

Geoglossum atropurpureum - A new BAP fungus species for Pembrokeshire

Four grassland fungi are listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Three of these have been recorded in Pembrokeshire in recent years: *Entoloma bloxamii* (Big Blue Pinkgill), *Microglossum olivaceum* (Olive Earthtongue) and *Hygrocybe spadicea* (Date-coloured Waxcap). However, the fourth member, *Geoglossum atropurpureum* (Dark-purple Earthtongue) has eluded us - until now.

Over the last two years, members of the Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network have been documenting, collecting and submitting voucher specimens in support of a fungus DNA barcoding programme run by Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Last autumn a collection of earthtongues from the Stackpole Warren NNR was determined locally as being one of two rare, but very similar, species. The specimens were subsequently sent to Kew where the material has now been determined as *Geoglossum atropurpureum*.



Photo: David Harries

Enthusiasts should note that there are in fact eight different earthtongue species recorded from Pembrokeshire - with little in the way of

Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership

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field characters to tell them apart: most rely on microscopy for determination.

The presence of this fourth UKBAP grassland species helps to confirm the high quality of “waxcap-grasslands” in the County. We look forward to finding more sites for this elusive species in the future.

David Harries

Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network

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Westfield Pill Nature Reserve: Gateway to the Countryside

The final improvements to access at Westfield Pill nature reserve have taken place with great success. Locals to the area are now able to cycle and walk easily through the reserve without stumbling upon potholes and rough, uneven stretches of cycle track.

This work was funded by Pembrokeshire County Council who worked closely with the Wildlife Trust on all aspects of the project, mitigating for any disturbance that may have been created. As much as the newly laid track looks a little harsh at present, it will soon dull down and fit more comfortably into its surroundings.



Fine scalplings have been laid down on top of the bitumen so as to be more pleasing to the eye and limestone has been spread along parts of the cycle track and elsewhere to encourage species such as *Grass vetchling* and the *Small blue butterfly* to recolonise the site.

Landscaping has also been implemented to better protect Wales' largest colony of the *Bastard balm plant* and an area of valuable bird nesting habitat has been fenced and gated so as to prevent disturbance from the public. Westfield Pill has a good variety and



abundance of bird life yet human pressure and presence has certainly affected these species over the years. Otters are another key feature of the reserve with good sightings to be had at dawn and dusk.

A meadow has also been created on the old refuse tip which will be managed to encourage wild flowers to grow and provide suitable habitat for a variety of invertebrates. Japanese knotweed has been, and continues to be treated preventing its spread onto the reserve.

The re-vamped pathways have allowed visitors who are less physically able better access to this special site and encouraged walkers and cyclists to venture further out of Neyland.





Photo: Nathan Walton

We have had a good response from locals although we must still stress the need for dog walkers to keep their pets on a lead or under strict control at all times in order that wildlife is not scared off.

As much as the Wildlife Trust actively encourages people into the countryside to gain a better insight into the wildlife that can be found on their doorsteps, the issue of dog fouling is getting worse. Westfield Pill is one of many urban reserves that suffer from this, with most of the dog waste ending up in bags hanging from bushes along the path, even though waste bins are provided at entrances to the reserve.

Nathan Walton who manages the reserves says “I shall not go on as I can get quite heated on this subject however I would rather people just flick the mess to the side of the path and into the bushes as opposed to going through the effort of putting it in a bag only to then fling it into the vegetation. None-the-less, we of course welcome responsible dog owners to all our reserves, of which, the majority are.”

There has been talk amongst some conservation organizations to ban dogs from entering nature reserves. It would be a shame if we ever had to implement these measures due to the poor manners of a few dog owners.

Plastic left lying around the countryside is not only unsightly but can cause serious harm to wildlife. A recent example is of a Peregrine falcon who had ingested a plastic bag and as a consequence had died.

