The moss year – 2015

The volume of new records in 2015 has settled to the post-Atlas level seen in 2014. The figures for the two years are shown in Table 1 (note that the large number of deletions and bracketings for 2014 arose from cleansing of BBS data for the new Atlas). The figures for England in 2015 include the Channel Islands: it was pleasing to have several updated records from Jersey during the year. The total number of additions and amendments in 2015 was 278.

Additions to the British and Irish list

Remarkably, there are four mosses new to the British and Irish list this year. In spring 2013 Tom Ottley encountered an odd Portiaceous moss in Rye Harbour which proved to be _Pterygoneurum papillatum_ Oeszau, a recently described species otherwise known only from Germany (Blockeel & Ottley, 2016). Subsequent research showed that it had been collected in the 1960s in Somerset and Oxfordshire, and that it still occurs in both countries. It has also been found in Dorset. It is a tiny moss occurring as a winter ephemeral, and it is likely that further populations will be found.

Two of the additions are _Orthotrichum_ species, reflecting the expansion of this genus in Britain in recent decades. Sam Bosanquet found a tuft of _O. rogeri_ Brid. in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex (VC 14) during the BBS spring meeting in 2014 (Bosanquet, 2016). _O. rogeri_ is one of the less common _Orthotrichum_ species in continental Europe, so its occurrence in England is particularly interesting. Time will tell whether or not this is an isolated transitory occurrence, as with some other _Orthotrichum_ species in recent years. The second new _Orthotrichum_ is _O. alpestre_ Hornsch. ex Bruch & Schimp. This is not a recent colonist, as it was found in herbarium material collected by Martin Corley at Tomintoul (VC 94) in 1983 (Blockeel & Lara, 2015). Its distribution in continental Europe has northern and montane tendencies, so its occurrence in NE Scotland is not entirely surprising.

Molecular studies on the genus _Hedwigia_ have led to the reinstatement of _Hedwigia triaria_ as a distinct species (Buchbender et al., 2014). It was well known to Victorian bryologists, though mostly treated as a variety of _H. ciliata_. The type locality is in Snowdonia, where it was collected by William Wilson in 1827. Buchbender et al. (2014) cite several other historic collections from Britain. It was re-found in Snowdonia during the summer meeting in 2015, and is now known from several other recent collections. Morphologically, it is closer to _H. ciliata_ than to _H. stellata_, and like _H. ciliata_ it is rare in Britain and Ireland. A full account of its occurrence can be found in this issue of _Field Bryology_ (Blockeel & Bosanquet, 2016). As explained in that paper, the correct author citation for the name is _Hedwigia triaria_ (Wilson ex Hook.) John Whitehead & J. Ferguson ex Hobk. & Porritt.

**Fig. 1.** _Grimmia elatior_ at its newly recorded site of Loch Assynt, West Sutherland. G. Rothero

The moss year 2015

Perhaps the most notable of the other records in 2015 was the discovery of a new site for _Grimmia elatior_ in Scotland (Assynt, West Sutherland), a long way from its two other extant British sites on the other side of Scotland in East Sutherland (Fig. 1). The new specimen was collected in 1990 and was fished out from his herbarium recently by Gordon Rothero. A return visit to the site recently has shown that the population is extensive. There have been some other good _Grimmia_ records. Tim Pyner has found _Grimmia ovata_ on a culvert wall by the coast in North Essex, not a county that often produces bryological surprises. In the past _G. latifolia_ (under the name of _G. retrorsa_) was thought to have a mainly western distribution in Britain, but the new site in Essex and other recent ones in Cambridgeshire suggest that it may be overlooked in the east. The Essex population has both capsules and gemmae; this is the first record of capsule-bearing plants in Britain. Also in southern England, there are new sites for _G. longirostris_ on roof tiles in East Sussex and East Kent. The Sussex population originally masqueraded as _G. ovata_, but Tom Ottley uncovered the error.

