

BRITISH WILD PLANTS IN NATURAL ASSOCIATIONS

A database source for landscaping, habitat creation and local planning

DATABASE CONTENTS, INTRODUCTION, CLASSIFICATIONS and INDEX

NB. The individual community tables and text (see Contents of Main Database below) are available as separate files.

Compiled by

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CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT ONLY

CONTENTS OF THE MAIN DATABASE.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	9
Management.....	9
Sources of planting material.....	10
Vegetation classification.....	11
How to use the database.....	11
Nomenclature.....	12
SECOND EDITION – FURTHER REMARKS.....	12
EXPLANATION OF COVER CLASSES.....	13
Scale of Conservation Ratings and Ease of Creation/Restoration.....	13
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	14
ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT.....	15
REMINDER: how to review the choice of communities for a site:.....	15
GLOSSARY.....	16
REFERENCES and FURTHER READING.....	18
APPENDIX I – HABITAT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS.....	23
APPENDIX II – PRIORITY HABITATS.....	42
SPECIES INDEX OF THE DATABASE.....	43

CONTENTS OF THE MAIN DATABASE

INTRODUCTION

- Management
- Sources of planting material
- Vegetation classification
- How to use the database
- Nomenclature

SECOND EDITION – FURTHER REMARKS

- Explanation of cover classes
- Scale of Conservation Ratings and Ease of Creation/Restoration
- Acknowledgements
- Abbreviations used in the text

1. WOODLAND (INCLUDING THICKETS, SCRUB, *ETC.*)

- Overview
 - upland ashwood
 - willow fen carr
 - montane willow scrub
 - lowland ashwood
 - calicolous beechwood
 - yew wood
 - hawthorn scrub
 - alder fen carr
 - upland oakwood
 - upland pinewood
 - juniper scrub
 - alder woodland
 - oak – bracken woodland
 - acid beechwood
 - acid oakwood
 - gorse scrub
 - bramble scrub
 - birchwood
 - grey willow scrub

2. HEATHLAND

- Overview
 - heather – *Racomitrium* heath
 - heather – juniper heath
 - bilberry – *Racomitrium* heath
 - heather – bilberry – bryophyte heath
 - bilberry – cloudberry heath
 - heather – bilberry heath
 - highland *Calluna* heath
 - heather – bearberry heath
 - northern alpine heath
 - bilberry – wavy hair-grass heath
 - bilberry – lichen heath
 - dwarf gorse heath
 - western gorse heath
 - Cornish heath
 - spring squill sea cliff heath
 - heather – bell heather heath
 - dune heath
 - heather – sheep's fescue heath
 - heather – wavy hair-grass heath

3. MISCELLANEOUS UPLAND AND SAXICOLOUS COMMUNITIES

- three-leaved rush community
- Scottish Highlands stiff sedge – moss carpet
- bryophyte snowpatch community
- dwarf willow snowpatch community
- northern wet cliff-face community
- subalpine calcifuge tall-herb community
- great wood-rush – water avens tall-herb community
- highland fern snowpatch community
- acidophilous scree community
- calcareous rock-face community
- limestone fern scree community
- wall pellitory community
- ivy-leaved toadflax saxicolous community

4. GRASSLAND

- General note on grassland establishment
- Classification of grassland
- common bent – sheep's fescue grassland
- mat-grass – heath bedstraw grassland
- heath rush – sheep's fescue grassland
- arctic alpine grassland
- tufted hair-grass snowpatch grassland
- perennial lowland siliceous grassland
- wavy hair-grass grassland
- bristle-leaved bent grassland
- bracken dominated sheep's fescue grassland
- tall meadowsweet – false oat-grass grassland
- submontane hay meadow
- false oat-grass grassland
- alluvial hay meadow
- traditional lowland hay meadow
- agricultural permanent pasture
- agricultural reseeded leys
- water meadow
- tufted hair-grass rough grassland
- Holco-Juncetum* rush pasture
- inundation pasture
- blue moor-grass calcareous grassland
- sheep's fescue – common bent calcareous grassland
- sheep's fescue snowpatch calcareous grassland
- sheep's fescue – mountain avens calcareous ledge
- sheep's fescue – carline thistle calcareous grassland
- sheep's fescue – meadow oat-grass calcareous grassland
- upright brome calcareous grassland
- tor grass calcareous grassland
- red fescue – oat-grass calcareous grassland
- sheep's fescue open chalk grassland
- sheep's fescue – mountain avens calcareous grass heath
- open grassy vegetation on metalliferous soils

5. SEA CLIFFS

- rock samphire – rock sea-spurrey crevice community
- thrift – Scot's lovage crevice community
- roseroot – thrift ledge community
- wild cabbage cliff-ledge community
- thrift – sea mouse-ear/winter annuals community
- spear-leaved orache – sea beet community of sea-bird cliffs
- red fescue sea cliff grassland

6. BEACHES AND SAND-DUNES

sea sandwort – sea rocket strandline
 sea mayweed – cleavers strandline
 sand couch/lyme grass embryonic dune vegetation
 marram dune-building vegetation
 marram – red fescue dune grassland
 red fescue – lady’s bedstraw dune grassland
 marram – false oat-grass dune grassland
 sand sedge dune vegetation
 sea-buckthorn scrub
 creeping willow dune slacks
 silverweed – common sedge dune slack
 shingle beach vegetation

7. FRESHWATER MARSHES AND RELATED VEGETATION

Overview

bog pools
 bottle sedge mire
 star sedge mire
 dioecious sedge – common butterwort mire
 common yellow-sedge – yellow saxifrage flush
 russet sedge mire
 black bog-rush mire
 deer-grass bog
 cross-leaved heath bog
 heather – bog-moss – cottongrass bog
 heather – cottongrass blanket mire
 lowland valley mire
 blunt-flowered rush fen-meadow
Juncus rush-pasture
 acid/neutral *Molinia* mire
 base-rich *Molinia* mire
 meadowsweet mire
 marsh St. John’s-wort – bog pondweed soakway
 oligotrophic springs, rills and flushes
 base-rich springs
 tufted sedge swamp
 great fen-sedge swamp
 greater tussock-sedge swamp
Phragmites reed-bed
 reed sweet-grass swamp
 greater pond-sedge swamp
 lesser pond-sedge swamp
 common club-rush swamp
 bottle sedge swamp
 water horsetail swamp
 bladder-sedge swamp
Typha swamp
 branched bur-reed swamp
 sweet-flag swamp
 arrowhead swamp
 cyperus sedge swamp
 false fox-sedge swamp
 common spike-rush swamp
 club-rush swamp
 floating sweet-grass water margin and related vegetation
Phragmites tall-herb fen
 reed canary-grass tall-herb fen

Weedy and pioneer communities of wet and marshy ground:
 colonising vegetation of unstable/transiently wet ground
 colonising vegetation of fertile shallows
 colonising vegetation of bare ground subject to flooding

8. SALT-MARSH (INCLUDING MARINE INTERTIDAL VEGETATION)

eelgrass communities
 beaked tasselweed community
 dwarf spike-rush community
 cord-grass community
 perennial glasswort stands
 annual glasswort community
 annual sea-blite community
 transitional lower salt-marsh community
 sea aster community
 common saltmarsh-grass community
 sea-purslane community
 sea rush – sea arrowgrass community
 saltmarsh rush community
 sea wormwood community
 sea rush community
 saltmarsh flat-sedge community
 slender spike-rush salt-marsh community
 shrubby sea-blite – rock sea-lavender community
 sea-purslane – sea-heath community
 lesser sea-spurrey – reflexed saltmarsh-grass community
 sea couch community
 shrubby sea-blite community
 common couch salt-marsh community
 golden samphire communities

9. AQUATIC VEGETATION OF OPEN WATER

stream water-crowfoot community
 river water-crowfoot community
 common water-crowfoot community
 pond water-crowfoot community
 brackish water-crowfoot community
 water-starwort community
 fennel pondweed community
 fennel pondweed – spiked water-milfoil community
 broad-leaved pondweed community
 perfoliate pondweed – alternate water-milfoil community
 alternate water-milfoil community
 amphibious bistort community
 Canadian waterweed community
 soft hornwort community
 rigid hornwort community
 yellow water-lily community
 white water-lily community
 common duckweed community
 gibbous duckweed community
 greater duckweed – frogbit community
 frogbit – water-soldier community
 bulbous rush community
 shoreweed – water lobelia community
 quillwort community

10. WEEDY VEGETATION

Weedy Vegetation in root crops and summer cereals
 Weedy Vegetation on arable land – light base-poor soils
 Weedy Vegetation – base-rich soils

Weedy Vegetation – hot dry poor soils
Weedy Vegetation – trampled/disturbed locations
Weedy Vegetation – fertile and moist waste ground
Weedy Vegetation – sea cliffs

GLOSSARY

REFERENCES and FURTHER READING

APPENDIX I – HABITAT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

APPENDIX II – PRIORITY HABITATS

SPECIES INDEX

INTRODUCTION

I compiled this database several years ago when plant community science, or phytosociology as it is known, was still relatively new in the UK. The publication of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) by Dr John Rodwell transformed our understanding of how and where plants grow together in typical associations and it became a tool for ecological botanists to use when examining and trying to classify vegetation. It is also indispensable for those of us in professional practice as a powerful aid to encouraging vegetation that will best succeed in a particular place under a particular management regimen.

I thought, therefore, that it would be useful to make this work available to those interested in and using the greenspaces we manage, to help explain why we do what we do and why typical groups of plant species so often grow together. I know it is rather a technical subject with its own terminology, but I hope it will be useful. Much further information is available, and I have provided a bibliography that I hope will assist.

The drive to enhance biodiversity, and an increasing demand for native planting, repair of damaged landscapes and habitat creation have created a need to know what groups of native plants can be selected, on a sound ecological and botanical basis, for use in a particular habitat type. Until the advances in phytosociology and the classification of British vegetation into groups of species which typically occur together under similar environmental conditions, it was rather hit-and-miss. Vegetation science is complex and involves specialised study and skills, but my purpose in producing *British Wild Plants in Natural Associations*¹ was to provide a simplified database and guide. By providing Tables of core species which are most likely to be found in the wild under the prevailing environmental conditions (essentially the local climate, exposure, land use, hydrology and soils/substrata) prevailing at a site, the database can be used as a template to select the basic plant assemblages which, under suitable management, will have the greatest chance of success, as well as fitting the native British landscape. We use this when planning, adapting to or enhancing our greenspaces.

Feedback from kind users of the database, often environmental professionals who are responsible for vegetation work and managing planting schemes which are desired to represent and develop into native, semi-natural habitats in Britain (that is England, Wales and Scotland), suggests it has been useful. It is even helpful when the introduction of ornamental varieties of native species is required in a scheme, since horticultural cultivars frequently have similar niche requirements to their native progenitors. The database is broadly arranged according to habitat conditions, but each species mentioned is also separately indexed. For those interested in rare and uncommon communities, I have tried to indicate in the text when a plant assemblage has special natural history and conservation interest (see also [Appendix II](#)). Other than intertidal communities in the section on salt-marsh, I have not covered the very specialist area of marine communities.

Management

This database is not a manual of techniques. There is a big gap between knowing which species should be appropriate for a location and achieving the establishment of the desired vegetation. The selection of suitable species for the site in the first place is an essential first step but, although a few notes are given on establishment and management, these topics are the domain of the specialist field ecologist, botanist and landscape scientist. They are beyond the intended scope of this publication. Several institutions run courses on habitat creation, restoration and management, including the British Ecological Society and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

An increasing literature is now accumulating on the practical aspects of native association planting and habitat creation, but it is worth recalling that these still have much potential for research, experimentation and innovation towards the development of the most successful techniques. Ecological theory, too, is always in flux and, as is pivotal to good science, the underpinning and ground-breaking theses of Clements, Gleason, Whittaker, Wilson, Harper and others on matters such as succession, ecological equilibria and the interdependence of species are continually being dissected, reconstructed and refined.

¹ The word "natural" in the context of the title does not exclude human influence. Many of the plant assemblages described have arisen through particular land use practices but they naturally form recognisable and typical communities of wild species under such regimes.

Generally, plantings which adhere to natural vegetation associations in appropriate situations should, once established, require less maintenance than exotic or poorly chosen assemblages, be more robust and resilient, and provide habitats for a rich array of fauna. It must be remembered, however, that not only do many of the plant communities take several years, and not infrequently decades, to become established, but they will move through, or cycle in, temporal and spatial ecological phases which can be modified or held in check by management or other site-specific factors. Thus, if it is desired to create and maintain a calcicolous grassland community, it should not only be suitably managed at the establishment stage, like all new plantings, but also, with the exception of rare cases in climatic extremes, it will have to be kept as grassland thereafter by permanent regimes of grazing or, most commonly in urban greenspace, cutting. The spatial and temporal aspects of vegetation ecology are highly complex but a point to be stressed is that many of the rare and threatened fauna and flora of Britain are particularly associated with traditionally managed, semi-natural habitats such as grazed heath, old meadow, woodland pasture, coppice and unpolluted wetlands.

Between 1989 and 1993, the Nature Conservancy Council, later becoming English Nature and then Natural England, carried out a review of habitat creation projects (see Parker 1995). They discovered that many such projects failed, and it is useful to note some of the shortcomings they found. Monitoring of projects, record keeping, and aftercare were often inadequate or lacking and management actions were inappropriate, insensitive to changing conditions or not taken at all. Project planning was not rigorous, and objectives were not set or were unsuitable. Financial resources were underestimated, particularly with respect to long term commitment, and projects were too ambitious. The importance of the suitability of soils for the vegetation required was often not recognised. Betts work hard to overcome these issues.

It is worth emphasising that management of relatively small areas of specialised anthropogenic habitat against the natural ecological trends for the site can be very costly. It is usually more economic and more practical, and likely to be a better approach towards promoting biodiversity, to encourage ecosystems that are as self-sustaining as possible and foster the ecological processes that intrinsically lead to natural diversity.

Sources of planting material

Care should be exercised to select genetically native material. There has been an increasing commercial production and availability of native species in recent years but by no means all suppliers can be relied upon to provide truly autochthonous seeds and plants. Also, important vegetation components of semi-natural communities such as mosses and lichens are generally unavailable in the marketplace – and they require rather specialist knowledge and skills for cultivation. Natural recruitment of these non-vascular taxa is usually good, though: they tend to establish themselves with little assistance, either as opportunistic colonisers and spontaneous pioneers of early successional stages in community development or when the newly planted assemblage matures to a suitable stage to provide the necessary ecological niches for them.

Occasionally, material is also available from site clearance operations, but rarer components of the desired community can be very difficult to obtain. Many rare plants are strictly protected by law and may only be harvested or transplanted under licence (see also Botanical Society of the British Isles 1991). Fortunately, however, rare species only occasionally play a critical role in community vegetation ecology – although they may be highly desirable as a contribution to the nature conservation value of a site. I have mentioned some of the less common species in the comments to each community. Sometimes they appear spontaneously but whenever scarce or rare plants are to be involved in a scheme, advice should be sought from a professional botanist, biological conservation specialist or a competent national body such as the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in Peterborough.

In many cases, a development, landscaping or habitat creation project will cover an area where fragments of native semi-natural vegetation remain near-by. Even if these have been damaged or are degraded in some way, they often form important reservoirs of the autochthonous species needed for the project's greenspace and may spread naturally under appropriate conditions or can be used for propagation. Taking a long-term view and setting up a plant nursery area on site or at a convenient location in the region to bulk up the material may be essential for larger schemes.

Vegetation classification

The NVC (National Vegetation Classification), the European Community's CORINE (Co-ordination of Information on the Environment) Biotopes and, with respect to European Union Habitats of Community Interest, the Natura 2000 Habitat Codes are probably the three main ecological vegetation classification systems most familiar to British phytosociologists. The *British Wild Plants in Natural Associations* database draws on these and from direct experience in plant community surveys, projects and research carried out in professional practice since 1983. Wherever possible, the groupings are related back to NVC communities and CORINE biotopes (now Palaeartic habitats – see below) /Natura 2000 habitats, but there is overlap between classifications and community types and I have sometimes preferred to combine two or more (see also [Appendix I](#)). There are some 285 communities described in the NVC, the publication of which is *British Plant Communities* (Rodwell 1991 *et seq.*). The CORINE communities are described in Devillers, Devillers-Terschuren & Ledant (1991 – see also Devillers & Devillers-Terschuren 1993, 1996). The Natura 2000 habitats are listed and described in European Commission (1999) and are derived from the latest classification of Palaeartic habitats (Devillers & Devillers-Terschuren 1996) which updated and extended CORINE – a database known as PHYSIS at the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles in Brussels holds all this phytosociological information – and that's not all: newer systems like EUNIS (European Union Nature Information System) supplement it. This is all fascinating but becomes rather complicated and well beyond my self-imposed remit for the present work. Readers should please bear in mind that, for simplicity, I refer to the main European habitat classification as “PAL”, and that Natura 2000 only covers natural habitat types of Community Interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) as listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

Readers will be aware of the collaboration in all this between UK and EU scientists and the exceptional synergy and benefit that has arisen in this (and so many other fields) from our EU membership. I and all the scientists I know reject any idea of leaving the EU and we shall not do so in our work or philosophy.

How to use the database

The data (separately in the main database) are arranged for easy access. Broad vegetation types are grouped together, and information as has seemed appropriate on such matters as climatic/geographical divisions and general soil type/substratum is given at the beginning of each section. Tables of core plant species for the naturally associated assemblages of vegetation are then presented. Excepting Weedy Vegetation and a few other communities, which have been simplified, each Table shows the scientific and common English names of the principal species of the community – that is, the ones that are nearly always present and that, in our temperate ecosystems, are often the ones with the highest percentage ground cover – followed by a selection of other species that, although they may be completely absent, are generally characteristic of that community. Although based on the NVC data, which are derived from statistically analysed samples, this division remains somewhat arbitrary and must be treated as suggestive rather than definitive. It is worth remembering that very many other species occur from time to time in most of the assemblages, adding further nuances of community character, indications of opportunistic colonisation and reflections of site-specific conditions. RH Whittaker's well-known paper (1951) indicates that each species in a community tends to have its own centre of population away from which it gradually declines, the pattern corresponding to the species' capacity to maintain a population against the gradients of environment and competition and, although species are grouped, there are only well-defined borders in special habitat situations such as in abrupt changes caused by sudden alterations in hydrology, geology or land-use. The aim in this publication, though, is to provide a guide to the more general structure and composition of the British vegetation community types for practical use.

The proportion of each species in a stand of vegetation is conventionally measured as its amount of ground cover (the number of times it occurs, or its abundance, may be combined or associated with this measure). Cover is liable to vary greatly both spatially and temporally (especially seasonally) but I have attempted to indicate the typical maximum ground cover for each species listed, as may be expected to be seen within a reasonably representative homogeneous stand of an example of the community where that species occurs. The size of a homogeneous stand of a vegetation community is linked to several endogenous and exogenous ecological and environmental factors, but an appreciation of scale and the dynamic response of vegetation is important for correct interpretation. For example, a relatively undisturbed tract of woodland on a single soil type on flat ground, without rides or changes in hydrology, is likely to be homogeneous overall and to be represented by a single community type. Conversely, a heathland on rough terrain over sandstone and gravelly drift, used for dog walking, riding

and grazing and experiencing occasional fires, will tend to be heterogeneous and display clear divisions of several different heathy community types over quite short distances. Mosaics are common in semi-natural vegetation stands and it will often be a desirable option to create them to boost biodiversity.

It is very important to appreciate the potential for ecological change in plant communities over time. One must also realise that British vegetation is hugely variable and there are few hard and fast rules. As mentioned above, it is stressed that no attempt has been made to list all the species found in every community, but rather the principal and typical ones to indicate a core assemblage. The Tables are designed to provide a dependable aid to planning a native planting scheme with the major characteristics which would prevail in the wild in a defined situation, both in terms of the species content and the range of their ground cover/abundance.

Comments follow each community Table in the main database with a few brief notes on distribution and habitat, vegetation structure, establishment, management, *etc.* References to NVC, PAL and Natura 2000 equivalents, where relevant, are also given.

A glance at the database main Contents pages will refer readers to the pages covering all the community types – remember that these divisions are broad and that there is overlap.

In short, to review the choice of communities for a site:

1. Using the Contents pages, decide between the major options of woodland, heathland, grassland, coastal, aquatic, *etc.*
2. Read through the introduction to the section chosen and make a short list.
3. Study each of the main database Tables and the comments which follow them for the short-listed communities to make the final choice, remembering that mosaics and juxtaposition of two or more appropriate community types can be advantageous.

Nomenclature

Scientific nomenclature of the vascular plant species in the community Tables is that of *Flora Europaea* (Tutin *et alii* 1964-80). Although Stace (1997–2019) is more recent and I have noted some names which have changed and adopted them in the text, *Flora Europaea* is also in widespread use throughout Britain and Europe and was followed by the NVC, at least in the earlier versions. (**NB.** Changes continue to be made by taxonomists.) Vernacular English names of vascular species in common usage have also been employed throughout the Tables and text and generally follow Dony, Jury and Perring (1986). Bryophytes follow Corley and Hill (1981) with vernacular names and some scientific name synonyms noted from Edwards (1999); lichens follow Dahl (1968). The names of vegetation communities adopted by the NVC, PAL and Natura 2000, and sometimes Tansley (1939), are referred to where appropriate and have sometimes been adopted. Phytosociological systematic classification based on the work by Josias Braun-Blanquet (1932) is well developed in continental Europe and the naming of plant assemblages by studying their total floristic composition using a standardised procedure is highly advanced. This taxonomic system is certainly useful and is now more frequently adopted by British vegetation scientists. Its fundamental unit is the *association*. These are formally classified in a Latin nomenclature within *alliances*, *orders* and *classes*. Examples appears in many of the community names and I have used it here and there but not extensively.

The Tables in the Appendices list the major divisions of the NVC communities, the Palaeartic (PAL) habitats, Natura 2000 habitats, the Biodiversity Broad Habitat Classification (BBHC), Countryside Vegetation System (CVS) class names and the correspondence between them. (Not all the PAL habitats and Natura 2000 habitats are vegetated nor are they all represented in Britain, and there are often cases when no equivalent exists between the systems.)

SECOND EDITION – FURTHER REMARKS

Following the success of the first edition, I attempted to update the information so that more recent changes and new work are included. The original 1991 CORINE system and its codes has been updated to the 1996 Palaeartic habitats classification and I have made cross references to Natura 2000 where

appropriate. I have also referred to the Biodiversity Broad Habitat Classification (BBHC) (see e.g. Jackson 2000 who also provides correspondence Tables for Phase 1 Habitats and others) and, where feasible, the Countryside Vegetation System (CVS) Vegetation Classes (Bunce *et alii* 1999). On the latter subject, readers may wish to consider the use of Ellenberg's Indicator Values for British Plants (Hill *et alii* 1999) as a monitoring tool for change in the vegetation in which they are interested – monitoring and aftercare remain perhaps the most important and frequently the most neglected aspects of habitat creation and restoration. The Ellenberg Values can be found in the Technical Annex to the second volume (Bunce *et alii* 1999) of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology's Ecofact series (CVS above is the first). Ellenberg's values include light, moisture, pH reaction, nitrogen and salinity. By examining changes in mean indicator values from quadrat samples over time, changes can be considered with reference to any trends that they might reveal. The CVS itself is seldom truly comparable to the NVC, PAL or Natura 2000 because the CVS sample plots were placed randomly rather than selectively within homogeneous vegetation. Where good matches exist (above a similarity coefficient of 0.6), I have noted this. Nevertheless, the CVS is a useful classification and complements the other systems.

