

The liverwort year – 2020

Readers will hardly need reminding that 2020 was an anomalous year for recording, most of us having been confined to our immediate environs by the coronavirus crisis for the larger part of the year, and no BBS field meetings. It is therefore a little surprising, at first sight, that records are slightly up on 2019, with 51 specimens processed. However, once one looks at the records more closely, it can be seen that six of them were from previous years, suggesting that some of us have taken the enforced opportunity to work through old herbarium specimens. Also, Rory Hodd's work in the very under-recorded county of SE Galway (H15) yielded no fewer than seven NVCRs. Otherwise, there is little significant difference between numbers in 2019 and 2020, with England and Scotland a bit up, Wales a bit down, and Ireland the same. There were no new vouchers from the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and no bracketings or deletions. Rory Hodd contributed 10 vouchers, Sharon Pilkington 4, and Andrew Branson,

Jo Denyer, Matt Sutton, Sam Bosanquet and Tristan ap Rheinallt 3 each. In addition to the specimens processed, the 2014 record of *Blepharostoma trichophyllum* subsp. *brevirete* (see Ellis *et al.* 2017) has been included, in order to formalise the record for vc 97.

There are not many rarities or surprises in this year's records, but there are a few. Possibly the most significant record has been of *Barbilophozia hatcheri* from Abbeyford Woods, Okehampton, new to south-west England, which was extracted from one of his old herbarium packets by Mark Pool. This plant is quite common in eastern Scotland, scattered in Wales and northern England, and occasionally turns up elsewhere. One wonders if this represents a chance 'one off' occurrence, or is indicative of a persisting local population. Also new to the region is Sam Bosanquet's *Scapania lingulata* on the isle of Lundy. *Blepharostoma trichophyllum* is a rare and infrequently-seen plant in south-west England, so Sharon Pilkington's record on the banks of the River Dart (Fig. 1) is very welcome.

Table 1. Analysis of amendments to the Census Catalogue for 2020.

	2020				2019			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
New entries	14	6	9	11	6	13	5	10
Debrackets*	5	2	0	3	7	-	2	4
Persisting	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bracketings*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deletions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	20	8	9	14	13	13	7	14

*Debrackets are existing vice-county entries for which a post-1960 record has been vouched. Bracketings are existing entries for which the post-1960 records are unconfirmed, or erroneous but older record(s) are known or thought to be valid. New records include persisting introductions.

Andrew Branson proved that even unpromising-sounding sites can be good with his records of *Riccia crystallina* and *Sphaerocarpos michelii* from damp sandy soil in a Dorset caravan park (Fig. 2). Andy McLay's record of *Marchesinia mackaii* in Northumberland is a bit of an outlier from its nearest neighbours, all of which are some distance to the west.

In Wales, the south-west continues to reveal bryological goodies. Matt Sutton's *Scapania cuspiduligera* is particularly satisfying, as he had probably found it the previous year, but the first specimen was too small to be 100% sure: nothing doubtful about the second, though. Equally satisfying is Des Callaghan refinding *Cephaloziella massalongi* on Parys Mountain in Anglesey, the first record since it was seen there by Paul Richards in 1959. Graham

Motley had *Tritomaria exsecta* on the Bloreng in Monmouthshire, and Sam Bosanquet found *Plagiochila exigua* on an ash trunk in Glamorgan.

Scottish records this year have mainly been about gap-filling. *Calypogeia integrispula*, collected from a rock face in Perthshire by Rory Whytock, is always nice, and the three Arran records from Tristan ap Rheinallt all useful. *Scapania aspera* achieves a new northernmost record with Sean O'Leary's record from Shetland.

In Ireland, as well as his more run-of-the-mill records from SE Galway, Rory Hodd's records of *Adelanthus decipiens* from that county and Co. Clare are satisfying, in that they plug a conspicuous gap in the known occurrence of that species in Ireland. *Plagiochila spinulosa* in SE Galway also fills a small hole. Jo Denyer's *Moerckia flotoviana* from Co. Leitrim is also notable – this species is probably still under-recorded.