Another notable record in 2015 was the discovery of a population of _Fluviola polysiphylus_ in the Quantock Hills, South Somerset, by Fred Rumsey. Although this species occurs plentifully at some of its known sites, its overall distribution is very restricted and even a modest extension of range is welcome. _Dicranella crispata_ seems to have declined greatly in Britain, but Tom Ottley and Howard Wallis have updated its occurrence in Surrey with the discovery of fertile plants on a sandy bank in Pitch Hill Quarry. Tom Ottley’s work in Sussex continues to produce good results. In East Sussex he has refined _Bryum danianum_ and _Weisia condensa_, as well as several uncommon but easily overlooked species: _Bryum creberreum_, _B. torquescens_ and _Tortula schimperi_. His rediscovery of _Seligeria recurvata_ at Bepton Down has raised a taxonomic quandary. Bepton is the site for the Sussex record of _S. campylopoda_. Re-examination of the voucher of the latter has revealed that it is not typical (as compared with Wye Valley plants) and may be a form of _S. recurvata_. Elsewhere in southern England, it was gratifying, during surveys for _Pterygoneurum_...
new Atlas, there are only 25 post-1990 hectad records for *P. ovatum* in Britain. Mark Pool has refound *Hamatocaulis vernicosus* at its South Devon site, one of only two in SW England. Mark Lawley is to be commended for spotting *Dictyium puillum* in Worcestershire, in the small form that has been recorded in the past in arable fields. Mark’s collection is from an arable and has characteristic rhizoidal tubers.

Northern England produced few unexpected records. Michael Wilcox’s *Atrichum tenellum* in South Lancashire complements several other recent records from the Pennines, and Des Callaghan found *Gymnomitrium calceatum* on base-rich sandstone in Cheshire.

There has been the usual influx of interesting records of epiphytes, mainly in England. *Ulota cabenae* has five new vice-counties, most notably in Northamptonshire. Howard Wallis had *Ulota coarctata* at Box Hill, Surrey, and Des Callaghan turned it up in Coed Gańlluwyd, Merionethshire. There were fewer *Ornithotricha* than in previous years, but they included *O. speciosum* and *O. pumilum* in East Sussex, and *O. pumilum* in West Suffolk and Peeblesshire. *Neckera pumila* continues its slow increase eastwards and northwards in England, with new records from Northamptonshire, NW Yorkshire and South Northumberland.

One of Wales’ most exciting records in 2015 (apart from *Hedwigia striata*) was the discovery of *Pseudolekanele rupestis* at Y Grinin (Caernarvonshire) during the BBS summer meeting, the first report for Wales. Subsequently, and perhaps not surprisingly, it turned out that Derek Radcliffe’s Snowdonia voucher of *P. catenulata* (Llech Ddu, Cwm Llafar) in 1952 was also *P. rupestris*. Apart from an old Cumbrian record, these are the only British localities south of the Scottish Highlands. There were other good finds during the Welsh meeting: several people collected an *Oxystriga* that, after some deliberation, was agreed to be *O. bicornica* (*Trichomitrium bicornicum*) new to Wales. Sam Bosanquet re-discovered *Pterigynandrum filiforume*, on a lakeside boulder at Fylynnon Lloer, and Mark Lawley unearthed *Atrichum tenellum* at Llyn Eigaui. All these records are from Caernarvonshire. Good Welsh records were not limited to the summer meeting, Mark Lawley spotted a little *Ephemerum cohaerens* on a soil bank beside the River Camlad (Mongomery), growing with a very odd Poottiacious moss, as yet unidentified (but see pp. 31-34 of this issue), and Malcolm Watling found the elusive *Amblystegium radiical* in willow carr near Criccieth (Caernarvonshire). This species must surely be overlooked elsewhere in Britain.

Highlights in Scotland, apart from *Grinnia elatior*, were *Dicranum grevillole* and *Elymochrysiatrum pulchellum*, both at Craig Leek (South Aberdeen) by Des Callaghan, and *Pilagnum medium* in Assym by Gordon Rothero. Gordon also found a new population of the endemic *Pobila scottica*, by the R Blackwater in West Ross. Survey work by Des Callaghan in Peeblesshire produced some good records of montane species for southern Scotland, notably *Kiaeria starkei*, *Arctoa fulvella* and *S. subnitens*, two of three *Sphagnum* species that still occur on Jersey. It is hoped that a chance meeting between Tom Blockeel and Anne Haden on Jersey in 2015 will stimulate further records.

