LUNDY FLORA, 1989-1992

By

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Lundy Island, Bristol Channel, Devon, EX39 2LY.

Living on Lundy gives the opportunity for year round study of the island flora, but with the limitation of having little spare time during the summer. These notes are part of ongoing observations.

The winter of 1991/92 was marked by a severe outbreak of Myxomatosis, resulting in a dramatic decline in the rabbit population on Lundy from approximately 20,000 to around 200. The surviving colonies are mainly confined to the area north of Threequarter Wall. Though a reduction in numbers was needed, to halt overgrazing and erosion of the sidelands, the suffering caused by this virulent disease was distressing to witness. The reduction in rabbit numbers resulted in a marked change in the vegetation at the south end of Lundy. The farm benefited by an increased yield and wild flowers flourished as they had not done for many years.

Lundy Cabbage, Coincya wrightii (Rhyncosinapis wrightii) an endemic species has been well documented. Its distribution is gradually increasing, notably near Millcombe House, and on the castellated wall south of Government House. At the south end a few plants are established on the cliffs above Lametry Bay and extend from the landing beach northwards along the eastern sidelands almost as far as Brazen Ward. There is an unconfirmed report of a single specimen at North End. It was also one of the first colonisers of the new clearing just north of St Helen's Valley known to the Lundy Field Society volunteers as 'Gibson's Grove', along with Foxgloves, Gorse, English Stonecrop, and Black Nightshade.

Pure white varieties are noted in a plant list attributed to J.R. Chanter in L.R.W. Loyd's book 'Lundy, Its History and Natural History', 1925. They are as follows: Common Milkwort, Polygala vulgaris, Devil's Bit Scabious, Scabiosa succisa, Cross-leaved Heath, Erica tetralix, Fine-leaved Heath, (Bell Heather) Erica cinerea, Ling or Heather, Calluna vulgaris, Water Forget-me-not, Myosotis palustre, Lousewort, Pedicularis sylvatica, Foxglove, Digitalis purpurea, Wild Thyme, Thymus serpyllum, Thrift or Sea Pink, Armeria maritima, Wild Hyacinth or Bluebell, Agraphis nutans? (probably Hyacinthoides non-scripta). With the exception of Devil's Bit Scabious, which has not been recorded for many years, all these plants still appear in white form. In addition, white Dove's-foot Cranesbill, Geranium molle, Red Campion, Silene dioica, Slender Thistle, Carduus tenuiflorus and Heath Spotted Orchid, Dactyloriza maculata now appear. Chanter also recorded Blue Pimpernel, Anagallis carnea. These were more probably blue and white varieties of Scarlet Pimpernel, Anagallis arvensis, which still occur.

Following the building of the new wall in front of Millcombe House in 1990, several species re-appeared in disturbed soil. These include Moth Mullein, Verbascum blattaria, on the steep bank in front of Millcombe House and in two places lower down the valley, in 1991 and fewer in 1992. Thornapple, Datura stramonia, and Scarlet Pimpernel (Blue), Anagallis arvensis var. at the south end of the lawn outside the wall and Scarlet Pimpernel (White), A. arvensis var. outside the wall at the north end of the lawn.