▽ Figure 1. Habitat of *Blepharostoma trichophyllum* by the River Dart. Sharon Pilkington.



Lophocolea semiteres continues its march across the country, with no fewer than seven new county records widely distributed across England, Scotland and Wales. Could it be that it is indeed becoming an invasive pest, as recently suggested by Gordon Rothero (Rothero 2019)? Finally, Des Callaghan found *Lophocolea muricata* on a tree fern in Somerset. A common plant in the tropics, this is the first time it has been found (outside a greenhouse) in Europe, and the latest to be added to those other ‘exotic tree fern’ species.

My thanks to all the bryologists who sent in voucher specimens.

New vice-county records and amendments

Vouchers from England and Wales, and most of those from Scotland, are deposited in the BBS herbarium (BBSUK); some from Scotland are deposited at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (E), and these are indicated in the text; those from Ireland are in the National Botanic Garden, Glasnevin, Dublin (DBN). The symbol † indicates a persisting introduction.

▽ Figure 2. *Sphaerocarpos michelii* and *Riccia crystallina* at Wareham Forest, Dorset. Andrew Branson



3.1. *Sphaerocarpos michelii*. 6: many thousands in mesh cells in car park, 10 m alt., Portishead, Marine Lake, ST46557705, 16 March 2020, D. Hawkins, det. S.L. Pilkington; 9: poorly-vegetated patches on damp sandy soil, 20 m alt., Wareham Forest Caravan Park, SY8965091062, 26 February 2020, A. Branson (Fig. 2).

5.1.a. *Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *polymorpha*. 5: flushed streamside, 300 m alt., Chalk Water valley, Oareford, SS817454, 7 July 2020, A. Branson.

5.1.b. *Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *ruderalis*. 87: in arable field margin, 200 m alt., Slack Cottage, NS9555191079, 11 March 2020, R.T. Whytock.

9.1. *Conocephalum conicum*. 9: banks of small stream, 160 m alt., Hilfield, Flower's Moor, ST629044, 12 December 2020, S.L. Pilkington 20123; 100: wet rock at base of raised beach cliff, 19 m alt., Creag nan Cadhag, Catacol, NR912501, 30 December 2019, T. ap Rheinallt 100/19/35.

10.1. *Riccia cavernosa*. H1: on soil on raised ridge in dune slack, 1 m alt., Maherabeg, Maharees, Q608150, 6 June 2020, R.L. Hodd & P.M. Perrin.

10.2. *Riccia crystallina*. 9: poorly-vegetated patches on damp sandy soil, 20 m alt., Wareham Forest Caravan Park, SY8965091062, 26 February 2020, A. Branson.