New vice-county records and amendments

Vouchers are deposited in the BBS herbarium (BBSUK) unless otherwise stated. Other herbarium abbreviations are DBN = National Botanic Garden, Glasnevin, Dublin; E = Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh; NMW = National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

1.1. *Sphagnum austinii*. 103: blanket bog with *S. papillosum* and *S. nagelanicum*, 30 m alt., flat area NW of Loch a’Chrutha, Coll, NM239594, 1999, A.G. Payne; H32: in wet blanket bog, Eshnagлогh, Slieve Beagh, H538419, R.L. Hodd (DBN) (Fig. 2); H36: in wet blanket bog, Crocknallanagh, Slieve Beagh, H539439, R.L. Hodd (DBN).


1.13.a. *Sphagnum capitellifolium subsp. capitellifolium*. 76: on damp slope, open moorland near stream, 220 m alt., Leap Moor, below Crawkin Reservoir, NS26007099, D.G. Long 43754 (E); 78: amongst *Thichophorum*, open moorland slope, 465 m alt., foot of Molls Cleuch, Talla Water, NT15061958, D.G. Long 43755 (E); H6: on grassy slope, Below Lough Coumfeagh, S278103, R.L. Hodd (DBN); H32: in hummock on blanket bog, Eshnagлогh, Slieve Beagh, H538419, R.L. Hodd (DBN).


1.18. *Sphagnum strictum*. 92: amongst *Calluna* in heathland on east-facing hillside, 650 m alt., Carn nan Sgialt, Braemar, NO1719028, N.G. Hodgets 9095.


1.32. *Sphagnum angustifolium*. 78: on rocks by stream, 550 m alt., Talla Water, Talla & Gameshope Border Forest Trust Reserve, NT160177, E.M. Kungu, D.G. Long et al. (E); 78: montane flush, 560 m alt., The Bottom, below Cramalt Craig, NT1781524908, D.A. Callaghan.


2.8. *Andreaea megistostora*. 110: acidic rock outcrop on moorland, 50 m alt., Mànais, South Harris, NG10708957, T. ap Rheinallt 110.15.41, conf. M.O. Hill.


4.3.b. *Atrichum undulatum var. gracilisutum*. 20 in Qt near Broxbourne, TL30, 1886, J.R. Vaizey (record reinstated: it is documented in detail by Vaizey (1888)).


22.2. *Grimmia dissimulata*. 14: on capstone of sarscophagus, 90 m alt., Cuckfield Church, TQ30372447, T.W. Otley 15072301.


22.26. *Grimmia elatior*. 108: on south-facing gneiss slabs on loch margin, 65 m alt., margin of Loch Assynt just east of the in-flow from Loch Leitir Easaidh, NC716264, 1999, G.P. Rothero 99258 (Fig. 1).


23.11. *Racomitrium ericoides*. 78: disturbed ground amongst acidic upland grassland, 305 m alt., below Logan Craig, NT1348832994, D.A. Callaghan.


27.1. *Brachydontium trichodes*. 78: on small...
flat stones in loose scree, small moorland valley, 670 m alt., Tates Grain, upper Talla Water, NT15611784, D.G. Long 44094 (E).

28.5. Seligeria campylapoda. delete 13: the voucher (Bepton Down SU81, Crudwell & Wallace, 1951) is intermediate with S. recurvata and probably belongs to that species.

28.6. Seligeria recurvata. 13: on flint in woodland on steep north-facing slope, 140 m alt., Bepton Down, SU85131741, T.W. Otley 15040701; H6: on flushed rock face, 655 m alt., Coum Iarthar, S3132412154, R.L. Hodd (DBN) (Fig. 7).


30.2. Fissidens crispus. 52: on soil in coastal scrub on steep south-facing soft cliff, near the Mermaid Inn, SW of Brynsiencyn, SH471642, T.H. Blackstock; 75: on soil, Dunure, NS2513015712, R. Whytock.

30.5. Fissidens incanus. 67: on soil near footpath descending into dene, north of stream, opposite golf club entrance, Brierdene, footpath descending into dene, north of Dunure, NS2513015712, R. Whytock.