I have made an attempt at assembling the cross-referencing of some of the main systems in [Appendix I](#), but there are considerable difficulties because of revisions, historical factors and the continuing process of development of phytosociological nomenclatural standardisation. That is beyond the scope of this publication and readers should refer to appropriate specialists at, for example, the Unit of Vegetation Science at Lancaster University, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in Peterborough or European Commission DG Environment.

The layout and presentation of *British Wild Plants in Natural Associations* have also been re-designed in a way which I hope will improve ease of use, and I have added English names for mosses and liverworts which I hope will be of help to less specialist readers, but please note I have not reviewed and updated the nomenclature for bryophytes and lichens and the original names of the NVC are used. For example, the common moss *Eurhynchium praelongum* which appears in several communities, is now *Kindbergia praelonga*.

I have added some further notes and made adaptations for website publication in 2018/2019.

C J Betts

EXPLANATION OF COVER CLASSES

The cover class column in the Tables for each community in this database is an attempt to indicate the maximum amount of ground cover for each species in a stand of that community during the season when it is in leaf (as applicable). It should be considered in the context of a homogeneous and representative stand of the vegetation type, looking down vertically from above (or imagined from such a viewpoint in e.g. woodland).

Please remember that this is only a guide and that there can be, and often are, exceptions. Note particularly that it is not uncommon for species in class 3 to occur at only a few percent cover and they may be entirely absent from some stands. Nevertheless, the three classes should prove useful in determining the balance at which to aim when working to establish a native community on a site.

- 1 These are species of typically low ground cover, a few percent only and usually less than ten percent.
- 2 These are species with a ground cover commonly falling between ten and fifty percent.
- 3 These are often the community dominants or co-dominants, generally with a cover of more than fifty percent and sometimes a hundred percent or, when in leafy layers with a conspecific understorey, even more than that.

Scale of Conservation Ratings and Ease of Creation/Restoration

(see end of text on each community in main database)

Conservation ratings are broadly classed as “high”, “moderate” or “low” with a few supplementary remarks as seems appropriate and mention of provisional Red Data Book (Rodwell & Cooch 1998) status where

applicable. Ease of creation/establishment is usually indicated as “challenging”, “demanding” or “straightforward”, again with added qualifiers as seems appropriate, but bear in mind that, spontaneity/ecesis in suitable habitats notwithstanding, most habitat creation/restoration requires considerable skill, resources and patience.

Although self-explanatory, both these are admittedly simplistic and rather subjective; but it is hoped that they will at least give readers an indication in context. Note that many communities fall within a Natura 2000 or BAP Priority Habitat. These are listed in [Appendix II](#) and sometimes noted in the main database text. The UK BAP has been succeeded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework but its priority habitats are still used.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CJB

In memory of Dr Andrew Malloch who has sadly died since the first edition of this work and who was, many years ago, tutor for my PhD.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT

agg.	aggregate (usually of micro-species or very closely related species)
aka	also known as
aod	above ordnance datum
ca.	about (<i>circa</i>)
cf.	compare (<i>conferatur</i>)
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BBHC	Biodiversity Broad Habitat Classification
CORINE	<u>C</u> o- <u>o</u> rdination of <u>I</u> nformation on the <u>E</u> nvironment
CVS	Countryside Vegetation System
E	east
e.g.	for example (<i>exempli gratia</i>)
esp.	especially
EU	European Union
EUNIS	European Nature Information System
id.	identification
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
N	north
NB	note well (<i>nota bene</i>)
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
p	page
PAL	Palaeartic habitat(s) <i>sensu</i> Devillers – Devillers-Terschuren (1996)
p.p.	in part (<i>pro parte</i>)
S	south
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
s.l.	in the broad sense (<i>sensu lato</i>)
sp.	species (singular)
spp	species (plural)
ssp.	subspecies (singular)
sspp	subspecies (plural)
syn.	synonym
UK	United Kingdom
var.	variety
W	west
♀	female
♂	male
<	less than
>	more than

REMINDER: how to review the choice of communities for a site:

1. Using the Contents pages of the main database, decide between the major options of woodland, heathland, grassland, coastal, aquatic, etc.
2. Read through the introduction to the database section chosen and make a short list.
3. Study each of the Tables in the main database and the comments which follow them for the short-listed communities to make the final choice, remembering that mosaics and juxtaposition of two or more appropriate community types can be advantageous.

GLOSSARY

Acidophile (-ous):	thriving in base-poor, acid environments.
Aerohaline:	of plant communities where the atmospheric environment is salty (from sea-spray).
Amphidiploid:	progeny with several sets of homologous chromosomes (<i>i.e.</i> polyploid) as a result of chromosomes doubling the by crossing hybrid diploid parents.
Athalassic:	water bodies which may be saline or brackish, but which are separated from the sea.
Bocage:	Ancient land enclosure system comprising a grid of small fields surrounded by hand-built stone and earth protective bunds topped with lines of shrubs and trees hedges boundary and with ditches running along their base (especially in French Atlantic coastal areas).
Bryophyte:	a moss or liverwort (member of the botanical division BRYOPHYTA).
Calcareous:	rich in calcium salts or growing in such places.
Calcifuge:	avoiding lime-rich substrata.
Calcschist or calcschist:	a type of metamorphic rock of calcite minerals in lithology.
Chasmophytic:	of plants growing in crevices in rocks.
Chionophilous:	growing/thriving in snowy habitats.
Epiphyte:	a plant which grows on another plant (but does not take nutrients from it as a parasite would).
Carr:	woody vegetation growing in a fen or mire.
Community (ecological):	a group of organisms of different species occurring together and interacting in the same habitat.
Dystrophic:	of humus rich lakes/water bodies (often brown) with much suspended organic matter but of low dissolved nutrient status.
Ecesis:	pioneering stage of vegetation colonization of a (new) habitat.
Ecotone:	transitional boundary zone between distinctive adjacent communities.
Ecotype:	an ecological race, variety or population of a species with distinctive features adapted to a particular environment.
Edaphic:	pertaining to, or influenced by, the nature of the soil.
Euryoecious:	thriving in/growing in a wide range of habitats.
Eutrophic:	(environments) rich in the nutrients required for plant growth.
Forb:	broad-leaved herbaceous plant.

Gley:	a soil in which the C-horizon tends to be impermeable or very slowly permeable resulting in seasonal waterlogging.
Halophyte:	plant living in saline conditions.
Hydrophilous	thriving in/growing in wet conditions.
Lentic:	still or slow-flowing (of aquatic habitats).
Lotic:	fast-flowing (of aquatic habitats).
Machair:	from the Gaelic word for a low-lying plain; traditionally grazed coastal grassland on calcareous sand blown inshore.
Mesotrophic:	(environments) with intermediate levels of the nutrients required for plant growth.
Nekton (-onic):	the aquatic pelagic organisms in a water body which are free-swimming and able to move independently of the current.
Niche:	the ecological role of a species in a community with the various conditions of existence required by a species (conceptualised as "multidimensional hyperspace").
Oligotrophic:	(environments) poor in the nutrients required for plant growth.
Oro-	of mountains (from the Greek ορος).
Phenotype:	the observable structural and functional properties of a plant or other organism – the manifestation of environmental influences on its genetic constitution.
Plagioclimax:	a climax biological community formed following the deflection of an ecological succession by the activity or influence of man.
Phrygana:	cushion-forming warm Mediterranean sclerophyllous (hard-leaved) formations, often thorny and deciduous in summer.
Phytosociology:	that section of ecological science relating to the study of vegetation and plant communities, especially interactions, distribution and classification.
Podzol:	an acid soil, usually with litter at the surface, over a characteristic bleached pan of chelated iron and aluminium oxides washed downwards by high rainfall.
Psammophyte:	a plant growing in or on loose sand.
Ranker:	generally shallow (up to about 40cm over bedrock) soil which is neutral to acid in character even if over limestone.
Relevé:	a sample of vegetation usually recording details (by visual estimation) of cover and abundance of the species present within it.
Rendzina:	a shallow soil resulting from calcareous parent bedrock, often in grass-dominated areas; it has a dark, crumbly surface layer above lime-rich, pale lower strata.
Rhizosphere:	the zone of soil immediately around, influencing and influenced by, the roots of plants.

Saxicole (-ous):	living on a rocky substratum or in or among rocks or stones.
<i>Sensu lato</i> :	in the broad sense (often used of species/micro-species aggregates).
Stenoecious:	only thriving in/growing in a narrowly restricted habitat.
Stratum (pl. strata):	(in vegetation) the distinctive horizontal layers or storeys which communities of plants often form (e.g. ground, field, shrub, canopy).
Substratum:	the medium on which an individual, population or community lives.
Terricolous:	living on or in soil.
Therophyte:	an annual plant (<i>i.e.</i> completing its full growth cycle in one season).
Umbrophile (-ic):	thriving in/growing in shady habitats.

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Other useful sources of information on native vegetation planting and management include various learned science journals (*Biological Conservation, Journal of Applied Ecology, Journal of Ecology, Vegetatio, etc., etc.*) as well as regular sections in popular magazines such as *British Wildlife*.

Note (2018). Some of the above have later editions that I have not noted. Much information and many publications have now moved to the internet. I have not attempted any kind of analysis or review of that but the NVC pages of the JNCC web site are recommended <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4259>.

Rodwell (2006) contains a complete list of all the NVC communities and codes.

APPENDIX I – HABITAT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

The major divisions of the NVC communities, the PAL habitats, Natura 2000 habitats, BBHC types and CVS class names and the correspondence between them.

Table 1: The eleven major divisions of the National Vegetation Classification system in Britain (Rodwell 1991 *et seq.*)

NVC major groups	abbreviation
aquatic communities	A
calicolous grasslands	CG
heaths	H
maritime cliffs	MC
mesotrophic grasslands	MG
swamps and tall-herb fens	S
sand dunes, strandline/shingle	SD
salt-marshes	SM
calcifugous grassland/montane	U
woodland and scrub	W
weed communities and other vegetation types of open habitats	OV

Table 2: The major divisions of the PAL habitat classification system (Devillers & Devillers-Terschuren 1996, updated from Devillers, Devillers-Terschuren & Ledant 1991). Not all occur in Britain.

PAL habitats first realm level (0) ²	abbreviation	PAL habitats second level	abbreviation
coastal and halophytic	1	ocean and seas, marine	11
		sea inlets and coastal features	12
		tidal rivers/estuaries	13
		mud flats/sand flats	14
		salt-marshes, salt steppes, salt scrubs, salt forests	15
		coastal sand dunes/sand beaches	16
		shingle beaches	17
		sea-cliffs and rocky shores	18
		islets, rock stacks, reefs, banks, shoals	19
		coastal agro-systems	1A
non-marine waters	2	coastal lagoons	21
		standing fresh water	22
		standing brackish and salt water	23
		running water	24
scrub and grassland	3	temperate heath and scrub	31
		sclerophyllous scrub	32
		phrygana	33

² **NB.** There are seven biotic realms as used by Udvardy (1975): Palaeartic, Nearctic, Afro-tropical, Indo-Malayan, Oceanian, Australian, Antarctic and Neotropical (South American), designated 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 respectively.

		dry calcareous grasslands/steppes	34
		dry siliceous grasslands	35
		alpine and subalpine grasslands	36
		humid grasslands/tall-herb communities	37
		mesophile grasslands	38
		tundra	39
		tropical grasslands	3A
		tropical shrub-lands	3B
		tropical alpine	3C
forests	4	temperate broad-leaved deciduous forest	41
		temperate coniferous forests	42
		temperate mixed forests	43
		temperate riverine & swamp forests/brush	44
		temperate broad-leaved evergreen forests	45
		evergreen rainforests	46
		semi-evergreen rainforests	47
		monsoon forests	48
		tropical montane forests	49
		tropical swamp forests	4A
		dry tropical woodland	4B
		mangrove forests	4C
bogs and marshes	5	raised bogs	51
		blanket bogs	52
		water-fringe vegetation	53
		fens, transition mires, springs	54
inland rocks, screes and sands	6	screes	61
		inland cliffs and exposed rocks	62
		eternal snow and ice	63
		inland sand dunes	64
		caves	65
		volcanic features	66
deserts	7	Polar deserts	71
		continental deserts and semi-deserts	72
		subtropical deserts and semi-deserts	73
		cool coastal deserts	74
agricultural land and artificial landscapes	8	improved grasslands	81
		crops	82
		orchards, groves, tree plantations	83
		tree lines, hedges, rural mosaics	84
		urban parks/large gardens	85
		towns, villages, industrial sites	86
		fallow land, waste places	87
		mines/underground passages	88
		industrial lagoons and reservoirs, canals	89
wooded grasslands and scrubs	9	parklands	91
		bocages	92
		wooded steppe	93
		wooded tundra	94
		tree-line ecotones	95
		savannas	96
		wooded deserts and semi-deserts	97

Table 3: The Natura 2000 natural habitat types of Community Interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (after European Commission 1999). Please note that not all occur in Britain. (Asterisks denote Natura 2000 Priority Habitats.)

Natura 2000 habitat types of Community Interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (Priority Habitats denoted by *)

Natura 2000 Code

Coastal and Halophytic Habitats

Open sea and tidal areas	
Sandbanks permanently but shallowly covered by sea water	1110
* <i>Posidonia</i> beds (<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>)	1120
Estuaries	1130
Mudflats and sandflats uncovered at low tide	1140
*Coastal lagoons	1150
Large shallow inlets and bays	1160
Reefs	1170
Submarine structures made by leaking gases	1180

Sea cliffs and shingle or stony beaches	
Annual vegetation of drift lines	1210
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	1220
Vegetated sea cliffs of Atlantic and Baltic coasts	1230
Vegetated sea cliffs of Mediterranean coasts with endemic <i>Limonium</i> spp	1240
Vegetated sea cliffs with endemic flora of the Macaronesian coasts	1250

Atlantic and continental salt marshes and salt meadows	
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	1310
<i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartina maritima</i>)	1320
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)	1330
*Inland salt meadows	1340

Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic salt marshes and salt meadows	
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	1410
Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosae</i>)	1420
Halo-nitrophilous scrubs (<i>Pegano-Salsoletea</i>)	1430

Salt and gypsum inland steppes	
*Mediterranean salt steppes (<i>Limonietalia</i>)	1510
*Iberian gypsum steppes (<i>Gypsophiletalia</i>)	1520
*Pannonic salt steppes and saltmarshes	1530

Boreal Baltic archipelago, coastal and land-upheaval areas	
Baltic esker islands with sandy, rocky and shingle beach and sublittoral vegetation	1610
Boreal Baltic islets and small islands	1620
*Boreal Baltic coastal meadows	1630
Boreal Baltic sandy beaches with perennial vegetation	1640
Boreal Baltic narrow inlets	1650

Coastal Sand Dunes and Inland Dunes

Sea dunes of the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic coasts	
Embryonic shifting dunes	2110
Shifting shoreline dunes with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)	2120
*Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	2130
*Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	2140
*Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	2150
Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	2160
Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenaria</i>)	2170
Wooded dunes of the Atlantic, Continental and Boreal region	2180
Humid dune slacks	2190
Machairs (* in Ireland)	21A0

Sea dunes of the Mediterranean coast	
<i>Crucianellion maritimae</i> fixed beach dunes	2210
Dunes with <i>Euphorbia terracina</i>	2220
<i>Malcolmietalia</i> dune grasslands	2230
<i>Brachypodietalia</i> dune grasslands with annuals	2240
*Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp	2250
<i>Cisto-Levenduletalia</i> dune sclerophyllous scrubs	2260
*Wooded dunes with <i>Pinus pinea</i> and/or <i>Pinus pinaster</i>	2270

Inland dunes (old and de-calcified)	
Dry sand heaths with <i>Calluna</i> and <i>Genista</i>	2310
Dry sand heaths with <i>Calluna</i> and <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	2320
Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	2330
Inland dunes	2340

Freshwater Habitats

Standing water	
Oligotrophic waters with very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	3110
Oligotrophic waters with very few minerals on sandy soils of the West Mediterranean with <i>Isoetes</i> spp	3120
Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i>	3130
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp	3140
Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation	3150
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	3160
*Mediterranean temporary pools	3170
*Turloughs	3180

Running water

Fennoscandian natural rivers	3210
Alpine rivers and the herbaceous vegetation along their banks	3220
Alpine rivers and their ligneous vegetation with <i>Myricaria germanica</i>	3230
Alpine rivers and their ligneous vegetation with <i>Salix elaeagnos</i>	3240
Constantly flowing Mediterranean rivers with <i>Glaucium flavum</i>	3250
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	3260
Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodion rubri p.p.</i> and <i>Bidention p.p.</i> vegetation	3270
Constantly flowing Mediterranean rivers with <i>Paspalo-Agrostidion</i> species and hanging curtains of <i>Salix</i> and <i>Populus alba</i>	3280
Intermittently flowing Mediterranean rivers of the <i>Paspalo-Agrostidion</i>	3290
<u>Temperate Heath and Scrub</u>	
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	4010
* Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i>	4020
European dry heaths	4030
* Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with <i>Erica vagans</i>	4040
* Endemic Macaronesian heaths	4050
Alpine and boreal heaths	4060
* Bushes with <i>Pinus mugo</i> and <i>Rhododendron hirsutum</i> (<i>Rhododendretum hirsuti</i>)	4070
Sub-arctic <i>Salix</i> spp scrub	4080
Endemic oro-Mediterranean heaths with gorse	4090
<u>Sclerophyllous Scrub (Matorral)</u>	
Sub-Mediterranean and temperate scrub	
Stable xerothermophilous formations with <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> on rock slopes (<i>Berberidion p.p.</i>)	5110
Mountain <i>Cistus purgans</i> formations	5120
<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	5130
* <i>Cistus palhiniae</i> formations on maritime wet heaths	5140
Mediterranean arborescent matorral	
Arborescent matorral with <i>Juniperus</i> spp	5210
*Arborescent matorral with <i>Zyziphus</i>	5220
*Arborescent matorral with <i>Laurus nobilis</i>	5230
Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-steppe brush	
<i>Laurus nobilis</i> thickets	5310
Low formations of euphorbia close to cliffs	5320
Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub	5330
Phrygana	
West Mediterranean cliff-top phryganas (<i>Astragalo-Plantaginetum subulatae</i>)	5410
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i> phryganas	5420
Endemic phryganas of the <i>Euphorbio-Verbascion</i>	5430
<u>Natural and Semi-Natural Grassland Formations</u>	
Natural grasslands	
* Rupicolous calcareous or basophilic grasslands of the <i>Alysso-Sedion albi</i>	6110
* Xeric sand calcareous grasslands	6120
Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>	6130
Siliceous Pyrenean <i>Festuca eskia</i> grasslands	6140
Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	6150
Oro-Iberian <i>Festuca indigesta</i> grasslands	6160
Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	6170
Macaronesian mesophile grasslands	6180
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies	
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrata (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites)	6210
*Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the <i>Thero-Brachypodietea</i>	6220
*Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in continental Europe)	6230
*Sub-pannonic steppic grasslands	6240
*Pannonic loess steppic grasslands	6250
*Pannonic sand steppes	6260
*Fennoscandian lowland species-rich dry to mesic grasslands	6270
*Nordic alvar and precambrian calcareous flatrocks	6280
Sclerophyllous grazed forests (dehesas)	
Dehesas with evergreen <i>Quercus</i> spp	6310
Semi-natural tall-herb humid meadows	
<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	6410
Mediterranean tall herb grasslands of the <i>Molinio-Holoschoenion</i>	6420
Hydrophilous tall-herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	6430
Alluvial meadows of river valleys of the <i>Cnidion dubii</i>	6440
Northern boreal alluvial meadows	6450
Mesophile grasslands	
Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>)	6510
Mountain hay meadows	6520
*Fennoscandian wooded meadows	6530
<u>Raised Bogs, Mires and Fens</u>	
<i>Sphagnum</i> acid bogs	
*Active raised bogs	7110
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	7120
Blanket bog (*if active bog)	7130
Transition mires and quaking bogs	7140
Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>	7150
Fennoscandian mineral-rich springs and springfens	7160

Calcareous fens	
*Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>	7210
*Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)	7220
Alkaline fens	7230
*Alpine pioneer formations of <i>Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae</i>	7240
Boreal mires	
*Aapa mires	7310
*Palsa mires	7320
<u>Rocky habitats and caves</u>	
Scree	
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsitalia ladani</i>)	8110
Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels	8120
Western Mediterranean and thermophilous scree	8130
Eastern Mediterranean screes	8140
Medio-European upland siliceous screes	8150
*Medio-European calcareous scree of hill and montane levels	8160
Rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	8210
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	8220
Siliceous rock with pioneer vegetation of the <i>Sedo-Scleranthion</i> or of the <i>Sedo albi-Veronicion dillenii</i>	8230
*Limestone pavements	8240
Other rocky habitats	
Caves not open to the public	8310
Fields of lava and natural excavations	8320
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	8330
Permanent glaciers	8340
<u>Forests</u>	
Forests of boreal Europe	
*Western Taiga	9010
*Fennoscandian hemiboreal natural old broad-leaved deciduous forests (<i>Quercus</i> , <i>Tilia</i> , <i>Acer</i> , <i>Fraxinus</i> or <i>Ulmus</i>) rich in epiphytes	9020
*Natural forests of primary succession stages of land-upheaval coast	9030
Nordic subalpine/subarctic forests with <i>Betula pubescens</i> ssp. <i>czerepanovii</i>	9040
Fennoscandian herb-rich forests with <i>Picea abies</i>	9050
Coniferous forests on, or connected to, glaciofluvial eskers	9060
Fennoscandian wooded pastures	9070
*Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods	9080
Forests of temperate Europe	
<i>Luzulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests	9110
Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrub layer (<i>Quercinion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>)	9120
<i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests	9130
Medio-European subalpine beech woods with <i>Acer</i> and <i>Rumex arifolius</i>	9140
Medio-European limestone beech forests of the <i>Cephalanthero-Fagion</i>	9150
Sub-Atlantic and Medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the <i>Carpinion betuli</i>	9160
<i>Galio-Carpinetum</i> oak-hornbeam forests	9170
* <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines	9180
Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains	9190
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	91A0
Thermophilous <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> woods	91B0
*Caledonian forest	91C0
*Bog woodland	91D0
*Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Pandion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	91E0
Riparian mixed forests of <i>Quercus robur</i> , <i>Ulmus laevis</i> and <i>Ulmus minor</i> , <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> , along the great rivers (<i>Ulmion minoris</i>)	91F0
*Pannonic woods with <i>Quercus petraea</i> and <i>Carpinus betulus</i>	91G0
*Pannonian woods with <i>Quercus pubescens</i>	91H0
*Euro-Siberian steppic woods with <i>Quercus</i> spp	91I0
* <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles	91J0
Mediterranean deciduous forests	
*Apennine beech forests with <i>Abies alba</i> and beech forests with <i>Abies nebrodensis</i>	9210
*Apennine beech forests with <i>Abies alba</i> and beech forests with <i>Abies nebrodensis</i>	9220
Galicio-Portuguese oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> and <i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	9230
<i>Quercus faginea</i> and <i>Quercus canariensis</i> Iberian woods	9240
<i>Quercus trojana</i> woods	9250
<i>Castanea sativa</i> woods	9260
Hellenic beech forests with <i>Abies borisii regis</i>	9270
<i>Quercus frainetto</i> woods	9280
<i>Cupressus</i> forests (<i>Acer-Cupression</i>)	9290
<i>Salix alba</i> and <i>Populus alba</i> galleries	92A0
Riparian formations on intermittent Mediterranean water courses with <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , <i>Salix</i> and others	92B0
<i>Platanus orientalis</i> and <i>Liquidamber orientalis</i> woods (<i>Platanion orientalis</i>)	92C0
Southern riparian galleries and thickets (<i>Nerio-Tamaricetea</i> and <i>Securinegion tinctoriae</i>)	92D0
Mediterranean sclerophyllous forests	
Aegean <i>Quercus brachyphylla</i> forests	9310
<i>Olea</i> and <i>Ceratonia</i> forests	9320
<i>Quercus suber</i> forests	9330
<i>Quercus ilex</i> and <i>Quercus rotundifolia</i> forests	9340

<i>Quercus macrolepis</i> forests	9350
*Macaronesian laurel forests (<i>Laurus, Ocotea</i>)	9360
*Palm groves of <i>Phoenix</i>	9370
Forests of <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	9380
Temperate and mountainous coniferous forests	
Acidophilous <i>Picea</i> forests of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Vaccinio-Piceetea</i>)	9410
Alpine <i>Larix decidua</i> and/or <i>Pinus cembra</i> forests	9420
Subalpine and montane <i>Pinus uncinata</i> forests (*if on gypsum or limestone)	9430
Mediterranean and Macaronesian mountainous coniferous forests	
*Southern Apennine <i>Abies alba</i>	9510
<i>Abies pinsapo</i> forests	9520
*(Sub-)Mediterranean pine forests with endemic black pines	9530
Mediterranean pine forests with endemic Mesogean pines	9540
Canarian endemic pine forests	9550
*Endemic forests with <i>Juniperus</i> spp	9560
* <i>Tetraclinis articulata</i> forests	9570
*Mediterranean <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods	9580

Table 4: The Biodiversity Broad Habitat Classification (BBHC) and UK BAP Priority Habitats as agreed by the UK Biodiversity Group. **NB.** This is based on data prior to the 2005–7 review of BAP habitats.