Nathan Walton
Wildlife Trusts Wales



Small Blue Butterfly.
Photo: Nathan Walton

Get Involved – Help Mammals

The Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE) project hopes to survey as many places as possible in Wales using the latest genetics techniques to find out as much as possible about some of the more elusive Welsh mammals such as Pine Martens, Bats, Polecats and Dormice. They are looking for volunteers to carry out surveys across the area. No previous experience is necessary. Tasks may include coastal and river walks looking for signs of Otter, monitoring of Red Squirrel hair tubes, Dormouse nest boxes or group surveys to look for signs of Pine Marten in forests. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Jenny MacPherson on 07584 415760 .

Email: jennymacpherson@vwt.org.uk or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Mammals-in-a-Sustainable-Environment-MISE/111209228962403?sk=wall

New Biodiversity Implementation Officer

Following Bethan Cox's departure in October 2011, I have been appointed as the new Biodiversity Implementation Officer for the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership. With a background in the public, private and voluntary sectors, I have worked in roles as varied as environmental regulation, construction, outdoor sports and coastal search & rescue.

I've yet to meet many of the partners, but I look forward to working with you all to build on the successes of Bethan's time in post.

Ant Rogers.



Ant Rogers — Biodiversity Implementation Officer
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BARS Website upgrade

The Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) website is being upgraded to provide better access to biodiversity information. The upgrade will begin in mid March and, although new information will not be added to the site during the upgrade, it will still be possible to access existing information. The new site is expected to be fully functional sometime during April – watch this space!

Visit BARS at: <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/>

Bee Walk 2012

The Bee Conservation Trust is appealing for volunteers to take part in a national survey of Bumblebees to monitor populations across the UK. Volunteers will walk a 1 – 2 km route of their own choosing once a month between March and October, recording the Bee species they observe along with the flowers on which they are foraging. The results will be collated nationally to inform Bee conservation initiatives.

To get involved, email:
beewalk@bumblebeeconservation.org

or visit the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's website at:
<http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org.uk/>



Biodiversity Events March - April 2012

Date	Title	Information	Contact
20 th March 19:30	Breeding Birds of Prey. Foundry House Community Centre, Pembroke	Paddy Jenks will be telling us about the birds of prey which are breeding in Pembrokeshire. Doors open 7:15 pm. All welcome. Natur Members £1.50, Non-members £2.	The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. Contact: Lynda Hickling Tel: 01656 724100 Email: info@welshwildlife.org
24 th March 10:30-15:00	Group Coastal Walk St Bride's Haven	Coastal walk between St Bride's Haven & Marloes organised by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales	The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. Contact: Lynda Hickling Tel: 01656 724100 Email: info@welshwildlife.org
28 th March – 1 st April	Lichens in their Habitats Orierton Field Centre	Residential course led by Pat Wolseley & Ray Woods introducing some common and more unusual lichens found in Pembrokeshire.	Orierton Field Centre Pembroke Tel: 01646 623920 Email: enquiries.or@field-studies-council.org
2 nd April 10:30–12:00	Pond Safari Freshwater East	A great fun activity for all the family. Get up close and personal and discover the fascinating wildlife in the National Park's new pond at Freshwater East. Wear wellingtons. £3.50 per child, adults free. Booking essential.	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Tel: 01834 845040
3 rd April 19:00	Brilliant Bats Oriel y Parc, St David's	Short walks around Pembrokeshire's historic buildings in search of bats with Craig Stringer. Listen for bats on special detectors and learn about their unusual lifestyles. Bring torches. Extra clothing advisable. Adults £5, Concessions £2.50	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Tel: 01834 845040
10 th April 18:30	Group Coastal Walk Manorbier	Coastal walk organised by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales	The Wildlife trust of South & West Wales. Contact: Johnathan Copp Tel: 01656 724100 Email: info@welshwildlife.org
11 th April 10:00–12:00	Our Trees of Life Stackpole Lodge Park Woods	Take a stroll with the head ranger through Lodge Park woods. You will learn about the varied and unusual species in this former historic pleasure ground and how the work of the Rediscovered Project aims to open up the woodland. Cost £3	National Trust, Stackpole. Tel 01646 661425 Email: stackpoleevents@nationaltrust.org.uk