10.4. *Riccia fluitans*. 42: submerged and semi-

- submerged at reservoir margin, 190 m alt., Talybont Reservoir, Brecon Beacons, SO09251759, SO09431760, 27 September 2020, C. Halpin.
- 10.7. *Riccia sorocarpa*. H21:** exposed mud at edge of reservoir, 150 m alt., Bohernabreena Reservoir, Glenasmole Valley SAC, O09012262, 16 March 2020, J.L. Denyer, det. N.G. Hodgetts.
- 10.10. *Riccia subbifurca*. H21:** exposed mud at edge of reservoir, 150 m alt., Bohernabreena Reservoir, Glenasmole Valley SAC, O09012262, 16 March 2020, J.L. Denyer.
- 14.2. *Pellia neesiana*. 100:** marshy area adjacent to shore, 1 m alt., Tornmore, NR89243291, 29 December 2019, T. ap Rheinallt 100/19/31.
- 17.2. *Moerckia flotoviana*. H29:** upland calcareous spring, 320 m alt., Faughary windfarm, G9160343419, 25 July 2020, J.L. Denyer.
- 23.1. *Porella platyphylla*. 56:** on north-facing wooded Magnesian Limestone crag, 95 m alt., Little Matlock, south bank, Pleasley Vale, SK52946516, 27 February 2020, T.L. Blockeel 49/014.
- 25.2. *Frullania teneriffae*. H15:** on shady boulders, 235 m alt., Derrygoolin South, R69669341, 18 August 2020, R.L. Hodd.
- 25.4. *Frullania fragilifolia*. H15:** on rock on heathy slope, 310 m alt., Scalp, R66899327, 12 August 2020, R.L. Hodd.
- 28.1. *Cololejeunea calcarea*. 66:** vertical limestone rock in recess in stream gorge, 600 m alt., Harwood Common, Ashgill Head, NY804360, 27 September 1997, J. O'Reilly, conf. D.G. Long.
- 29.1. *Colura calyptrifolia*. 9:** several plants on trunk of mature *Picea* in humid conifer plantation, 100 m alt., Puddletown Forest, SY74399350, 5 January 2020, S.L. Pilkington.
- 33.1. *Marchesinia mackaii*. 67:** base-rich sandstone boulder in humid ravine woodland, with *Anomodon viticulosus*, *Mnium stellare* & *Neckera crispa*, 130 m alt., Irthing Gorge, NY6364567896, 17 December 2020, A. McLay.
- 36.1. *Blepharostoma trichophyllum*. 3:** southern bank of river, on river sand, 100 m alt., Holne Chase, R. Dart, SX72177196, 12 November 2020, S.L. Pilkington 20113.
- 36.1.b. *Blepharostoma trichophyllum* subsp. *brevirete*. 97:** on dry broken gritty soil among SE-facing limestone crags in high NE-facing coire, 1040 m alt., Aonach Beag, Coire Cheap, NN47177542, 19 August 2014, N.G. Hodgetts 9145 (E), conf. L. Söderström, new to Britain.
- 37.1. *Trichocolea tomentella*. H15:** in wooded stream valley alongside forestry, 240 m alt., Derrygoolin South, R68169337, 14 August 2020, R.L. Hodd.
- 44.4. *Lophocolea semiteres*. 4:** 15 × 7 cm patch on peaty pathside, 60 m alt., Lundy NE, SS1348247629, 20 July 2020, S.D.S. Bosanquet; **29:** low rabbit-grazed bryophyte-rich sward, and on thin layer of dead grass leaves over ballast, on disused railway sidings, 5 m alt., Stanground Wash Nature Reserve, TL208976, 23 January 2020, J.J. Graham & C.D. Preston; **45:** large artificial pond, 60 m alt., Cwm Waun-gron, Whitland, SN18901512, 20 March 2020, M.D. Sutton; **46:** on bog edge, path through birchwood, 2 m alt., Cors Fochno NNR, SN6297792152, 12 September 2020, M.D. Sutton; **79:** disused quarry, slopes overgrown with *Betula* and *Picea*, on shady rock, 225 m alt., opposite Torwoodlee, Galashiels, NT46663716, 13 November 2020, D.G. Long & P.S. Lusby 47008 (E); **85:** at the base of conifers in plantation, 160 m alt., Cullaloe Hills, NT1888, 3 January 2020, A. Shuttleworth, S. Kennedy & S. Buchan, det. V. Kritsov; **88:** bank of quarry track, 105 m alt., Birnam Quarry, NO03864061, 2 November 2020, S.L. Pilkington 20111.
- 44.7. *Lophocolea muricata*. 6†:** trunk of *Dicksonia antarctica* in walled garden, 55 m alt., Tyntesfield, ST5060071197, 23 August 2020, D.A. Callaghan, a widespread tropical species, new to Europe.
- 48.7. *Plagiochila spinulosa*. H15:** on low rocky escarpment, 300 m alt., Scalp, R67509358, 12 August 2020, R.L. Hodd.
- 48.10. *Plagiochila exigua*. 41:** patches on ash trunk by river, 130 m alt., Cwm Nedd, SN89930869, 16 January 2020, S.D.S. Bosanquet.
- 49.1. *Adelanthus decipiens*. H15:** on shady boulders, 235 m alt., Derrygoolin South, R69669341, 18 August 2020, R.L. Hodd; **H9:** on large boulder in block scree, 290 m alt., Glendree, R50588827, 5 August 2020, R.L. Hodd.
- 52.3. *Cephalozia catenulata*. 100:** damp boulder in moribund woodland in river valley, 14 m alt., Balnagore, Machrie, NR89763296, 29 December 2019, T. ap Rheinallt 100/19/30.
- 52.6. *Cephalozia lunulifolia*. 24:** on soil at base of oak tree by path, 70 m alt., Burnham Beeches, SU95468538, 15 July 2020, S.V. O'Leary.
- 52.7. *Cephalozia pleniceps*. H14:** wooded flush in



