

Distribution of species found.—contd.

Tripleurospermum maritimum	+	-	-
Vicia sativa subsp. angustifolia	-	+	-
Viola riviniana	-	+	-
<i>Shrubs and climbers:—</i>			
Lonicera periclymenum	+	+	-
Rubus fruticosus	+	+	-
<i>Fern:—</i>			
Dryopteris dilatata	+	-	-

All names used in the sense of the Clapham, Tutin and Warburg Flora.

## THE UGLY NANODRYMION

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As Elizabeth Hubbard has written—Lundy is far from being a wooded island—yet it possesses its own indigenous and elfin woodland, the dwarf (nano-) forest (-drymion) on the southern slope at Hangman's Hill below the Ugly. This community is an exquisite scale model of true high-forest. Canopy trees a metre in height bear epiphytes in their crowns and are festooned with perennial lianes. Beneath the "trees" is a scanty but distinct shrub understorey, and a rich herb layer and leaf litter covers the forest floor. Since this dwarf forest is new in the scale of vegetation change, and is apparently still changing, it seems worth while recording its present condition and speculating on its probable future.

The canopy consists mainly of blackthorn from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  metres in height, much of it of tree form rather than shrub, having well defined trunks with apical branching rather than multiple branching from the base. Seedlings, saplings and poles abound so that the canopy appears to be maintaining itself. A typical mature tree 1.3 metres high, one of the largest, had seventeen growth-rings near the base, so the forest from which it was taken was at least of that age. In and around the dominants are occasional hawthorn and a lot of gorse, the latter apparently on the way out because one can find healthy young blackthorn beneath the gorse but no gorse—unless dead or stagnant—beneath blackthorn. Less frequent and usually taller are a few exotic *Veronica*, *Euonymus japonica*, *Escallonia* and *Pinus nigra*, and a few planted or possibly colonising holly, white-beam, turkey and English oak; however, these nowhere form more than isolated clumps and no seedlings were seen.

The epiphytes comprise several lichens, stupidly not collected and so unidentified (but see Noon and Hawksworth, Annual Report, 1972, p. 52).

The lianes—Honeysuckle is the only true liane present, but bramble is common, scrambling into the canopy but never retaining an upper position apparently because of frequent climatic damage to exposed overwintering shoots. The honeysuckle seems more robust and occasionally dominates. Ivy was seen only on the floor, never climbing.

The understorey: present but scantily represented by the evergreen wild madder and by bramble. All the remaining shade tolerant species except ivy were herbaceous, belonging to the next category.

The field layer—Twenty typical woodland species were found but the commonest were pennywort, hart's-tongue and polypody ferns; the others are listed later.

**Discussion**—It seemed to me that the blackthorn nanodrymion must have grown up and invaded the Ugly slopes, previously dominated by gorse and grasses, over the past two or three decades. I should be very surprised if it was there, as the conspicuous feature that it now is, thirty years ago.

Further, it appears still to be increasing in height, and if the very similar thickets on the Hartland peninsular (e.g. Titchberry and Gawlish) are anything to go by, it could eventually put on another two metres. In doing so, it would also provide an environment suitable for take-over by oak, ash, willow, and a whole range of other woodland species. As with every other plant community on Lundy, we will only find out and only be able to record a clear history of the island's embryo natural forest if we mark and record a few permanent quadrats within it.

**List of species found:—**

*Canopy:*

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Dominant:   | <i>Prunus spinosa</i>                              |
| Associates: | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i><br><i>Ulex europaeus</i> |
| Lianes:     | <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>                       |
| Scrambler:  | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>                            |

*Understorey:*

- Rubia peregrina*

*Field layer:*

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Grasses: | <i>Agrostis tenuis</i><br><i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i><br><i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i><br><i>Dactylis glomerata</i><br><i>Festuca rubra</i>   |
| Ferns:   | <i>Dryopteris</i> sp.<br><i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i><br><i>Polypodium vulgare</i><br><i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>  |
| Forbs:   | <i>Cerastium fontanum</i><br><i>Digitalis purpurea</i><br><i>Galium aparine</i><br><i>Geranium robertianum</i><br><i>Heracleum sphondylium</i><br><i>Hypericum pulchrum</i><br><i>Scrophularia nodosa</i><br><i>Silene dioica</i><br><i>Teucrium scorodonia</i><br><i>Umbilicus rupestris</i><br><i>Urtica dioica</i><br><i>Viola riviniana</i> |

Creeper:

- Hedera helix*