30.15.b. Fissidens taxifolius var. pallidicaulis. 41: on irrigated ground by small stream, 280 m alt., Pentrebach, Mynydd Gethin, SO059022, alt., Pentrebach, Mynydd Gethin, SO059022, D.A. Callaghan (NMW). Gardiner (1981) reports duplicates of Hurst’s collection in the herbaria at CGE and Göteborg, identified as W. mittenii by A.C. Crudwell. Both species may have occurred at this locality.

61.1. Tortella tortuosa. 76: on rocks, 205 m alt., Gimlet Burn, near Crawhin Reservoir, NS2470, N.G. Hodgetts 9051; H21: on reservoir wall, Upper Bohernabreena reservoir, Glenasmole, O09462208, R.L. Hodd (DBN) (Fig. 3).

61.2. Tortella bambergeri. 76: on base-rich rock near bank of stream, 225 m alt., Munzie Burn, south of Eagleham, NS58434856, T.L. Blockeel & E.M. Kungu 44/410.


62.3.b. Trichostomum tenuirostris var. boltii (Oxystegus tenuirostris var. boltii). 72: on rocks by stream, 310 m alt., Black Hope, Upper Coomb Sike, NT314912063, E.M. Kungu et al. (E); 78: on rocks by stream, 620 m alt., Tates Grain, Talla Water, Talla & Gameshope Border Forest Trust Reserve, NT157817975, E.M. Kungu, D.G. Long et al. (E).


62.4. Trichostomum hibernicum (Oxystegus hibernicus). 49: damp crag, Cwn Cywion, SH6360, M. Lawley; 49: on flushed soil on ledge of north-facing crag, 570 m alt., Cwmglass Bach, N side of Carnedd Dafydd, SH663637, G.P. Rothero 2015063; 89: on gravel on ledge of calcareous crag in ravine, 280 m alt., Allt...

72.7. *Didymodon scapicosus*, 58: thin radiate turf beside track over old lime waste, 20 m alt., from stone drive, Sowcarke, BW699175, T.L. Blockeel 44/430.


73p. *Pterygoneurum ovatum*. 5: on old tarmac in drive, Netherseal, SK290128, T.L. Blockeel & N.J. Law 44/759; 76: on old tarmac, 60 m alt., by White Cart Water below Busby Bridge, Busby, NY579566, M. Pool; 77: on sheltered pavement, 75 m alt., Cariside Drive, Busby, NY580566, M. Pool.

73.4. *Didymodon nobilei*. 55: on old tarmac in driveway, Netherseal, SK290128, T.L. Blockeel & N.J. Law 44/759; 76: on old tarmac, 60 m alt., by White Cart Water below Busby Bridge, Busby, NY579566, M. Pool; 77: on sheltered pavement, 75 m alt., Cariside Drive, Busby, NY580566, M. Pool.

73.9. *Didymodon liluus*. C: on concrete of old gun battery, 60 m alt., Noirtmont, Jersey, WY607647, T.L. Blockeel 44/428.

73.11. *Didymodon sinuosus*. 58: on boulder (true rockery), Brunwood Park, SJ8568715, J. Lowell & D. Wallace; C: on concrete wall capping of bridge in woodland, 40 m alt., St Catherine’s Woods, Jersey, WY699529, T.L. Blockeel 44/430.


73.13. *Pterygoneurum papillosum*, 5, 6, 9, 14, 23: new to Britain (Blockeel & Ottery, 2016).


81.3. *Pterygoneurum papillosum*, 5, 6, 9, 14, 23: new to Britain (Blockeel & Ottery, 2016).


83.6. *Tortula marginata*. 72: on damp shaded walls of abandoned piggy, 8 m alt., Caerlaverock WWT reserve, Eastpark Farm, NY05116657, E.M. Kungu (E).


86. *Huemedia heimiti*. 72: on damp sandy bank above Lochar water, set back from high water’s edge, 10 m alt., Caerlaverock WWT reserve, summer walk, S bank of Lochar Water, NY5048966176, E.M. Kungu (E).

