

Plant Records, 2023.

The *Flora of Staffordshire* dealt with records made up until the end of 2011. (Further matters relating to that time period are dealt with in a series of supplements.)

This short account is the twelfth annual report listing some of the more interesting results of later fieldwork.

Dates are all 2023, unless stated otherwise.

New records for VC39.

A. maximowiczianum, SO9099, Nik Aspey (= NA), planted in bed SE side of tennis courts, West Park, Wolverhampton.

A. tataricum ssp. *ginnata*, SO9099, NA, planted between paths on SE side of tennis courts, West Park, Wolverhampton.

Astrantia maxima, SK0559, Helen Ball (= HB), large patch by drystone wall, near Herbage Farm, north of Upper Elkstone.

Betula nigra, SK1109, mature trees planted along Dam Street, Lichfield; also SP0198, four young trees planted on N side of High Street, Walsall; also SJ8909, two large trees in field just N of junction of Four Ashes Road & Tiers Lane, Brewood: all NA. Have grey (not white) flaking bark.

Carex lepidocarpa, SK0645, Penny Anderson (= PA), Val Riley & Chloe Pritchard, fen, Bath Pasture, Cotton. The only previous record (from SK0695, Swallow Moss) in 1994, is thought to be an error.

Drosera anglica x *rotundifolia* (= *D. x obovata*), SK0511, Charlotte Forest-King (conf. David Cadman, John Hawksford (= JH) and Graeme Kay), valley mire, with parents, Gentleshaw Common.

Echinops exaltatus x *sphaerocephalus* (= *E. x pellenzianus*), SO8785, NA, west of Wollaston. Eglandular and lacking auricles at leaf bases.

Euphorbia cyparissias x *esula* (= *E. x pseudoesula*), SO9097, NA, garden escape, pavement/wall interface, Penn Road, Wolverhampton.

Fothergilla major, SO9099, NA, planted between paths on S side of W lake section, West Park, Wolverhampton.

Leucojum aestivum ssp. *aestivum*, Paul Newton (= PN), SO8083, small colony in roadside ditch, near Compton Park Farm.

Linum grandiflorum, SJ8700, NA, from seed sown along verge of Yew Tree Lane, Wergs.

Oenothera fruticosa, SP0194, NA, abandoned wild flower mound, east verge of Sandy Lane, Wednesbury.

Parrotia persica, SO9198, NA, several trees planted in front of City Archives Building, St Peters Ring Road, Wolverhampton.

Phlomis russeliana, SK0412, NA, untended bed, east side of entrance to Village Hall Car Park, Gentleshaw.

Platanus orientalis forma *digitata*, 2021. SP0198, NA, mature tree planted at north end of Darwell Street, Walsall.

Polystichum polyblepharum, SP0198, NA, planted in middle of Park Street, opposite Butler's Passage, Walsall. A shiny shield-fern with a dense coating of long rusty hair-like scales covering stipe and particularly noticeable on young croziers.

Pteris tremula, SO9099, Paul Reade, six plants on brick ledge of external wall of Victorian conservatory, near E entrance to West Park, Wolverhampton. Also seen later by NA who points out that it is frost tender, but wall may be kept warm; a native to New Zealand where it forms low bracken-like stands that are difficult to walk through, giving it a local name of Tangle Fern.

Pulmonaria saccharata, SO8896. NA, garden escape on to edge of tarmac path, east of Strathfield Walk, Wolverhampton. Leaf bases lack the "shoulders" of *P. officinalis*.

Quercus canariensis x *robur* (= *Q. x carrissoana*), SO9099, NA, tree planted W of conservatory by lakeside, West Park, Wolverhampton. Leaves look like oversized *Q. robur* (with characters intermediate to those of parents).

Q. frainetto, SO9099, NA, young tree planted on W side of boundary path, E of lake, West Park, Wolverhampton.

Rhus coriaria, SK0212, NA, suckering along pavement side of hedge, south side of Littleworth Road, Littleworth. Leaf end with a winged rhachis.

Viburnum davidii, SK0865, Elaine Radford (= ER), amongst trees and planted shrubs close to Fire Station, Longnor NW.

Species seen again after a gap of several years.

Hypericum montanum, SK1153, PA, one plant, patch of grassland, Castern Wood Nature Reserve, Last seen c. 2003, SK1055, roadside, near Wetton after which site was destroyed.

Ranunculus arvensis, SJ9214, 2022, Alan Codling, waste ground by railway bridge, Pinfold Lane, Penkridge. Not seen in 2023 when area was regularly strimmed. Taxon last recorded (in 2010) from Ferndown Local Nature Reserve, SJ8542.

New tetrads for rarer taxa.

The following have been seen in a total of less than about seven tetrads, since 1994.

Acer capillipes, SO9099, NA, small tree planted immediately W of bandstand, West Park, Wolverhampton.

A. davidii, SO9099, NA, two trees planted SE side of tennis courts, West Park, Wolverhampton.

Allium ampeloprasum, SO9084, Brett Westwood, established for some years in hedgerow of approach road to waste disposal site, east of Wollaston.

