

BRITISH LICHEN SOCIETY

President: J. E. G. Peterken, F.L.S.

BULLETIN 17. April 1966.

Day Excursion, 7 May 1966.

A joint excursion, under the leadership of Mr. F.H. Brightman and Mr. F.R. Laundon, with the Kent Field Club will be held in east Kent chiefly to study the lichen flora on walls. Meet outside Chilham Station (Nat. Grid TR 078538) at 10.45 on Saturday 7 May 1966. Bring packed lunch. 9.10 train from Charing Cross, London, arrives Chilham 10.41, after changing at Ashford.

Summer Meeting in Ireland, 1966.

See Bulletin 16 for details of the meetings at Clifden, Co. Galway, 3-10 August 1966, and Bantry, Co. Cork, 10-17 August 1966.

Autumn Meeting at Cheltenham, 1966

The Autumn weekend meeting will be held at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, from Friday evening 21 October until Sunday afternoon 23 October 1966, under the leadership of Mr. R.H. Bailey. The Society will meet at 19.30 on the 21st October at the Gloucestershire College of Art, Pittville, Cheltenham, where meeting facilities have been kindly placed at our disposal by the Principal. Accommodation is as follows and members must make their own bookings:

Belle Vue Hotel, High Street (Tel. 25226). 60 rooms. Bed and breakfast from 30/- (Headquarters hotel).

North Hall Hotel, Pittville Circus Road (Tel. 27807) 24 rooms. Bed and breakfast from 30/-.

Strathdurn Hotel, Pittville Circus Road (Tel. 24198). 16 rooms. Bed and breakfast from 25/-.

Askham House Hotel, Pittville Circus Road (Tel. 25547). 12 rooms. Bed and breakfast from 21/-.

Wellesley Court Hotel, Clarence Sq. (Tel. 22626). 20 rooms. Bed and breakfast from 25/-.

Persons attending this meeting should return the enclosed form to Mr. Bailey, who will answer any special enquiries regarding the arrangements.

Meetings, 1967, including visit to Scandinavia

It is proposed to hold the Annual General, Lecture and Exhibition Meeting in London on Saturday 7 January 1967. The spring field Meeting will be held in the Mendip Hills, Somerset. Provided sufficient support is forthcoming it is proposed to hold the summer meeting in Scandinavia from 1-20 August 1967. The first three days will be spent in the oceanic west near Bergen (Norway); a days travelling will be followed by a stay of three days in the mountainous Jotunheimen area (Norway); another days travel will terminate in the Hårjedalen area southern Jämtland, (Sweden), where three days will again be spent. After another days travel, three days will be spent on the Swedish calcareous island of Öland, and a further days travel will terminate with three days on the Swedish west coast. In this way the main vegetation types of Scandinavia can be studied and there will be ample time for field work. For persons who might find the whole excursion too long, the journey can be broken at Hårjedalen for return to Bergen, thus limiting the tour to eleven days. The cost will be about 50/- per day per person (staying in good hotels) and at present the single air fare to Bergen is £24 from London, and the single sea fare is £8. 10. for a shared cabin (£12. 10. for 2 berth cabin per person), excluding meals, from Newcastle. Fares between the various localities in Scandinavia will be additional; about 1,500 (English) miles will be covered. Approximate numbers of persons likely to attend must be known by the 31 August 1966 so that it can be decided if the excursion is worth holding. Therefore all members likely to go should return the enclosed form to the Secretary without delay. Dr E. Dahl will lead this meeting.

Twenty-four hours

Times in this and future Bulletins will be given according to the twenty-four hour clock.

Bankers' Orders

All members who pay their subscription by Bankers' Order should inform their banks that payment must now be made to The British Lichen Society, Barclay's Bank Ltd., Knebworth, Hertfordshire. Where possible, members are kindly asked if they could pay their subscriptions by Bankers' Order, so that administration can be minimised.

Treasurer Wanted

Dr. T.D.V. Swinscow has kindly taken on the ^RTreasurership until a more permanent official can be found. A candidate for this post is urgently sought and offers from members would be exceedingly welcome. Such offers should be sent direct to Dr. Swinscow; 103 London Road, Knebworth, Hertfordshire. If any member knows of a suitable candidate would they also inform Dr. Swinscow.