Recent records include Common Whitlowgrass, Erophila verna on wall-tops, Hoary Stock, Matthiola incana on lower Millcombe garden wall, introduced from Alderney c.1980, in danger of disappearing due to vandalism, Many-seeded Goosefoot, Chenopodium polyspermum, in an Islander's garden, Common Stork's-bill, Erodium cicutarium, in disturbed soil south of Square Cottage and 50ft west of Tibbetts, (Admiralty Lookout), Lucerne, Medicago sativa, in soil taken from Stoneycroft garden, Spotted Medick, Medicago arabica, Tea Garden, Procumbent Yellow-sorrel, Oxalis corniculata, steps near Radio Room, Hemlock Water Dropwort, Oenanthe crocata, Millcombe Pond, Alexanders, Smyrnium olusatrum, below Beach Road and above the gas store, (Seed heads are being removed to discourage further invasion), Japanese Knotweed, Reynoutria japonica, terraces, (Steps are being taken to eradicate this invasive species), Curled Dock, Rumex crispus subsp. littoreus, Landing Beach, Pellitory-of-the-wall, Paretaria judaica, Millcombe valley in an old wall and Barton Cottage garden, Cowslip, Primula veris, Tea Garden, and steps south of Millcombe House on path to Bramble Villas, Balm, Melissa officinalis, Barton Cottages kitchen garden, Water Plantain, Alisma plantago-aquatica, Millcombe pond, Flax, Linum sp. (belived to be L. usitatissimum, but the plant was strimmed before confirmation was made), outside new shop store, Parsley-piert, Aphanes arvensis, pathways north of quarries, Slender Parsley-piert, Aphanes inexpectata (A. microcarpa), pathways around The Ugly and Millcombe House.

Several species await confirmation and will be added to the list in due course. Some plants included are almost certainly garden escapes whilst others now only appear in gardens. Opium Poppy, *Papaver somniferum*, which had been confined to the tea garden, appeared at V.C. Quarry in 1991 and Silver Ragwort, *Senecio bicolor* grew on the castellated wall east of Government House in 1992. Angelica, which grows abundantly in streamside areas and on steep eastern cliffs, has usually been named *Angelica sylvestris*, but Dr F.R.E. Wright (1930s) gives Garden Angelica, *Angelica archangelica* (confirmed by Kew). A fruitless search has been made for Autumn Ladies Tresses, *Spiranthus spiralis*, and Ivy-leaved Bellflower, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, both of which have been recorded from time to time.

The following list includes additions. As a guide the comparative lists in 'A Contribution to the Study of the Lundy Flora' by Elizabeth Hubbard (1971) in the 22nd Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society were used. To make comparison easier, the same sequence of families, genera and species has been followed as closely as possible. Where there have been nomenclature changes, synonyms are given in square brackets. English names are generally those recommended by the Botanical Society of the British Isles in *English Names of Wild Flowers* (second edition 1986). Some trees and Juncaceae are included, though they were not seriously studied.

Ranuculaceae

Caltha palustris Ranunculus repens R. bulbosus R. flammula R. omiophyllus [R. lenormandi] R. ficaria Aquilegia vulgaris Marsh Marigold# Creeping Buttercup Bulbous Buttercup Lesser Spearwort Round-leaved Crowfoot Lesser Celandine Columbine

Papaveraceae

Papaver somniferum

Fumariaceae Fumaria bastardii

Cruciferae

Brassica napus Coincya wrightii [Rhynchosinapis wrightii] Lepidium heterophyllum [L. smithii] Coronopus squamatus C. didymus Teesdalia nudicaulis Capsella bursa-pastoris Cochlearia officinalis C. danica Opium Poppy

Tall Ramping Fumitory

Rape

Lundy Cabbage

Smith's Pepperwort Swine-cress Lesser Swine-cress Shepherd's Cress Shepherd's Purse Common Scurvy-grass Danish Scurvy-grass Lobularia maritima Amoracia rusticana Cardamine flexuosa C. hirsuta Nasturtium officinale [Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum] Sisymbrium officinale Arabidopis thalania Erophila verna Matthiola incana Mycelis muralis

Residaceae Reseda luteola

Violaceae Viola riviniana

Polygalaceae Polygala vulgaris P. serpyllifolia

Hypericaceae Hypericum humifusum H. pulchrum H. elodes

Tamaricaceae Tamarix gallica

Caryophyllaceae Silene maritima S. dioica [Melandrum dioicum] S. alba [Melandrum album] Cerastium tomentosum C. fontanum [C. holosteoides] C. diffusum [C. atrovirens] C. glomeratum Stellaria media S. graminea S. alsine Sagina apetala S. maritima S. procumbens Spergula arvensis Spergularia rupicola

