



Threatened Plants Project update



December 2010

Dear Recorder,

We are now approaching the end of the third year of the TPP project and many recorders have been enquiring as to plans for 2011 & 2012. So here's an update on progress so far, species to be covered over the next two years and plans for analyses and publication of the data.

Progress so far...

Over the last three summers we (you) have undertaken targeted surveys of 10 species each year. These are listed below with the number of site-surveys that have been carried out for each species:

Species	Year	Site-surveys
<i>Astragalus danicus</i>	2008	90
<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	2008	82
<i>Campanula patula</i>	2008	20
<i>Carex ericetorum</i>	2009	43
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	2009	63
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	2009	141
<i>Crepis mollis</i>	2008	42
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>	2009	55
<i>Fallopia dumetorum</i>	2009	15
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	2008	139
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	2009	96
<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	2009	79
<i>Melampyrum cristatum</i>	2009	15
<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	2008	75
<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	2009	106
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	2008	74
<i>Pyrola media</i>	2008	59
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	2008	94
<i>Stellaria palustris</i>	2008	51
<i>Vicia orobus</i>	2009	90

With the exceptions of *Fallopia dumetorum* and *Melampyrum cristatum*, the response has been fantastic with sufficient sites surveyed to allow some interesting analyses. Some of the more widespread species such as *Coeloglossum viride* and *Gentianella campestris* have been especially well covered but even localized plants such as *Carex ericetorum* and *Dianthus deltoides* have also been intensively surveyed.

The results from this summer continue to trickle in and early indications are that around 700 populations have been surveyed which compares well with previous years totals (726 in 2008; 706 in 2009). The numbers of site-surveys for each of the species (as of 3 December 2010) are:

Species	Site-surveys
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	130
<i>Herminium monorchis</i>	23
<i>Hordeum marinum</i>	15
<i>Juniperus communis</i> (lowland England)	69
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	42
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	56
<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>	32
<i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i>	20
<i>Sium latifolium</i>	33
<i>Viola lactea</i>	31

Again numbers are low for a few species (e.g. *Hordeum marinum*) but encouragingly high for some of the sparsely distributed upland species such as *Meum athamanticum* and *Polystichum lonchitis*.



Plans for 2011 & 2012...

We plan to cover another 20 species in 2011 and 2012 taking the total for the whole survey to 50 species. In comparison to previous years we have decided to select species well in advance of the field season so that recorders can incorporate site visits into their local meeting plans (over 12 months in the case of 2012 species). The species are given in the table below:

2011	2012
<i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i>	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>
<i>Cicendia filiformis</i>	<i>Alchemilla wichurae</i>
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	<i>Anacamptis (Orchis) morio</i>
<i>Galium pumilum</i>	<i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>
<i>Juncus compressus</i>	<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>
<i>Neotinea (Orchis) ustulata</i>	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>
<i>Pseudorchis albida</i>	<i>Persicaria minor</i>
<i>Sedum villosum</i>	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>
<i>Silene conica</i>	<i>Tephrosieris integrifolia*</i>
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	<i>Vicia parviflora</i>
	*Subsp. <i>integrifolia</i> only

Once again we hope you find these an interesting group of species to record. They range from those that are well distributed (e.g. *Anacamptis morio*, *Baldellia*, *Juncus compressus*, *Persicaria minor*) to those that are restricted to specific soil types or regions. They also represent a range of habitat types from coastal to montane and wet to dry. As a consequence there should be at least one species to record in your vice-county each year. If not then why not spend the next few summers covering previous year's TPP species or sites that you haven't got around to surveying up to now as the information will still be used. Northern botanists will have noted the inclusion of *Alchemilla wichurae*. This is a difficult species to record, both physically and taxonomically, so we hope to provide some training and support in surveying sites, especially in the remoter regions of Northern England and Scotland.

What happens next...

Over the New Year we will be selecting the sample of sites we would like you to revisit over the next two field seasons. We plan to send this information to you early in 2011 (it will also be posted on <http://www.bsbi/TPP.html>). This will include species for both years so will give you over a year to plan activities for 2012.

2009 & 2010 species...

If you have not yet returned forms for species covered in 2009 and 2010 please send them to me soon so that our digitizer, Claire Rickerby, can enter them in the New Year.

Analyses and publication...

Over this winter we will be analyzing the results and publishing summaries on the website. Plans for a book to include accounts for all 50 species have not yet been finalized but we expect this to be published around 2015.

And finally...

The TPP project is a new departure for the Society, and we are very pleased indeed with the response from most of you. The BSBI would like to thank you all for the hard work you have put into making this project such a success. The information gathered is already being used by ourselves and other conservation organizations, including Plantlife and Natural England, to better inform the conservation of these threatened species. We hope you have found the project rewarding and look forward to communicating the results to you in due course.

With very best wishes for Xmas and the New Year,

Kevin Walker