



## WWBIC Bulletin No. 19

May 2013

Welcome to WWBIC newsletter number 19. Thank you to everyone that has contributed.



## Interesting stuff

### ***Usnea articulata* in south Wales: a rare species on the move**

The beard-lichen *Usnea articulata* is both very rare and very distinctive, making it one of the higher profile lichens on the Section 42 list. Indeed its long-pendant thalli – hanging or snagged among twigs – are noticeable even from a moving car. Its identification and historic range in Wales are detailed on <http://wales-lichens.org.uk/species-accounts/usnea-articulata>.

Most of the Welsh population of *Usnea articulata* is in Pembrokeshire, but even there it is sparsely distributed and seldom encountered. At least 10 colonies were thought to be extant in the county by 2010, including those at Stackpole NNR and Llangloffan NNR that include two or three separate subcolonies.

The BLS database also includes undated older records from SM70 and SM90. Three Glamorgan sites were known when the *Glamorgan Flora* was written in 1994: at Whiteford Burrows, Pennard Burrows and Kenfig Burrows. The Cardiganshire population at Hafod was last seen in the 18th century, and other colonies in SN55, SN65, SN75 and SN87 have also been lost, as has the only Radnorshire population in SO06. These inland losses are thought to result from Sulphur Dioxide pollution, although some may have been small and/or transient if the current situation is anything to judge by. *Usnea articulata* has been included on Section 42 of the NERC act, making it a species of “principal importance for conservation of biological diversity in Wales”, because of its rarity in Wales and the significant loss of historic sites. [Read more...](#)

Sam Bosanquet

## **Pembrokeshire moths in 2012**

***Biselachista serricornis*** (Stainton), one adult recorded by Robin Taylor at Tretrhos Common (SM9227) on 27/07/2012. This species is new to Wales!

Other species new to the County include:

***Lithophane semibrunnea*** (Haworth) Tawny Pinion: Orlandon Kilns (SM8108), 23/03/2012, 1 adult at light, by Rosemary Royle, New County Record.

***Eriocraniidae unimaculella*** (Zetterstedt): Pengelly Forest (SN1339), 14/05/2012, mines on *Betula pubescens*, by Robin Taylor, New County Record

***Coleophora flavipennella*** (Duponchel): Welsh Hook (SM9327), 14/07/2012, 3 adults confirmed by genitalia dissection, by Robin Taylor, New County Record.

***Scoparia ancipitella*** (La Harpe): Minwear Wood (SN0513), 04/08/2012, 1 adult confirmed by male genitalia dissection, by Robin Taylor, New County Record. [Read more . .](#)



© R. Taylor *Coleophora flavipennella*



© R. Taylor *Scoparia ancipitella*

Paul Warren

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## **New VC lichen recorder for Carmarthenshire**

I became hooked on lichens while working in Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and was a member of the Sussex Lichen Group until moving to Carmarthen in 2010. Apart from a few well-known hotspots, lichens are under-recorded in Carmarthenshire, so there will be plenty for lichen enthusiasts in VC44 to do in future. Please let me know if you are interested in lichen recording, email

[Theresagreenaway@btinternet.com](mailto:Theresagreenaway@btinternet.com)

Theresa Greenaway

## Lichen News Ceredigion

Exploring the Peris valley east of Llan-non in Ceredigion this month I collected an undescribed species of lichen in the genus *Catinaria* on the bark of a horse-chewed Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* in a scrub patch adjacent to a fragment of old-woodland. Yet to be formally described, *Catinaria* 'sp. A' (as it is known) has been collected elsewhere in Britain from the New Forest and a few sites in S.W England. Like other genus members it appears to be a faithful indicator of ancient woodland and being a diddy species is likely over-looked. Rock outcrops in the valley also had fertile *Bacidia viridifarinosa*, the first fertile find in Britain of a species found fertile only once before (in France).

