

NOTES ON SOME PLANTS ON LUNDY

By

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I found 261 species of ferns and flowering plants during the fortnight. There is no point in repeating a list of common and well established species but I have noted a few observations which might be of interest.

Oenanthe crocata (Hemlock Water-dropwort) There is a very large stand of this species along the stream on the southern aspect of Gannet's Coombe. There don't appear to be any previous records.

Dactylorhiza fuchsii (Common Spotted Orchid) Although all the records point to the population of orchids at Pondsburry as being *D. maculata* (Heath Spotted Orchid), the situation is not as simple as it would appear. I examined sixty plants and I am firmly of the opinion that at least two of the plants are to all intents and purposes *D. fuchsii* and that two dozen or so of the rest are in fact hybrids between the two species. It is unlikely that this situation prevailed before the war, but I would imagine that plants of *D. fuchsii* may have been introduced perhaps twenty years ago (long enough ago for hybridisation to have occurred). *Dactylorhiza* species are notoriously difficult and you will have to have an orchid specialist examine the plants to establish exactly what the situation is.

Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut) A minor point, but all the other 'British' species of trees have appeared in the reports except, for some reason, the mature Horse Chestnut at the bottom of St. Helen's Copse — presumably an oversight.

Silene alba (White Campion) I found only one clump of this species, in Quarter-wall Copse, although it does appear that one or two of the *S. dioica* type plants might in fact be hybrids between the two species.

Sedum anglicum (English Stonecrop) I found several large clumps growing as epiphytes on the trunk of a *Quercus cerris* in the 'hanger' above the Beach Road, which is not something I've seen previously and is, I would imagine, rather unusual.

Pulicaria dysenterica (Fleabane) Patches by the stream on the south side of Gannets Coombe and by the first stream north of St. Helen's Copse.

Eupatorium cannabinum (Hemp Agrimony) Quantities present on the stream below St. Helen's Copse and in V.C. Quarry.

Osmunda regalis (Royal Fern) Although small plants are frequent along the west side, there is a good stand in the northernmost quarry and a magnificent stand in the cliff cleft between Brazen Ward and Queen Mab's Grotto.