Portulacaceae Montia fontana

Chenopodiaceae Chenopodium album C. polyspermum Beta maritima [B. vulgaris] Atriplex patula A. prostrata [A. hastata] A. glabriuscula Sweet Alison Horse-radish Wavy Bittercress Hairy Bitter-cress

Water-cress Hedge Mustard Thale Cress Common Whitlowgrass * Hoary Stock * Wall Lettuce #*

Weld

Common Dog-violet

Common Milkwort Heath Milkwort

Trailing St John's-wort Slender St John's-wort Marsh St John's-wort

Tamarisk

Sea Campion Red Campion White Campion Snow-in-Summer Common Mouse-ear Sea Mouse-ear Sticky Mouse-ear Common Chickweed Lesser Stitchwort Bog Stitchwort Bog Stitchwort Annual Pearlwort Sea Pearlwort Procumbent Pearlwort Corn Spurrey Rock Sea-spurrey

Blinks

Fat Hen Many-seeded Goosefoot* Sea Beet Common Orache Spear-leaved Orache Babington's Orache Malvaceae Malva moschata M. sylvestris

Linaceae Linum usitatissimum Radiola linoides

Geraniaceae Geranium dissectum G. molle G. pusillum G. robertianum Erodium cicutarium E. maritimum

Aceraceae Acer pseudoplatanus Aesculus hippocastanum

Aquifoliaceae Ilex aquifolium

Celastraceae Euonymus japanicus

Leguminosae Ulex europaeus U. gallii U. minor Cytisus scoparius subsp. scoparius [Sarothamnus scoparius] C. scoparius subsp. maritimus [Sarothamnus prostratus] Trifolium ornithopodioides [Trigonella ornithopodioides] Medicago sativa M. arabica Trifolium pratense T. arvense T. striatum T. repens T. campestre T. dubium T. micranthum Anthyllis vulneraria Lotus corniculatus L. uliginosus L. subbiflorus [L. hispidus] Ornithopus perpusillus Vicia hirsuta V. sativa subsp sativa V. sativa subsp nigra [V. angustifolia]

Rosaceae Rubus fruticosus Potentilla anserina Musk Mallow # Common Mallow

Flax Allseed

Cut-leaved Crane's-bill Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Small-flowered Crane's-bill Herb Robert Common Stork's-bill * Sea Stork's-bill

Sycamore Horse Chestnut

Holly

Evergreen Spindle

Gorse Western Gorse Dwarf Gorse #

Broom

Prostrate Broom

Bird's-foot Clover Lucerne * Spotted Medick * Red Clover Hare's-foot Clover Knotted Clover White Clover Hop Trefoil Lesser Trefoil Slender Trefoil Kidney Vetch Common Bird's-foot Trefoil Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil Hairy Bird's-foot Trefoil # Bird's-foot Hairy Tare Common Vetch

Narrow-leaved Vetch

Bramble Silverweed P. erecta P. reptans P. anglica Aphanes arvensis A. inexpectata Prunus spinosa Crataegus monogyna Sorbus aucuparia S. aria

Oxalidaceae Oxalis corniculata

Crassulaceae Sedum anglicum S. album S. reflexum Umbilicus rupestris

Saxifragaceae Saxifraga x urbium [S. cuneifolia]

Droseraceae Drosera rotundiflora

Lythraceae Lythrum salicaria L. portula [Peplis portula]

Onagraceae Epilobium montanum E. obscurum Fushsia magellanica

Callitrichaceae Callitriche stagnalis

Araliaceae Hedera helix

Umbelliferae Hydrocotyle vulgaris Conium maculatum Apium nodiflorum Conopodium majus Crithmum maritimum Angelica archangelica Heracleum sphondylium Daucus carota Oenanthe crocata Smyrnium olusatrum

Euphorbiaceae Euphorbia helioscopia E. peplus

Polygonaceae Polygonum aviculare P. arenastrum [P. aequale] Tormentil Creeping Cinquefoil Trailing Tormentil Parsley-piert * Slender Parsley-piert * Blackthorn Hawthorn Rowan Common Whitebeam