87.1. *Acuclon muticum*. 5: bare soil on top of drystone wall behind beach, 0 m alt., Porlock Weir, SS86074835, A. Branson & S.L. Pilkington; 14: on clay bank at edge of path, 50 m alt., Scoytone Castle, TQ68539158, T.W. Ottery 15102502; 50: on exposed soil in gully on hillside, 280 m alt., Castell Dinas Bran, Llangollen, SJ22154304, S.L. Pilkington.


89. *Syntrichia viridissima*. 16: on cast iron gutty grating, 125 m alt., High Woods Lane, Hawkenbury, TQ60013883, T.W. Ottery 15082461; 67: on elder by footpath descending into dene, north of stream, opposite golf club entrance, Brierdene, Whitley Bay, NZ544738, S.V. O’Leary.


92.1. *Orthotrichum speciosum*. 14: on willow near ride, 140 m alt., Brown Brook, Ashdown Forest, TQ46942798, T.W. Ottery 15042001.


100.14. Orthotrichum tenellum. 76: on bark of sycamore, near Braemount, Paisley, NS467606, M.O. Hill.

100.15. Orthotrichum pallens. 14: on sloping branch of hazel in open hedge, 35 m alt., Little Streele, Framfield, TQ50712154, T.W. Ottley 15051901 & 15071201 (Fig. 4).

100.16. Orthotrichum pseudotriquetrum s.lat. H19: reinstat the entry, which was deleted in error in The Moss Year 2014.


101.1. Ulota coarctata. 17: on oak trunk by path, 150 m alt., Lodge Hill, Box Hill, TQ180522, H.W. Wallis: 48: on willow in oak/birch woodland, 160 m alt., Coed Ganllwyd, SH7192824551, D.A. Callaghan (Fig. 5).

101.2. Ulota drummondii. 76: on willow in scrub woodland, 135 m alt., east of Kellybank Cottage, Wemyss Bay, NS210684, M. Pool.


102.1 b. Hedwigia ciliata var. leucophaea: delete 73, 108 (see Blockeel & Bosanquet, 2016).

102.1A. Hedwigia striata: 48, 49, 69, 73 in (), 87 in (), 97, 98 in (), 105, 108, H6, reinstated as a distinct species (see Blockeel & Bosanquet, 2016).

102.2. Hedwigia stellata. 57: one tuft on top of dry girtstone wall, 290 m alt., below Eccles Pike, south of Chilton, SK03918159, T.L. Blockeel 44/711.

107.3. Philonotis arnellii. 81: on dripping rock face, coastal cliffs and sea banks, 50 m alt., Tod’s Loop, Lamberton, NT97545792, D.G. Long 43577 (E).

107.5. Philonotis fontana. 14: very scarce, growing through Calliergonella cuspidata, 85 m alt., Newbridge Bog, Ashdown Forest, TQ457324, T.W. Ottley & S. Rubinstein 15102001.

107.8. Philonotis calarnea. 32: on clay at edge of former mine, growing with Carex distans, 140 m alt., Watford Mire, SP599709, A. Balbi.

111.1. Anomobryum julaceum. 76: wet ground on mine track, 310 m alt., Queenside Muir, NT2407574876, D.F. Chamberlain (E); 85 in (): on cinder, rocky ground, 3 yds SE of concrete block, W of Low Trap, Island of May, NT6599, 1956, E.V. Watson (E); 99 in (): on cliffs, Ross of Luing, NT1927, 1971, A.C. Grundwell (E), as A. cespiticosum.


111.24. Bryum pseudotriquetrum s.lat. H19: reinstat the entry, which was deleted in error in The Moss Year 2014.

111.25. Bryum caespiticosum. 72 in (): Brownhall, Dumfries, NX07, 1841, J. Cruickshank (E); 77 retaining wall, by R Kelvin, below Queen Margaret Bridge, Glasgow, NS567, 1987, A.C. Grundwell (E); 80: on wall by road, 80 m alt., Jedburgh Abbey, NT6520, 1977, D.G. Long 6025 (E); 83: on bridge parapet, 155 m alt., Milton Bridge, near Penicuik, NT525625, 1977, D.G. Long (E); 85: on boundary wall, on sandstone, 16 North Park Terrace, Edinburgh, NT2407547876, D.F. Chamberlain (E); 85 in (): on cinder, rocky ground, 3 yds SE of concrete block, W of Low Trap, Island of May, NT6599, 1956, E.V. Watson (E); 92: on the ruins of Sluggan Lodge, Glanno-ans-Nes, ca 9 miles SW of Peebles, NT1927, 1971, A.C. Grundwell (E).

