

Plants in Vice-County 104: A Review of January-June 2011

This year's Threatened Plants Project target species in VC104 are *Pseudorchis albida* (Small-white Orchid) and *Baldellia ranunculoides* (Lesser Water-plantain). The former has been covered by Sarah Longrigg on Eigg, Bill and Deirdre Peppé and Nick Hodgetts on Skye as well as myself, giving a mixed bag of results. *Baldellia* will be dealt with in July.

Skye

Much time has been spent in under-recorded tetrads, which has resulted in many records of relatively uncommon plants but few of rare ones. New sites have been found for locally rare species like *Carex diandra* (Lesser Tussock-sedge), *Lemna minor* (Common Duckweed) and *Sparganium erectum* (Branched Bur-reed).

Much more *Carex aquatilis* (Water-sedge) has been found some miles upstream from the only previously known site in the River Snizort.

The first vice-county record was made for *Lamium maculatum* (Spotted Dead-nettle).

I went with Kaarin Walls and Kev Parker to Bearreraig Bay where five years ago in September I found a couple of plants of *Cephalanthera longifolia* (Narrow-leaved Helleborine) with *Epipactis atrorubens* (Dark-red Helleborine) amongst *Dryas octopetala* (Mountain Avens). Since *Cephalanthera* flowers in May, I felt lucky to find them at all – they were fruiting well. This year we found fourteen, many of which had flowered. However, the very wet and windy weather throughout most of May meant that there will be no fruits this year.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to re-find *Alisma lanceolatum* (Narrow-Leaved Water-plantain) at the only site ever recorded in the vice-county, where it was last recorded in 1978.

Raasay

The area around the new ferry terminal that was seeded after landscaping has been a source of new records including *Sisymbrium altissimum* (Tall Rocket), *Papaver rhoeas* (Common Poppy), *Lolium multiflorum* (Italian Rye-grass) and more that were found just into July and so will appear in the next half-year report.

The half-year ended with a Scottish Wildlife Trust walk on Raasay during which an unusual *Carex* hybrid was spotted. It may be an unusual form of the common *C. x fulva* but further study is in progress.

The Small Isles

Darrell Watts visited Canna and found *Ajuga pyramidalis*, the first record there for 10 years.

Sarah and Fred Longrigg visited Eigg in May-June and were able to check two known sites for *Pseudorchis* which were both doing well. They also found a new site on Eigg for *Utricularia minor* (Lesser Bladderwort) and one on Muck during a brief visit.

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8 July 2011