Procumbent Yellow-sorrel *

English Stonecrop White Stonecrop Reflexed Stonecrop Navelwort

London Pride

Round-leaved Sundew

Purple Loosetrife # Water Purslane

Broad-leaved Willowherb Short-fruited Willowherb Fuchsia

Common Water-starwort

Ivy

Marsh Pennywort Hemlock Fool's Watercress Pignut Rock Samphire Garden Angelica Hogweed Wild Carrot Hemlock Water-dropwort* Alexanders *

Sun Spurge Petty Spurge

Knotgrass Equal-leaved Knotgrass P. persicaria P. lapathifolium P. hydropiper Rumex acetosella R. acetosa R. crispus subsp crispus R. crispus subsp littoreus R. obtusifolius R. sanguineus

Urticaceae Urtica urens U. dioica Parietaria judaica

Betulaceae Betula pubescens Alnus glutinosa

Coryolaceae Corylus avellana

Fagaceae Fagus sylvatica Quercus rober Q. cerris Q. ilex Q. petraea

Pinareae Pinus nigra subsp nigra P. radiata

Salicaceae Populus alba Salix caprea S. cineria [S. atrocineria] S. repens

Ericaceae Rhododendron ponticum Calluna vulgaris Erica tetralix E. cineria

Plumbaginaceae Armeria maritima

Primulaceae Primula vulgaris P. veris Lysimachia nemorum Anagallis tenella A. arvensis A. arvensis var A. arvensis var A. minima [Centunculus minimus] Samolus valerandi Redshank Pale Persicaria Water-pepper Sheep's Sorrel Common Sorrel Curled Dock Curled Dock # * Broad-leaved Dock Wood Dock

Small Nettle Common Nettle Pellitory-of-the-wall *

Downy Birch Common Alder

Hazel

Beech Pedunculate Oak Turkey Oak Evergreen Oak Sessile Oak

Austrian Pine Monterey Pine

White Poplar Goat Willow Grey Willow Creeping Willow

Rhododendron Heather Cross-leaved Heath Bell Heather

Thrift

Primrose Cowslip * Yellow Pimpernel Bog Pimpernel Scarlet Pimpernel Scarlet Pimpernel (white) Scarlet Pimpernel (blue) Chaffweed # Brookweed Oleaceae Fraxinus excelsior Ligustrum vulgare

Gentianaceae Centaurium erythraea

Boraginaceae Borago officinalis Myosotis scorpioides M. laxa subsp caespitosa M. arvensis M. discolor M. ramosissima [Myosotis hispida]

Convolvulaceae Convolvulus arvensis Calystegia sepium

Solanaceae Hyoscyamus niger Solanum dulcamara S. nigrum Datura stramonium

Scrophulariaceae Verbascum blattaria Cymbalaria muralis Scrophularia nodosa S. scorodonia Digitalis purpurea Veronica officinalis V. chamaedrys V. serpyllifolia V. arvensis V. hederifolia V. persica V. agrestis Pedicularis sylvatica Euphrasia agg [E. officinalis]

Labiatae

Mentha suaveolens [M. verticulata] M. spicata Thymus praecox subsp arcticus [T. drucei] Prunella vulgaris Stachys officinalis [Betonica officinalis] S. arvensis Lamium purpureum Glechoma hederacea Scutellaria galericulata S. minor Teucrium scorodonia Melissa officinalis Ash Privet

Common Centaury

Borage Water Forget-me-not Tufted Forget-me-not Field Forget-me-not Changing Forget-me-not

Early Forget-me-not

Field Bindweed Hedge Bindweed

Henbane Bittersweet Black Nightshade Thorn-apple

Moth Mullein Ivy-leaved Toadflax Common Figwort Balm-leaved Figwort Foxglove Heath Speedwell Germander Speedwell Thyme-leaved Speedwell Wall Speedwell Ivy-leaved Speedwell Common Field-speedwell Green Field-speedwell Lousewort Eyebright