Buddleja davidii x *globosa* (= *B. x weyeriana*) '**Honeycombe**', 2021, SO9295, NA, large bush overhanging west side of alleyway entrance to Ettingshall Park off Wordsworth Avenue.

Berberis wilsoniae, SO8999, Ian Trueman, Smestow Local Nature Reserve.

Brunnera macrophylla, SK1109, NA, abandoned flower bed, north side of Quonions cul-de-sac, Lichfield.

Cardamine raphanifolia, SK0558, HB, SK0558, stream outflow at junction of Church Lane, Upper Elkstone.

Carduus tenuiflorus, SO8992, PN, several dozen on an earth bank, Baggeridge Wood.

Corylus colurna, SO9098, NA, several planted on NE side of Merridale Cemetery, Bradmore, Wolverhampton.

Cota austriaca, SJ9107 & SJ9108, locally abundant along A449 and associated side roads, Standeford & Four Ashes; also SJ8705, a few hundred on verges of Port Lane motorway bridge, N of Codsall: all NA.

Erigeron speciosus, SK0865, ER, grassy verge close to habitation, near Daisy Knowle, Longnor NW.

Euphorbia oblongata, SK1309, NA, alleyway to railway crossing, N side of Burton Road, E. Lichfield.

Fraxinus excelsior forma diversifolia, 2021, SK1009, NA, several mature trees, southern edge of Beacon Park Golf Course, Lichfield.

Galium album x verum (= *G. x pomeranicum*), SJ9043, JH, with parents, banks on W side of path from Longton to Heron Chase.

Glebionis coronaria, SJ8700, NA, from seed sown along W verge of Yew Tree Lane, Wergs.

Iris versicolor, SP0383, NA, marshy area, N of Bourn Brook cycle path.

Laphangium luteoalbum, SP0098, NA, edge of paved area, S side of inlet to Walsall Canal Basin by Walsall Art Gallery.

Leucanthemella serotina, NA, SJ8810, several at base of wall on W side of Dean Street, immediately N of Dirty Lane junction, Brewood.

Linum grandiflorum, SJ8700, NA, from seed sown along W verge of Yew Tree Lane, Wergs.

Lysichiton americanus, SK0813, ditch on SE verge of Lysways Lane, Longdon; also SK0913, ditch on SW verge: both NA.

Mahonia japonica, SO8797, PN, border of amenity grassland behind gardens, Castlecroft.

M. x wagneri, SJ8808, several small seedlings at base of churchyard wall by entrance gate off Church Road, Brewood; also SO8997, several, hedge in front of Bradmore Bowls Club Car Park, Wolverhampton: both NA. Dull-leaved plants with (5)7-9(11) leaflets.

Nothofagus menziesii x *obliqua*, SO8997, NA, on N of SW boundary path, Bantock Park, Bradmore, Wolverhampton. Leaves mainly small like *N menziesii* but no hair-fringed pits towards base of leaf underside and several leaves too long with 4 vein pairs. (First world sighting of the taxon was from Weston Park c. 15 km NW.)

N. obliqua, SO8798, three spindly trees 30m apart on wooded bank, W of the end of Viewlands cul-de-sac, Perton Ridge; also SO8997, large tree c. 15m N of SE boundary path, Bantock Park, Bradmore, Wolverhampton: both NA.

Oxalis dillenii, SK1109, NA, bases of wooden posts, E side of pub car park, Gaia Road, Lichfield.

Pilosella flagellaris ssp. *flagellaris*, SJ8433, John Martin, Swynnerton MoD site.

Quercus castaneifolia, SO9097, two large trees planted amongst many *Q. cerris* on S side of Merridale Cemetery, Bradmore; also SO9099, medium-large tree planted due W of W section of lake, West Park: both NA and Wolverhampton.

Sisymbrium loeselii, SO9090, small, prostrate plant, edge of B4175 pavement, Gornalwood.

Trifolium pratense var. *sativum*, SJ8845, HB, Squires View/7 Arches Way, W of Stone. This variety differs from the “usual” var. *pratense* in its hollow (as against solid) stem, which is less hairy; it is also more robust, with larger leaflets and inflorescences (often paired) more than 25mm in diameter.

Verbascum blattaria forma *albiflorum*, SJ9856, JH, waste ground, N side of Queen Street, Leek.

Further observations

PN points out that *Dactylis glomerata* is quite often viviparous. This is seldom mentioned in the standard texts and few actual records appear in the databases. He found a specimen at SJ9611, Shoal Hill.

Senecio squalidus is declining appreciably in Staffordshire, as is the case throughout Britain.

Cornus sanguinea has two ssp., but most recorders are not attempting to distinguish between them. Thus, ssp. *austriaca* has 10 records (in all time periods); ssp. *sanguinea* has only two. For the latter: SJ8709, 2019, Jonathan Shanklin, Shutt Green; SK0106, Jo Parmenter, land W of Lime Lane, Norton Canes.

Erigeron canadensis is still common but possibly less so than a decade ago. *E. floribundus* is increasing steadily in urban areas in our region and a monad distribution map is given below: it is under-recorded. *E. sumatrensis* is said to be still spreading significantly nationally, but this is not obviously the case in VC 39.