113.3. *Bryum radiculatum*. 76: on mortar of wall in village, 30 m alt., Church Street, Lochwinnoch, NS35387, T.L. Blockeel 44/403.

113.36. *Bryum klinggraeffii*. 72: on damp sandy bank above Lochar water, set back from high water’s edge, 10 m alt., Caerlaverock WWT reserve, summer walk, S bank of Lochar Water, NT0548966176, E.M. Kungu (E).


113.43. *Bryum riparium*. H20: between rocks at edge of river, 320 m alt., Fraughan Rock Glen, Glemmalur, T95059352, R.L. Hodd (DBN) (Fig. 6).


130.1.b. *Fontinalis antipyretica var. gracilis*. 76: irrigated rocks in stream gully, Raith Burn, Muirshiel Country Park, NS301631, M.O. Hill.

130.2.a. *Fontinalis squamosa var. squamosa*. 78: on wet rocks in stream, moorland valley, 310 m alt., west bank of lower Gamehope Valley, NT13231994, D.G. Long 44050 (E).

131.1. *Climacium dendroides*. 76: ground at edge of cut, Greencourt Cut, Shielhill Glen, Muirshiel Country Park, NS24487196, E.M. Kungu et al. (E); 76: reservoir margin, Overton, SW of Greencourt, NS262743, M.O. Hill.


134.2. *Campylium proternum*. 78: base-rich flush, 695 m alt., Polmond Craig, NT1506524413, D.A. Callaghan; 92: on larch twig amongst limestone rocks in north-facing crags, 390 m alt., Lion’s Face, Braemar, NO19Q, N.G. Hodgetts 9091.


138.1. *Leptodictyum riparium*. 66: reinstates the entry, which was, deleted in error in *The Moss Year 2014* and *The Moss Year 2015*. There is a recent record from West Mains Pond, NS095814, leg. K.J. Watson, 1997.


151.1. *Leskea polycarpa*. 76: base of sallows in wet ground near loch, 30 m alt., Lochwinnoch, NS356588, T.L. Blockeel 44/400; H21: rocks by lower reservoir, Bohernabreena reservoir, Glenasmole, O089231, R.L. Hodd, G.F. Smith et al. (DBN) (Fig. 3).

152.1. *Pseudoleskeella castaneata*. 49: the voucher (Llech Ddu, Cwm Llafar, NG109617) is P. rupestris.


163.2. *Platyhypnidium lusitanicum*. 73: rocks in river, 50 m alt., Water of Minnoch below Old Minnoch Bridge, NX3718975757, 2014, E.-J. Sadler (E); 74: rocks in river, 5 m alt.,...
A. Brachythecium salebrosum. 35: on up mature hazel, Wentwood, ST41029345, S.D.S. Bosanquet.

170.4. Brachythecium salebrosum, 35: 4 m up mature hazel, Wentwood, ST41029345, S.D.S. Bosanquet.

171.2. Scleropodium touretii. 17: on crumbly soil on rabbit-cropped grassy bank, 190 m alt., Colekitchen Hole, TQ095487, H.W. Wallis.

171.2. Scleropodium touretii. 17: on crumbly soil on rabbit-cropped grassy bank, 190 m alt., Colekitchen Hole, TQ095487, H.W. Wallis.


179.1. Pylaisia polyantha. 58: at 2m height on trunk of mature ash at edge of woodland, 150 m alt., Windmill Wood, Alderley Edge, SJ951457618, D.A. Callaghan.

187.1. Pterigynandrum filiforme. 49: two small patches on laceward face of boulder, 140 m alt., edge of Ffynnon Lloer, SH6622062152, S.D.S. Bosanquet.


214.1. b. Isothecium myurosoides var. brachythecoides. 94: amongst other large pleurocarps on grassy ledge of sloping grassland above rocky shore, coast east of Portsoy, N595664, A.G. Payne.


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References


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