Biodiversity Broad Habitat Classification

1	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	12	Bogs
2	Coniferous woodland	13	Standing open water and canals
3	Boundary and linear features	14	Rivers and streams
4	Arable and horticulture	15	Montane habitats
5	Improved grassland	16	Inland rock
6	Neutral grassland	17	Built-up areas and gardens
7	Calcareous grassland	18	Supra-littoral rock
8	Acid grassland	19	Supra-littoral sediment
9	Bracken	20	Littoral rock
10	Dwarf shrub heath	21	Littoral sediment
11	Fen, marsh and swamp	22	Inshore sublittoral sediment

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats

Ancient and/or species rich hedgerows	Mudflats
Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	Native pine woodlands
Blanket bog	Purple moor grass and rush pastures
Cereal field margins	Reedbeds
Chalk rivers	<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reefs
Coastal salt-marsh	Saline lagoons
Coastal sand dunes	Seagrass beds
Coastal vegetated shingle	Serpulid reefs
Eutrophic standing waters	Sheltered muddy gravels
Fens	Sublittoral sands and gravels
Limestone pavements	Tidal rapids
Littoral and sublittoral chalk	Upland calcareous grassland
Littoral and sublittoral chalk	Upland hay meadows
<i>Lophelia pertusa</i> reefs	Upland heathland
Lowland beech and yew woodland	Upland mixed ashwoods
Lowland calcareous grassland	Upland oakwood
Lowland dry acid grassland	Wet woodland
Lowland meadows	
Lowland heathland	
Lowland raised bog	
Lowland wood pastures and parkland	
Machair	
Maerl beds	
Maritime cliff and slope	
Mesotrophic lakes	
<i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds	
Mud habitats in deep water	

Table 5: The Countryside Vegetation System Classes and Class Numbers (from Bunce *et al.* 1999)

Countryside Vegetation System (CVS) Class Name	Class Number
Almost weed-free wheat/other crops	1
Various crops with scattered weeds	2
Cereal crops with scattered grass weeks	3
Mixed crops with broadleaved weeds	4
Cereal crops with mixed weeds	5
Weedy leys/under-sown cereal crops	6
Fertile open hedges/crop boundaries	7
Fertile hedges/boundaries	8
Fertile tall grassland/open crop hedges	9
Tall grassland/herb boundaries	10
Stream-sides within crops	11
Fertile roadsides	12
Lowland Neutral roadsides	13
Lowland roadsides/crop boundaries	14
Lowland stream-sides	15
Moist fertile scrub/woodland	16
Lowland wetland/stream-sides	17
Fertile shaded stream-sides	18
Fertile stream-sides/wetland tall-herb	19
Grassy roadsides	20
Species-rich lowland hedges	21
Fertile wood edges/stream-sides	22
Fertile grassland	23
Dry base-rich woodland	24
Shaded grassland/hedges	25
Tall grassland/scrub by roadsides	26
Rye-grass roadsides	27
Fertile tall-herb/grassland	28
Rye-grass grassland	29
Fertile mixed grassland	30
Rye-grass/clover grassland	31
Gravel reedbeds by stream-side	32
Wet neutral grassland	33
Mixed grassland/scrub/hedges	34
Diverse base-rich woodland/hedges	35
Shaded moist stream-sides	36
Neutral grassland/scrub	37
Fertile/neutral grassland on roadsides	38
Fertile wooded stream-sides	39
Rye-grass/Yorkshire-fog grassland	40
Species-rich stream-sides/wet grassland	41
Woodland on heavy soils	42
Rye-grass/bent grass	43
Calcareous grassland	44
Shaded rushy stream-sides	45
Species-rich wooded stream-sides	46
Species-rich neutral grassland	47
Marsh/stream-sides	48
Neutral/acidic woodland patches	49
Neutral/acidic woodland	50
Wet rushy grassland	51
Neutral grassland	52
Species-rich neutral/acid grassland/scrub	53
Marsh/fen	54
Wet neutral/acid rush grassland	55
Species-rich neutral/acid grassland	56
Enriched acid grassland/moorland grass flushes	57
Species-rich moorland grass stream-sides/flushes	58
Wooded stream-sides	59
Acid grassland/stream-side/flushes	60
Species-rich acid grassland	61
Woodland on podzolic soils	62
Herb-rich stream-sides/acid grassland	63
Bracken/acid grassland	64
Herb-rich grassland/heath	65
Moorland grass stream-sides/flushes	66
Moorland grass	67
Oak/birch woodland	68
Open woodland/heath	69

Wooded acid stream-sides	70
Herb-rich moorland grass/heath	71
Acid stream-sides/flushes	72
Rushy moorland grass/stream-sides on peat soils	73
Inundated stream-sides/flushes	74
Coniferous plantations	75
Diverse acid stream-sides/flushes	76
Mature coniferous plantations	77
Species-rich moorland grass/heath	78
Mountain stream-sides/flushes	79
Moorland grass/heath on podzolic soils	80
Montane heath/acid grassland.....	81
Wet heath/bog	82
Young coniferous plantations	83
Rush heath/moorland grass.....	84
Stream-sides/flushes on peat soils	85
Wet moorland grass/stream-sides on peaty gley soils	86
Moorland grass/bog on peaty gley/peat soils	87
Moorland grass/heath/bog	88
Dry heath on podzolic soils	89
Wet heath/moorland grass on variable soils	90
Heath/moorland grass	91
Northern moorland grass/bog	92
Montane heath on podzolic soils	93
Sphagnum bog	94
Crowberry blanket bog	95
Wet deer grass bog	96
Northern blanket bog.....	97
Cotton grass bog	98
Saturated bog	99
Inundated bog/wetland.....	100

COUNTERPARTS

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
1. Woodland				
UPLAND ASHWOOD	W9	41.31, 41.F2	9180	1
WILLOW FEN CARR	W3	44.923	–	11
MONTANE WILLOW SCRUB	W20	31.622	4080	15
LOWLAND ASHWOOD	W8	41.3, 41.4,41.233, 41.F, 41.G1	9180	1
CALCICOLOUS BEECHWOOD	W12	41.13	9130	1
YEW WOOD	W13	42.A71	91J0	1
HAWTHORN SCRUB	W21, W22	31.81	5130	1
ALDER FEN CARR	W5	44.91	91E0	1
UPLAND OAKWOOD	W11, W17	41.532 (sometimes 41.E)	91A0	1
UPLAND PINEWOOD	W18	42.51	91C0, 91D0	2
JUNIPER SCRUB	W19	31.88	5130, 91C0	2
ALDER WOODLAND	W6, W7	41.C,44.121,44.31, 44.33, 44.911(part)	91E0	1
OAK – BRACKEN WOODLAND	W10	41.21 (41.G1)	9190, 91A0	1
ACID BEECHWOOD	W14, W15	41.12	9120, 9130, 91D0	1
ACID OAKWOOD	W16	41.5 (parts), 41.B12	9190, 91A0	1
GORSE SCRUB	W23	31.85	–	3
BRAMBLE SCRUB	W24, W25	31.811, 31.831	–	3
BIRCHWOOD	W4	44.A1, 44.A2, 44.B11,44.912	91D0	1
GREY WILLOW SCRUB	W1, W2	44.921	–	11

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
2. Heathland				
HEATHER – <i>RACOMITRIUM</i> HEATH	H14	31.2257 or in 31.4	4030 or 4060	15
HEATHER – JUNIPER HEATH	H15	31.453	4060	15
BILBERRY – <i>RACOMITRIUM</i> HEATH	H20	31.2125 or in 31.4	4030 or 4060	15
HEATHER – BILBERRY – BRYOPHYTE HEATH	H21	31.2128	4030, (4060 if subalpine)	10, (15)
BILBERRY – CLOUDBERRY HEATH	H22	31.2122 or in 31.4	4030 or 4060	15
HEATHER – BILBERRY HEATH	H12	31.2256	4030, (4060 if subalpine)	10, (15)
HIGHLAND <i>CALLUNA</i> HEATH	H13	31.2257 or in 31.4	4030 or 4060	15
HEATHER – BEARBERRY HEATH	H16	31.2255	4030, (4060 if subalpine)	10, (15)
NORTHERN ALPINE HEATH	H17	31.451	4060	15
BILBERRY – WAVY HAIR-GRASS HEATH	H18	31.212	4030, (4060 if subalpine)	10, (15)
BILBERRY – LICHEN HEATH	H19	31.212 or in 31.4	4060	15
DWARF GORSE HEATH	H2, H3	31.238, 31.12 if wet with <i>Erica ciliaris</i>	4030, 4020	10
WESTERN GORSE HEATH	H4, H8	31.235, 31.12 if wet with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> , 18.21	4030, 4020, 1230	10, 18
CORNISH HEATH	H5, H6	31.234, 31.11, 18.21	4040, 4010, 1230	10, 18
SPRING SQUILL SEACLIFF HEATH	H7	31.2252, 18.21	1230, 4030	18, 10
HEATHER – BELL HEATHER HEATH	H10	31.2256	4030, (4060 if subalpine)	10, (15)
DUNE HEATH	H11	16.23, 16.24	2140, 2150	19
HEATHER – SHEEP'S FESCUE HEATH	H1	31.2251, (16.24)	4030, (2150)	10, (19)
HEATHER – WAVY HAIR-GRASS HEATH	H9	31.2254	4030	10
3. Miscellaneous upland and saxicolous communities				
THREE-LEAVED RUSH COMMUNITY	U9	36.323	6150	15

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS STIFF SEDGE – MOSS CARPET	U10	36.322	6150	15
BRYOPHYTE SNOWPATCH COMMUNITY	U11	36.11211, 3.32	–	15
DWARF WILLOW SNOWPATCH COMMUNITY	U12	36.11221, 36.32	–	15
NORTHERN WET CLIFF-FACE COMMUNITY	U15	62.52	–	15
SUBALPINE CALCIFUGE TALL-HERB COMMUNITY	U16, U19	31.63, 37.8	–	16
GREAT WOOD-RUSH – WATER AVENS TALL-HERB COMMUNITY	U17	37.8	6430	16
HIGHLAND FERN SNOWPATCH COMMUNITY	U18	36.1125, 61.1	8110, 8220	16
ACIDOPHILOUS SCREE COMMUNITY	U21	61.12	8110, 8220	16
CALCAREOUS ROCK-FACE COMMUNITY	OV39, OV40 ³	62.1	8210	16
LIMESTONE FERN SCREE COMMUNITY	OV38 ⁴	61.3123	8120	16
WALL PELLITORY COMMUNITY	OV41	62	–	3, 16, 17
IVY-LEAVED TOADFLAX SAXICOLOUS COMMUNITY	OV42	62	–	3, 16, 17
4. Grassland				
COMMON BENT – SHEEP’S FESCUE GRASSLAND	U4	35.12	–	8
MAT-GRASS – HEATH BEDSTRAW GRASSLAND	U5	35.11	–	8
HEATH RUSH – SHEEP’S FESCUE GRASSLAND	U6	37.32	–	8
ARCTIC ALPINE GRASSLAND	U7, U8	36.321,36.324	6150	15
TUFTED HAIR-GRASS SNOWPATCH GRASSLAND	U13, U14	36.1123 or in 36.32	–	15
PERENNIAL LOWLAND SILICEOUS GRASSLAND	U1	35.22	–	8
WAVY HAIR-GRASS GRASSLAND	U2	35.13	–	8
BRISTLE-LEAVED BENT GRASSLAND	U3	35.1	–	8

³ formerly U22 and U23 respectively

⁴ formerly U24

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
BRACKEN DOMINATED SHEEP'S FESCUE GRASSLAND	U20	31.86	–	8, (9), 15
TALL MEADOWSWEET – FALSE OAT-GRASS GRASSLAND	MG2	38.23	–	6
SUBMONTANE HAY MEADOW	MG3	38.23	6520	6
FALSE OAT-GRASS GRASSLAND	MG1 ⁵	38.22	–	8
ALLUVIAL HAY MEADOW	MG4	38.11	6510	6
TRADITIONAL LOWLAND HAY MEADOW	MG5	38.112	–	6
AGRICULTURAL PERMANENT PASTURE	MG6	38.111	–	5
AGRICULTURAL RESEEDED LEYS	MG7 ⁶	81, 38.111	–	4
WATER MEADOW		38.12	–	6
TUFTED HAIR-GRASS ROUGH GRASSLAND	MG9	37.213	–	6 ,(8)
<i>HOLCO-JUNCETUM</i> RUSH PASTURE	MG10	37.241	–	6
INUNDATION PASTURE	MG11–MG13	37.242	–	6
BLUE MOOR-GRASS CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND	CG8, 9	34.321	6210	7
SHEEP'S FESCUE – COMMON BENT CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND	GG10 ⁷ , CG11	34.321, 35.12	6230, (6210)	7
SHEEP'S FESCUE SNOWPATCH CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND	CG12	36.1124	6170	7
SHEEP'S FESCUE – MOUNTAIN AVENS CALCAREOUS LEDGE	CG14	31.495	6170	7
SHEEP'S FESCUE – CARLINE THISTLE CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND	CG1	34.331	6210	7
SHEEP'S FESCUE – MEADOW OAT-GRASS CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND	CG2 ⁸	34.32163	6210	7
UPRIGHT BROME CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND	CG3, CG5	34.32161	6210	7

⁵ compares with CVS Class 26 (tall grassland/scrub by roadsides)

⁶ compares with CVS Class 40 (rye grass/Yorkshire-fog grassland)

⁷ compares with CVS Class 65 (herb-rich acid grassland/heath)

⁸ compares with CVS Class 44 (calcareous grassland)

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
TOR GRASS CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND	CG4	34.32162	6210	7
RED FESCUE – OAT-GRASS CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND	CG6	34.32161	6210	7
SHEEP'S FESCUE OPEN CHALK GRASSLAND	CG7	34.32163	6210	7
SHEEP'S FESCUE – MOUNTAIN AVENS CALCAREOUS GRASS HEATH	CG13	31.49	6170	7
OPEN GRASSY VEGETATION ON METALLIFEROUS SOILS	OV37	34.211	6130	16
5. Sea cliffs (for weedy vegetation on sea cliffs (NVC MC7) see Section 10)				
ROCK SAMPHIRE – ROCK SEA-SPURREY CREVICE COMMUNITY	MC1	18.21	1230	18
THRIFT – SCOTS LOVAGE CREVICE COMMUNITY	MC2	18.21	1230	18
ROSEROOT – THRIFT LEDGE COMMUNITY	MC3	18.21	1230	18
WILD CABBAGE CLIFF-LEDGE COMMUNITY	MC4	18.21	1230	18
THRIFT – SEA MOUSE-EAR/WINTER ANNUALS COMMUNITY	MC5	18.21	1230	18
SPEAR-LEAVED ORACHE – SEA BEET COMMUNITY OF SEA-BIRD CLIFFS	MC6	18.2,19	1230	18
RED FESCUE SEA CLIFF GRASSLAND	MC8–MC12	18.21 (and see 38.2 for some stands).	1230	18
6. Beaches and sand-dunes				
SEA SANDWORT – SEA ROCKET STRANDLINE	SD2	16.13	1210 on stony substrata, (2110)	19
SEA MAYWEED – CLEAVERS STRANDLINE	SD3	16.12	1210 stony substrata only	19
SAND COUCH/LYME GRASS EMBRYONIC DUNE VEGETATION	SD4, SD5	16.2111	2110	19
MARRAM DUNE-BUILDING VEGETATION	SD6	16.2121	2120	19
MARRAM – RED FESCUE DUNE GRASSLAND	SD7, SD19	16.2121, 16.22, 16.227	2130	19
RED FESCUE – LADY'S BEDSTRAW DUNE GRASSLAND	SD8	16.221,1A.1	2130	19
MARRAM – FALSE OAT-GRASS DUNE GRASSLAND	SD9	16.221,16.226	2130 (NVC SD9b)	19
SAND SEDGE DUNE VEGETATION	SD10–SD12	16.221, 64	2130, 2330 (inland)	19, 8

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
SEA-BUCKTHORN SCRUB	SD18	16.251	(2160)	19
CREEPING WILLOW DUNE SLACKS	SD13–SD16	16.26, 32, 33	2190, 7210, 2170	19, 11
SILVERWEED – COMMON SEDGE DUNE SLACK	SD17	16.34	2190	19
SHINGLE BEACH VEGETATION	SD1	17.3	1220 except sandy shore drift lines	19
7. Freshwater marshes and related vegetation				
BOG POOLS	M1–M 3	51.1, 51.2, 52.1, 52.2, 54.6	7110, 7120, 7130, 7150	12, 11
BOTTLE SEDGE MIRE	M4, M5, M8, M9	54.53, 53.3, 54.2	7140, 7210, 7230	11
STAR SEDGE MIRE	M6, M7	54.423	–	11
DIOECIOUS SEDGE – COMMON BUTTERWORT MIRE	M10	54.25, (54.3)	7230 (7240 if arctic–alpine)	11
COMMON YELLOW-SEDE – YELLOW SAXIFRAGE FLUSH	M11	54.29	7240	18, 11
RUSSET SEDGE MIRE	M12	54.27	7240	18, 11
BLACK BOG-RUSH MIRE	M13, M14	54.21, 31.11, 54.6	7210, 4010, 7150, 7230	11, 10
DEER-GRASS BOG	M15, 17	31.11, 51.2, 52.1, 52.2, 54.6	4010, 7130, 7120, 7150	10, 12, 11
CROSS-LEAVED HEATH BOG	M16	31.11, 31.12, 51.2, 54.6	4010, 4020, 7120, 7150	10, 12, 11
HEATHER – BOG-MOSS – COTTONGRASS MIRE	M18	51.115, 51.2, 52.1, 52.2, 54.6	7110, 7130, 7120, 7150	12, 11
HEATHER – COTTONGRASS BLANKET MIRE	M19, M20	52.21, 52.22	7130, 7120, 7110	12
LOWLAND VALLEY MIRE	M21	31.12, 51.14, 54.6	4020 (if much <i>Erica ciliaris</i>), 7150	10, 11
BLUNT-FLOWERED RUSH FEN-MEADOW	M22	37.218	–	11
<i>JUNCUS</i> RUSH-PASTURE	M23	37.217	–	6, 11
ACID/NEUTRAL <i>MOLINIA</i> MIRE	M24, M25	37.312, 53.3, 51.2, 52.1, 52.2	6410, 7210, 7120, 7130	11, 12
BASE-RICH <i>MOLINIA</i> MIRE	M26	37.312	6410	11
MEADOWSWEET MIRE	M27, M28	37.1	–	11

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
MARSH ST JOHN'S-WORT – BOG PONDWEED SOAKWAY	M29, 30	22.313, (54.6)	7150	12
OLIGOTROPHIC SPRINGS, RILLS AND FLUSHES	M31–M36	54.11	–	11
BASE-RICH SPRINGS	M37, M38	54.12	7220	11
TUFTED SEDGE SWAMP	S1	53.2151	–	11
GREAT FEN-SEDE SWAMP	S2	53.3	7210	11
GREATER TUSSOCK-SEDE SWAMP	S3	53.216	–	11
<i>PHRAGMITES</i> REED-BED	S4	53.11	–	11, (13)
REED SWEET-GRASS SWAMP	S5	53.15	–	11, (13)
GREATER POND-SEDE SWAMP	S6	53.213	–	11, (13)
LESSER POND-SEDE SWAMP	S7	53.212	–	11, (13)
COMMON CLUB-RUSH SWAMP	S8	53.12	–	11, (13)
BOTTLE SEDGE SWAMP	S9, 27	53.2141, 54.5	7140	11
WATER HORSETAIL SWAMP	S10	53.147	–	11
BLADDER-SEDE SWAMP	S11	53.2142	–	11
<i>TYPHA</i> SWAMP	S12, 13	53.13	–	11, (13)
BRANCHED BUR-REED SWAMP	S14	53.143	–	11, (13)
SWEET-FLAG SWAMP	S15	53.144	–	11, (13)
ARROWHEAD SWAMP	S16	53.141	–	11, (13)
CYPERUS SEDGE SWAMP	S17	53.218	–	11, (13)
FALSE FOX-SEDE SWAMP	S18	53.219	–	11, (13)
COMMON SPIKE-RUSH SWAMP	S19	53.14A, 22.312, 15.339	–	11
CLUB-RUSH SWAMP	S20, 21	53.17	–	11, (13)

