Presumably many bryologists, like us, read the published records in Field Bryology with at least half an eye on the implications for their own recording. What species are advancing towards our ‘patch’? Are our neighbours already finding plants which we might be overlooking? Several such bryophytes appear in the current set of ‘Rare and Interesting’ records. Some are distinctive, such as Frullania tamarisci, Nowellia curvifolia, Antitrichia curtipendula and Leucodon sciuroides, others rather more easily overlooked, including Sematophyllum subtrumulosum and perhaps Orthotrichum speciosum.

Another feature of this set of ‘Rare and Interesting’ records is provided by the reports of sporophytes in four liverworts in north Wales, all detected by the lynx-eyed hepaticologist Tim Blackstock. Although all the species are widespread, at least in the west, few of us will have seen any of them in fruit. Do the rest of us overlook sporophytes elsewhere, or are these species particularly likely to fruit in the the oceanic conditions of north Wales? And if the latter, is a changing climate increasing the likelihood that they will do so in the future?

The records below also document new finds of nationally rare or scarce species in Britain, as well as new sites for such recently recognised species as Dialytrichia saxicola, Grimmia tergestina and Pterygoneurum papilionum. We also include reports of the unexpected discovery of calcifuge species in counties with predominantly calcareous soils, saxicolous species in areas of ‘soft’ geology and shade-tolerant species growing indoors in churches. All evidence of the glorious unpredictability which adds so much to the enjoyment of bryological recording.

Thanks are due to all the Regional Recorders who sent in Rare & Interesting records for publication.

### Altitude

**Lophozia persoonii. 57:** Calcareous soil on semi-bare stony ground, edge of limestone quarry, 330 m alt., Tustead quarry near Buxton, SK09497483, 2016, T.L. Blockeel. Previously recorded from Carboniferous limestone quarries in the Peak District, but this record is 100 m higher than previous ones. Tustead is one of the major operational quarries near Buxton.

**Sematophyllum subtrumulosum. 6:** Conifer plantation, 189 m alt., Kiltoning, ST76003760, 2017, S.L. Pilkington. This was the altitude record for just 18 days, until replaced by the next record. It is also the second record for North Somerset. 41: On sloping trunk of Spruce, NE-facing conifer plantation, 430 m alt., W. of Glyncorrwg, SS86339935, 2017, S.D.S. Bosanquet. This is the first upland record of this species. As SDSB points out, these records raise the intriguing possibility that *S. subtrumulosum* could be frequent in upland-edge plantations.

**Dispersing or increasing**

**Cephalozia divaricata. 29:** Frequent scattered small patches on crushed granite hoggin, with *Pogonatum urnigerum*, Criminology Dept, Sidgwick Site, Cambridge, TL44285798, 2016, C.D. Preston, conf. D.A. Callaghan. This is only the second record in this very calcareous county since 1960.

**Frullania tamarisci. 18:** On Salix cinerea, 117 m alt., Epping Forest, TQ433991, 2016, K.J. Adams. The first record for Essex was in 1985 when it turned up in Hatfield Forest (v.c. 19) on *S. caespitosa*. A long absence ensued, until two more records were found for Essex in 2011 (*S. cinerea*) and 2012 (*Quercus robur*). KJA comments that the plant appears to be becoming established in Essex from the west, confirming a recent range expansion as an epiphyte in eastern England.

**Pogonatum urnigerum. 28:** On base of birch (*Betula* tree), 24 m alt., Brecks Forest, TL829910, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. Only the second recent record for both West Norfolk and Norfolk as a whole; possibly a part of the expansion posited above.

**Novellia curvispilosa. 27:** On large decorticated *Pinus sylvestris*, 65 m alt., Sheringham Park, Upper Sheringham, TG13374156, 2017, M. Ghullam. The second East Norfolk site, growing with *Cephalozia bicupidata*, *Calypogeia fissa*, *Herzogiella seligeri*, *Tetraphis pellucida* and other species (Fig. 1).

**Antitrichia curtipendula. 6:** Ash (*Fraxinus*) tree, Black Down, Mendip Hills, ST49045781, 2017, S.L. Pilkington. On an epiphytic-rich tree; only the second recent record.

**Leucodon sciuroides var. sciuroides. 30:** Two small adjacent tufts on over-mature elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Pegsdon Hills, TL12052921, 2017, C.D. Preston. The only records from Bedfordshire since 1950 are from Tilworth (1984) and Tilbrook churchyard (1992), the latter originally allocated to Huntingdonshire (v.c. 31) and therefore omitted from Outen’s Flora.

**Scleropodium caespitosum. 29:** Mossy edges of tarmac path, Oakington churchyard, TL414648, 2017, R.H. Carter. This is the second record from tarmac in Cambridgeshire, a habitat reported more frequently in recent floras of Pembrokeshire (Bosanquet 2010) and South Hampshire (Stern 2010).
**Fruiting, gametangia or with gemmae**

**Bazzania trilobata. 48:** Extensive patch on bank in wooded ravine, 55 m alt., Coed Pengwern, N of Rhod-y-Sarn, SH6942, 2016, T.H. Blackstock. Numerous immature sporophytes present; this is the second fruiting record for north Wales.