Labels

Lichen specimens are frequently inadequately labelled. Accurate and detailed labelling is essential if specimens are to be used to their full advantage. The information must be permanent and legible as well as accurate. Indian ink is best for hand-written labels since it neither runs when wet (like other inks) nor fades (like biro inks); Pelikan Fount India Ink (3/6 a bottle) is suitable for fountain pens. Ball-point pens and washable inks should not be used. Labels should be written on the day of collecting so that important details are remembered. They should be comprehensible to people of different nationalities, and therefore all scientific names should be in Latin, the text preferably in English or German, and the metric system should be used for measurements. They should contain at least the following information:

1. Name of lichen. This is usually the least important item since it can be added at a later date.
2. Country.
3. County, province or corresponding geographical area. In Britain the vice-county system is the most useful; a Ray Society publication on the vice-counties, written by J.E. Dandy (Keeper of Botany at the British Museum (Natural History)), is to be issued this year; details will appear in this Bulletin following its publication.
4. Borough or parish or corresponding unit. Parish boundaries are marked on Ordnance Survey Maps scale 1" and above, and care should be taken to ensure that the correct parish is given. The names of parishes are always cited in gazetteers, so that the location of the specimen can then be readily found on a map. Moreover specimens can only be accurately localised by reference to the parish, since the boundaries of the latter are precisely defined. Official spellings should always be followed and foreign idioms avoided (e.g. use London, not Londres; den Haag, not The Hague; Köln, not Cologne; Roma, not Rome); Bartholomew's maps (including those in the standard atlas "The Times Atlas of the World") are probably the best for the accurate spelling of such localities; most maps of foreign countries are deplorable in their spelling of place names.
5. Precise locality and grid reference, where available.
6. Altitude above sea-level, in metres. This information is essential in Highland areas.
7. Date: day, month and year in full (i.e. 1966, not 66, to avoid possible confusion in the future).
8. Habitat and ecology. Kind of tree (in Latin), rock (especially whether calcareous or acid), or soil should be given as well as such details as illumination, type of plant community, associated species etc.

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9. Notes on the lichen itself, including abundance, chemical reactions, spore details etc.

10. Name of collector with surname in full. Mere initials should never be used.

11. Collecting number. This is a permanent means of identifying a particular gathering, and the most convenient method of citing it in literature. It is also essential for use on permanent microscope slides so that one can cross reference a particular specimen. The same number should never be used twice by the same person, and one should jump numbers rather than risk this happening. A determination book of collecting numbers should be kept, with one line per number, so that one can easily see which number one has got up to.

12. Name of determinator when different from the collector.

Where a specimen is mounted on a card not attached to the label, the name of collector and collecting number should be annotated on the card as a reference to the label. This is because of the danger of the card and label becoming separated.

An important account of labelling is given by Professor Degelius in his monograph of Collema in Symb. Bot. Upsalienses 13(2):145 (1954). Its use is acknowledged in the compilation of this item.

Rest in Peace

Limestone memorials in churchyards are amongst the most important of habitats for lichens in LOWLAND BRITAIN. In urban areas they are frequently the sole remaining localities for many species. In London over sixty per cent of the total remaining lichen flora occurs in churchyards.

Despite opposition within the Church of England itself, from historical societies, from planning experts, and from relatives of the deceased, it is becoming a frequent practise to remove all headstones and other monuments from churchyards, and to convert the ground into formal gardens. Increasing labour costs, unkept graves, overcrowding and untidiness are reasons cited for this policy. When these clearances take place lichen communities of scientific importance are generally unwittingly destroyed. Therefore, in the interests of conservation, naturalists must join the ranks of those opposing such schemes. Many churchyards have been restored by levelling the grave mounds and thinning out the headstones to facilitate easy mowing with the result that the attractiveness of the area is enhanced and the scientific interest maintained. Restoration on these lines is to be welcomed, whilst wholesale clearance must be condemned.

It was announced recently that most of the seven hundred memorials in Morden churchyard in the London Borough of Merton were to be removed. The Minister of the Church was contacted and the importance of the lichen vegetation on the stones pointed out to him. Later a report was submitted on the memorials considered to be worthy of preservation for their lichen flora, with the result that a number of them have been listed for preservation in situ on both historical and scientific grounds.

