.D.S. Bosanquet.

Rare and interesting

Oli Pescott presents the 17th instalment in this column reporting recent rare and interesting records

Considerably higher than the previous maximum of 250 m, and seemingly the first ‘upland’ record of this species.

***Trichocolea tomentella*. 65:** In a weakly enriched seepage in an area of flushes, 640 m alt., head of Brockholes Gill, Upper Swaledale, NY80590094, 2018, T.L. Blockeel. The Atlas (Blockeel *et al.*, 2014) gives 390 m as the maximum altitude for this species, so this new site represents a very substantial increase

Dispersing or increasing

***Colura calyptrifolia*. 69:** Deciduous woodland, Bretherdale, NY56820537, 2018, A. McLay. Also, willow carr, Chapel House Plantation, SD38938541, 2018, A. McLay. Surprisingly only the second and third records of this spreading species for v.c. 69.

***Leucodon sciuroides*. 29:** On an exposed concrete wall, 15 Long Road, Cambridge, TL462556, 2017, M.O. Hill. An increasing species, but still a surprise to find a thriving colony in suburbia.

***Metzgeria consanguinea*. 29:** With *M. violacea*



△Fig. 1. *Encalypta streptocarpa* in fruit. R.V. Lansdown.

on a willow by a flooded pit, Roswell Pits, Ely, TL55368081, 2017, J.D. Shanklin. The second county record.

***Microlejeunea ulicina*. 55:** On oak, Jubilee Wood, SK511169, 2017, M.J. Stribley. Also, on alder in wet woodland, The Outwoods, SK519156, and on rock in birch woodland, High Sharpley, SK447170, both 2017, U. Hamzaoui. The second, third and fourth records (the fourth recorded as a “dense and large patch”) for the v.c.

***Orthotrichum speciosum*. 63:** On an *Acer* in village, 160 m alt., Smithy Bridge, Low Bradfield, SK262918, 2018, T.L. Blockeel & A.J. Hodgson. The second record for South-west Yorkshire. *Orthotrichum speciosum* is undoubtedly increasing in this area and in adjacent Derbyshire. There are now seven

records in the latter county (v.c. 57), where it was first found in 2012.

Fruiting, gametangia or with gemmae

***Bryum klinggraeffii*. 1:** Field trackway edge, Kea, near Truro, SW80274271, 2018, M.J. Stribley. Plants with plentiful setae and many tubers, and a few almost fully formed, but still green, capsules. This appears to be only the fourth record of the species with fruit in Britain.

***Bryum pallescens*. 1:** On a stone wall below galvanized roofing, Badgers Cross, SW48223364, 2018, M.J. Stribley. Plant polysetose with two setae from the same inflorescence; apparently a rare occurrence in the genus (D.T. Holyoak, pers. comm.)

***Campylium protensum*. 68:** Base of reed in fen,

36 m alt., Newham Bog NNR, NU16982942, 2018, D.A. Callaghan. Capsules previously only known from Berkshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex (Blockeel *et al.*, 2014; C.D. Preston, pers. comm.)

***Encalypta streptocarpa*. 34:** On limestone quarry spoil mound, Black Morgan's Wood, ST59, 2017, R.V. Lansdown. Capsules are very rare in this species; with *Tortella tortuosa* also fruiting abundantly (Fig. 1).

***Pterogonium gracile*. 48:** Base of ash beside river, 77 m alt., Afon Croesor, SH62104375, 2018, D.A. Callaghan. Capsules are generally uncommon in this species.

Nationally rare or scarce

***Campylostelium saxicola*. 57:** On damp rocks above woodland stream, Sydnop Brook, Two Dales, SK291634, 2018, A.J. Hodgson. Later confirmed in the field by T.L. Blockeel. Also, on gritstone boulders by stream, 190 m alt., Hall Dale, Two Dales, SK28286418, 2018, A.J. Hodgson. These are the second and third recent localities in Derbyshire for this elusive moss.

***Cladopodiella francisci*. 41:** Heathy bank of stream gully, Nant Llaerthdy, Glyn Corrwg, SS87289787, 2018, S. Pilkington. Very rare in south Wales; the first record for v.c. 41 since a hectad mastercard compiled for the first national *Atlas* (Hill *et al.*, 1991–94).