**Brachythecium glareosum. 23:** On flint at the edge of deciduous woodland, 238 m alt., Lower Dean Woods, SU708927, 2017, D. Morris & O.L. Pescott. A shy-fructing species, being dioicus. There are only 2 records of this species in fruit in the BBS database!

Nationally rare or scarce

**Riceicarpos natans. 27:** Abundant in meadow pond, 40 m alt., East Carleton, TG18110124, 2016, M. Ghullam. The fifth record from East Norfolk.

**Plagiochila asplenoides. 49:** On outcrop in mildly base-rich ravine, 239 m alt., Afon Delyn above Tal-y-Bont, Conway Valley, SH7568, 2016, T.H. Blackstock. A mixed-sex patch with immature sporophytes. This is the first fruiting record for north Wales since 1833.

**Porella platyphylla. 52:** On exposed upper wall of medieval castle, 9 m alt., Beaumaris Castle, SH606762, 2016, T.H. Blackstock. Another mixed-sex patch with immature sporophytes; these are the first records for both males and sporophytes for north Wales.

**Trichocolea tomentella. 48:** On wet rock face in ravine, 68 m alt., Coed Pengwern, N of Rhod-y-Sarn, SH696426, 2016, T.H. Blackstock. This species was found with late immature sporophytes; this is the second fruiting record for north Wales.

**Grimmia orbicularis. 6:** A few patches on sunny limestone rocks, Uphill, ST31485847, 2017, P. Bowyer. A new hectad for the vice-county. (Fig. 2).

**Grimmia tergestina. 23:** Cotswold roof tile, 107 m alt., Broughton Castle, SP418382, 2016, P. Martin. Second record for Oxfordshire; the first was by the same recorder at Burford Church (SP253124) in 2007.

**Hedwigia ciliata var. ciliata. 88:** A hand-sized patch with other bryophytes on top of boulder, 355 m alt., Derculich Burn above Strath Tay, NN877543, 2016, O. Moore. The second record for Mid Perthshire of this nationally scarce species.

**Plasteurhynchium striatulum. 6:** On N-facing limestone sea cliffs with Marchesinia mackaii, Middle Hope, Weston-super-Mare, ST34006653, 2017, S.L. Pilkington. A new hectad record.

**Pseudoleskeella catenulata. 88:** Several small patches growing with other calcicolous plants on NW-facing rock outcrop below the summit, 628 m alt., Tom an Phurain, NN86395623, 2016, O. Moore. A new locality in Mid Perthshire for this nationally scarce moss.

**Pterygoneurum ovatum. 6:** On a crumbling, sun-baked, railway embankment, Sug Hill, Charlton Mackrell, ST52312868, 2016, S.L. Pilkington. A thriving population. (Fig. 3).

**Pterygoneurum papillosum. 6:** Limestone grassland, Collard Hill, Street, ST48583428, 2016, S.L. Pilkington. An extension of the Polden Hills population, in eroded, clayey, blue lias grassland.

**Regionally notable**

**Marchesinia mackaii. 6:** Woodland limestone exposure, Gully Wood, Bathford, ST79486501, 2016, A. Rayner & M. Rayner. Unusual this far east in Somerset.

**Antirrhicia curtipendula. 15:** Stunted Prunus spinosa, 4 m alt., Dungeness, TR0618, 2016.
Unusual habitat or substrate

Barbilophozia attenuata. 18: In Leucobryum juniperoides tufts, Great Monk Wood, Epping Forest, TQ4298, 2016, K.J. Adams. A rare species in eastern England outside Kent, with only four post-1990 hectad records. In its one Essex station in Epping Forest, first found in 1962, it has never been seen on its own, but has persisted in a patch c. 10 m across with all the plants completely dispersed and enveloped amongst L. juniperoides tufts, with only the very tips of the shoots ever appearing above the surface. Nationally it seems to be confined to areas with an annual rainfall in excess of 1 m. KJA therefore suggests that it is dependent on the water stored in the spongy Leucobryum tufts to ride out summer droughts.

Cololejeunea minutissima. 27: A small patch growing with Tortula muralis on N-facing brickwork of railway bridge, 30 m alt., Antingham, TG25683396, 2017, M. Ghullam. A rare plant in North Somerset.

Orthotrichum speciosum. 28: Epiphytic on hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) in an area of dense scrub, 3 m alt., King’s Lynn, TF634208, 2016, C.R. Stevenson. The sixth record for v.c. 28 (where it was first recorded in 2012) but on an unusual substrate.

Syntrichia latifolia. 25: With abundant sporophytes on rotten steel piling (so rusty that there was no actual metal remaining), River Fromus, RSPB Abbey Farm, Snape, TM387577, 2015, R.J. Fisk. With it on this rather unusual substrate were Syntrichia montana and Zygodon viridissimus.

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References

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