BLS Recording Scheme and Database

Janet Simkin  email: records@britishlichensociety.org.uk

Database coverage

The database now holds nearly 1.5 million records that include details of location, date and recorders:

- England 942,531
- Scotland 378,863
- Wales 128,892
- Channel Isles 3,903
- 1,454,189

We are still loading up old records, currently from BJC’s notebooks and herbarium data, and new records are being added every week. Any records are welcome, for common species as much as rarities.

Species richness

Records by VC

Records by Year

Future developments

Now that the database is fairly complete and being kept up to date, our focus has shifted to doing more to support lichen recording, conservation and research. Technical aspects of this are being managed by the Data Committee, chaired by Les Knight.

Recording scheme

A modern recording scheme aims to encourage recording by individuals and local groups, and to support larger scale recording projects. We hope to do this by:

- Developing a network of vice county recorders
- Holding an annual recorders conference
- Providing a regular informal e-newsletter
- Adding to the species accounts on the BLS website
- Redeveloping Mike Sutcliffe’s British Lichens website and linking it to the BLS website
- Developing keys to use on computers, tablets and smartphones
- Coordinating resources to help with projects such as the Lobarian and English Uplands surveys, and local atlas projects

Database

Much of this is already being done when time allows, but there is always more we could do:

- Enhancing access to our data by updating our datasets on the NBN Gateway, and making them available to local record centres and the national agencies
- Adding to the historic records in the database, from notebooks and det books, and improving the accuracy and detail of those we already hold. Also herbarium records?
- Supporting research by providing extracts of our data. Recently this has been for modelling by RBGE, CEH and others to assess the likely impacts of climate and pollution changes, and for the State of Nature report
- Supporting on-line recording through iRecord
- Enabling record verification by national and regional exports, using the NBN Record Cleaner and iRecord

Taxa

We now have records for 2005 lichens and 477 lichenicolous fungi. Taxa for which we have the most records:

- Xanthoria parietina 19,104
- Parmelia sulcata 17,188
- Lecanora dispersa 15,694
- Candelariella vitellina 15,665
- Lepraria incana 14,971
- Hypogymnia physodes 14,883
- Physcia adscendens 14,732
- Parmelia saxatilis 13,734
- Phaeophyscia orbicularis 13,330
- Caloplaca citrina s.lat. 13,215
- Lecanora expallens 12,955
- Lecanora conizaeoides 12,891

The most frequently recorded lichenicolous fungi:

- Arthonia punctiformis 2,140
- Arthopyrenia analepta 1,716
- Arthopyrenia punctiformis 1,705
- Sarcopyrenia gibba var. geisleri 841
- Mycopolurum antecellens 784

Species

0 5,000 10,000 15,000 20,000 25,000 30,000 35,000 40,000 45,000 50,000


0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100