

NOTES ON LUNDY GRAMINEAE

By

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INTRODUCTION

Ecologically, the true grasses (Family Gramineae) are probably the most diverse group of flowering plants, being found in virtually all habitats; exposed sea cliffs, heath and moor, salt-marshes, freshwater marshes, bogs, fens, rocks, walls and in still and running water. In these British Isles there are 54 genera and between 150 and 160 species that are indigenous or naturalized (Hubbard, 1984). Compared to an estimated worldwide grass flora of 620 genera and 10,000 species (Hubbard, 1970) the records for the British Isles seem rather disappointing, considering the suitable habitats, soil types and close proximity to the continental land masses.

Lundy's grass flora, given that its land mass is small, is remarkably rich in genera and species. The following list is compiled from observations made between May and October 1986, and comments and descriptions are subjective. For comparative purposes I have referred to studies and surveys of the vegetation of Lundy (Dawkins, 1974; Dunn and Bristow, 1971; Gabbutt, 1952; Watt, 1979; Watt and Kirby, 1982) and the floral lists of A. and M. Langham (1970) and Dr. F. R. Elliston Wright (E. M. Hubbard, 1979).

Thirty-two genera and sixty-four species were recorded, and apart from eight cereals and three ornamentals there are eighteen species that do not appear to have been recorded previously. This may be due, in part, to the many changes in status and nomenclature, especially amongst the *Bromus*, *Agrostis* and *Festuca* species and a possible high incidence of species introduction by casual means (E. M. Hubbard, 1971).

Lundy's grasses have, in the past, provided food for man and forage for stock. In these modern times the grasses' principle value is for forage but with their graceful, waving flowerheads and variety of size, shape and colour, they also add a great diversity to the landscape of the Island.

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ANNOTATED LIST OF GRAMINEAE RECORDED MAY — OCTOBER 1986
Generic and specific nomenclature follow Flora Europaea, vol. 5, 1980 (Tutin, Heywood, Valentine, Walters and Webb), followed, where applicable, by a synonym from Grasses, 3rd Edition, 1984 (C. E. Hubbard — Revised J. C. E. Hubbard).

Bromus sterilis: (*Anisantha sterilis*)

Barren Brome Infrequent, Beach Road, Millcombe Gardens, Old Piggery.

Bromus hordeaceus ssp. *hordeaceus*: (*Bromus mollis*)

Soft Brome Common, South End, field margins, verges, walls.

Bromus hordeaceus ssp. *ferronii*: (*Bromus ferronii*)

Least Soft Brome Scattered on rock faces, North Light, Lametor Peninsula.

Bromus lepidus:

Slender Brome Infrequent, South End, field margins, verges. Associated with sowing of *Lolium perenne* and *Lolium multiflorum*.

Bromus secalinus:

Rye Brome A rare annual.

Brachypodium sylvaticum:

Slender False-Brome Common at Millcombe Valley and Beach Road. Scattered, small communities at Gannet's Combe.

Elymus caninus: (*Agropyron caninum*)

Bearded Couch Loose tufts by north-east gate of Tent Field. Casual?

- Elymus repens*: (*Agropyron repens*)
Couch Common, South End, verges, disturbed ground, overgrown cultivated areas. With awned (*var. aristatum*) and awnless lemmas.
- Triticum aestivum*:
Bread Wheat }
Triticum turgidum:
Rivet Wheat }
Hordeum vulgare:
4 or 6 rowed Barley } Scattered relics of cultivation, animal feed, imported
Hordeum distichon:
2 rowed Barley } straw/hay.
Secale cereale:
Rye }
- Hordeum murinum*:
Wall Barley A few solitary culms by cattle grid. Very probably casual.
- Festuca ovina*:
Sheep's Fescue Common and widely distributed.
- Festuca nigrescens*: (*Festuca rubra ssp. commutata*)
Chewing's Fescue Infrequent, amenity areas.
- Festuca rubra*: (*Festuca rubra ssp. rubra*)
Red Fescue Abundant and widely distributed.
- Festuca pruinosa*: (*Festuca rubra ssp. pruinosa*)
Bloomed Fescue Infrequent, cliffs below Castle.
- Festuca pratensis*:
Meadow Fescue Frequent, South End, cultivated and rough grassland.
- Festuca arundinacea*:
Tall Fescue Two well-established tussocks behind workshop.
- Festuca gigantea*:
Giant Fescue Loose tufts growing amongst *Brachypodium sylvaticum* at Shipwright's Hut. Casual?
- x Festulolium loliaceum*:
Hybrid Fescue Hybrid between *Festuca pratensis* and *Lolium perenne*. Infrequent, South End, cultivated grassland.
- Lolium perenne*:
Perennial Rye-Grass Very common, South End, cultivated grassland.
- Lolium multiflorum*:
Italian Rye-Grass Infrequent, South End, cultivated grassland.
- Vulpia bromoides*:
Squirrel-tail Fescue Frequent, South End, bare, disturbed ground.
- Poa annua*:
Annual Meadow-Grass Common and widely distributed.
- Poa trivialis*:
Rough Meadow-Grass Common, cultivated and rough grassland.
- Poa pratensis*:
Smooth Meadow-Grass Frequent, cultivated and rough grassland.
- Poa subcaerulea*: (*Poa pratensis ssp. irrigata*)
Spreading Meadow-Grass Frequent, rough grassland.
- Poa compressa*:
Flattened Meadow-Grass Tufts on walls, Fowl Run, Castle, Quarterwall Cottages.
- Desmazeria marina*: (*Catapodium marinum*)
Sea Fern Grass Common, rocks, walls, paths.
- Dactylis glomerata*:
Cocksfoot Common, South End, cultivated grassland, walls, verges.
- Cynosurus cristatus*:
Crested Dog's-Tail Common, South End, cultivated and rough grassland.
- Arrhenatherum elatius*:
False Oat-Grass Very common, south-east slopes, Millcombe Valley, amenity areas. Mainly with swollen bases (*var. bulbosum*).

