

***Gentianopsis ciliata* (Fringed Gentian) recovery project: request for help**

SIMON J. LEACH, *Natural England, Riverside Chambers, Castle Street, Taunton, Somerset,
TA1 4AP.* (simon.j.leach@naturalengland.org.uk)

JO HODGKINS, *National Trust, Hughenden Manor, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4LA.*
(joanne.hodgkins@nationaltrust.org.uk)

The National Trust and Natural England have begun a project to restore the fortunes of *Gentianopsis ciliata* (Fringed Gentian) at its sole extant presumed-native site in Britain. The work has two elements: (1) scrub control and reinstatement of appropriate grazing management to produce and maintain suitable habitat conditions for the species; and (2) creation of a 'captive' stock of plants, to be held in reserve for augmenting the wild population should this become necessary. With currently little or no seed being produced in the wild (only one flower in 2011), we had hoped to use seeds – collected from the native site – being stored at the Millennium Seed Bank, Wakehurst; but unfortunately we have now learnt that these were found to be non-viable.

We realise this is a long shot, especially so as *G. ciliata* was added to Schedule 8 in 1988, but does anyone out there have seeds or plants in cultivation known to have been derived from the wild population in the Chilterns? And if anyone does, might it be possible for a small quantity to be donated to the project to enable the establishment of a captive population at the National Trust's Plant Conservation Programme facilities in Devon? We would be grateful if anyone with either material or information could, in the first instance, contact SJL at the email address above. Many thanks.