The Non-flowering Plant Group of the North Wales Wildlife Trust visited Coed Craflwyn, a National Trust woodland near Beddgelert, in March 2013. The main attraction had been the presence of large quantities of the nationally rare moss *Fissidens polyphyllus*. This grows in a system of small man-made streams and ponds in this wood, which had been a 19th century Japanese garden belonging to Craflwyn Hall, now a hotel. The wood has a good range of bryophytes; the mainly acidic habitat is added to by a lime mortared ruined building, and yielded 69 species. Pleasing finds included *Leucobryum juniperideum*, *Rhabdoweisia crispata* (c.fr), *Riccardia palmata* and *Nowellia curvifolia* in the woods, with *Lejeunea cavifolia*, *Anoectangium aestivum* and *Eucladium verticillatum* on the mortared walls.

One small patch of fine shiny pale green fluffy-looking plant on a bank of wet peat turned out to be *Telaranea europaea*. Further searches could find no more, and at the time of writing this is only the second known colony in Great Britain. Its known distribution is one site in Cornwall, the west coast of Ireland, the Azores, the south-west of France, and the west of Spain and Portugal. Its habitat is oceanic woodland, beneath trees with heavy shade such as laurels, rhododendrons and conifers. Coed Craflwyn, like many areas in North Wales, was overgrown by *Rhododendron ponticum* when the NT acquired the site in 1994, and its clearance was a management priority. The patch of *Telaranea* gives the impression of being, possibly, a relic of a bigger population. It is near old *Rhododendron* stumps but seems to have extra shade provided by the closeness of evergreen vegetation nearby. Time will tell whether it can survive, and meanwhile, the search is on for more *Telaranea*, hopefully in a natural or suitably conservable habitat.

*Telaranea europaea* was separated as a new species from *T. nematodes*, whose range extends to the West Indies, Central America and parts of Africa, by Engel & Merrill (2004). In this paper, *T. nematodes* var. *longifolia* of the eastern United States is elevated to species as *T. longifolia*. *T. longii* is combined with *T. tetradactyla* from New Zealand, but *T. murphyae* was not yet found to...
match any known Southern Hemisphere species.

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References

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Below. Fissidens polyphyllus. Brian Burnett