- Avena sativa*:
Cultivated Oat Scattered relic of cultivation/animal feed.
- Trisetum flavescens*:
Yellow Oat-Grass Infrequent, South End, hayfields, verges.
- Deschampsia flexuosa*:
Wavy Hair-Grass Scattered tufts, Middle Park, moorland.
- Deschampsia caespitosa*:
Tufted Hair-Grass Infrequent, Gannet's Combe, Pondsbury, St. John's Valley.
- Aira caryophyllaea*:
Silvery Hair-Grass Common, walls and slopes, Beach Road. Very dense at South Light.
- Aira praecox*:
Early Hair-Grass Frequent, walls, rocky slopes.
- Holcus lanatus*:
Yorkshire Fog Very abundant and widely distributed.
- Holcus mollis*:
Creeping Soft-Grass Tufts at Millcombe Gardens and below The Ugly. Not well-established, very probably casual.
Cultivated ornamental.
- var. variegatus*
- Anthoxanthum odoratum*:
Sweet Vernal-Grass Common, South End, East Sidelands, Middle Park.
- Phalaris arundinacea var. picta*:
Reed Canary-Grass Cultivated ornamental.
- Calamagrostis epigejos*:
Wood Small- Reed Infrequent, Gannet's Combe, Quarries.
- Agrostis curtsii*: (*Agrostis setacea*)
Bristle-Leaved Bent Frequent, North End, Middle Park, South End.
- Agrostis canina*: (*Agrostis canina ssp. canina*)
Velvet Bent Frequent, Pondsbury, damp grassland.
- Agrostis vinealis*: (*Agrostis canina ssp. montana*)
Brown Bent Frequent, South End, moorland.
- Agrostis capillaris*: (*Agrostis tenuis*)
Common Bent Common and widely distributed.
- Agrostis gigantea*:
Black Bent Infrequent, bare, disturbed ground, verges.
- Agrostis stolonifera*:
Creeping Bent Very common and widely distributed.
- Phleum pratense ssp. bertolonii*: (*Phleum bertolonii*)
Small Cat's-Tail Infrequent, Upper Millcombe Valley, The Common, field margins.
- Phleum pratense*:
Timothy Frequent, South End, field margins, verges.
- Alopecurus aequalis*:
Orange Foxtail Scattered, muddy patches at Quarterwall and Quarries.
- Alopecurus geniculatus*:
Marsh Foxtail Frequent, Quarterwall Pond, Quarries, ditches, wet places.
- Alopecurus pratensis*:
Meadow Foxtail Infrequent, South End, cultivated and rough grassland.
- Nardus stricta*:
Mat-Grass Very common, Middle Park, North End, heath and rough grassland.
- Cortaderia selloana*:
Pampas Grass Cultivated ornamental.
- Molinia caerulea*:
Purple Moor-Grass Very common, Pondsbury, Quarries, wet heath.
- Danthonia decumbens*:
Heath Grass Common, Middle Park, Pondsbury, South End.

Setaria italica:

Foxtail Bristle-Grass

By Coastguard Hut. Casual (by bird?)

Zea mays:

Maize

Refuse/animal feed escape.

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