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
FLOATING SWEET-GRASS WATER MARGIN AND RELATED VEGETATION	S22, 23	53	–	11, (13)
<i>PHRAGMITES</i> TALL-HERB FEN	S24–S26	53.112, 54.21, 53.3	7210	11
REED CANARY-GRASS TALL-HERB FEN	S28	53.16	–	11, (13)
Weedy and pioneer communities of wet and marshy ground	OV28–OV36	see 8,5, 2	–	various
8. Salt-marsh (including marine intertidal vegetation)				
EELGRASS COMMUNITIES	SM1	11.31, 11.32	(NB 1110/1130/1140/1150/1160)	22, 21
BEAKED TASSELWEED COMMUNITY	SM2	11.41, 2 3.21	(NB 1110/1130/1140/1150/1160)	22, 21
DWARF SPIKE-RUSH COMMUNITY	SM3	11.421, 23.22	(NB 1110/1130/1150/1160)	21
CORD-GRASS COMMUNITY	SM4–SM6	15.21	1320, 1130	21
PERENNIAL GLASSWORT STANDS	SM7	15.622	1310, 1420, (1130)	21
ANNUAL GLASSWORT COMMUNITY	SM8	15.111	1310, (1130)	21
ANNUAL SEA-BLITE COMMUNITY	SM9	15.111	1310, (1130)	21
TRANSITIONAL LOWER SALT-MARSH COMMUNITY	SM10	15.323	1330, (1130)	21
SEA ASTER COMMUNITY	SM11, SM12	15.322, 15.41	1330, (1130)	21
COMMON SALTMARSH-GRASS COMMUNITY	SM13	15.31	1330, (1130)	21
SEA-PURSLANE COMMUNITY	SM14	15.321, 15.62	1330, (1130)	21
SEA RUSH – SEA ARROWGRASS COMMUNITY	SM15	15.33A	1330, 1410, (1130)	21
SALTMARSH RUSH COMMUNITY	SM16	15.331	1330, 1340 (inland), (1130)	21, 6
SEA WORMWOOD COMMUNITY	SM17	15.33B	1330, (1130)	21
SEA RUSH COMMUNITY	SM18	15.33A	1330, 1410, (1130)	21
SALTMARSH FLAT-SEDGE COMMUNITY	SM19	15.338	1330, (1130)	21
SLENDER SPIKE-RUSH SALT-MARSH COMMUNITY	SM20	15.339	1330, (1130)	21

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
SHRUBBY SEA-BLITE – ROCK SEA-LAVENDER COMMUNITY	SM21	15.337, 15.6	1420, (1130)	21
SEA-PURSLANE – SEA-HEATH COMMUNITY	SM22	15.33D	(1130)	21
LESSER SEA-SPURREY – REFLEXED SALTMARSH-GRASS COMMUNITY	SM23	15.34, 15.4	1340, (1130)	6
SEA COUCH COMMUNITY	SM24	15.35	(1130)	21
SHRUBBY SEA-BLITE COMMUNITY	SM25	15.623	1420, (1130)	21
COMMON COUCH SALT-MARSH COMMUNITY	SM28	15.35	(1130)	19, 6
GOLDEN SAMPHIRE COMMUNITIES	SM26	15.321, 15.35	(1130)	21
EPHEMERAL SALT-MARSH VEGETATION (not in database – see note in text)	SM27	15.3	1310, (1130)	21
9. Aquatic vegetation of open water				
STREAM WATER-CROWFOOT COMMUNITY	A17	22.432	–	14
RIVER WATER-CROWFOOT COMMUNITY	A18	24.44	–	14
COMMON WATER-CROWFOOT COMMUNITY	A19	22.432	–	13, 14
POND WATER-CROWFOOT COMMUNITY	A20	22.432	–	13, (14)
BRACKISH WATER-CROWFOOT COMMUNITY	A21	11.43, 23.21	(NB 1110/1130/1150/1160)	13
WATER-STARWORT COMMUNITY	A16	22.432	–	13, 14
FENNEL PONDWEED COMMUNITY	A12	22.42	–	13, 14
FENNEL PONDWEED – SPIKED WATER-MILFOIL COMMUNITY	A11	22.42	–	13, 14
BROAD-LEAVED PONDWEED COMMUNITY	A9	22.431	–	13, 14
PERFOLIATE PONDWEED – ALTERNATE WATER-MILFOIL COMMUNITY	A13	22.42	–	13, 14
ALTERNATE WATER-MILFOIL COMMUNITY	A14	22.42	–	13, 14
AMPHIBIOUS BISTORT COMMUNITY	A10	22.431	–	13
CANADIAN WATERWEED COMMUNITY	A15	22.42	–	13, 14

Community (in order of appearance in this database)	NVC	PAL	Natura 2000 (if all or part included)	BBHC
SOFT HORNWORT COMMUNITY	A6	22.42	– (NB 1150)	13
RIGID HORNWORT COMMUNITY	A5	22.42	–	13
YELLOW WATER-LILY COMMUNITY	A8	22.431	–	13, 14
WHITE WATER-LILY COMMUNITY	A7	22.431	–	13
COMMON DUCKWEED COMMUNITY	A2	22.411	–	13, 14
GIBBOUS DUCKWEED COMMUNITY	A1	22.411	–	13
GREATER DUCKWEED – FROGBIT COMMUNITY	A3	22.411	–	13
FROGBIT – WATER-SOLDIER COMMUNITY	A4	22.413	–	13
BULBOUS RUSH COMMUNITY	A24	22.45 or other 22	3160, 3130	13
SHOREWEED – WATER LOBELIA COMMUNITY	A22	22.311	3110	13
QUILLWORT COMMUNITY	A23	22.311	3110	13
10. Weedy vegetation				
in root crops and summer cereals	OV6–OV12	see 8	–	4
on arable land – light base-poor soils	OV1–OV5	see 8	–	4
on base-rich soils	OV13–OV16	see 8	–	4, 5, 17
on hot dry poor soils	OV17	see 8	–	4, 5, 17
in trampled/disturbed locations	OV18–OV23	see 8	–	5, 17
on fertile and moist waste ground	OV24–OV27	see 8	–	various
on sea cliffs	MC7	18.2, 19	1230	18

Table 6: Database communities and approximate National Vegetation Classification/Palaeartic Habitats/Natura 2000/Biodiversity Broad Habitat Classification counterparts.

NB. Again, please note that there are not always equivalents of the communities/habitats between the various classification systems (see also [Introduction](#) and main text), and various sources and authors differ in their view. Brackets in Table 6 are an attempt to indicate recognised insubstantial/tentative correspondence

but the agreement generally between any two classifications can be rather loose, for example Natura 2000 21A0 (machair) can relate to up to twelve NVC communities (not detailed in this Table) (European Commission 1999). Please also be aware of formations such as limestone pavements which may support various plant communities. NVC sub-communities have been ignored for the purposes of this Table. Further help may be found in, for example, Appendix 2 of Jackson & McLeod (2000).

APPENDIX II – PRIORITY HABITATS

Table 1: Habitats Directive/Natura 2000 Priority British vegetation habitat types in danger of disappearance as listed in the European Communities Council Directive 92/43/EEC as updated⁹ and correspondence with NVC and this database's communities. Note that there are also other schemes with priority habitats such as the UK BAP (since 2012 the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework).

HABITATS DIRECTIVE/NATURA 2000 PRIORITY COMMUNITY/HABITAT AND CODE	PAL HABITAT	NVC COUNTERPART (see note below)	THIS DATABASE COUNTERPART (see note below)
COASTAL LAGOONS 1150	23.21, 23.22	A21, SM2, SM3	BRACKISH WATER-CROWFOOT COMMUNITY; BEAKED TASSELWEED COMMUNITY; DWARF SPIKE-RUSH COMMUNITY
INLAND SALT MEADOWS 1340	15.34	SM23	LESSER SEA-SPURREY - REFLEXED SALTMARSH-GRASS COMMUNITY
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 2130	16.221–3 16.225–7	SD8, SD9b, SD11, SD12, stabilising SD7	red fescue – lady's bedstraw dune grassland; marram – false oat-grass dune grassland; sand sedge dune vegetation; stabilising marram – red fescue dune grassland
Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> 2140	16.23	H11b	dune heath
Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes 2150	16.24	H11a, H11c	DUNE HEATH
Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> and <i>Erica ciliaris</i> 4020	31.12	M16 (& wet H3 and H4) when <i>E. ciliaris</i> present	cross-leaved heath bog (and wet dwarf and western gorse heaths) but only when <i>E. ciliaris</i> present
Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with <i>Erica vagans</i> 4040	31.234	H5, H6	Cornish heath
Important orchid sites in semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrata (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) 6210	34.31–34.34	CG1–CG10	blue moor-grass calcareous grassland; sheep's fescue – common bent calcareous grassland; sheep's fescue – carline thistle calcareous grassland; sheep's fescue – meadow oat-grass calcareous grassland; upright brome calcareous grassland; tor grass calcareous grassland; red fescue – oat-grass calcareous grassland
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrata in mountain areas 6230	35.12	CG11 (& some CG10 stands)	the most species-rich examples of sheep's fescue – common bent calcareous grassland
Active raised bogs 7110	51.1	M1, M3, M18, M20a	bog pools; heather – bog-moss – cottongrass bog; heather – cottongrass blanket mire
Blanket bog (Only when active) 7130	52.1, 52.2	M1, M15, M17-M20	bog pools; deer-grass bog; heather – bog-moss – cottongrass bog; heather – cottongrass blanket mire
Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> 7210	53.3	S2, S24, S25, M9, M13, M14, SD14, SD15	great fen-sedge swamp; <i>Phragmites</i> tall-herb fen; bottle sedge mire; black bog-rush mire; creeping willow dune slacks
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) 7220	54.12	M37, M38	base-rich springs
Limestone pavements 8240	62.3	In W8 & W9 (when wooded) also several other NVC types.	in lowland ashwood and upland ashwood. Also, various heaths, grasslands and scrub types may be on limestone pavement.
<i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines 9180	41.4	In W8 & W9	in lowland ashwood and upland ashwood
Caledonian forest 91C0	42.51	W18	upland pinewood
Bog woodland 91D0	44.A1–44.A2	W4	birchwood
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Pandion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae</i>) 91E0	44.3, 44.2, 44.13	W5, W6, W7	alder fen carr; alder woodland
<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles 91J0	42.A71	W13	yew wood

Note: There are not always exact equivalents of the communities/habitats between the various classification systems. Approximate counterparts have been given in these cases. Other CORINE biotopes/Natura 2000 habitats are considered to be natural habitat types of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation. These are listed in Annex I of the Directive.

⁹ Official Journal of the European Communities L 206 (22 July 1992). *Council Directive of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora*. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, now updated to Natura 2000 (see European Commission 1999).

SPECIES INDEX OF THE DATABASE

NB. Some names may have changed in latest nomenclatures; page numbers refer to the 2003 printed edition and may not be consistent with digital download file versions.

A

Acaena novae-zelandii 182
Acer campestre 10, 11
Acer pseudoplatanus 12, 29, 339
Aceras anthropomorphum 151
Achillea millefolium 102, 124, 128, 162, 174, 184, 186, 338
Achillea ptarmica 238
Acorus calamus 258
Actaea spicata 5
Agrostis canina 24, 68, 70, 90, 104, 106, 204, 210, 226, 228, 234, 238
Agrostis capillaris 20, 24, 30, 34, 62, 68, 74, 76, 88, 102-104, 106, 108, 110, 112-114, 116, 118, 122, 128, 130, 142-144, 162, 174, 188, 189, 210
Agrostis curtisii 66-69, 116, 117
Agrostis stolonifera 36, 132, 134, 136, 138, 139, 162, 166, 167, 174, 178, 192, 194, 224, 226, 228, 232, 244, 250, 261, 262, 264, 271, 272, 286, 289, 292, 294, 295, 299, 302, 334, 336, 338, 340
Agrostis vinealis 24, 68, 70
Aira praecox 76, 112, 170, 188
Ajuga chamaepitys 151, 333
Alchemilla acutiloba 123
Alchemilla alpina 8, 48, 62, 85, 88, 92, 94, 110, 111, 142-146
Alchemilla glabra 8, 88, 89, 92, 122, 238
Alchemilla glaucescens 141, 161
Alchemilla glomerularis 123
Alchemilla minima 141
Alchemilla monticola 123
Alchemilla prostrata 172, 177, 196, 261, 264, 292, 299, 300, 302
Alchemilla subcrenata 123
Alchemilla wichurae 123, 143
Alchemilla xanthochlora 122
 alder 1, 2, 18, 19, 26, 27, 38-41, 207, 241, 269, 358, 368
Alectoria nigricans 56, 60
 alison, small 333
 alga, brown 276
 alga, green 276
 alga, red 301
 algal mat 274, 278-286, 289, 294, 299, 303
Alisma plantago-aquatica 246, 249, 254, 256, 262, 266
Allium ampeloprasum 181
Allium schoenoprasum 71, 73, 171, 175, 273
 allseed, four-leaved 171, 334
Alnus glutinosa 18, 19, 26, 27, 38, 40, 353, 368
Alopecurus alpinus 237
Alopecurus borealis 237
Alopecurus geniculatus 136, 138, 139, 266, 271, 272, 295
Alopecurus myosuroides 273, 334
Alopecurus pratensis 126, 127, 131, 134, 352
 alpine-sedge, black 147
 alpine-sedge, scorched 209, 211
Althaea hirsuta 333
Alyssum alyssoides 333
 American willowherb 338
Amblystegium compactum 161
Arrhenatherum elatius 36, 97, 120, 121, 124, 134, 186, 187, 190, 196, 224, 232, 248, 338, 339
Ammophila arenaria 76, 177, 179-184, 186-188, 190, 196, 339, 351
Anagallis arvensis 273, 334-337
Anagallis tenella 70, 212, 234
Anastrepta orcadensis 48, 52
Anastrophyllum donnianum 49, 51, 109
Anastrophyllum joergensenii 49, 51
Anchusa arvensis 337
Anemone nemorosa 10, 24, 230
 anemone, wood 10, 24, 29, 230
Aneura pinguis 88, 192, 206, 208, 210, 212, 238
Angelica sylvestris 6, 8, 18, 40, 92, 120, 146, 167, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 233, 243, 250, 268, 339
 angelica, wild 6, 8, 18, 40, 92, 120, 146, 167, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 243, 250, 268, 339
Antennaria dioica 60, 160
Anthelia julacea 236, 237
Anthelia juratzkana 86, 237
Anthemis cotula 334
Anthoxanthum odoratum 20, 24, 34, 62, 68, 74, 76, 88, 90, 92, 102, 104, 106, 110, 112, 118, 122, 123, 126, 128, 132, 142, 146, 162, 174, 188, 206, 208, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 238
Anthriscus sylvestris 124, 260
Anthyllis vulneraria 170
Aphanes australis 334, 335
Aphanes microcarpa 334, 335
Aphanorhagma patens 273
Apium nodiflorum 256, 266, 308
 apple-moss, fountain 88, 236, 238
 apple-moss, thick-nerved 238
Arabis scabra 149
Arabis stricta 149
Arctostaphylos alpinus 45-47, 57, 60, 61, 221
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi 44, 46, 58-60
Arenaria norvegica 161
Arenaria serpyllifolia 96, 170, 182
Ameria maritima 72, 144, 162, 165-168, 170-172, 174, 175, 286, 289-292, 294, 296, 298, 303, 340
Athyrium filix-femina 26, 243
 arrowgrass, marsh 206, 239
 arrowgrass, sea 244, 262, 264, 275, 286, 288-292, 294, 299, 365
 arrowhead 199, 259, 364
Artemisia campestris 159
Artemisia maritima 291, 296
Artemisia vulgaris 337
Arthrocnemum perenne 281, 282, 284, 285, 287, 288, 298, 301, 303
Arum maculatum 16

ash 4, 5, 10-12, 16-19, 26, 27, 339
Asparagus officinalis 175
 asparagus, wild 175
Asperula cynanchica 150
 asphodel, bog 200, 204, 212, 214, 216, 218, 222, 234
 asphodel, Scottish 208
Asplenium ruta-muraria 96, 99
Asplenium trichomanes 96
Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum 96
Asplenium viride 96, 146
 aster, goldilocks 141, 149
Aster linosyris 141, 149
 aster, sea 244, 264, 275, 281, 283-286, 289-292, 294, 301, 365
Aster tripolium 244, 264, 281, 283-286, 289-292, 294, 301
Astragalus alpinus 147
Astragalus danicus 73, 113
Athyrium distentifolium 94
Atrichum undulatum 4
Atriplex hastata 138, 172, 173, 177, 196, 244, 261, 264, 292, 299, 300, 302, 338, 340
Atriplex patula 338
Atriplex prostrata 138, 338, 340
Atropa belladonna 15
Aulacomnium palustre 38, 202, 218, 220
Aulacomnium turgidum 111, 145
 avens, mountain 9, 101, 141, 146, 147, 160, 161, 361, 362
 avens, water 6, 8, 83, 88, 92, 93, 120, 230, 360
 avens, wood 4, 10
Avenula pratensis 140, 146, 148, 150, 151, 156, 158
Avenula pubescens 156, 157
 azalea, trailing 45, 60, 109
Azolla filiculoides 304, 322

B

Babington's leek 181
 baneberry 5
Barbilophozia floerkei 86, 94, 95, 106
Barbilophozia lycopodioides 63, 107, 143, 145
Barbula convoluta 334
Barbula unguiculata 273
 barley, sea 302
 barley, wood 13
 bartsia, alpine 147, 207 *Bartsia alpina* 147, 207
 bastard-toadflax 151
 bay willow 6, 7
Bazzania pearsonii 49, 51
Bazzania tricenata 48, 50
 beak-sedge, brown 201, 217
 beak-sedge, white 200, 213, 222, 235
 bearberry 43-47, 57-61, 221, 359
 bearberry, mountain 45-47, 57, 60, 61
 beard-moss, bird's-claw 273, 334
 beard-moss, lesser bird's-claw 334
 bedstraw, fen 224, 228
 bedstraw, heath 8, 20, 24, 34, 48, 52, 54, 62, 64, 74, 76, 80, 85, 90, 94, 95, 101, 102, 104-108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 142, 188, 360
 bedstraw, lady's 70, 112, 124, 128, 140, 148, 150, 158, 174, 176, 182, 184, 185, 362, 368
 bedstraw, limestone 97, 140
 bedstraw, northern 146
 bedstraw, slender 151
 bedstraw, wall 159
 beech 2, 12, 13, 30, 31, 353, 355
 beet, sea 164, 168, 172, 173, 196, 362
 bell heather 43, 44, 46, 50, 54, 55, 58, 66-70, 72, 74-76, 78, 116, 214, 359
Bellis perennis 122, 126, 128, 132, 160, 184, 185, 194
 bent, bristle-leaved 66, 68, 101, 116, 117, 360
 bent, brown 24, 68, 70
 bent, common 20, 24, 30, 34, 62, 68, 74, 76, 88, 101-104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 122, 128, 130, 142-144, 162, 174, 188, 210, 360, 361, 368
 bent, creeping 36, 132, 134, 136-139, 162, 166, 167, 174, 178, 192, 194, 195, 199, 224, 226, 228, 232, 244, 250, 261, 262, 264, 271, 272, 286, 289, 290, 292-295, 299, 302, 334, 336, 338, 340
 Bermuda-buttercup 334
Berula erecta 240, 246, 266, 306, 327, 328
Beta vulgaris 168, 172, 173, 196
 betony 70
Betula nana 220, 221
Betula pendula 20, 28, 30, 32, 38
Betula pubescens 4, 20, 21, 32, 38-41, 353
Bidens tripartita 272
 bilberry 8, 20, 22, 24, 32, 43, 48-56, 58, 60, 62-66, 68, 80, 84, 85, 90, 92, 95, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 114, 116, 118, 142, 214, 220, 359

bilberry, bog 220
Bilderdykia convolvulus 334, 336, 337
 birch, pubescent 38
 birch, silver 28-30, 32, 38, 39
 bindweed, field 337
 bindweed, hedge 268
 bird's-foot-trefoil, common 70, 72, 112, 124, 126, 128, 140, 142, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 170, 174, 182, 184, 186, 188, 192
 bird's-foot-trefoil, greater 212, 224, 226, 228, 232, 234, 248
 bird's-foot-trefoil, hairy 171
 bird's-foot, orange 171
 birch, downy 4, 20, 21, 38-40
 birch, dwarf 220, 221
 bistort, alpine 8, 88, 144, 146, 210, 239
 bistort, amphibious 272, 305, 314, 316, 319, 323, 328, 366
 bitter-cress, narrow-leaved 11
Blackstonia perfoliata 148
 blackthorn 16, 17, 37
 black-bindweed 334, 336, 337
 black-grass 273, 334
 bladder-fern, brittle 96
 bladderwort 200, 324, 328, 330
 bladderwort, greater 324, 328
 bladderwort, lesser 200
 bladder-sedge 199, 253, 364
Blechnum spicant 24, 50, 52, 62, 90, 91
Blindia acuta 88, 208, 210, 236
 blindia, sharp-leaved 88, 208, 210, 236
 blinks 236
 bluebell 4, 10, 20, 28, 29, 36, 174, 175
 blue-sow-thistle, alpine 91
Blysmus rufus 29
 bog-moss, Austin's 215, 219
 bog-moss, blunt-leaved 38, 40, 204, 214
 bogbean 6, 200, 202, 240, 242, 244, 249, 250, 252
 bog-moss, acute-leaved 22, 39, 50, 52, 214, 218, 220
 bog-moss, cleft 205
 bog-moss, compact 214, 216, 217
 bog-moss, cow-horn 200, 203, 204, 212, 222, 234, 236, 330
 bog-moss, feathery 39, 200, 202, 218, 222
 bog-moss flapwort 214, 218, 222
 bog-moss, five-ranked 22
 bog-moss, flexuous 38, 40, 200, 202, 204, 218, 222
 bog-moss, fringed 39, 40
 bog-moss, Lindberg's 204, 205
 bog-moss, lustrous 8, 39, 204, 212, 214, 222
 bog-moss, Magellanic 218
 bog-moss, papillose 39, 204, 214, 218, 222
 bog-moss, rigid 202
 bog-moss, Russow's 204
 bog-moss, slender cow-horn 203
 bog-moss, soft 214, 216, 218, 222
 bog-moss, spiky 39, 40, 202
 bog-moss, Warnstorff's 202
 bog-myrtle 214, 222
 bog-rush, black 70, 174, 198, 206, 212, 213, 363, 368
 bog-rush, brown 207, 209
 bog-sedge, mountain 205
 bog-sedge, tall 201
Bostrychia scorpioides 301
 box 13
Brachypodium pinnatum 152-155, 168
Brachypodium sylvaticum 4, 10, 12, 16, 97
Brachythecium albicans 112, 182
Brachythecium erythrorhizon 161
Brachythecium rutabulum 10, 12, 18, 40, 124, 126, 128, 224, 232
 bracken 2, 16, 20, 21, 28-30, 32, 34-37, 42, 51, 55, 66, 68, 77, 79-81, 101, 113-115, 117-119, 187, 189, 355, 356, 358, 360
 bramble 2, 10, 12, 16, 18, 26, 28-30, 32, 34, 36-38, 40, 92, 190, 243, 339, 358
 bramble, stone 92
Brassica oleracea 98, 168, 169, 171, 175, 346
 breck-lichen, scaly 159
 breck-lichen, stary 159
Briza media 140, 148, 150, 152, 154, 206, 224, 230
Briza minor 335
 brome, upright 101, 151-153, 361, 368
 brome, wood 4
Bromopsis benekenii 5
Bromopsis erecta 152, 153
Bromus benekenii 5
Bromus erectus 152, 153
Bromus hordeaceus 170, 174
 brooklime 256, 306
 broom 8, 20, 22, 24, 34, 44, 48, 50, 52, 54, 58, 62, 64, 66, 68, 74, 78, 80, 81, 90, 95, 97, 102, 108, 112, 116, 118, 188, 214, 216, 220
 broomrape, oxtongue 151
 broomrape, thyme 75
 bryony, black 12
Bryum argenteum 273
 bryum, marsh 88, 192, 206, 208, 210, 238
Bryum pseudotriquetrum 88, 192, 193, 206, 208, 210, 238
Bryum schleicheri 237
Bryum weigelii 237
 buckler-fern, broad 4, 18, 26, 28, 32, 38, 243, 339
 buckler-fern, crested 19, 39, 41
 buckthorn 40, 176, 190, 191, 362
 buckthorn, alder 40
Buellia asterella 159
 bugloss 168, 337
Bulboschoenus maritimus 244
 bulrush 243, 254-256, 258, 266
 bulrush, lesser 254, 255
Bunium bulbocastanum 151
Bupleurum baldense 149
 bur-marigold, trifid 199, 272
 bur-reed, branched 199, 246, 249, 254, 256-258, 260, 261, 266, 328, 364

bur-reed, floating 330
 bur-reed, unbranched 314, 322
 burnet, great 70, 122, 126, 230
 burnet, salad 98, 140, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 174
 burnet-saxifrage 140, 152
 buttercup, bulbous 122, 128
 buttercup, celery-leaved 199, 272
 buttercup, meadow 88, 92, 122, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 142, 184, 225, 226, 230, 232, 239
 butterwort, common 88, 146, 198, 206-208, 210, 363
 buttercup, creeping 26, 40, 126, 132, 134, 136, 194, 199, 226, 232, 270, 271, 334-336, 338
Buxus sempervirens 13, 352

