

WESSEX BRYOLOGY GROUP FIELD MEETING REPORT

Avon Gorge (Leigh Woods)

15 November 2015

Present: Jenny Bennett, Andrew Branson, Claire Halpin, David Morris, Sharon Pilkington, Gary Powell, Alan Rayner, Marion Rayner, Carol Taylor, John Taylor.

Ten keen bryologists investigated Nightingale Valley, a wooded mini-gorge at the southern end of Leigh Woods on the south (Somerset) side of the Avon Gorge. The topography offered a welcome respite from high winds and provided much bryological interest from species of limestone rocks and cliffs, woodland and decaying fallen wood. Together, the group added no fewer than 16 new species to a list for the area made in 2014, edging the total number over 100. Highlights included the 'black graffiti liverwort' *Marchesinia mackaii*, thriving in several places on shaded natural rock outcrops on the side of the valley, *Plasturhynchium striatulum* and *Mnium stellare*. Marion made the best find of the day when her sharp eyes picked out a small but dense patch of the humidity-demanding liverwort *Riccardia palmata* growing on a single decaying log at the bottom of the valley. This very western and northern species has not been found in North Somerset before.

Later we risked life and limb dodging speeding cyclists on the river path to search habitats below the famous Clifton Bridge for additional species. Here we found a wall and limestone outcrop which harboured typical light-demanding species such as *Trichostomum crispulum*. On a wall a large patch of *Scorpiurium circinatum* was nearly dismissed as just another anonymous-looking pleurocarp as it was wet from recent rain and its shoots lacked the distinctive worm-like appearance that normally attract the eye.



Riccardia palmata with *Nowellia curvifolia* (Scotland)

Species recorded from 1km square ST5673 (including those seen in Dec 2014)

Amblystegium serpens	Didymodon nicholsonii	Kindbergia praelonga
Anomodon viticulosus	Didymodon rigidulus	Leiocolea turbinata
Barbula convoluta	Didymodon sinuosus	Lejeunea cavifolia
Barbula sardoa	Didymodon tophaceus	Lepidozia reptans
Barbula unguiculata	Didymodon vinealis	Lophocolea bidentata
Brachythecium rutabulum	Encalypta streptocarpa	Lophocolea heterophylla
Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum	Eucladium verticillatum	Lunularia cruciata
Bryum argenteum	Eurhynchium striatum	Marchesinia mackaii – first record since 1956
Bryum capillare	Fissidens bryoides	Metzgeria furcata
Bryum pseudotriquetrum	Fissidens dubius	Metzgeria violacea
Calliergonella cuspidata	Fissidens incurvus	Mnium hornum
Campylium protensum	Fissidens pusillus	Mnium stellare – first record since 1956
Campylopus introflexus	Fissidens taxifolius	Neckera complanata
Cirriphyllum crassinervium	Frullania dilatata	Neckera crispa
Cirriphyllum piliferum	Funaria hygrometrica	Nowellia curvifolia
Cololejeunea minutissima	Gyroweisia tenuis	Orthodontium lineare
Conocephalum conicum	Heterocladium heteropterum var. flaccidum	Orthotrichum affine
Cratoneuron filicinum	Homalia trichomanoides	Orthotrichum anomalum
Cryphaea heteromalla	Homalothecium lutescens	Orthotrichum diaphanum
Ctenidium molluscum	Homalothecium sericeum	Orthotrichum lyellii
Dicranella heteromalla	Hygrohypnum luridum	Orthotrichum pulchellum
Dicranum scoparium	Hypnum cupressiforme	Oxyrrhynchium hians
Dicranum tauricum	Hypnum cupressiforme var. resupinatum	Oxyrrhynchium pumilum
Didymodon fallax	Isothecium myosuroides	Pellia endiviifolia
Didymodon insulanus	Radula complanata	Taxiphyllum wissgrillii
Plagiochila asplenioides	Rhizomnium punctatum	Tetraphis pellucida
Plagiochila porelloides	Rhynchostegiella tenella	Thamnobryum alopecurum
Plagiomnium rostratum	Rhynchostegium confertum	Thuidium tamariscinum
Plagiomnium undulatum	Rhynchostegium murale	Tortella nitida
Plagiothecium denticulatum	Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus	Tortella tortuosa
Plagiothecium nemorale	Riccardia palmata – first record	Tortula muralis
Plasteurhynchium striatulum	Schistidium crassipilum	Trichostomum brachydontium
Pohlia melanodon	Scorpiurium circinatum – first record since 1860	Trichostomum crispulum
Pohlia wahlenbergii	Syntrichia montana	Zygodon conoideus
Porella platyphylla		Zygodon viridissimus
Pseudoscleropodium purum		
Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans		