Churchyard records in the BLS database

Janet Simkin  email: records@britishlichensociety.org.uk

The database now holds more than 460,000 records for churchyards in England and Wales:

- England: 447,944
- Wales: 15,364
- Total: 463,308

These are derived from 11,300 churchyard cards, all with details of location, date and recorders.

Data

Coverage

Some areas have been surveyed intensely, other less so, and of course some areas have far fewer churches than others.

The maps below show:

- Species richness, with the highest values shown in red

Revisits to churchyards that were surveyed in the past are providing valuable data on the changes in the lichen flora.

Churchyard species richness

Churchyard surveys before and since 2000

Taxa

970 lichen taxa, and 101 lichenicolous fungi, have been recorded. The most records are for:

- Candelariella vitellina: 9,045
- Lecanora dispersa: 9,002
- Verrucaria nigricans: 8,438
- Caloplaca flavescens: 8,423
- Lecanora campestris: 8,236
- Caloplaca citrina: 7,991
- Physcia adscendens: 7,879
- Lecanora albescens: 7,650
- Xanthoria parietina: 7,602
- Phaeophyscia orbicularis: 7,363
- Psilolechia lucida: 7,295
- Diploicia canescens: 7,154
- Porpidia tuberculosa: 7,137
- Lecanora polytropa: 7,074

The most frequently recorded lichenicolous fungi:

- Sarcopyrenia gibba var. gisleriana: 768
- Muellerella lichenicola: 143
- Opegrapha rupestris: 131
- Arthonia apotheciorum: 97
- Athelia arachnoidea: 97

There are 179 species for which we have only one record and another 103 with only two, 26.3% of the total list.

Vice counties

VCs with the most churchyard records:

- 15 East Kent: 21,077
- 25 East Suffolk: 21,070
- 32 Northamptonshire: 18,764
- 70 Cumberland: 18,316
- 37 Worcestershire: 17,043
- 54 North Lincolnshire: 16,546
- 55 Leicestershire: 16,216
- 13 West Sussex: 16,097
- 09 Dorset: 16,057

Those with the fewest:

- 50 Denbighshire: 651
- 52 Anglesey: 590
- 51 Flintshire: 327
- 47 Montgomeryshire: 268

Churchyard records by VC