C

cabbage, wild 98, 164, 168, 169, 171, 175, 346, 362
Cakile maritima 177-179
Calamagrostis canescens 268
Calamagrostis stricta 241, 252
Calliergon cordifolium 250
Calliergon cuspidatum 6, 18, 88, 97, 120, 132, 192-194, 202, 203, 206, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 240, 244, 250, 268
Calliergon giganteum 202, 203
Calliergon sarmentosum 210
Calliergon trifarium 209-211
Calliergonella cuspidata 6, 18, 88, 97, 120, 132, 192, 194, 202, 206, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 240, 244, 250, 268
Callitriche hamulata 272, 308, 318
Callitriche hermaphroditica 316
Callitriche obtusangula 308, 310, 312, 321, 322
Callitriche platycarpa 309, 310, 312, 328
Callitriche stagnalis 256, 306, 308, 310, 312, 313, 319, 320, 323
Calluna vulgaris 20, 22, 24, 32, 44-47, 50-52, 54-62, 64, 66-69, 72-81, 92, 104, 114, 116, 118, 142, 164, 200, 214, 216, 218, 220-222, 228, 273
Caltha palustris 6, 18, 132, 133, 194, 202, 210, 224, 230, 232, 238, 240, 250
Calyptogeia azurea 106
Calyptogeia trichomanis 106
Calystegia sepium 268
Campanula rotundifolia 76, 88, 118, 140, 142, 146, 150, 154, 158, 162, 186
 campion, bladder 162
 campion, moss 85, 144, 146
 campion, red 16, 120
 campion, round-headed 151
 campion, white 337
Campylopus stellatum 70, 192, 193, 202, 206, 208, 212, 230, 238, 250
Campylopus atrovirens 215
Campylopus brevipilus 66
Campylopus flexuosus 80, 95
Campylopus introflexus 80
Campylopus paradoxus 80, 95, 220
Campylopus setifolius 51, 215
Campylopus shawii 215
 candytuft, wild 151
Capsella bursa-pastoris 334, 336, 338
Cardamine impatiens 11
Cardamine pratensis 6, 18, 132, 136, 202, 224, 226, 238, 250
Carex acutiformis 18, 224, 248, 268
Carex appropinquata 7, 19, 203, 251, 269
Carex aquatilis 250
Carex arenaria 76-79, 182, 184, 186, 188, 189, 192
Carex atrata 9, 147
Carex atrofusca 209, 211
Carex bigelowii 44, 48, 56, 60, 64, 84-87, 108-110, 210, 220
Carex binervis 74
Carex capillaris 141, 143, 146, 147, 161, 207
Carex caryophyllea 140, 148, 150
Carex chordorrhiza 203
Carex curta 204, 205
Carex demissa 206, 208-210, 234, 236-238
Carex dioica 206-208, 210
Carex distans 292
Carex disticha 224
Carex echinata 204, 205, 210, 214, 234
Carex elata 240, 241, 250
Carex elongata 19
Carex ericetorum 141, 151, 159
Carex extensa 294
Carex flacca 70, 72, 97, 140, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 160, 161, 192, 194, 206, 208, 212, 230, 290
Carex hirta 136
Carex hostiana 206, 228
Carex humilis 149, 151
Carex lasiocarpa 250
Carex lepidocarpa 206, 212
Carex magellanica 201
Carex microglochin 209, 211
Carex montana 69, 143, 151
Carex nigra 38, 106, 192, 194, 195, 202, 204, 206, 210, 230, 234, 238, 239, 250, 253
Carex otrubae 138, 256, 261
Carex panicea 60, 132, 142, 174, 204, 206, 208, 212, 214, 216, 224, 228, 230, 234, 238
Carex paniculata 18, 19, 243, 268
Carex pilulifera 44, 58, 62, 85, 116, 142
Carex pseudocyperus 260
Carex pulicaris 70, 88, 92, 140, 142, 146, 206, 208, 230, 238
Carex rariflora 205
Carex riparia 247
Carex rostrata 6, 7, 202, 203, 244, 249-253
Carex rupestris 143, 147, 161
Carex saxatilis 210, 211
Carex serotina 174
Carex vaginata 147, 209, 211
Carex vesicaria 253
Carex viridula 174
Carex viridula ssp. *oedocarpa* 206, 208-210, 234, 236-238
Carex vulpina 261
Carlina vulgaris 148, 149
 carrot, moon 151
 carrot, wild 98, 169
Catapodium maritimum 170, 172

catchfly, night-flowering 336
 catchfly, Nottingham 125, 151, 168, 169, 175
 catchfly, sand 81, 113, 159
 catchfly, small-flowered 335
 catchfly, Spanish 113, 159
 catchfly, sticky 113
 cat's-ear, common 68, 70, 72
 cat's-ear, spotted 141, 149, 151
 cat's-tail, alpine 237
 cat's-tail, purple-stem 159
 cat's-tail, sand 182
 cat's-tail, smaller 130
Centaurea nigra 124, 126, 128, 129, 134, 140, 168, 228, 230
Centaurea scabiosa 98, 168
Centaureum erythraea 192
 centaury, common 192
Cephalanthera damasonium 13
Cephalanthera longifolia 13
Cephalanthera rubra 13
Cephalozia connivens 218
Cephaloziella divaricata 80
Cerastium alpinum 111, 143, 145, 147
Cerastium arcticum 111, 147
Cerastium cerastoides 236, 237
Cerastium diffusum 170, 171
Cerastium fontanum 88, 122, 126, 130, 132, 134, 174, 182, 184, 186, 188, 224, 238
Cerastium glomeratum 334
Cerastium pumilum 149, 151
Ceratophyllum demersum 312, 313, 320, 322, 327, 328
Ceratophyllum submersum 310, 321, 328
Cetraria delisei 87, 109
Cetraria glauca 60
Cetraria islandica 44, 48, 56, 60, 64, 84, 85, 87, 108
Cetraria nivalis 56
Chaenorhinum minus 336
Chaetomorpha linum 276
Chamaenerion angustifolium 36, 339
 chamomile, stinking 334
Chamomilla suaveolens 272, 338
Chara vulgaris 314, 316
Cheiranthus cheiri 168
Chenopodium album 272, 334, 336-338
Chenopodium vulvaria 333
 chickweed, common 138, 164, 178, 271, 272, 335, 337, 338, 340
 chickweed, wintergreen 24
 chives 71, 73, 171, 175, 199, 273
Chrysanthemum segetum 335
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium 236
Cicerbita alpina 91
Cicuta virosa 19, 203, 245, 255, 269
Cinclidium stygium 203
 cinquefoil, alpine 25, 141, 143, 145, 147
 cinquefoil, creeping 156
 cinquefoil, marsh 6, 7, 202, 240, 244, 249, 250, 252, 253, 328
 cinquefoil, shrubby 141
 cinquefoil, spring 141, 149, 159
Circaea lutetiana 4, 10
Cirriphyllum piliferum 4
Cirsium acule 150, 152, 156, 158
Cirsium arvense 36, 124, 130, 134, 180, 182, 186, 190, 196, 232, 260, 270, 271, 302, 336, 338, 339
Cirsium dissectum 228, 229
Cirsium palustre 18, 212, 224-226, 228, 230, 232, 238, 240, 268, 339
Cirsium tuberosum 129, 151
Cirsium vulgare 338
Cladium mariscus 193, 203, 213, 229, 240, 242, 268, 269, 353, 368
Cladonia arbuscula 44, 48, 52, 56, 57, 60, 62, 64, 65, 76, 84, 85, 108, 218, 220
Cladonia bellidiflora 84, 87, 94, 108
Cladonia chlorophaea 80, 162
Cladonia coccifera 60
Cladonia crispata 56
Cladonia floerkeana 58, 80
Cladonia foliacea 170
Cladonia furcata 76, 188
Cladonia gracilis 48, 64, 84, 108
Cladonia impexa 44, 46, 50, 54, 58, 74, 76, 78, 214, 216, 218
Cladonia pocillum 96, 97
Cladonia portentosa 44, 46, 50, 54, 58, 74, 76, 214, 216, 218
Cladonia pyxidata 108, 162
Cladonia rangiferina 56, 64
Cladonia rangiformis 162
Cladonia uncialis 44, 46, 48, 56, 58, 60, 64, 74, 78, 84, 85, 108, 214, 216, 218, 220
 clary, meadow 151, 333
 cleavers 16, 26, 36, 124, 168, 176, 178, 190, 261, 270, 334, 336, 339, 362
Clematis vitalba 14
Climacium dendroides 6
 cloudberry 43, 52, 53, 220, 359
 clover, red 122, 126, 128, 132, 150, 225
 clover, suffocated 77, 171
 clover, twin-headed 71, 73
 clover, western 73, 171, 175
 clover, white 122, 126, 128, 130-132, 136, 138, 162, 174, 184, 186, 194, 225, 239, 271, 290, 292, 294, 334, 338
 clubmoss, alpine 108, 109
 clubmoss, fir 44, 46, 48, 56, 60, 86, 95
 clubmoss, interrupted 53, 59
 clubmoss, Issler's 55
 clubmoss, lesser 89, 142, 144, 146, 160, 202, 206
 clubmoss, marsh 217
 club-rush, common 199, 249, 364
 club-rush, floating 318
 club-rush, sea 244, 264, 265
Cochlearia anglica 264, 289
Cochlearia officinalis 165, 166, 172, 238, 264, 292, 340
 cock's-foot 70, 72, 98, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 131, 134, 148, 150, 156, 168, 170, 172, 174, 186, 187, 338, 339

Coeloglossum viride 146
 collar-moss, rugged 237
Colura calyptriifolia 51
 comb-moss, chalk 88, 92, 96, 97, 140, 146, 160, 206, 208, 238
Conardia compacta 161
Conocephalum conicum 236
Conopodium majus 4, 122
Conostomum tetragonum 86, 87
Convolvulus arvensis 337
Conyza canadensis 337
Corallorrhiza trifida 7
 cord-grass, common 274, 280, 282, 283, 285, 286, 289
 cordgrass, small 280
 cordgrass, smooth 280
 cord-grass, Townsend's 280
 cornel, dwarf 52
 cornsalad, common 182, 334
Commiculaia aculeata 44, 46, 60, 64, 78, 112, 140, 162, 188, 189
Cornus sanguinea 10
Cornus suecica 52
Corylus avellana 4, 10, 12, 16, 28
Corynephorus canescens 181, 189
 cotton-grass, common 200, 202, 204, 208, 210
 cottongrass, hare's-tail 114, 200, 214, 218, 220
 couch, common 138, 178, 179, 270, 271, 273, 275, 292, 302, 334-339, 365
 couch, sand 176, 177, 179-181, 298, 362
 couch, sea 182, 190, 275, 291, 299-301, 303, 365
 cow-wheat, common 22
 cow-wheat, field 333
 cowbane 19, 203, 245, 255, 269
 cowberry 8, 22, 24, 48, 52, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 147, 220
 cowlwort, fingered 51
 cowslip 186
Crambe maritima 196
 cranberry 200, 218, 221, 222
 cranberry, small 221
 crane's-bill, bloody 186
 crane's-bill, cut-leaved 337
 crane's-bill, dove's-foot 335
 crane's-bill, wood 92, 122, 146
Crassula tillaea 113
Crataegus laevigata 16
Crataegus monogyna 10, 12, 16, 17, 28, 36
Cratoneuron commutatum 88, 206, 208, 210, 238, 239
Cratoneuron filicinum 238
Crepis capillaris 158, 335
Crepis foetida 333
Crepis mollis 5
Crepis paludosa 4, 6, 230, 231
Crepis vesicaria 338
 crisp-moss, clint 141, 161
 crisp-moss, curly 96
 crisp-moss, frizzled 96, 97, 140, 146, 160
 crisp-moss, side-fruited 159
 crestedwort, bifid 20, 22, 24, 106, 120, 230
Crithmum maritimum 165
 crocus, sand 171
 crosswort 120
 crowberry 8, 22, 44, 46, 48, 49, 52-54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 74, 76, 77, 114, 160, 218-220, 357
 crowfoot, round-leaved 236
Cruciata laevipes 120
Cryptogramma crista 94, 95
 crystalwort, cavernous 273
 crystalwort, glaucous 273
 crystalwort, purple 273
Ctenidium molluscum 88, 92, 96, 97, 140, 146, 160, 206, 208, 238
 cuckooflower 6, 18, 132, 136, 202, 224, 226, 238, 250
 cudweed, broad-leaved 333
 cudweed, dwarf 86, 94, 110, 144
 cudweed, marsh 199, 272
 cudweed, red-tipped 333
 cupola-moss, lurid 203
 currant, mountain 11
Cymbalaria muralis 99
Cynosurus cristatus 122, 126, 128-130, 132, 133, 194
 cyphel 63, 111, 143-145, 147
Cypripedium calceolus 141
Cystopteris fragilis 96
Cytisus scoparius 34

D

Dactylis glomerata 4, 34, 36, 70, 72, 98, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 131, 134, 148, 150, 156, 168, 170, 172, 174, 186, 338, 339
Dactylorhiza fuchsii 224
Dactylorhiza incarnata 224
Dactylorhiza maculata 46
Dactylorhiza traunsteineri 203, 213
 daisy 122, 126, 128, 132, 160, 168, 184, 194
 daisy, oxeye 128, 168
 dandelion 122, 126-128, 131, 156, 158, 182, 186, 338
Danthonia decumbens 68, 70, 72, 104, 116, 128, 142, 174
Daphne mezereum 11
Daucus carota 98, 168, 170, 174, 175
 dead-nettle, henbit, 336
 dead-nettle, red 336
 deergrass 44, 46, 60, 74
Deschampsia cespitosa 4, 8, 26, 30, 38, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 110, 111, 134, 135, 144, 146, 208, 210, 226, 230, 236
Deschampsia flexuosa 8, 20, 22, 24, 30-33, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62-64, 66, 74, 80, 81, 84, 85, 87, 90, 94, 95, 104, 106, 108, 114, 115, 118, 214, 220
Descurainia sophia 337
Desmazeria marina 170, 172
 dewberry 192
Dianthus deltooides 113, 185
 diapensia 85
Diapensia lapponica 85

Dicranella heteromalla 30, 32, 78
Dicranella palustris 236
Dicranum fuscescens 22, 64, 84, 94, 108
Dicranum majus 8, 20-22, 50, 94
Dicranum scoparium 8, 20, 22, 24, 44, 48, 50, 52, 54, 58, 62, 64, 66, 68, 74, 78, 80, 90, 95, 97, 102, 108, 112, 116, 118, 188, 214, 216, 220
Digitaria ischaemum 335
Diphasiastrum alpinum 108, 109
Diphasiastrum complanatum 55
Diphasium alpinum 108
Diphasium issleri 55
Diplophyllum albicans 44, 46, 48, 87, 94, 95
 ditrichum, bendy 146, 160
Ditrichum flexicaule 146, 160
 dock, broad-leaved 260, 338
 dock, curled 136, 172, 178, 196, 197, 271, 273, 302, 340
 dock, water 246
 dog's-tail, crested 122, 126, 128, 130, 132, 194
 dogwood 10
 dog-violet, common 4, 8, 10, 20, 24, 36, 70, 72, 89, 92, 97, 102, 118, 140, 142, 146, 160
 dog-violet, heath 182
 dog-violet, pale 67, 69
 dotted thyme-moss 6, 18, 236
Draba aizoides 98, 149
Draba incana 141, 143, 147, 161
Draba norvegica 145
Drepanocladus fluitans 200
Drepanocladus revolvens 202, 206, 208, 210, 212
 dropwort 70 (see also water-dropwort)
Drosera rotundifolia 200, 214, 218, 234
Dryas octopetala 141, 146, 147, 160, 161
Dryopteris cristata 19, 39, 41
Dryopteris dilatata 4, 18, 26, 28, 32, 38, 243, 339
Dryopteris filix-mas 4, 28, 30, 120
 duckweed, common 246, 254, 258, 259, 266, 305, 306, 309, 310, 312, 313, 315, 319, 320, 323, 325-328, 366
 duckweed, fat 309, 310, 313, 322, 326, 327
 duckweed, greater 305, 326, 327, 366
 duckweed, ivy-leaved 259, 309, 322, 323, 325-328
 duckweed, rootless 326, 327

E

earth-moss, spreading 273
 earwort, bird's-foot 49, 51, 53, 63
 earwort, floppy 237
 earwort, water 210, 236
 earwort, western 50
 earwort, white 44, 46, 48, 87, 94, 95
Echium vulgare 168
Elatine hexandra 255, 317, 331
Elatine hydropiper 255, 317
 elder 10, 14, 16, 26, 339
 elm, wych 4, 5, 10, 11
Eleocharis multicaulis 234, 331
Eleocharis palustris 132, 194, 254, 262, 263, 273, 331
Eleocharis parvula 279
Eleocharis quinqueflora 206, 208, 262
Eleocharis uniglumis 294, 295
Elodea canadensis 313, 315, 316, 320, 322, 323, 327, 328
Elodea nuttallii 304, 314, 322
Elymus farctus 177, 179, 180, 298
Elymus pycnanthus 182, 190, 299-301, 303
Elymus repens 138, 178, 179, 270, 271, 273, 292, 302, 334-339
Elytrigia atherica 182, 190, 299-301, 303
Elytrigia juncea 177, 179, 180
Elytrigia repens 138, 178, 179, 270, 271, 273, 292, 302, 334-339
Empetrum nigrum 8, 22, 44, 46, 48, 52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 74, 76, 77, 114, 160, 218, 220, 351, 368
Encalypta streptocarpa 96
Epilobium adenocaulon 338
Epilobium anagallidifolium 236, 238
Epilobium angustifolium 36, 339
Epilobium ciliatum 338
Epilobium hirsutum 243, 244, 247, 254, 261, 268, 270, 339
Epilobium montanum 120
Epilobium palustre 40, 202, 224, 226, 238, 250
Epilobium parviflorum 224
Epipactis atrorubens 141, 161, 185
Epipactis dunensis 13, 183
Epipactis leptochila 13, 183
Epipactis palustris 192, 212, 240
Epipactis purpurata 31
Epipogium aphyllum 13
Equisetum arvense 273
Equisetum fluviatile 6, 40, 202, 234, 243, 244, 247, 249, 250, 252, 253, 262, 319
Equisetum palustre 6, 202, 206, 212, 224, 230, 238, 240, 247
Equisetum variegatum 192, 193, 195, 207, 209
Erica ciliaris 67, 69, 217, 223, 352, 359, 363, 368
Erica cinerea 44, 46, 50, 54, 58, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74-76, 78, 116, 214
Erica tetralix 66, 68, 70, 200, 212-220, 222, 223, 228, 352, 368
Erica vagans 42, 69-71, 73, 117, 229, 352, 368
Erigeron acer 158
Erigeron canadensis 337
Eriocaulon aquaticum 251, 331
Eriocaulon septangulare 251, 331
Eriophorum angustifolium 200-202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 234, 250
Eriophorum vaginatum 52, 114, 200, 214, 215, 218, 220, 221
Erodium cicutarium 335, 337
Euonymus europaeus 13
Eupatorium cannabinum 18, 40, 212, 224, 240, 268, 269
Euphorbia exigua 336
Euphorbia portlandica 73, 77, 98, 149, 181, 183
Euphrasia frigida 111, 145, 147
Euphrasia officinalis 88, 140, 142, 148, 162, 206, 208
Euphrasia pseudokernerii 151
Eurhynchium hians 120

Eurhynchium praelongum 4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 26, 28, 34, 36, 38, 40, 232, 292
Eurhynchium striatum 4
Eurhynchium swartzii 120
 evening-primrose, fragrant 183
 everlasting, mountain 60, 160
 extinguisher-moss, spiral 96
 everlasting-pea, broad-leaved 196
 eyebright 88, 111, 140, 142, 145, 147, 148, 151, 162, 174, 184, 206, 208