Round-leaved Mint Spear Mint

Wild Thyme Selfheal

Betony Field-woundwort Red Deadnettle Ground-ivy Scullcap Lesser Scullcap Wood Sage Balm * Plantaginaceae Plantago major P. lanceolata P. maritima P. coronopus

Campanulaceae Jasione montana

Rubiaceae Galium saxatile G. palustre G. aparine Rubia peregrina

Caprifoliaceae Sambucus nigra Lonicera peryclymenum

Valerianaceae Centranthus ruber

Compositae Senecio jacobaea S. sylvaticus S. vulgaris S. bicolor Petasites fragrans Pulicaria dysenterica Filaginella uliginosa [Gnaphalium uliginosum] Solidago virgaurea Bellis perennis Eupatorium cannabinum Tripleurospermum maritimum Matricaria perforata [M. inodora] Anthemis cotula Matricaria matricarioides Achillea millefolium Leucanthemum vulgare [Chrvsanthemum leucanthemum] Arctium minus Carduus tenuiflorus Cirsium vulgare C. palustre C. arvense Centaurea nigra Lapsana communis Hypochoeris radicata Leontodon autumnalis L. taraxacoides Sonchus arvensis S. oleraceus S. asper Hieracium umbellatum H. pilosella Crepis capillaris

Greater Plantain Ribwort Plantain Sea Plantain Buck's-horn Plantain

Sheep's-bit

Heath Bedstraw Common Marsh Bedstraw Cleavers Wild Madder

Elder Honeysuckle

Red Valerian

Common Ragwort Heath Groundsel Goundsel Silver Ragwort Winter Heliotrope Common Fleabane

March Cudweed Golden Rod Daisy Hemp Agrimony Sea Mayweed Scentless Mayweed Stinking Chamomile Pineappleweed Yarrow

Oxeve Daisy Lesser Burdock Slender Thistle Spear Thistle March Thistle **Creeping Thistle** Common Knapweed Nipplewort Cat's-ear Autumn Hawkbit Lesser Hawkbit Perennial Sow-thistle Smooth Sow-thistle Prickly Sow-thistle Leafy Hawkweed Mouse-ear Hawkweed Smooth Hawksbeard

Taraxacum officinale

Alismataceae Alisma plantago-aquatica

Potamogetonaceae Potamogeton polygonifolius

Liliaceae Narthecium ossifragum Hyacinthoides non-scripta

Juncaceae Juncus bufonius J. effusus J. conglomeratus J. articulatus J. acutiflorus Luzula campestris

Amaryllidaceae Narcissus pseudonarcissus N. x medioluteus [N. biflorus] N. poeticus

Iridaceae Iris pseudacorus Tritoria x crocosmiflora [Crocosmia x crocosmiflora]

Orchidaceae Dactylorhiza maculata

Araceae Arum maculatum

Lemnaceae Lemna minor **Common Dandelion**

Water-plantain *

Bog Pondweed

Bog Asphodel Bluebell

Toad Rush Soft Rush Compact Rush Jointed Rush Sharp-flowered Rush Field Wood-rush

Wild Daffodil Primrose Peerless Pheasant's-eye Daffodil

Yellow Flag

Montbretia

Heath Spotted-orchid

Lords-and-Ladies

Common Duckweed

* Species not included in the 1971 comparative lists.

Mycelis muralis - Battlements, 1989, 1990.

Malva moschata - Tea garden, 1988, Andrew Jewels.

Ulex minor - One specimen, National Trust Biological Survey, 1986.

Lotus subbiflorus - Scarce plants project, B.S.B.I. news No. 59, 1991, S.J.Leach.

Lythrum salicaria - Accidentally destroyed, 1990. Re-introduced 1992.

Caltha palustris - Reduced to one plant by grazing. Supplemented by four additional plants, 1992.

Rumex crispus subsp. littoreus - Dr. J.R.Ackeroyd, 1989.

Anagallis minima - N. of Quarter Wall gate, Andrew Cleave, 1992.