Notices of proposed clearances of memorials are displayed on churchyard notice boards and published in the local press. Members hearing of intended clearances should inform the Conservation Officer, Mr. F.N. Haynes, Department of Biology and Chemistry, Portsmouth College of Technology, Park Road, Portsmouth, Hants. It is hoped that the scientific importance of the churchyard concerned can then be assessed, and negotiations to protect the lichen flora conducted where appropriate. The experience at Morden shows that such measures can be both welcomed and effective.

County Lichen Floras

Mr. M.R.D. Seaward, Biology Department, The Training College, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, is compiling a catalogue of county lichen floras. It is intended that this catalogue will be published in The Lichenologist. Data on published Floras, published additions to Floras, MSS. Floras and those in preparation would be most valuable, and should be sent direct to Mr. Seaward.

Lichenologist

Part 1 of volume 3 of The Lichenologist was published on 17 November 1965. Any member who did not receive a copy should inform the Secretary, J.R. Laundon, Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London S.W.7.

Check-list of British Lichens

Interleaved copies of "A new check-list of British lichens" by P.W. James, reprinted from Lichenologist 3:95 ----153(1965), are available price 7/6 post free from the Treasurer, Dr. T.D.V. Swinseow, 103 London Road, Knebworth, Hertfordshire. Emendations to the check-list will appear in future numbers of The Lichenologist, and these can be transferred to the interleaves.

Lichen Courses 1966

DEVONSHIRE. Slapton Ley Field Centre, Slapton, Kingsbridge. 24-31 August.
"Lichens and Fungi - an introductory course for beginners."
Directed by D.H.S. Richardson.

31 August - 7 September.

"Lichens." Directed by Dr. K.L. Alvin. A more advanced course than that held in the previous week.

SURREY. Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking. 30 March - 6 April.
"Lichens Course." Directed by P.W. James.

YORKSHIRE. Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle. 7 - 14 September. "Course on lichens - the identification and ecology of local lichens."
Directed by P.W. James.

For further details of these Courses write to the Centres concerned.

Report of Lecture and Exhibition Meeting, 8 January 1966

The Lecture and Exhibition Meeting, held on 8 January 1966 at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London, was attended by 30 persons. The following exhibits were displayed:

MISS U.K. DUNCAN: Lichens of Canada, coll. & det. Miss B. Denison.

O. L. GILBERT: A lichen pathogen probably new to Britain.

P. W. JAMES: Little studied Parmelia from the British Isles.

K. A. KERSHAW: Follicolous lichens from Nigeria.

MRS. A. KOK: Experiments in dyeing with Orchil dyes.

M.-R. D. SEAWARD: Vice-county distribution of B.L.S. 10 Km. grid square mappers.

J. P. SHOWELL: Parmelia elegantula and P. laciniatula.

T. D. V. SWINSCOW: Haematomma elatinum, Stenocybe bryophila and S. septata

MISS N. WALLACE: Specimens collected in the Cumberland Forest in the Appalachian Mts., Kentucky.

From 3 to 6 p.m., with a short interval for tea, members listened to two interesting and controversial lectures. Mr. F.H. Brightman spoke about patterns of distribution of lichens in southern Britain, mentioning especially examples of atlantic, continental and "poleophilous" types. Dr. C.G. Dobbs, in his lecture on the "Phycotrophic Fungi", spoke about the problems which had to be overcome in the classification of the fungi (including lichens); commenting on the difficulties that had resulted from fungi being regarded as plants and showing the way in which lichens were one of the two major associations developed within the fungi, the other being the mycorrhizal fungi. Dr. Dobbs wondered if too much emphasis was now being placed in classification on unitunicate and bitunicate asci.