F

Fagus sylvatica 12, 13, 30, 31
Fallopia convolvulus 334, 336, 337
 false-brome, wood 10, 12, 16
 fat-hen 272, 334, 336-338
 feather-moss, common 4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 26, 28, 34, 36, 38, 40, 232, 292
 feather-moss, common striated 4
 feather-moss, compact 161
 feather-moss, curving 149
 feather-moss, hair-pointed 4
 feather-moss, neat 20, 22, 24, 102, 118, 142, 150, 156, 158, 160, 184, 186, 188, 230
 feather-moss, ostrich-plume 22
 feather-moss, redfoot 161
 feather-moss, red-stemmed 8, 20, 22, 24, 44, 48, 50, 52, 54, 58, 62, 64, 74, 76, 90, 94, 95, 102, 104, 106, 114, 118, 144, 188, 218, 220
 feather-moss, rough-stalked 10, 12, 18, 40, 124, 126, 128, 224, 232
 feather-moss, silky wall 96-99
 feather-moss, Swartz's 120
 feather-moss, whitish 112, 182
 feather-moss, woolly 203, 225
 feather-moss, yellow 150, 158, 184
 feather-moss, yellow starry 70, 192, 202, 206, 208, 212, 230, 238, 250
 featherwort, Carrington's 47, 49, 51, 53
 featherwort, greater 24, 88, 120
 fen-sedge, great 198, 240, 242, 268, 363, 368
 fern, hard 24, 50, 52, 62, 90
 fern, lady 4, 26
 fern, lemon-scented 90
 fern, limestone 83, 97, 360
 fern, male 4, 28, 30, 120
 fern, marsh 19, 41, 268, 269
 fern, parsley 94, 95
 fern, water 304, 322
 fern-grass, sea 170, 172
 fescue, dune 183
 fescue, meadow 131
 fescue, red 34, 68, 72, 88, 97, 98, 101, 102, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 138, 139, 142, 143, 156, 157, 162, 164-176, 178-180, 182-186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 210, 224, 230, 238, 244, 262, 286, 289-296, 298, 300-302, 340, 362, 368
 fescue, rush-leaved 178-181, 183, 185, 187, 189
 fescue, sheep's 8, 24
 fescue, tall 138, 139, 168, 292, 302
 fescue, viviparous 48, 84, 85, 87, 88, 90, 92, 146, 160, 208
Festuca arenaria 178-183, 185, 189
Festuca arundinacea 138, 139, 168, 292, 302
Festuca ovina 8, 24, 48, 54, 58, 62, 64, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 79, 84, 85, 87, 88, 90, 92, 95-97, 102-104, 106-108, 112-114, 116, 118, 140, 142-146, 148-152, 154, 158-160, 162, 170, 188, 189, 210, 238, 273
Festuca pratensis 131
Festuca rubra 34, 68, 72, 88, 97, 98, 102, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 138, 139, 142, 156, 162, 165-168, 170, 172, 174, 175, 178-186, 188-190, 192, 194, 196, 210, 224, 230, 238, 239, 244, 262, 286, 289-292, 294-296, 298, 300-302, 340
Festuca vivipara 48, 84, 85, 87, 88, 90, 92, 104, 108, 142, 146, 160, 208
 field-speedwell, common 334-337
 field-speedwell, grey 334, 337
 figwort, balm-leaved 181
 figwort, water 225
Filaginella uliginosa 272
Filago lutescens 333
Filago pyramidata 333
Filipendula ulmaria 4, 6, 18, 26, 40, 92, 120, 121, 126, 132, 134, 212, 224, 226, 230, 232, 233, 243, 247, 253, 256, 268, 339
Filipendula vulgaris 70
 finger-grass, smooth 335
 fingerwort, bristly 222
 fir, Scots 23
Fissidens adianthoides 88, 206, 208, 238
Fissidens cristatus 96, 97
Fissidens dubius 96, 97
Fissidens viridulus 14
 flag, yellow 18, 136, 261
 flapwort, anomalous 218
 flapwort, ladder 86, 87
 flapwort, Taylor's 50
 flat-sedge, saltmarsh 275, 294, 295, 365
 flax, fairy 88, 140, 146, 148, 150, 154, 158, 160, 162, 184, 206, 208
 flax, perennial 141, 151
 fleabane, blue 158
 fleabane, Canadian 337
 fleawort, field 151
 fleawort, South Stack 175
 fluellen, round-leaved 336
 fluellen, sharp-leaved 273, 336
Fontinalis antipyretica 307, 308, 316, 318, 323
Fontinalis squamosa 307
 forget-me-not, alpine 141, 143, 145
 forget-me-not, creeping 236
 forget-me-not, early 182
 forget-me-not, field 334
 forget-me-not, pale 237
 forget-me-not, tufted 250, 262
 forget-me-not, water 199, 253, 256, 266, 272
 fork-moss, dusky 22, 64, 84, 94, 108
 fork-moss, greater 8, 20, 22, 50, 94
 fork-moss, Starke's 65, 86, 87, 94, 109, 221
 forklet-moss, marsh 236
 forklet-moss, silky 30, 32, 78
 fox-sedge, false 138, 199, 256, 261, 364
 fox-sedge, true 261

foxtail, alpine 237
 foxtail, marsh 136, 138, 139, 199, 266, 271, 272, 295
 foxtail, meadow 126, 131, 134
Fragaria vesca 158
Frangula alnus 40
Frankenia laevis 288, 296-298
Fraxinus excelsior 4, 5, 10-12, 16, 18, 19, 26, 27, 339, 353, 368
 fringe-moss, bristly 86, 87
 fringe-moss, green mountain 86
 fringe-moss, hoary 144
 fringe-moss, woolly 44-46, 48, 50, 52, 56, 57, 60, 62, 64, 74, 84-87, 94, 95, 108, 142, 144, 147, 214, 216, 220, 236
 fringewort, ciliated 8, 48, 52, 64, 106, 108, 110, 220
Fritillaria meleagris 126, 127
 fritillary 126, 127
 frogbit 305, 327-329, 366
 frostwort, braided 87
 frostwort, coral 87
Frullania tamarisci 46
Fucus spiralis 276
Fulgensia fulgens 159
 fulgensia, shining 159
Fumaria boreae 334
Fumaria martinii 333
Fumaria muralis 334
Fumaria reuteri 333

G

Galium aparine 16, 26, 36, 124, 168, 178, 190, 261, 270, 334, 336, 339
Galium boreale 146
Galium constrictum 235
Galium cruciata 120
Galium debile 235
Galium palustre 6, 18, 40, 41, 192, 194, 202, 224, 226-228, 232, 234, 238, 240, 243, 244, 247-250, 252-254, 256, 268
Galium parisiense 159
Galium pumilum 151
Galium saxatile 8, 20, 24, 34, 48, 52, 54, 62, 64, 68, 74, 76, 80, 85, 90, 94, 95, 102-106, 108, 110-112, 114, 116, 118, 119, 142, 188
Galium sternerii 97, 140, 141
Galium uliginosum 224, 228
Galium verum 70, 112, 124, 128, 140, 148, 150, 158, 174, 182, 184, 185
Genista anglica 58
Genista pilosa 67, 73, 171
Gentiana pneumonanthe 217
 gentian, autumn 158
 gentian, Chiltem 151
 gentian, dune 193, 195
 gentian, early 149, 151
 gentian, marsh 217
 gentian, spring 141
Gentiana verna 141
Gentianella amarella 158
Gentianella anglica 149, 151
Gentianella germanica 151
Gentianella uliginosa 193, 195
Geranium dissectum 337
Geranium molle 335
Geranium robertianum 4, 97, 162
Geranium sanguineum 186, 187
Geranium sylvaticum 92, 122, 123, 146
 germander, cut-leaved 151, 333
 germanderwort, delicate 70
 germanderwort, jagged 70
Geum rivale 6, 8, 88, 92, 93, 120, 230
Geum urbanum 4, 10
 gipsywort 40, 232, 240, 250, 256, 260, 268
 glasswort 275, 278, 280-288, 298, 299, 301, 303, 365
 glasswort, one-flowered 287
Glaucium flavum 196, 197, 352
Glaux maritima 164, 244, 262, 264, 286, 289-292, 294, 295, 299, 300
Glechoma hederacea 10, 36
Glebionis segetum, 335
Glyceria fluitans 266, 267, 308, 309, 319, 327
Glyceria maxima 246, 272
Glyceria plicata 266, 267
Glyceria x pedicellata 266, 308
Gnaphalium supinum 86, 94, 110, 144
Gnaphalium uliginosum 272
 goat's-beard 156
 goldenrod 46, 50, 92
 golden-samphire 165, 288, 298
 golden-saxifrage, opposite-leaved 236
Goodyera repens 21
 goose-foot, stinking 333
 gorse, common 16, 32, 34, 35, 66, 70
 gorse, dwarf 43, 66, 67, 359
 gorse, western 43, 68-70, 116, 359, 368
 grass-of-Parnassus 88
 grass-poly 199, 273
 greasewort 88, 192, 206, 208, 210, 212, 238
 greenweed, hairy 67, 73, 171
Grimmia apocarpa 97
 grimmia, grey-cushioned 99
Grimmia pulvinata 99
 grimmia, seaside 166
 grimmia, sessile 97, 99, 161
 grimmia, stook 161
 groove-moss, bog 38, 202, 218, 220
 groove-moss, mountain 111, 145
 groundsel 334-336, 338
 groundsel, sticky 196
 ground-pine 151, 333
Gymnocarpium robertianum 97
Gymnocolea inflata 80
Gymnomitron concinnatum 87

Gymnomitron coralloides 87

H

haircap, alpine 48, 85-87, 94, 108, 110, 144
 haircap, bank 20, 30, 95
 haircap, bristly 81, 87, 112, 114
 haircap, common 38, 52, 90, 104, 106, 202, 204, 210, 220
 haircap, Hercynian 86, 87
 haircap, juniper 66, 76
 haircap, northern 86
 haircap, strict 220
 haircap, um 144
 hair-grass, crested 96, 140, 148, 150, 152, 156, 158, 170, 184
 hair-grass, early 76, 112, 170, 188
 hair-grass, grey 181, 189
 hair-grass, Somerset 148, 149
 hair-grass, tufted 4, 8, 26, 30, 38, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 101, 103, 110, 111, 134, 135, 144, 146, 208, 210, 226, 230, 236, 360, 361
 hair-grass, wavy 8, 20, 22, 24, 30, 32, 43, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62-64, 66, 74, 80, 81, 84, 85, 87, 90, 94, 95, 101, 104, 106, 108, 114, 115, 118, 214, 220, 359, 360
 hairy-brome, lesser 5
Halimione portulacoides 281, 283, 285, 286, 288, 289, 291, 296, 298-301, 303
Hammarbya paludosa 201, 223
 hard-grass 165, 175, 298, 299
 hard-grass, curved 165, 175
 hare's-ear, small 149
 harebell 76, 88, 118, 140, 142, 146, 150, 154, 158, 162, 184, 186
 hawk's-beard, beaked 338
 hawk's-beard, marsh 4, 6
 hawk's-beard, northern 5
 hawk's-beard, smooth 158, 335
 hawk's-beard, stinking 333
 hawkbit, autumn 126, 128, 132, 174, 192, 208, 238, 290, 292, 340
 hawkbit, lesser 148, 170
 hawkbit, rough 122, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 192
 hawkweeds 146 (see also hawkweed, mouse-ear)
 hawkweed, mouse-ear 112, 148, 150, 152, 154, 158, 160, 168, 182
 hawthorn 1, 10, 12, 16, 17, 28, 35, 36, 358
 hazel 4, 10-12, 16, 28, 29
 heath, blue 63
 heath, Cornish 43, 69-71, 73, 117, 229, 359, 368
 heath, cross-leaved 66, 68-70, 198, 200, 212, 214, 216-218, 220, 222, 228, 363, 368
 heath, Dorset 67, 69, 217, 223
 heather 20, 22, 24, 32, 43-47, 50-62, 64, 66-70, 72, 74-81, 92, 104, 105, 114, 116, 118, 142, 198, 200, 214, 216-222, 228, 273, 359, 363, 368
Hedera helix 10, 12, 16, 17, 28, 30, 36, 40, 98
Helianthemum apenninum 148, 149
Helianthemum canum 141, 149
Helianthemum nummularium 96, 140, 148, 150, 152
 helleborine, dark-red 141, 161, 185
 helleborine, marsh 192, 212, 240
 helleborine, narrow-leaved 13
 helleborine, narrow-lipped 13, 183
 helleborine, red 13, 141, 161, 185
 helleborine, violet 31
 helleborine, white 13
 helmet-moss 86, 87
 hemp-agrimony 40, 212, 224, 240, 268
Heracleum sphondylium 36, 120, 124, 186, 339
Herbertus borealis 47
Herbertus stramineus 47, 143
Hernium monorchis 151
Herniaria ciliolata 73, 171
Hieracium pilosella 112, 148, 150-152, 154, 158-160, 168, 182
Himantoglossum hircinum 159
Hippophae rhamnoides 190, 191, 351
Hippuris vulgaris 310, 314, 323
 hogweed 36, 120, 124, 186, 339
Holcus lanatus 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 72, 102, 118, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130-132, 134-138, 154, 162, 167, 170, 174, 175, 184, 188, 190, 192-194, 196, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 260, 270, 338-340
Holcus mollis 20, 26, 28, 30, 34, 38
 holly 10, 28, 30, 32
Homalothecium lutescens 150, 158, 184
Homalothecium nitens 203
Homalothecium senceum 96-99
 honeysuckle 18, 28, 30, 40
Honkenya peploides 138, 177, 179, 180, 196
Hookeria lucens 236
 hookeria, shining 236
 hook-moss, curled 88, 206, 208, 210, 238, 239
 hook-moss, fern-leaved 238
 hook-moss, floating 200
 hook-moss, rusty 202, 206, 208, 210, 212
Hordeilymus europaeus 13
Hordeum marinum 302
 horned-poppy, yellow 196, 197
Homungia petraea 159
 hornwort, rigid 305, 312, 313, 320, 322, 327, 328, 366
 hornwort, soft 305, 310, 321, 328, 366
 horsetail, field 273
 horsetail, marsh 6, 202, 206, 212, 224, 230, 238, 240, 247
 horsetail, variegated 192, 193, 195, 207, 209
 horsetail, water 6, 40, 199, 202, 234, 243, 244, 247, 249, 250, 252, 253, 262, 319, 364
 Hottentot-fig 171
Hottonia palustris 328
 hump-moss, broad-nerved 209
Huperzia selago 44, 46, 48, 56, 60, 86, 95
 hutchinsia 159
Hyacinthoides non-scripta 4, 10, 20, 28, 36, 174, 175
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae 327-329
Hydrocotyle vulgaris 192, 194, 212, 224, 226, 234, 240, 250
Hylacomium splendens 8, 20, 22-24, 48, 50, 52, 54, 58, 62, 74, 76, 88, 92, 94, 97, 102, 104, 106, 110, 142, 144, 146, 160, 188, 202, 210, 220
Hypericum elodes 234, 235
Hypericum tetrapterum 224
Hypericum undulatum 229

Hypnum bambergeri 89
Hypnum callichroum 94
Hypnum cupressiforme 24, 30, 32, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 62, 68, 70, 74, 76, 78, 80, 85, 95-97, 102, 104, 106, 118, 140, 158, 182, 214, 220
Hypnum hamulosum 111
Hypnum jutlandicum 22, 54, 58, 60, 66, 214, 216, 218, 220
Hypochaeris radicata 34, 68, 70, 72, 128, 182, 188
Hypogymnia physodes 58, 76, 78, 80, 188

I

Iberis amara 151
 Iceland-purslane 237
Ilex aquifolium 10, 28, 30, 32, 354
Inula crithmoides 165, 288, 298, 303
Iris pseudacorus 18, 136, 232, 233, 244, 250, 256, 261, 268
Isoetes echinospora 331, 332
Isoetes histrix 73
Isoetes lacustris 331, 332
Isoetes setacea 317, 331, 332
Isopterygium elegans 32
 ivy 10, 12, 16, 28, 30, 36, 40, 98

J

Joergensen's notchwort 49, 51
 jointed rush 132, 192, 206, 208, 224, 226, 230, 234, 236, 238, 262, 294
Juncus acutiflorus 204, 226, 228, 230, 232
Juncus alpinoarticulatus 207
Juncus alpinus 207, 209
Juncus articulatus 132, 192, 206, 208, 224, 226, 230, 234, 236, 238, 262, 294
Juncus biglumis 209, 211, 236, 237
Juncus bufonius 272, 273, 334
Juncus bulbosus 208, 234, 236, 238, 244, 249, 262, 315, 316, 318, 324, 330-332
Juncus capitatus 71
Juncus castaneus 209, 211
Juncus conglomeratus 260
Juncus effusus 26, 38, 40, 134, 136, 137, 204, 226-228, 232, 234, 248, 250, 253, 254, 256, 258, 260, 261
Juncus gerardii 138, 164, 244, 262, 264, 289, 290, 292, 294, 295, 302
Juncus inflexus 136, 224
Juncus maritimus 288, 289, 292, 293
Juncus squarrosus 104, 106, 107, 204, 214, 216, 220
Juncus subnodulosus 212, 213, 224, 225, 228, 240, 242, 250, 268
Juncus trifidus 57, 84
Juncus triglumis 208, 210, 236, 238
 juniper 2, 17, 24, 25, 43, 46, 47, 66, 76, 358, 359
Juniperus communis 17, 24, 25, 46, 47, 352

K

Kiaeria starkei 65, 86, 87, 94, 109, 221
Kindbergia praelonga see *Eurhynchium praelongum*
Kickxia elatine 273, 336
Kickxia spuria 336
 knapweed, common 124, 126, 128, 134, 140, 168, 228, 230
 knapweed, greater 98, 168
 knawel, perennial 113
 knotgrass 172, 271, 272, 335-338
Kobresia simpliciuscula 141, 207, 209, 211
Koeleria macrantha 96, 140, 148, 150, 152, 156, 158, 170, 184
Koeleria vallesiana 148, 149
Koenigia islandica 237
Kurzia pauciflora 222

L

lady-fern, alpine 94
 lady's-mantle, alpine 8
 lady's-mantle, alpine 48, 62, 88, 92, 94, 110, 111, 142-144, 146
 lady's-mantle, intermediate 122
 lady's-mantle, smooth 88, 92, 122, 238
 lady's-tresses, autumn 73
 lady's-tresses, creeping 21
Lamium amplexicaule, 336
Lamium purpureum 336
Lathyrus japonicus 196, 197
Lathyrus palustris 268, 269
Lathyrus pratensis 122, 126, 128, 134, 186, 224, 230
Lavatera arborea 172
Legousia hybrida 336
Lemna gibba 309, 310, 313, 322, 326, 327
Lemna minor 246, 254, 258, 259, 266, 306, 309, 310, 312, 313, 315, 319, 320, 323, 325-328
Lemna polyrrhiza 326, 327
Lemna trisulca 259, 309, 322, 323, 325-328
Leontodon autumnalis 126, 128, 132, 174, 192, 208, 238, 290, 292, 340
Leontodon hispidus 122, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 192
Leontodon taraxacoides 148, 170
Lepidotis inundata 217
Lescuraea incurvata 145
 leskea, brown mountain 145
 lettuce, wall 12, 97
Leucanthemum vulgare 128, 168
Leucobryum glaucum 30
Leymus arenarius 177, 179, 180, 190
Ligusticum scoticum 166, 167
Ligustrum vulgare 13, 16
 lime, large-leaved 11
Limonium bellidifolium 287, 288, 296, 297
Limonium binervosum 165, 296, 297
Limonium vulgare 281, 286, 288, 289, 291, 298, 301, 303
Linaria vulgaris 337
Linnæa borealis 23
Linum catharticum 88, 140, 146, 148, 150, 154, 158, 160, 162, 184, 206, 208
Linum perenne 141, 151
Liparis loeselii 193, 195, 203
Listera cordata 50
Listera ovata 13

Littorella uniflora 262, 314, 316, 318, 331, 332
 liverwort, great scented 236
Lobelia dortmanna 262, 331
 lobelia, heath 229
Lobelia urens 229
 lobelia, water 262, 305, 331, 366
Loiseleuria procumbens 45, 56, 60, 109
Lolium perenne 126, 128, 130, 131, 138, 334, 338, 339
Lonicera periclymenum 18, 28, 30, 40
 loosestrife, purple - see purple-loosestrife
 loosestrife, yellow 250, 268
 loosestrife, tufted 7, 41, 203, 251, 252
Lophocolea bidentata 20, 22, 24, 106, 120, 230
Lophozia obtusa 143
Lophozia sudetica 86
Lophozia ventricosa 95
 lords-and-ladies 16
Lotus corniculatus 70, 72, 112, 124, 126, 128, 140, 142, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 170, 174, 182, 184, 186, 188, 192
Lotus hispidus 171
Lotus pedunculatus 212, 224, 226, 228, 232, 234, 248
Lotus subbiflorus 171
Lotus uliginosus 212, 224, 226, 228, 232, 234, 248
 lousewort, marsh 212
 lovage, Scots 164, 166, 167, 362
Luzula campestris 76, 102, 128, 184, 188
Luzula multiflora 102, 104, 106
Luzula pilosa 20, 24, 30
Luzula spicata 84, 87, 144
Luzula sylvatica 8, 9, 90-93
Lychnis flos-cuculi 194, 225, 232, 250
Lychnis viscaria 113
Lycopodiella inundata 217
Lycopodium annotinum 53, 59
Lycopsis arvensis 337
Lycopus europaeus 40, 232, 240, 250, 256, 260, 268
 lyme-grass 177, 179, 180, 190
Lysimachia nemorum 26, 27
Lysimachia thyrsoiflora 7, 41, 203, 251, 252
Lysimachia vulgaris 250, 268
Lythrum hyssopifolia 273
Lythrum portula 273
Lythrum salicaria 244, 250, 261, 268

M

mallow, rough 333
Malva setigera 333
 maple, field 10, 11
 mare's-tail 310, 314, 323
 marigold, corn 335
 marjoram 97
 marram 76, 176, 177, 179-190, 196, 339, 362, 368
 marsh-bedstraw, common 40, 192, 194, 202, 224, 226, 228, 232, 234, 238, 240, 243, 244, 247-250, 252-254, 256, 268
 marsh-bedstraw, slender 235
 marsh-mallow, rough 333
 marsh-marigold 6, 7, 18, 132, 194, 202, 210, 224, 230, 232, 238, 240, 250
 marsh-orchid, early 224
Marsipella emarginata 236
Mastigophora woodsii 23, 49, 51, 143
Matricaria discoidea 272
Matricaria maritima 166, 172, 177, 178, 196, 338
Matricaria discoidea 338
Matricaria perforata 273, 334, 338
 mayweeds 334, 336, 337
 mayweed, scentless 273
 mayweed, sea 166, 172, 173, 176-178, 196, 338, 362
 meadow-grass, alpine 145
 meadow-grass, annual 99, 192, 271, 272, 334-338
 meadow-grass, bulbous 171
 meadow-grass, early 171
 meadow-grass, rough 4, 6, 10, 26, 36, 120, 122, 131, 132, 134, 136, 225, 226, 232, 270, 271, 334, 338
 meadow-grass, smooth 34, 124, 130, 131, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 339
 meadow-grass, spreading 174, 180, 340
 meadow-grass, wood 12
 meadow-rue, alpine 8, 89, 141, 146, 208, 210
 meadow-rue, common 268
 meadow-rue, lesser 184, 186
 meadowsweet 4, 6, 18, 26, 40, 92, 101, 120, 121, 126, 132, 134, 198, 212, 224, 226, 230, 232, 233, 243, 247, 253, 256, 268, 339, 360, 363
 medick, sickle 159
Medicago lupulina 158, 335, 337, 338
Medicago minima 159
Medicago sativa 159
 medick, black 158, 335, 337, 338
 medick, bur 159
Meesia uliginosa 209
Melampyrum arvense 333
Melampyrum pratense 22
Melica uniflora 12, 30
 melick, wood 12, 30
Mentha aquatica 6, 18, 40, 192, 212, 224, 226, 228, 232, 240, 247, 248, 250, 253, 254, 256, 260, 262, 266, 268
Mentha arvensis 273
Menyanthes trifoliata 6, 200, 202, 240, 242, 244, 249, 250, 252
Mercurialis perennis 4, 5, 10-14, 16, 36, 97, 120
 mercury, dog's 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 36
Mertensia maritima 178
 mezereon 11
Mibora minima 171, 183, 185
Microbryum davallianum 273
 mignonette, wild 337
Milium effusum 30
 milk-parsley 19, 41, 225, 229, 251, 268, 269
 milk-parsley, Cambridge 229
 milk-vetch, alpine 147
 milk-vetch, purple 73, 113

milkwort, chalk 141, 151
 milkwort, common 70, 72
 milkwort, heath 66, 68, 116, 214, 216
 millet, wood 30
Mimulus guttatus 162
 mint, corn 273
 mint, water 6, 18, 40, 192, 212, 224, 226, 228, 232, 240, 247, 248, 250, 253, 254, 256, 260, 262, 266, 268
Minuartia hybrida 159
Minuartia sedoides 63, 111, 143-145, 147
Minuartia stricta 207
Minuartia verna 73, 141, 143, 162, 171, 207
Mnium homum 4, 6, 8, 18, 20, 28, 30, 32, 90, 92
Moerckia blyttii 111
Molinia caerulea 38, 39, 66, 68, 70, 74, 116, 204, 206, 208, 212, 214, 216, 218, 222, 225, 226, 228-231, 234, 243
Moneses uniflora 23
 monkeyflower 162
Montia fontana 236, 237
 moor-grass, blue 101, 140, 141, 147, 207, 361, 368
 moor-grass, purple 38, 66-68, 70, 74, 116, 204, 206, 208, 212-218, 222, 225, 226, 228-231, 234, 243
 moss, hare-tail 51
 moss, heath star 80
 moss, Iceland 44
 mouse-ear, alpine 111, 143, 145, 147
 mouse-ear, arctic 111, 147
 mouse-ear, common 88, 122, 126, 130, 132, 134, 174, 182, 184, 186, 188, 224, 238
 mouse-ear, dwarf 149, 151
 mouse-ear, sea 164, 170, 171, 362
 mouse-ear, starwort 236, 237
 mouse-ear, sticky 334
 mugwort 337
Mycelis muralis 12, 97
Mylia anomala 218
Mylia taylorii 50
Myosotis alpestris 141, 143, 145
Myosotis arvensis 334
Myosotis laxa 250, 262
Myosotis ramosissima 182
Myosotis scorpioides 253, 256, 266, 272
Myosotis secunda 236
Myosotis stolonifera 237
Myrica gale 214, 222
Myriophyllum alterniflorum 262, 307, 315-318, 324, 330-332
Myriophyllum spicatum 307, 308, 312-314, 320-322
Myriophyllum verticillatum 328, 329
Myrium hochstetteri 51