△ Figure 3. How we were before COVID-19. *Leiocolea badensis* and *Bryum elegans* were new vc records from this Gloucestershire Bryophyte Group meeting at Cleeve Common. Sharon Pilkington

- lagg zone, raised bog, with *Sphagnum subnitens*, 100 m alt., Abbeyleix Bog, S4390083322, 5 August 2020, G.F. Smith & W. Crowley 2004005.
- 52.9. *Cephalozia connivens*. H15:** crawling through *Sphagnum* in very wet bog, 295 m alt., Derrygoolin South, R68959265, 18 August 2020, R.L. Hodd.
- 58.8. *Cephaloziella massalongi*. 52:** wall of old mine adit, 80 m alt., Parys Mountain, SH4491190617, 13 October 2020, D.A. Callaghan.
- 60.6. *Barbilophozia hatcheri*. 4:** with other bryophytes on detritus over boulder by track, 170 m alt., Abbeyford Woods, Okehampton, SX5897, 29 May 2002, M. Pool, new to SW England.
- 65.2. *Tritomaria exsecta*. 35:** on gritstone boulders amongst dense bracken on E.-facing slope, 410 m alt., Blorange, E. of transmitter, SO327104, 11 February 2020, G.S. Motley.
- 66.5. *Lophozia sudetica*. 36:** on damp concrete, Downton Gorge, SO438737, June 2020, M. Lawley.
- 69.4. *Scapania cuspiduligera*. 45:** thin turf over limestone rock at edge of outcrop, 40 m alt., Stackpole NNR, SR9926394756, 21 October 2020, M.D. Sutton.
- 69.7. *Scapania lingulata*. 4:** rare in lichen-rich coastal heath, 100 m alt., Lundy NW, SS13194777, 19 September 2020, S.D.S. Bosanquet.
- 69.10. *Scapania umbrosa*. 35:** on two small stones emerging from soil on oak woodland floor on NE-facing slope, 250 m alt., St. Mary's Vale, Sugar Loaf, Abergavenny, SO2757716940, 7 February 2020, G.S. Motley.
- 69.20. *Scapania aspera*. 112:** on limestone with *Ctenidium molluscum* & *Ditrichum gracile*, 5 m alt., Vadill of Garth, Nesting, HU47015439, 21 September 2020, S.V. O'Leary.

- 69.21. *Scapania gracilis*. H23:** in hummock on raised bog, 80 m alt., Bracklin, N61775774, 28 August 2020, R.L. Hodd.
- 70.2. *Mylia anomala*. H15:** in hummock in very wet bog, 295 m alt., Derrygoolin South, R68959265, 14 August 2020, R.L. Hodd.
- 74.5. *Calypogeia integristipula*. 87:** on vertical rock face in woodland, 60 m alt., Berry Keoch - Craigmad Wood SSSI, NS9654391776, 10 March 2020, R.T. Whytock.
- 75.7. *Leiocolea badensis*. 33:** in patches around small oolite fragments on a more or less bare slope, 275 m alt., Cleeve Common, SO98362653, 25 February 2020, C. Halpin & R.V. Lansdown (Fig. 3).
- 79.1. *Nardia compressa*. 5:** rocky ledge in stream, 375 m alt., The Warren: River Exe, SS78634099, 16 October 2020, S.L. Pilkington & A. Branson 20102.
- 85.2. *Gymnomitrium obtusum*. 67:** on north-facing sandstone boulder, 350 m alt., Hadrian's Wall, Green Slack, NY7437867461, 10 April 2013, A. McLay.

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