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Literature on Lichens

- AHTI, T. 1966. *Parmelia olivacea* and the allied non-isidiate and non-sorediate corticolous lichens in the Northern Hemisphere. Acta Bot. Fenn. 70. [Excellent detailed monograph of the *Parmelia olivacea* group. In Britain *P. olivacea* (L.) Ach. is shown to be absent, whilst *P. septentrionalis* (Lyngé) Ahti and *P. glabra* (Schaer.) Nyl. are known from single verified specimens from the Scottish Highlands].
- BRIGHTMAN, F.H. 1965. Lichens. News Bull., Brit. Mycol. Soc. 24:11-12,21. [Review].
- BRIGHTMAN, F.H. 1965. Some patterns of distribution of lichens in southern England. S-East. Nat., Lond. 69:10-17. [A very general account of the distribution of some lichens, with distribution maps of *Cladonia subrangiformis*, *Lobaria pulmonaria* and *Parmelia acetabulum* in southern Britain].
- BRIGHTMAN, F.H. 1966. Lichen notes. Bull. Kent Field Club 11:8 [Comments on records of *Cladonia mitis*, *Parmelia acetabulum*, *P. elegantula*, *P. isidiotyla* and *P. laciniatula* from Kent].
- BRIGHTMAN, F.H. 1966. May 15th - 'wall tour' from Tunbridge Wells. Bull. Kent Field Club 11: 13-14. [Account of field meeting].
- EGGELING, W.J. 1965. Check list of the plants of Rhum, Inner Hebrides. II. Lichens, Liverworts and Mosses. Trans. Bot. Soc. Edinb. 40:60-99. [161 lichens; localities included].
- GROVES, E.W. 1965. Three new vice-county records for Middlesex from the Ruislip Local Nature Reserve. J. Ruislip Distr. Nat. Hist. Soc. 14: 45-46 [*Cladonia chlorophaea* and *C. subrangiformis*].
- HALE, M.E. 1965. Studies on the *Parmelia borreri* group. Svensk Bot. Tidskr. 59:37-48. [10 species, 3 of which are reported from Britain. *P. borreri* has a black underside and is C + orange (gyrophoric acid), *P. reddenda* has a black underside and is C -, whilst *P. subrudecta* Nyl. has a pale underside and is C + deep red (lecanoric acid). Most British material named *P. borreri* and *P. dubia* in fact belongs to *P. subrudecta*].
- POELT, J. 1965. Zur Systematik der Flechtenfamilie Physciaceae. Nova Hedwigia 9:21-32. [Revision of the delimitation of genera in Physciaceae; *Anaptychia leucomelaena* becomes *Heterodermia leucomelaena* (L.) Poelt, *A. obscurata* becomes *H. obscurata* (Nyl.) Trevis., *Physcia elaeina* becomes *Physciopsis elaeina* (Sm.) Poelt, *Physcia grisea* becomes *Physconia grisea* (Lam.) Poelt, *Physcia muscigena* becomes *Physconia muscigena* (Ach.) Poelt, and *Physcia pulverulenta* becomes *Physconia pulverulenta* (Schreb.) Poelt].
- ROMANS, J.C.C., STEVENS, J.H., ROBERTSON, L., & JONES, D. 1966. Semi-fossil lichen fungi in Scottish hill soils. Nature 209:96 [Records of semi-fossil pyrenocarpic lichen, probably *Polyblastia*, from three localities in Scotland].
- ROSE, F. 1966. 2nd October - Oldbury Hill. Bull. Kent Field Club 11:29-31. [Account of field meeting; 12 lichens].
- SEAWARD, M.R.D. 1965. Lichenology. Trans. Lincs. Nat. Un. 16:110-111. [1964 vice-county records].
- SPEARN, W.T. 1966. Botanical Latin. London. [This book deals with the history, grammar, syntax, terminology and vocabulary of botanical Latin, including four examples of descriptions of lichens in Latin, with English translations, and a chapter on chemical reactions and tests. An essential work for all botanists. 566 pp. £5. 5. 0].

Directory of British Botanists

Through the co-operation of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, British Bryological, British Ecological, British Lichen, British Mycological, British Phycological and British Pteridological Societies, a Directory containing over 700 addresses of British and Irish workers in botanical taxonomy and ecology has been compiled. Botanists are also cross-referenced according to subject and geographical area (e.g. vice-county) being studied. In view of the expense involved and the fact that much of the information quickly becomes out-of-date it was decided not to publish this work. The manuscript is being kept in the Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History) Cromwell Road, London S.W.7, and anyone requiring information from it should write to Mr. A. C. Jermy at this address.

Students who begin new lines of research are requested to keep Mr. Jermy informed. New addresses of postgraduates who have moved to permanent positions, with details of title, university and date of thesis submitted should also be forwarded. It is hoped to send data request cards to Universities and Colleges of Further Education at the beginning of each session so that records may be kept up-to-date.