N

naiad, slender 317
Najas flexilis 317
Nardia scalaris 86, 87
Nardus stricta 48, 54, 62, 94, 95, 104-106, 108-110, 116, 142, 144, 204, 208, 210, 214, 236
Narthecium ossifragum 200, 204, 212-214, 216, 218, 222, 223, 234
Nasturtium officinale 246, 256, 266, 272, 306, 309, 326, 328
Neckera crispa 97
 neckera, crisped 97
Neottia nidus-avis 13
 nettle, common 16, 26, 36, 40, 120, 124, 190, 232, 268, 270, 271, 336, 339
 nettle, small 334, 336
 nightshade, black 337
 nightshade, deadly 15
 nightshade, enchanter's 4, 10
 nightshade, woody 18, 40
Nitella flexilis 316
 notchwort, Donn's 49, 51, 109
 notchwort, flush 237
 notchwort, hill 86
 notchwort, inflated 80
 notchwort, obtuse 143
 notchwort, tumid 95
Nuphar lutea 319, 322-324, 328
Nuphar pumila 323, 324
Nymphaea alba 244, 249, 315, 323, 324
Nymphoides peltata 323, 324

O

Oak, pedunculate 10, 28-30, 32, 38
 oak, sessile 20, 21, 25, 28, 29, 353
 oat-grass, downy 156, 157
 oat-grass, false 36, 97, 101, 120, 121, 124, 125, 134, 176, 186, 187, 190, 196, 224, 232, 248, 338, 339, 360-362, 368
 oat-grass, meadow 101, 140, 146, 148, 150, 151, 153, 156, 158, 361, 368
 oat-grass, yellow 120, 126, 128, 130, 154, 158, 186
Ochrolechia frigida 56, 60, 64, 84
Odontoschisma sphagni 214, 218, 222
Oenanthe aquatica 328
Oenanthe crocata 18, 232
Oenanthe lachenalii 138, 292, 293, 302
Oenothera stricta 183
Oligotrichum hercynicum 86, 87
Omalotheca supina 86, 94, 110, 144
Oncophorus virens 237, 239
Ononis reclinata 171
Ononis repens 168, 182, 192
Ophrys fusiflora 151
Ophrys sphegodes 151, 169
 orache, common 338
 orache, spear-leaved 138, 164, 172, 173, 177, 196, 244, 261, 264, 292, 299, 300, 302, 338, 340, 362
 orchid, bird's-nest 13
 orchid, bog 201, 223
 orchid, burnt 151
 orchid, coralroot 7
 orchid, fen 193, 195, 203
 orchid, frog 146
 orchid, ghost 13

orchid, lady 13
 orchid, lizard 159
 orchid, man 151
 orchid, monkey 151
Orchis purpurea 13
Orchis simia 151
Orchis ustulata 151
Oreopteris limbosperma 90
Origanum vulgare 97
Ornithopus pinnatus 171
Orobanche alba 75
Orobanche artemisiae-campestris 151
Orobanche loricata 151
Orobanche picididis 151
Orobanche reticulata 333
Orthodontium lineare 80
Oxalis acetosella 4, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28-30, 90, 94, 95, 97
Oxalis pes-caprae 334
 oxlip 11
Oxyria digyna 88
Oxytropis campestris 89
Oxytropis halleri 147, 161, 175, 185
 oxytropis, purple 147, 161, 175, 185
 oxytropis, yellow 89
 oysterplant 178

P

Palustriella commutata 88, 206, 208, 210, 238, 239
 pansy, field 334, 335
 pansy, wild 182
Papaver dubium 334
Papaver rhoeas 335, 336, 339
Parapholis incurva 165, 175
Parapholis strigosa 298, 299
Parietaria diffusa 98
Parietaria judaica 98
Parmelia physodes 58, 76, 78, 80, 188
Parnassia palustris 88
 parsley, cow 124, 260
 parsley-piert, slender 334, 335
 pasqueflower 151
 pawwort, common 86, 94, 95, 106
 pawwort, greater 63, 107, 143, 145
 pea, marsh 268, 269
 pearlwort, alpine 111, 143, 145
 pearlwort, heath 273
 pearlwort, knotted 192, 239
 pearlwort, procumbent 334, 338
Pedicularis palustris 212
Pellia epiphylla 18, 236
 pellitory-of-the-wall 98
 penny-cress, alpine 162
 pennywort, marsh 192, 194, 212, 224, 226, 234, 240, 250
 pepper-saxifrage 126
Persicaria amphibia 272, 314, 316, 319, 323, 328
Persicaria hydropiper 252, 271, 272
Persicaria lapathifolia 272
Persicaria maculosa 272, 273, 334
persicaria, pale 199, 272
 petty whin 58
Peucedanum palustre 19, 41, 225, 229, 251, 268, 269
Phalaris arundinacea 247, 253, 256, 270-272
Philonotis calcarea 238
Philonotis fontana 88, 236-238
Phleum alpinum 237
Phleum arenarium 182
Phleum bertolinii 130
Phleum phleoides 159
Phleum pratense 130, 131
Phragmites australis 18, 40, 41, 212, 225, 232, 240, 242-245, 247, 249, 250, 260, 268, 269, 339
Phyllococe caerulea 63
Physcomitrella patens 273
Phyteuma orbiculare 151
Phyteuma tenerum 151
 pignut 4, 122 (see also pignut, great)
 pignut, great 151
 pillwort 235
Pilosella officinarum 112, 148, 150-152, 154, 158-160, 168, 182
Pilularia globulifera 235
 pimpemel, bog 70, 212, 234
 pimpemel, scarlet 273, 334-337
 pimpemel, yellow 26
Pimpinella saxifraga 140, 152
 pine, Scots 22, 23, 25
 pineappleweed 272, 338
Pinguicula vulgaris 88, 146, 206-208, 210
 pink, maiden 113, 185
 pink water-speedwell 272
Pinus sylvestris 22, 23
 pipewort 251, 331
 pirri-pirri-bur 182
Plagiochila asplenioides 24, 88, 120
Plagiochila carringtonii 47, 49, 51, 53
Plagiomnium affine 120
Plagiomnium elatum 238
Plagiomnium undulatum 4, 10, 18, 120
Plagiothecium denticulatum 120
Plagiothecium undulatum 20, 22, 24, 50, 52, 90, 94, 106, 220
 plait-moss, cypress-leaved 24, 30, 32, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 62, 68, 70, 74, 76, 78, 80, 85, 95-97, 102, 104, 106, 118, 140, 158, 182, 214, 220
 plait-moss, downy 94
 plait-moss, golden 89
 plait-moss, heath 22, 54, 58, 60, 66, 214, 216, 218, 220
 plait-moss, hook-leaved 111

Plantago coronopus 98, 165, 168, 170, 174
Plantago lanceolata 72, 98, 112, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130-132, 134, 140, 142, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 167, 168, 170, 174, 182, 184, 196, 334, 338
Plantago major 271-273, 338
Plantago maritima 72, 160, 165-167, 174, 273, 286, 288-292, 294, 296, 299, 303, 340
Plantago media 150
 plantain, buck's-horn 98, 165, 168, 170, 171, 174
 plantain, greater 271-273, 338
 plantain, hoary 150
 plantain, ribwort 72, 98, 112, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130-132, 134, 140, 142, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 167, 168, 170, 174, 182, 184, 196, 334, 338
 plantain, sea 72, 160, 165-167, 174, 199, 273, 286, 288-292, 294, 296, 299, 303, 340
Pleurochaete squarrosa 159
Pleurociadula albescens 86
Pleurozia purpurea 46, 214
Pleurozium schreberi 8, 20, 22, 24, 44, 48, 50, 52, 54, 58, 62, 64, 74, 76, 90, 94, 95, 102, 104, 106, 114, 118, 144, 188, 218, 220
Poa alpina 145
Poa annua 99, 192, 271, 272, 334-338
Poa bulbosa 171
Poa humilis 174, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 340
Poa infirma 171
Poa nemoralis 12
Poa pratensis 34, 124, 130, 131, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 339
Poa subcaerulea 174, 180, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 340
Poa trivialis 4, 6, 10, 26, 36, 120, 122, 131, 132, 134, 136, 225, 226, 232, 270, 271, 334, 338
 pocket-moss, green 14
 pocket-moss, maidenhair 88, 206, 208, 238
 pocket-moss, rock 96, 97
Pogonatum umigerum 144
Pohlia drummondii 86
Pohlia ludwigii 236, 237
Pohlia nutans 80
Pohlia wahlenbergii 236, 237
Polemonium caeruleum 120, 121
Polycarpon tetraphyllum 171, 334
Polygala amara 141, 151
Polygala amarella 141, 151
Polygala serpyllifolia 66, 68, 116, 214, 216
Polygala vulgaris 70, 72
Polygonatum verticillatum 5
Polygonum amphibium 272, 314, 316, 319, 323, 328
Polygonum aviculare 172, 271, 272, 335-338
Polygonum hydropiper 252, 271, 272
Polygonum lapathifolium 272
Polygonum persicaria 272, 273, 334
Polygonum viviparum 8, 88, 144, 146, 210, 239
Polytrichastrum alpinum 48, 85-87, 94, 108, 110, 144
Polytrichastrum formosum 20, 30, 95
Polytrichastrum sexangulare 86
Polytrichum alpestre 220
Polytrichum alpinum 48, 85-87, 94, 108-110, 144
Polytrichum commune 38, 52, 90, 104, 106, 202, 204, 210, 220
Polytrichum formosum 20, 30, 95
Polytrichum juniperinum 66, 76
Polytrichum piliferum 81, 87, 112, 114
Polytrichum sexangulare 86
Polytrichum strictum 220
 pond-sedge, greater 199, 247, 364
 pondweed, blunt-leaved 316, 324, 328
 pondweed, bog 198, 234, 235, 244, 324, 330, 363
 pondweed, broad-leaved 249, 262, 305, 308, 309, 314-316, 318-320, 324, 330, 366
 pondweed, curled 314, 320
 pondweed, fen 203, 213, 322
 pondweed, fennel 278, 305, 310, 312-314, 320-322, 366
 pondweed, hairlike 314
 pondweed, horned 278, 279, 310, 321, 323
 pondweed, lesser 314, 316
 pondweed, perfoliate 305, 307, 314, 316, 317, 320, 332, 366
 pondweed, Shetland 317
 pondweed, slender-leaved 314, 316-319
 pondweed, small 314, 316
 pondweed, various-leaved 316
 poppy, common 335, 336, 339
 poppy, long-headed 334
Porella platyphylla 96
Potamogeton bertholdii 314, 316
Potamogeton coloratus 203, 213, 322
Potamogeton crispus 314, 320
Potamogeton filiformis 314, 316-319
Potamogeton gramineus 316
Potamogeton natans 249, 262, 308, 309, 314-316, 318-320, 324, 330
Potamogeton obtusifolius 316, 324, 328
Potamogeton pectinatus 278, 310, 312-314, 320-322
Potamogeton perfoliatus 307, 314, 316, 317, 320, 332
Potamogeton polygonifolius 234-236, 244, 324, 330
Potamogeton pusillus 314, 316
Potamogeton rutilus 317
Potamogeton trichoides 314
Potentilla anserina 138, 139, 194, 195, 232, 264, 271, 292, 295, 302
Potentilla crantzii 25, 141, 143, 145, 147
Potentilla erecta 20, 24, 34, 38, 44, 46, 48, 50, 54, 58, 60, 62, 68, 70, 72, 74, 85, 90, 92, 102, 104, 108, 114, 116, 118, 128, 140, 142, 160, 174, 204, 206, 212, 214, 216, 222, 225, 226, 228-230
Potentilla fruticosa 141
Potentilla neumanniana 141, 149, 159
Potentilla palustris 6, 202, 240, 244, 249-253, 328
Potentilla reptans 156
Potentilla sterilis 4
Potentilla tabernaemontani 141, 149, 159
Pottia starkeana 273
 pottia, smallest 273
 pottia, Starke's 273
 pouchwort, blue 106
Preissia quadrata 88
 primrose 10 (see also primrose, bird's-eye, primrose, Scottish and evening-primrose, fragrant)
Primula elatior 11

Primula farinosa 141, 207, 231
Primula scotica 73, 175, 185
Primula veris 186
Primula vulgaris 10
 primrose, bird's-eye 141, 207, 231
 primrose, Scottish 73, 175, 185
 privet, wild 13, 16, 169
 prongwort, northern 47
 prongwort, straw 47, 143
Prunella vulgaris 128, 142, 150, 152, 158, 184, 185, 194, 206, 239
Prunus spinosa 16, 17
Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans 32
Pseudoleskea incurvata 145
Pseudoscleropodium purum 20, 22, 24, 38, 102, 118, 142, 150, 156, 158, 160, 184, 186, 188, 230
 psora, deceiving 159
Psora decipiens 159
Pteridium aquilinum 16, 20, 28-30, 32, 34, 36, 37, 66, 68, 80, 114, 118, 119
Ptilidium ciliare 8, 48, 52, 64, 106, 108, 110, 220
Ptilium crista-castrensis 22
Puccinellia distans 299
Puccinellia maritima 244, 280-291, 296, 298, 299, 301, 303
Pulsatilla vulgaris 151
 purple-loosestrife 244, 250, 261, 268
Pyrola media 23, 58, 59
Pyrola rotundifolia 7, 23, 41, 147, 203

Q

quaking-grass 140, 148, 150, 152, 154, 206, 224, 230, 335
 quaking-grass, lesser 335
Quercus petraea 10, 20, 21, 28, 32, 353
Quercus robur 10, 28-30, 32, 33, 38, 353
 quillwort 305, 367 (see also quillwort, land and quillwort, spring)
 quillwort, land 73
 quillwort, spring 317, 331, 332

R

Racomitrium canescens 144
Racomitrium fasciculare 86
Racomitrium heterostichum 86, 87
Racomitrium lanuginosum 44-46, 48-50, 52, 56, 57, 60, 62, 64, 74, 84-87, 94, 95, 108, 142, 144, 147, 214, 216, 220, 236, 347
 ragged-robin 194, 225, 232, 250
 ragwort, common 112, 158, 162, 168, 180, 182, 184, 188, 190, 196, 339
 ramping-fumitory, common 334
 ramping-fumitory, Martin's 333
 Rannoch-rush 201
Ranunculus acris 88, 92, 122, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 142, 184, 185, 225, 226, 230, 232, 239
Ranunculus aquatilis 308
Ranunculus baudotii 278, 310, 311, 321
Ranunculus bulbosus 122, 128
Ranunculus circinatus 320, 322
Ranunculus flammula 40, 192, 194, 226, 234, 236, 239, 249, 262, 273, 331
Ranunculus fluitans 307
Ranunculus lingua 240, 250
Ranunculus ompiophyllus 236, 237
Ranunculus peltatus 309, 318
Ranunculus penicillatus 306
Ranunculus repens 26, 40, 126, 132, 134, 136, 194, 226, 232, 270, 271, 334-336, 338
Ranunculus sceleratus 272
Ranunculus trichophyllus 321
 raspberry 34
 redshank 199, 272, 273, 334
 reed, common 18, 40, 212, 225, 232, 240, 242-245, 247, 249, 250, 257, 260, 268, 269, 339
Reseda lutea 337
 restharrow, common 168, 182, 192
 restharrow, small 171
Rhamnus catharticus 40
Rhinanthus minor 122, 126
Rhinanthus angustifolius 333
Rhinanthus serotinus 333
Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum 202
Rhizomnium punctatum 6, 18, 236
Rhodiola rosea 8, 92, 166, 167
 rhododendron 31, 352, 354
Rhynchospora alba 200, 222
Rhynchospora fusca 201, 217
Rhytidadelphus loreus 8, 20, 22, 24, 48, 50, 52, 62, 90, 94, 108, 110, 142, 210, 214, 218, 220
Rhytidadelphus squarrosus 20, 24, 34, 62, 90, 94, 102, 104, 106, 110, 118, 142, 162, 184, 188, 230
Rhytidadelphus triquetrus 20, 22, 24, 88, 92, 142, 146, 160
Ribes alpinum 11
Riccardia chamedryfolia 70
Riccardia multifida 70
Riccardia sinuata 70
Riccia beyrichiana 273
Riccia cavemosa 273
Riccia glauca 273
 rock-bristle, trifid 161
 rock-cress, Bristol 149
 rock-rose, common 96, 140, 148, 150, 152
 rock-rose, hoary 141, 149
 rock-rose, white 148, 149
 rocket, sea 176-179, 362
Romulea columnae 171
Rorippa islandica 272
Rorippa palustris 271, 272
Rosa canina 16
Rosa pimpinellifolia 186
 rose, burnet 186
 rose, dog 16
 roseroot 8, 92, 164, 166, 167, 362
 rowan 4, 5, 21, 32, 38
Rubus caesius 192
Rubus chamaemorus 52, 53, 220
Rubus fruticosus 10, 12, 16-18, 26, 28-32, 34-38, 40, 190, 243, 339

Rubus idaeus 34
Rubus saxatilis 92
 ruffwort, alpine 111
Rumex acetosa 8, 92, 94, 110, 122, 126, 128, 132, 134, 158, 162, 167, 168, 174, 225, 226, 232, 243, 340
Rumex acetosella 34, 78, 112-114, 188, 335
Rumex crispus 136, 172, 178, 196, 197, 271, 273, 302, 340
Rumex hydrolapathum 246
Rumex obtusifolius 260, 338
Ruppia maritima 278, 279, 310, 313
Ruppia spiralis 278
 rupturewort, fringed 73, 171
 rush, alpine 207, 209
 rush, blunt-flowered 198, 212, 213, 224, 225, 228, 240, 242, 250, 268, 363
 rush, bulbous 208, 234-236, 238, 244, 249, 262, 305, 315, 316, 318, 324, 330-332, 366
 rush, chestnut 209, 211
 rush, compact 260
 rush, dwarf 71
 rush, hard 136, 224
 rush, heath 101, 104, 106, 107, 204, 214, 216, 220, 360
 rush, saltmarsh 138, 164, 244, 262, 264, 274, 275, 289, 290, 292, 294, 295, 302, 365
 rush, sea 275, 288, 289, 292, 293, 365
 rush, sharp-flowered 204, 226-228, 230, 232
 rush, soft 26, 38, 40, 134, 136, 137, 204, 226-228, 232, 234, 248, 250, 253, 254, 256, 258, 260, 261
 rush, three-flowered 208, 210, 236, 238
 rush, three-leaved 57, 83-85, 359
 rush, toad 199, 272, 273, 334
 rush, two-flowered 209, 211, 236, 237
 rushwort, notched 236
 rye-grass, perennial 126, 128, 130, 131, 138, 139, 334, 338, 339

S

sage, wood 34, 97, 168
Sagina nodosa 192, 239
Sagina procumbens 334, 338
Sagina saginoides 111, 143, 145
Sagina subulata 273
Sagittaria sagittifolia 259
Salicornia pusilla 287
Salix arbuscula 147
Salix caprea 38
Salix cinerea 6, 18, 26, 38, 40, 41
Salix herbacea 60, 84, 85, 87, 144
Salix lanata 91, 93
Salix lapponum 8, 9, 63, 147
Salix myrsinites 147
Salix pentandra 6, 7
Salix repens 160, 192-194, 351
Salix reticulata 147, 209
Salsola kali 177
 saltmarsh-grass, common 244, 275, 280-291, 296-299, 301, 303, 365
 saltmarsh-grass, reflexed 274, 275, 299, 365, 368
 saltwort, prickly 177
Salvia pratensis 151, 333
Sambucus nigra 10, 14, 16, 26, 339
 samphire, rock 164, 165, 362
 sand-grass, early 171, 183, 185
 sandwort, arctic 161
 sandwort, fine-leaved 159
 sandwort, sea 138, 176, 177, 179, 180, 196, 362
 sandwort, spring 73, 141, 143, 162, 171, 207
 sandwort, Teesdale 207
 sandwort, thyme-leaved 96, 170, 182
Sanguisorba minor 98, 140, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 174
Sanguisorba officinalis 70, 122, 126, 127, 230, 352
 sanicle 12
Sanicula europaea 12
Sarcocornia perennis 281, 282, 284, 285, 287, 288, 298, 301, 303
Sargassum muticum 276, 277
 saw-wort 70
Saxifraga aizoides 88, 89, 146, 208-210, 239
Saxifraga hirculus 239
Saxifraga oppositifolia 88, 144, 146
Saxifraga stellaris 86, 94, 208, 210, 236, 237
 saxifrage, purple 88, 144, 146
 saxifrage, starry 86, 94, 208, 210
 saxifrage, yellow 88, 146, 198, 208-210, 239, 363
Scabiosa columbaria 140, 141, 148, 150
 scabious, devil's-bit 70, 72, 92, 147, 206, 212, 225, 228, 230
 scabious, small 140, 148, 150
 scalewort, tamarisk 46
 scalewort, wall 96
Scapania gracilis 50
Scapania ornithopodioides 49, 51, 53, 63
Scapania paludosa 237
Scapania undulata 210, 236
Scheuchzeria palustris 201
Schistidium apocarpum 97, 99, 161
Schistidium maritimum 166
Schistidium trichodon 161
Schoenoplectus lacustris 249
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani 264, 265
Schoenus ferrugineus 207, 209
Schoenus nigricans 70, 71, 174, 206, 212, 213
Scilla autumnalis 73, 149, 171
Scilla verna 68, 70-73, 174, 273
Scirpus cespitosus 44, 46, 58, 60, 74, 214-216, 218, 220
Scirpus fluitans 318
Scirpus lacustris 249, 264, 265
Scirpus maritimus 244, 264, 265
Scleranthus perennis 113
Scleropodium purum 20, 22, 24, 38, 102, 118, 142, 150, 156, 158, 160, 184, 186, 188, 230
Scorpidium scorpioides 202, 208, 212
 scorpion-moss, hooked 202, 208, 212