***Cololejeunea rossettiana*. 6:** Growing over *Anomodon viticulosus* on limestone exposures, Worle Hill, Weston-super-Mare, ST34526284, 2017, P. Bowyer.

***Daltonia splachnoides*. H9:** Sitka spruce plantation, on branch, Faunarooska, Slieve Elba, M13550345, 2017, J. Bennett & S. Pilkington. The first record of this species for the Burren.

***Herzogiella seligeri*. 8:** Decayed fallen oak in



Fig. 2. *Hygroamblystegium humile*. M. Crittenden.

woodland, Southleigh Wood, Sutton Veny, ST87374281, 2017, S. Pilkington. A new site, further west than most other English records.

***Hygroamblystegium humile*. 6:** On mud at edge of rhyne, Upper Godney, ST484427, 2017, S. Pilkington. **56:** Base of *Glyceria maxima*, 20 m alt., Delta area, Attenborough Nature Reserve SSSI, SK52733488, 2017, M. Crittenden & R.H. Carter (Fig. 2).

***Hygrohypnum duriusculum*. 108:** Rock in river, 37 m alt., River Laxford, NC264440, 2017, D. Dobson. A new hectad, but adjacent to previously known populations. G. Rothero remarks that it is commoner in this area on formations with a higher carbonate content, and that this population, on gneissic rock, is less typical.

***Myurium hochstetteri*. 110:** Flushed rocks on a



<Fig. 3. *Myurium hochstetteri*, with habitat. F. Cameron.



bog, coastal hills, 47 m alt., west of Vatersay village, Vatersay, NL62429449, 2018, F. Cameron (Fig. 3). One of six recent 10 m records made by Fiona for Vatersay and Barra. Although relatively well known on these Outer Hebridean islands, very few fine resolution

records have made their way to the BBS database.

***Philonotis rigida*. 45:** Damp, barish ground on cliffs, below Trewayne Wood, SN14480336, 2017, M.D. Sutton. The second record for Pembrokeshire & south Wales of this declining coastal moss.

***Rhynchostegiella curviseta*. 6:** In small stream, Folly Farm Nature Reserve, ST60906047, 2018, C. Halpin & S. Pilkington. A new record from a core area of this species' range.

***Sematophyllum demissum*. 48:** Adjacent to waterfalls and cascades on rocky streams in woodland, Pandy and Foel Fryniau valleys, Rhinog SSSI, SH6330, 2018, S.D.S. Bosanquet. There are only 8 other extant populations documented for Great Britain. Contact SDSB for a short report on this finding.

***Tomentypnum nitens*. 70:** Rich fen, 458 m alt., Rowgill Burn, NY66104184, 2018, A. McLay. Six sizeable patches on a flushed slope. A new locality for this rapidly declining species.

***Ulota calvescens*. 56:** Magnesium limestone woodland, 100 m alt., Gold Wood, Linby, SK53485230, 2017, M. Crittenden & T.L. Blockeel. An expanding species that was only marginally 'scarce' when listed by Pescott (2016).

Other

***Metzgeria violacea*. 25:** Trunk of a small ash tree, 42 m alt., Old Hall Wood, Bentley, TM1240, 21 August 2018, R. Fisk (Fig. 4). It is well known that herbarium specimens of this species turn blue after a time, but this appears to be rarely documented in the field,

▷Fig. 4. *Metzgeria violacea*, in the field and under the microscope. R.J. Fisk.

at least for the British Isles. Richard notes that the cells of the blue thalli appeared to have lost their contents, although the attached gemmae looked normal.

***Sphagnum austinii*. 11:** Subfossil in excavated peaty soil, 30 m alt., Clausentum Fen, Winchester, SU478281, 2018, J.D. Sleath. The presence of this acid-loving species as a subfossil in the alkaline peat of the Itchen valley is most unexpected and suggests the presence of ombrotrophic mires in the Hampshire chalklands during the postglacial period.

Regionally notable

***Acaulon muticum*. 6:** Ant-hill in limestone grassland, Cheddar Gorge, ST48385400, 2017, A. Branson, C. Halpin, P. Martin and S. Pilkington. The first record for this v.c. since 1991.

