

## Plants in Vice-County 104: A Review of January – June 2008

### Skye

- A first vice-county record was made for *Senecio x ostentfeldii*, the hybrid of *Senecio aquaticus* (Marsh Ragwort) and *S. jacobaea* (Common Ragwort) at Kylerhea.
- Also in the Kylerhea area a new site was located for *Dactylorhiza traunsteinerioides* (Pugsley's Marsh-orchid) (previously *D. lapponica* - Lapland Marsh-orchid) and with it were hybrids with *Dactylorhiza incarnata* subsp. *pulchella* (Early Marsh-orchid) and *Dactylorhiza maculata* (Heath Spotted-orchid).
- *Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid) and *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Narrow-leaved Helleborine) were both spotted in flower at Geary again this year by Alan Sillence.
- The *Sorbus rupicola* (Rock Whitebeam) at Càrn Mór near Elgol, last formerly recorded in 1966 was located, counted and given an eight-figure grid reference. The same day a huge stand of the locally rare *Carex diandra* (Lesser Tussock-sedge) was spotted in a marsh near Elgol along with *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* (Grey Club-rush) which is also rare on Skye and *Sparganium erectum* (Branched Bur-reed) which is infrequent.

### Raasay

- The only addition so far this year has been *Alnus rubra* (Red Alder) several of which were planted at Oskaig some years ago.

### Rona

- An early visit added *Bromopsis ramosa* (Hairy Brome), *Cytisus scoparius* (Broom) and *Nitella flexilis/opaca* (Smooth Stonewort) to the recent Rona list. There are still some unexpected gaps in the list such as *Juncus squarrosus* (Heath Rush), *Geranium robertianum* (Herb-Robert) and *Orchis mascula* (Early-purple Orchid).

### Isay

- A visit, twenty-one years after records were last made, led to a number of additions to the Isay list e.g. *Blysmus rufus* (Saltmarsh Flat-sedge), *Carex otrubae* (False Fox-sedge) and *Lycopus europaeus* (Gypsywort), but nothing of great rarity.

### Eigg

- A party of six recently spent a week on Eigg with the records still being sorted out at the time of writing. Noteworthy finds included two plants new to Eigg: *Carex paniculata* (Greater Tussock-sedge) and *Gymnadenia borealis x Dactylorhiza maculata*
- Whilst on Eigg, Site Condition Monitoring was undertaken in the Cleadale SSSI checking on *Ajuga pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Bugle), *Arenaria norvegica* subsp. *norvegica* (Arctic Sandwort), *Dryas octopetala* (Mountain Avens) and *Orobanche alba* (Thyme Broomrape).

- Many previous Eigg records of note were re-found e.g. *Salsola kali* (Prickly Saltwort), *Atriplex laciniata* (Frosted Orache), *Trifolium campestre* (Hop Trefoil) and *Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade).

Stephen Bungard

29 June 2008