Scorpiurium circinatum 149
 screw-moss, sand-hill 182-184
 screw-moss, wall 98, 99
Scrophularia auriculata 225
Scrophularia scorodonia 181
 scurvygrass, common 165, 166, 172, 238, 292, 340
 scurvygrass, English 264, 289
Scutellaria galericulata 232, 260, 268
 seaweed 197, 277, 301
 sea-biite, annual 275, 280-286, 288, 296, 297, 299, 301, 365
 sea-biite, shrubby 275, 287, 288, 296, 297, 301, 365
 sea-buckthorn 176, 190, 191, 362
 sea-heath 275, 288, 296-298, 365
 sea-kale 196, 197
 sea-lavender, common 281, 286, 288, 289, 291, 298, 301, 303
 sea-lavender, matted 287, 288, 296, 297
 sea-lavender, rock 165, 275, 296, 297, 365
 sea-lettuce 276
 sea-milkwort 164, 244, 286, 289-292, 294, 295, 299, 300
 sea-purslane 275, 281, 283, 285, 286, 288, 289, 291, 296-301, 303, 365
 sea-spurrey, greater 286, 298, 301, 303
 sea-spurrey, lesser 274, 275, 299, 365, 368
 sea-spurrey, rock 164-166, 170, 172, 173, 362
 sedge, bottle 6, 198, 199, 202, 203, 244, 249-253, 363, 364, 368
 sedge, bristle 209, 211
 sedge, brown 224
 sedge, carnation 60, 132, 142, 174, 204, 206, 208, 212, 214, 216, 224, 228, 230, 234, 238
 sedge, common 38, 106, 176, 192, 194, 195, 202, 204, 206, 210, 230, 234, 238, 250, 253, 362
 sedge, cyperus 199, 260, 364
 sedge, dioecious 198, 206-208, 210, 363
 sedge, distant 292
 sedge, dwarf 149, 151
 sedge, elongated 19
 sedge, false 141, 207, 209, 211
 sedge, flea 70, 88, 92, 140, 142, 146, 206, 208, 230, 338
 sedge, glaucous 70, 72, 97, 140, 148, 150, 152, 154-156, 160, 192, 194, 206, 208, 212, 230, 290
 sedge, green-ribbed 74
 sedge, hair 141, 143, 146, 147, 161, 207
 sedge, hairy 136
 sedge, lesser pond 18, 248
 sedge, long-bracted 294
 sedge, pill 44, 58, 62, 85, 116, 142
 sedge, rock 143, 147, 161
 sedge, russet 198, 210, 211, 363
 sedge, sand 76, 78, 79, 176, 182, 184, 186, 188, 189, 192, 362, 368
 sedge, sheathed 147, 209, 211
 sedge, soft-leaved 69, 143, 151
 sedge, star 198, 204, 205, 210, 214, 234, 363
 sedge, stiff 44, 48, 56, 60, 64, 65, 83-87, 108-110, 210, 220, 359
 sedge, string 203
 sedge, tawny 206, 228
 sedge, tufted 198, 240, 241, 250, 363
 sedge, tussock 18, 19, 243 (see also tussock-sedge)
 sedge, white 204
Sedum acre 96, 99, 170
Sedum anglicum 72, 170
Sedum forsteranum 149
Sedum rosea 8, 92, 166, 167
Sedum villosum 237
Selaginella selaginoides 89, 142, 144, 146, 160, 202, 206, 208, 210, 239
 selfheal 128, 142, 150, 152, 158, 184, 194, 206, 239
Seligeria trifaria 161
Selinum carvifolia 229
Sematophyllum demissum 21
Sematophyllum micans 21
Senecio integrifolius 151, 171, 175
Senecio jacobaea 112, 130, 158, 162, 168, 180, 182, 184, 188, 190, 196, 339
Senecio viscosus 196
Senecio vulgaris 334-336, 338
Seriphidium maritimum 291, 296
Serratula tinctoria 70
Seseli libanotis 151
Sesleria albicans 140, 141, 147, 207
Sesleria caerulea 140, 141, 147, 207
 shaggy-moss, big 20, 22, 24, 88, 92, 142, 146, 160
 shaggy-moss, little 8, 20, 22, 24, 48, 50, 52, 62, 90, 94, 108, 110, 142, 210, 214, 218, 220
 shepherd's-purse 334, 336, 338
 shoreweed 262, 305, 314, 316, 318, 331, 332, 366
 sibbaldia 110, 111, 143-145
Sibbaldia procumbens 110, 111, 143-145
 signal-moss, prostrate 21
 signal-moss, sparkling 21
Silau silaus 126
Silene acaulis 85, 144-147
Silene alba 337
Silene conica 81, 113, 159
Silene dioica 16, 120
Silene gallica 335
Silene latifolia 337
Silene noctiflora 336
Silene nutans 125, 151, 168, 169, 175
Silene otites 159
Silene uniflora 166, 167, 170, 174, 196, 340
Silene vulgaris 162, 166, 167, 170, 174, 196, 340
 silk-moss, dented 120
 silk-moss, elegant 32
 silk-moss, waved 20, 22, 24, 50, 52, 90, 94, 106, 220
 silverweed 138, 139, 176, 194, 195, 232, 264, 271, 292, 295, 302, 362
 silverwort, alpine 236
 silverwort, scarce 86, 237
 silver-moss 273
Sium latifolium 203, 251, 328
 skullcap 232, 260, 268

slipper, lady's 141
 small-reed, narrow 241, 252
 small-reed, purple 268
 smoothcap, common 4
 sneezewort 238
 soft-brome, least 170, 174
 soft-grass, creeping 20, 26, 28, 30, 34, 38
Solanum dulcamara 18, 40, 190, 196, 240, 243, 256, 258, 260
Solanum nigrum 337
Solidago virgaurea 46, 50, 92
 Solomon's-seal, whorled 5
Sonchus arvensis 179, 196, 302
Sonchus asper 196, 334-336
Sonchus oleraceus 168, 273, 334, 338
Sorbus aria 14
Sorbus aucuparia 4, 5, 32, 38
 sorrel, common 8, 92, 94, 110, 122, 126, 128, 132, 134, 158, 162, 164, 167, 168, 174, 225, 226, 232, 243, 340
 sorrel, mountain 88
 sorrel, sheep's 78, 112, 114, 188, 335
 sow-thistle, perennial 179, 196, 302
 sow-thistle, prickly 196, 334-336
 sow-thistle, smooth 168, 273, 334, 338
Sparganium angustifolium 330
Sparganium emersum 314, 322
Sparganium erectum 246, 249, 254, 256-258, 260, 261, 266, 328
Spartina alterniflora 280
Spartina anglica 274, 280, 282, 283, 285, 286
Spartina maritima 280, 286, 287
Spartina x townsendii 280
 spear thistle 338
 spear-moss, giant 202
 spear-moss, heart-leaved 250
 spear-moss, pointed 6, 18, 88, 97, 120, 132, 192, 194, 202, 206, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 240, 244, 250, 268
 spear-moss, three-ranked 209-211
 spear-moss, twiggy 210
 spearwort, greater 240, 250
 spearwort, lesser 40, 192, 194, 199, 226, 234-236, 239, 249, 262, 273, 331
 speedwell, alpine 145
 speedwell, fingered 333
 speedwell, germander 20, 186
 speedwell, marsh 253
 speedwell, rock 147
 speedwell, spiked 113, 141, 149, 151, 159
Spergula arvensis 335
Spergularia marina 299
Spergularia media 286, 298, 301, 303
Spergularia rupicola 165, 170
Sphaerophorus globosus 44, 46, 60
Sphagnum auriculatum 200, 201, 204, 212, 222, 234, 236, 237, 330
Sphagnum austinii 215, 219
Sphagnum capillifolium 22, 39, 50-52, 214, 218, 220
Sphagnum compactum 214, 216, 217
Sphagnum cuspidatum 200-202, 218, 222
Sphagnum denticulatum 200, 204, 212, 222, 234, 236, 330
Sphagnum fimbriatum 39, 40
Sphagnum imbricatum 215, 219
Sphagnum lindbergii 204, 205
Sphagnum magellanicum 218
Sphagnum palustre 38, 40, 204, 214
Sphagnum papillosum 39, 204, 214, 218, 219, 222, 223
Sphagnum pulchrum 201
Sphagnum quinquefanum 22
Sphagnum recurvum 38, 40, 200-205, 218, 222
Sphagnum riparium 205
Sphagnum russowii 204, 205
Sphagnum squarrosum 39, 40, 202, 203
Sphagnum subnitens 8, 39, 204, 212, 214, 222
Sphagnum subsecundum 203
Sphagnum tenellum 214, 216, 218, 222
Sphagnum teres 202
Sphagnum wamstorffii 202, 203
 spider-orchid, early 151, 169
 spider-orchid, late 151
 spike-rush, common 132, 194, 199, 254, 262, 263, 273, 331, 364
 spike-rush, dwarf 275, 279, 365, 368
 spike-rush, few-flowered 206, 208, 262
 spike-rush, many-stalked 234, 331
 spike-rush, slender 275, 294, 295, 365
 spindle 13
Spiranthes spiralis 73
Spirodela polyrhiza 326, 327
Splachnum vasculosum 237
 spleenwort, green 96, 146
 spleenwort, maidenhair 96
 spoonwort, purple 46, 214
 spotted-orchid, common 224
 spotted-orchid, heath 46
 spring-sedge 140, 148, 150 (see also spring-sedge, rare)
 spring-sedge, rare 141, 151, 159
 spurge, dwarf 336
 spurge, Portland 73, 77, 98, 149, 181, 183
 spurrey, corn 335
 spur-moss, green 239
Squamaria lentigera 159
 squill, autumn 73, 149, 171
 squill, spring 43, 68, 70-73, 164, 174, 273, 359
 squinancywort 150
 St John's-wort, marsh 198, 234, 235, 363
 St John's-wort, square-stalked 224
 St John's-wort, wavy 229
Stachys arvensis 334
Stachys betonica 70
Stachys germanica 333

Stellaria alsine 226, 232, 236
Stellaria media 138, 178, 271, 272, 334, 335, 337, 338, 340
 stitchwort, bog 226, 232, 236
 stonecrop, biting 96, 99, 170
 stonecrop, English 72, 170
 stonecrop, hairy 237
 stonecrop, mossy 113
 stonecrop, rock 149
 stonewort 314, 316
 stork's-bill, common 335, 337
Stratiotes aloides 328, 329
 strawberry, barren 4
 strawberry, wild 158
 stubble-moss, green-tufted 96
Suaeda maritima 280-286, 288, 296, 299, 301
Suaeda vera 287, 288, 296, 297, 301
Succisa pratensis 70, 72, 92, 128, 147, 206, 212, 225, 228, 230
 sundew, round-leaved 200, 214, 218, 234
 swan-neck moss, compact 66
 swan-neck moss, rusty 80, 95, 220
 swan-neck moss, Shaw's 215
 swan-neck moss, sickle 215
 swan-neck moss, silky 51, 215
 swan's-neck thyme-moss 4, 6, 8, 18, 20, 28, 30, 32, 90, 92
 sweet-flag 199, 258, 364
 sweet-grass, floating 199, 266, 267, 308, 309, 319, 327, 364
 sweet-grass, hybrid 266, 308
 sweet-grass, plicate 266
 sweet-grass, reed 199, 246, 247, 253, 256, 272, 364
 sycamore 12, 13, 339
Syntrichia ruraliformis 182-184

T

tamarisk-moss, common 4, 8, 20, 24, 92, 230
Tamus communis 12
Taraxacum officinale 122, 126, 128, 131, 156, 158, 182, 186, 338
 tare, hairy 334
 tasselweed, beaked 274, 275, 278, 310, 313, 364, 368
 tasselweed, spiral 278, 279
Taxus baccata 12, 14, 15, 353, 354, 368
Tephrosia integrifolia 151, 171, 175
Teucrium botrys 151, 333
Teucrium scorodonia 34, 97, 168
Thalictrum alpinum 8, 89, 141, 146, 208, 210
Thalictrum flavum 268
Thalictrum minus 184, 186
Thelypteris limbosperma 90, 91
Thelypteris palustris 19, 41, 268, 269
Thesium humifusum 151
 thistle, broomrape 333
 thistle, carline 101, 148, 149, 361, 368
 thistle, creeping 36, 124, 130, 134, 180, 182, 186, 190, 196, 232, 260, 270, 271, 302, 336, 338, 339
 thistle, dwarf 150, 152, 156, 158
 thistle, marsh 18, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 238, 240, 268, 339
 thistle, meadow 228
 thistle, tuberous 129, 151
 thyme, wild 48, 70, 72, 75, 89, 96, 110, 140, 142-144, 146, 148-150, 152, 158, 160, 162, 170, 184
Thlaspi alpestre 162
Thlaspi caerulescens 162
 thread-moss, Cape 80
 thread-moss, Drummond's 86
 thread-moss, Duval's 237
 thread-moss, Ludwig's 236, 237
 thread-moss, mountain 236, 237
 thread-moss, nodding 80
 thread-moss, Schleicher's 237
 threadwort, common 80
 threadwort, snow 86
 thrift 72, 144, 162, 164-168, 170-172, 174, 286, 289-292, 294, 296-298, 303, 340, 362
Thuidium tamariscinum 4, 8, 20, 24, 92, 230
 thyme, Breckland 159
 thyme, large 158
 thyme-moss, felted 202
 thyme-moss, hart's-tongue 4, 10, 18, 120
 thyme-moss, many-fruited 120
 thyme-moss, tall 238
Thymus polytrichus 48, 70, 72, 75, 89, 96, 110, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 158, 160, 162, 170, 184
Thymus praecox 48, 70, 72, 75, 89, 96, 110, 140, 142-144, 146, 148, 150-152, 158-160, 162, 170, 184
Thymus pulegioides 158
Thymus serpyllum 113, 159
Tilia platyphyllos 11
 Timothy 131
 toadflax, common 337
 toadflax, ivy-leaved 83, 99, 360
 toadflax, small 336
Tofieldia pusilla 208
Tomentypnum nitens 203, 225
Toninia lobulata 159
 toninia, lobulate 159
 tormentil 20, 24, 34, 38, 44, 46, 48, 50, 54, 58, 60, 62, 68, 70, 72, 74, 85, 90, 92, 102, 104, 108, 114, 116, 118, 140, 142, 160, 174, 204, 206, 212, 214, 216, 222, 225, 226, 228, 230
Tortella densa 141, 161
Tortella tortuosa 96, 97, 140, 146, 160
Tortula muralis 98, 99
Tortula ruralis 182-184
 tor-grass 151-155, 168
Tragopogon pratensis 156
 tree-mallow 172, 173
 tree-moss 6
 trefoil, lesser 334, 335
Trichocolea tomentella 236
Trichophorum cespitosum 44, 46, 58, 60, 74
Trichostomum crispulum 96

Trientalis europaea 24
Trifolium bocconeii 71, 73
Trifolium dubium 334, 335
Trifolium occidentale 73, 171, 175
Trifolium pratense 122, 126, 128, 132, 150, 225
Trifolium repens 122, 126, 128, 130-132, 136, 138, 162, 174, 184, 186, 194, 225, 239, 271, 290, 292, 294, 334, 338
Trifolium suffocatum 77, 171
Triglochin maritima 244, 262, 264, 286, 288-292, 294, 299
Triglochin palustris 206, 239
Tripleurospermum inodorum 273, 334, 338
Tripleurospermum maritimum 166, 172, 177, 178, 196, 338
Trisetum flavescens 120, 126, 128, 130, 154, 158, 186
Tritomaria polita 237
Trollius europaeus 92, 230
 turf-moss, springy 20, 24, 34, 62, 90, 94, 102, 104, 106, 110, 118, 142, 162, 184, 188, 230
 tussock-sedge, fibrous 7, 19, 203, 251, 269
 tussock-sedge, greater - see sedge, tussock
 twayblade, common 13, 50
 twinflower 23
Typha angustifolia 254, 255
Typha latifolia 243, 254-256, 258, 266

U

Ulex europaeus 16, 32, 34, 35, 66, 70, 71
Ulex gallii 32, 68-70, 116
Ulex minor 66, 67
Ulmus glabra 4, 5, 10
Ulva lactuca 276
Urtica dioica 16, 26, 27, 36, 40, 120, 124, 190, 232, 268-271, 336, 339
Urtica urens 334, 336
Usnea flammea 77
Utricularia australis 330
Utricularia minor 200
Utricularia vulgaris 324, 328

V

Vaccinium microcarpum 221
Vaccinium myrtillus 8, 20, 22, 24, 32, 48-56, 58, 60, 62-66, 68, 80, 84, 85, 90-92, 95, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 114, 116, 118, 142, 214, 220
Vaccinium oxycoccos 200, 218, 222
Vaccinium uliginosum 220
Vaccinium vitis-idaea 8, 22, 24, 48, 52, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 147, 220
 valerian, common 6, 18, 120, 232, 248, 268
 valerian, marsh 6, 212, 225, 228, 230
Valeriana dioica 6, 212, 225, 228, 230
Valeriana officinalis 6, 18, 120, 232, 248, 268
Valerianella locusta 182, 334
 vernal-grass, sweet 34, 62, 68, 74, 76, 88, 90, 92, 102, 104, 106, 110, 112, 118, 122, 126, 128, 132, 142, 143, 146, 162, 174, 188, 206, 208, 212, 224, 226, 228, 230, 238
Veronica alpina 145
Veronica beccabunga 256, 306
Veronica catenata 272
Veronica chamaedrys 20, 186
Veronica fruticans 147
Veronica persica 334-337
Veronica polita 334, 337
Veronica scutellata 253
Veronica spicata 113, 141, 149, 151, 159
Veronica triphyllos 333
 vetch, kidney 170
 vetch, tufted 225, 232
 vetchling, meadow 122, 126, 128, 134, 186, 224, 230
Viburnum lantana 13, 16
Viburnum opulus 13
Vicia cracca 225, 232
Vicia hirsuta 334
Viola arvensis 334, 335
Viola canina 182
Viola hirta 140
Viola lactea 67, 69
Viola palustris 94, 110, 144, 202, 204, 210, 226, 243
Viola reichenbachiana 10, 12
Viola riviniana 4, 8, 10, 12, 20, 24, 36, 70, 72, 89, 92, 97, 102, 118, 140, 142, 146, 160
Viola rupestris 141
Viola tricolor 182
 violet, hairy 140
 violet, marsh 94, 110, 144, 202, 204, 210, 226, 243
 violet, Teesdale 141
 viper's-bugloss 168
Vulpia fasciculata 183

W

wallflower 168
 wall-rue 96, 99
Wamstorfia fluitans 200
 water-cress 246, 256, 266, 272, 306, 309, 326, 328 (see also water-cress, fool's)
 water-cress, fool's 256, 266, 308
 water-crowfoot, brackish 278, 305, 310, 311, 321, 366, 368
 water-crowfoot, common 305, 308, 366
 water-crowfoot, fan-leaved 320, 322
 water-crowfoot, thread-leaved 321
 water-dropwort, fine-leaved 328
 water-dropwort, hemlock 18, 232, 233
 water-dropwort, parsley 138, 292, 293, 302
 water-crowfoot, pond 305, 308, 309, 318, 366
 water-crowfoot, river 305, 307, 366
 water-crowfoot, stream 305, 306, 366
 water-lily, fringed 323, 324
 water-lily, least 323, 324
 water-lily, white 244, 249, 305, 315, 323, 324, 366
 water-lily, yellow 305, 319, 322-324, 328, 366
 water-milfoil, alternate 262, 305, 307, 315-318, 324, 330-332, 366
 water-milfoil, spiked 305, 307, 308, 312-314, 320-322, 366
 water-milfoil, whorled 328, 329
 water-moss, alpine 307

water-moss, greater 307, 308, 316, 318, 323
 water-parsnip, greater 203, 251, 328
 water-parsnip, lesser 240, 246, 266, 306, 327, 328
 water-pepper 199, 252, 271, 272
 water-plantain 246, 249, 254, 256, 262
 water-purslane 199, 273
 water-soldier 305, 328, 329, 366
 water-starwort, blunt-fruited 308, 310, 312, 321, 322
 water-starwort, autumnal 316
 water-starwort, common 256, 306, 308, 310, 312, 313, 319, 320, 323
 water-starwort, intermediate 272, 308, 318
 water-starwort, various-leaved 309, 310, 312, 328
 water-violet 328
 waterweed, Canadian 305, 313, 315, 316, 320, 322, 323, 327, 328, 366
 waterweed, Nuttall's 304, 314, 322
 waterwort, eight-stamened 255, 317
 waterwort, six-stamened 255, 317, 331
Weissia controversa 96
 whipwort, arch-leaved 49, 51
 whipwort, Wood's 23, 49, 51, 143
 white-moss, large 30
 whitebeam 14
 whitlowgrass, hoary 141, 143, 147, 161
 whitlowgrass, rock 145
 whitlowgrass, yellow 98, 149
 willow, creeping 160, 176, 192-195, 362, 368
 willow, dark-leaved 147
 willow, downy 8, 63, 147
 willow, dwarf 60, 83-85, 87, 144, 360
 willow, goat 38
 willow, grey 1, 2, 6, 18, 19, 26, 38, 40, 41, 358
 willow, mountain 147
 willow, net-leaved 147, 209
 willow, woolly 91, 93
 willowherb, alpine 236, 238
 willowherb, broad-leaved 120
 willowherb, great 243, 244, 247, 254, 261, 268, 270, 339
 willowherb, hoary 224
 willowherb, marsh 40, 202, 224, 226, 238, 250
 willowherb, rosebay 36, 339
 wintergreen, intermediate 23, 58, 59
 wintergreen, round-leaved 7, 23, 41, 147, 203
 wintergreen, one-flowered 23
Wolffia arrhiza 326, 327
 wood-moss, glittering 8, 20, 22, 24, 48, 50, 52, 54, 58, 62, 74, 76, 88, 92, 94, 97, 102, 104, 106, 110, 142, 144, 146, 160, 188, 202, 210, 220
 wood-rush, field 76, 102, 128, 184, 188
 wood-rush, great 8, 83, 90, 92, 93, 360
 wood-rush, hairy 20, 24, 30
 wood-rush, heath 102, 104, 106
 wood-rush, spiked 84, 87, 144
 wood-sorrel 4, 20, 24, 28, 30, 90, 94, 95, 97
 wormwood, field 159
 wormwood, sea 275, 291, 296, 300, 365
 woundwort, downy 333
 woundwort, field 334
 wrack, spiral 276

Y

yarrow 102, 124, 128, 162, 174, 184, 186, 338
 yellow-cress, marsh 199, 271, 272
 yellow-cress, northern 272
 yellow-rattle 122, 126, 333
 yellow-rattle, greater 333
 yellow-sedge, common 198, 206, 208, 210, 234, 236, 238, 363
 yellow-sedge, long-stalked 206, 212
 yellow-sedge, small-fruited 174
 yellow-wort 148
 yew 1, 2, 12, 14, 15, 355, 358, 368
 Yorkshire-fog 131, 361

Z

Zannichellia palustris 278, 279, 310, 321, 323
Zostera angustifolia 276, 277
Zostera marina 276, 277
Zostera noltii 276, 277