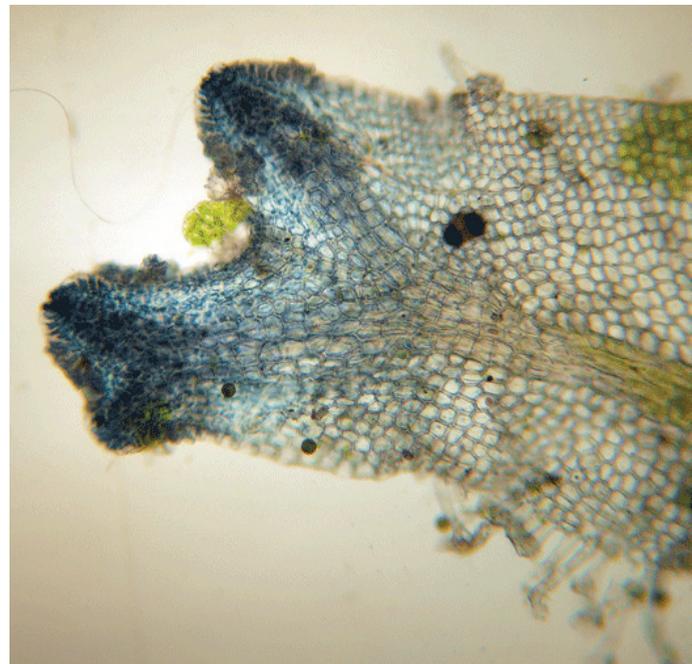
***Adelanthus decipiens*. 70:** Deciduous woodland, Johnny Wood SSSI, NY25241419, 2018, A. McLay. First recorded here in 2000 by Ben Averis.

***Aphanolejeunea microscopica*. 70:** Deciduous woodland, Great Wood SSSI, NY27442081, 2018, A. McLay. A new site and a new hectad record.

***Bryum gemmiferum*. 6:** Railway ballast, Hewish, ST39546423, 2018, C. Halpin. Not recorded for the v.c. since 1969 (J. Appleyard at Berrow).

***Bryum sauteri*. 14:** On sandy soil on an upturned tree, 85 m alt., Grove Cottages, Forest Row, TQ43713799, 2018, B. Scott. The first record for this v.c. since 1996.

***Cinclidotus fontinaloides*. 29:** Concrete walls of weir in a small river, Stour Valley Path,



Kirtling Green, TL674554, 2017, R.J. Fisk. Also on two other weirs in this river, which leads into the River Stour. All previous records are from the west of the county.

***Dicranella subulata*. 45:** Damp, barish ground

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▷ Fig. 5. *Platygyrium repens*, grave habitat and leaf/propagule detail. R.H. Carter.

on cliffs, below Trevayne Wood, SN14480336, 2017, M.D. Sutton. The second record for Pembrokeshire, from a very different habitat to its other site on the Preseli Mountains.

***Entosthodon obtusus*. 14:** On sandy soil by small stream in gully, 95 m alt., Pippingford Park, Ashdown Forest, TQ45032998, 2018, L. Mengham. Only the third post-1993 record for the species in this v.c.

***Harpalejeunea molleri*. 70:** Deciduous woodland, Great Wood SSSI, NY27412077, 2018, A. McLay. A new site and a new hectad record.

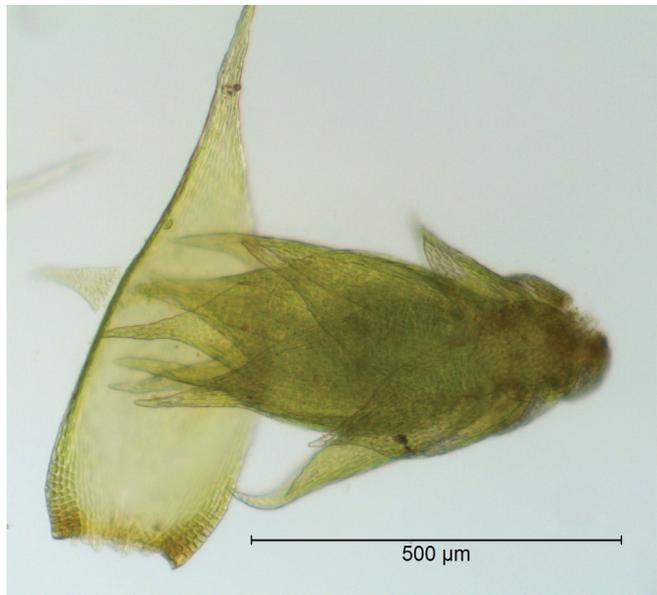
***Jungermannia atrovirens*. 6:** Mixed woodland on old limestone workings and steep slopes and springs, Bathampton Woods, Bath, ST778652, 2017, M. Rayner & A. Rayner. The fifth in a crop of post-2000 records in this v.c. for a species that was only recorded very occasionally before the millennium.