Steve Chambers

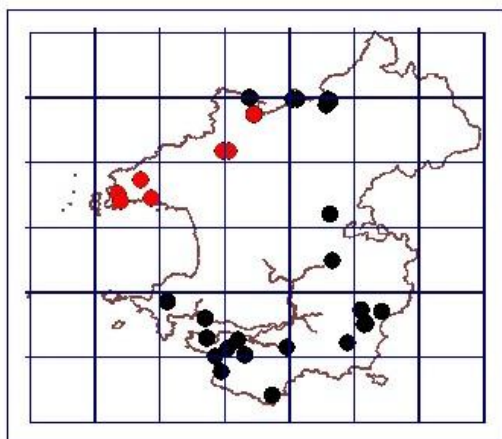
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## Willow blister (*Cryptomyces maximus*) - the value of recording absence

Willow blister is a rare (critically endangered worldwide) fungus found on willow. Several recent finds have increased the number of Pembrokeshire sites to seven - quite remarkable when you consider that the only other European record in recent years is a single observation from northern Sweden.

Little is known about the habitat requirements for this fungus and the reason for its apparent scarcity. With this in mind, members of the Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network are keeping a particular eye out for the species. As well as

Llangloffan Fen, April 2013. PFRN members with Nathan Walton (WTSWT) inspecting a recently discovered Willow blister site.



looking for new sites, they are noting its absence from sites with abundant willow scrub so that a true picture of its County distribution can be established.

We hope that information about sites where the species is not found, as well as those where the species is apparently thriving, may provide clues to the success of Willow blister in Pembrokeshire.

David Harries

Pembrokeshire distribution to 2011-2013 (red dot indicates presence, black denotes absence)

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## What can iSpot do for you, your local recording group or organisation?



Sharing of knowledge – iSpot allows you to view observations in your area (or further afield) and keep an eye out for interesting sightings and potential new records. You can also provide identifications, help others to learn and engage with local users. In South West Wales we are already lucky enough to have

Ron Elliot registered as one of our Invertebrate Experts and Mark Barber as one of our Amphibian and Reptile experts

Registering your group with iSpot – Over 90 specialist schemes and organisations are now registered with iSpot, including WWBIC, and have representatives using the site and showing off their group's logo and weblink. <http://www.ispot.org.uk/representatives>. [Read more](#).

Clare Flynn

I.T.

## On-Line Recording

We have a new on line recording tool which you can access via our website at <http://www.wwbic.org.uk/sendusarecording.asp>

We have used the Indicia toolkit already in use by sites such as iRecord and a number of different recording schemes and some of you might recognise the format. The main taxon groups are accessed through the tabs in which there are drop down lists of options for names which appear as you type in either the scientific or common name. There is a map to locate the grid reference.

Recorders are required to register with their name and email address and thereafter a username and password allows them to log in and record. Then using the "My Live Results" report they can view, either in a report or on the map, their own records and download them.

Mike Evans from Millstream Computing who has been building the site for us, has also worked on a survey level report, which will enable permissions to be given for access to a collated report for a given time or spatially defined survey, such as a 24-hour Bioblitz or a managed reserve.

The data is held in a data "warehouse" on a WWBIC server which is separate to our main database. WWBIC can access and download all records with all fields, crucially, including the recorder name. This is an important point as this has proven to be an issue in sharing all information about a record from other recording websites. We are then able to deal with those records in our usual way and submit them to a county recorder for verification. Having their email address allows us to contact the recorder for further information should it be required.

Logged in as CRussell >> [My Account Logout](#)

**Indicia WWBIC Online Recording**  
Recording West Wales Wildlife

Higher Plants Lower Plants Lichen Fungi Butterflies & Moths Dragonflies Other Invertebrates Fish Amphibians & Reptiles  
Birds Terrestrial Mammals Marine Mammals Browse Sightings My Live Results

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### Terrestrial Mammals

The species name input box will attempt to autocomplete the species and offer a drop down list. Either scientific or common name can be used. Note that some species will be preceded by terms such as "European", "Eurasian", "American" in the drop down list. e.g. American mink.

Abundance can be number or an estimate of the count, such as 50 plus or 50+. Other textual values are accepted.

The location name helps to verify the sighting location as input in the map such as a name of the nearest village or some well recognizable feature.

You may add any relevant notes you feel will be useful in "comments".

Please enter the species you saw and any other information about them.

Species:

Abundance:

Survey:  WWBIC  Bio Blitz 11 May  Bio Blitz 25-26 May  Green Phoenix\*

Please provide the spatial reference of the record. You can enter the reference directly, or search for a place then click on the map to set it.

Spatial Ref:

Search for Place on Map:

This latest development is on the heels of changes to the home page of the WWBIC website at [www.wwbic.org.uk](http://www.wwbic.org.uk) where there are various links to other pages including "Send us a Recording" and "Data Enquiries" and a feed from our Facebook page. We also have a twitter feed so if there is anything we can post/tweet, such as last minute news of events or interesting sightings, please let us know.

Colin Russell

## Data

There are **1,043,575** species records in our Recorder 6 database.  
The number of records in the GIS reporting species layer is: **977,284**

Since the last newsletter we have received datasets from Sam Bosanquet, Robin Taylor, Lin Gander and David Harries amongst others. We have also received Stackpole reserve data and SAC saltmarsh monitoring data from CCW.

## Feedback

### **WWBIC Recorders Forum 2013**

Our Forum this year was held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran. Dr Lizzie Wilberforce, a director of WWBIC, chaired the day which commenced with an update from Colin Russell, WWBIC manager. Other talks during the morning included an update on Phytophthora and Chalara by Kevin Izzard, FERA, an introduction and explanation of iSpot by Clare Flynn, iSpot Biodiversity Mentor for Wales, and an overview and demonstration of an online data access tool developed and presented by Steve Goddard, IT officer at BIS. The morning concluded with a discussion, firstly, about the online data access tool and then about the loss of taxonomic expertise at the National Museum of Wales and more generally at a local and national level. Once again the cafe at Cilgerran did not disappoint, we enjoyed a lovely buffet lunch and fine selection of cakes.

Mark Barber, ARC, started the afternoon session as David Bavin was unable to attend due to illness. Mark talked about and demonstrated the new 'Wales Online Amphibian and Reptile Atlas' that he has developed with Cofnod. Mark encouraged everyone to record amphibians and reptiles. Jane Hodges then spoke briefly to inform the audience about the work of Pembrokeshire Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) group. Dr Sarah Beynon concluded the day with a thought provoking talk about the effect of livestock wormers on dung beetle populations.

It was a relaxed and sociable day that provided plenty of opportunity for recorders from Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion to mingle with each other and WWBIC staff.



Kate Jones

## Forthcoming events

### **Bioblitz's!**

WWBIC will be present and assisting with record collection and collation at Bioblitz's in all three counties of our region.

Penglais Bioblitz, Aberystwyth University Campus, Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> 2013  
<http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/Penglais-BioBlitz-Programme-of-Events.pdf>

Stackpole Bioblitz, Stackpole National Trust Estate, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Bioblitz, Wildfowl & Wetland Trust Llanelli, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2013  
<http://www.wwt.org.uk/visit/llanelli/whats-on/2013/06/15/bioblitz/>

### **WWBIC Free Training Events**

Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) funding has made it possible again this year for WWBIC to arrange the following training days:

Amphibian and reptile identification, Stackpole, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

Fern identification, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013, location tbc in Carmarthenshire

Butterfly identification & habitat management, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Carmel NNR

Beetles as pollinators, date tbc in August, St Davids

Please contact the WWBIC office on 01994 241468 if you are interested in attending any of these training events.

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Chough workshop, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013, Llanerchaeron  
Contact Alys Edwards [aedwards@wtwales.org](mailto:aedwards@wtwales.org)

ARC Introduction to Amphibians and Reptiles, Llyn Llech Owain, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
Contact Isabel Macho [imacho@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:imacho@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) or phone 01558 825390

Wales Biodiversity Week 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Denmark Farm courses and events: <http://www.denmarkfarm.org.uk/events/>

Wildlife Trust of South West Wales events: <http://www.welshwildlife.org/events/>

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority events:  
<http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/default.asp?PID=417>

Sea Trust events and courses: <http://seatrust.org.uk/site/News.aspx>

Llanelli Naturalists events: <http://www.llanellinaturalists.org.uk/index.php/eventlist.html>

## **Thank you**

A big thanks to everyone that took part in and attended WWBIC Recorders Forum.

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If you have any comments or feedback regarding this newsletter please email: [kate@westwalesbiodiversity.org.uk](mailto:kate@westwalesbiodiversity.org.uk) or phone the WWBIC office on 01994 241468