***Lophocolea semiteres*. 13:** On rotting log over stream, 35 m alt., The Mens, TQ02252303, 2018, BBS South-East Group. The only other West Sussex record was made in 2004 from a plant nursery.

***Plagiochila bifaria*. 70:** Deciduous woodland, on a basic cliff face in a deep ravine, Great Wood SSSI, NY27412077, 2018, A. McLay. A new site and hectad record. Associated with *Harpalejeunea molleri*.

***Plagiochila exigua*. 70:** Deciduous woodland, Great Wood SSSI, NY27572118, 2018, A. McLay. A new hectad record.

***Plagiomnium ellipticum*. 29:** Grazed tussock in wet field, Chippenham Fen NNR, TL65196941, 2017, R.H. Carter. Only the second extant locality for the v.c.



***Poblia lescuriana*. 29:** Recently cut bank of pond, Gamlingay Heath Plantation, TL22425133, 2018, C.D. Preston. The only previous county record was by this Plantation in 1988.

***Racomitrium fasciculare*. 55:** A small patch on a dry-stone wall, Altar Stones NR, SK48511090, 2018, U. Hamzaoui. The first record since 1958.

***Riccia fluitans*. 14:** Abundant on pond and surrounding mud, 40 m alt., Chailey Common, TQ38402065, 2017, G. Lyons. Notable for the sheer quantity of both the aquatic and terrestrial forms.

***Sanionia uncinata*. 6:** On *Salix cinerea* growing in flushed woodland, Holland's Copse, Stoke St Michael, ST66844568, 2018, A. Branson & S. Pilkington. Only the fifth hectad for the v.c., although not far from the site of the first record at Emborough (J. Appleyard, 1959).

***Schistostega pennata*. 55:** Precambrian rock outcrop in hole under boulder, Beacon Hill, SK509148, 2017, T.L. Blockeel. Also, under a root plate on a stream bank and amongst *Pellia* on the stream bank, Charnwood Lodge NNR, SK46551532, 2017, U. Hamzaoui. The first and second v.c. records since 1983.

***Seligeria calcarea*. 55:** Exposed rocks and quarry faces, oolitic limestone, Stonesby Quarry NR, SK812251 and SK81322507, 2017, U. Hamzaoui, S. Botterell *et al.* Confirmation of the last record, made in 1993.

***Sphagnum magellanicum*. 14:** Margins of boggy area above stream, 65 m alt., Duddleswell, Ashdown Forest, TQ45712734, 2018, R. Dudeney. A new population for the Ashdown Forest.

Unusual habitat or substrate

***Platygyrium repens*. 32:** A gravestone, 80 m alt., Milton Malsor church, SP736555, 2018, R.H. Carter. A plant normally described as an epiphyte. The plant dominated the face (east side) and top of the gravestone. Rachel Carter reports that the plants were “untypical and not immediately recognisable because there

weren't any obvious deciduous branchlets and shoots lacked the characteristically bushy appearance”. Microscopically the leaves were essentially identical to those of a ‘normal’ specimen, and some propagules were found (Fig. 5).

***Poblia wahlenbergii*. 29:** Plant pot in urban garden, 14 St Kilda Drive, Cambridge, TL461613, 2017, M.O. Hill. All other extant sites in this v.c. are rides in ancient woodland or fens.

***Scorpiurium circinatum*. 6:** Abundant on a ha-ha in garden and on an old folly nearby, Lytes Cary (National Trust) Estate, ST53382660, 2017, A. Branson & S. Pilkington. An unusual inland habitat.

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