Biodiversity Events March - April 2012

Date	Title	Information	Contact
11 th April 10:00- 13:00	Crab Catching Porthclais Harbour	Learn about crabs and how to catch and care for them. Tackle provided. Children must be accompanied. £3.50 per child, adults free.	Oriel y Parc, St David's Tel: 01437 720392 Email: info@orielyparc.co.uk
14 th April 10:00- 16:00	Great Crested Newt Ecology Parc Slip, Bridgend	Dr Liz Chadwick will cover the ecology and conservation of this European Protected Species and what practical survey methods can be used to survey and identify them in the field.	The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. Contact: Marie Lindley Tel: 01656 724100 Email: info@welshwildlife.org
17 th April 19:30	Plants & their Folklore Foundry House Community Centre, Pembroke	An evening talk by Vicky Tomlinson about the plants and their folklore	The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. Contact: Lynda Hickling Tel: 01656 724100 Email: info@welshwildlife.org
18 th April 11:00- 13:00	Rockpooling	Join the search as we take a closer look at the fascinating wildlife and natural wonders on the shore. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £2 per child, adults free. Meet at Oriel y Parc.	Oriel y Parc, St David's Tel: 01437 720392 Email: info@orielyparc.co.uk
21 st April 11:00- 15:00	Group Woodland Walk Upper Gwaun Valley	Woodland walk near Llanerch Farm in the Gwaun Valley organised by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales. Bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing.	The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. Contact: Robin Taylor Tel: 01656 724100 Email: info@welshwildlife.org
23 rd April 19:30- 21:30	Wildlife Talk The Patch Community Centre, Haverfordwest	A talk by Colin Russell of the West Wales Biological Information Recording Centre on their work assembling details of all the wildlife in our area.	The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. Contact: Robin Taylor Tel: 01656 724100 Email: info@welshwildlife.org
24 th April	An Introduction to Butterfly Identification. Scolton Country Park	Butterfly Conservation is running one day butterfly identification workshops at three locations across West Wales. This is your chance to spend a day getting practical, hands-on experience, whatever the weather.	Butterfly Conservation Wales Judy Burroughs. Tel: 01792 642972 Email: jburroughs.bcw@btconnect.com

Biodiversity Events March - April 2012

Date	Title	Information	Contact
27 th – 29 th April	Coastal Path Clean – up Various locations	Keep Wales Tidy are organising a Coast Path clean-up event ahead of celebrations to mark the opening of the All Wales Coast Path. Contact them for information about an event near you!	Keep Wales Tidy www.keepwalestidy.org Tel: 02920 726 994 Email: coastpathcleanup@keepwalestidy.org
28 th April	An Introduction to Butterfly Identification. Pentrecwrt Village Hall, Nr Llandysul	Butterfly Conservation is running one day butterfly identification workshops at three locations across West Wales. This is your chance to spend a day getting practical, hands-on experience, whatever the weather. No charge, but booking is essential.	Butterfly Conservation Wales Judy Burroughs. Tel: 01792 642972 Email: jburroughs.bcw@btconnect.com

Biodiversity Newsletters

Mae'r cylch-lythyr hwn ar gael yng Nghymraeg, cysylltwch â Ant am gopi cymraeg.

PBP would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter. If you would like to write an article for the next newsletter please contact Ant.

PBP Contact Details

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Pembrokeshire Biodiversity website:

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk (search - biodiversity)

Wales Biodiversity website:

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

PBP Members



County Landowners Association



Countryside Council for Wales



Environment Agency Wales



Farmers Union of Wales



Forestry Commission



Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group



National Farmers Union – Wales



Pembroke 21C Community Association Limited



Pembrokeshire County Council



Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust



Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development



Prince's Trust Cymru



Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee



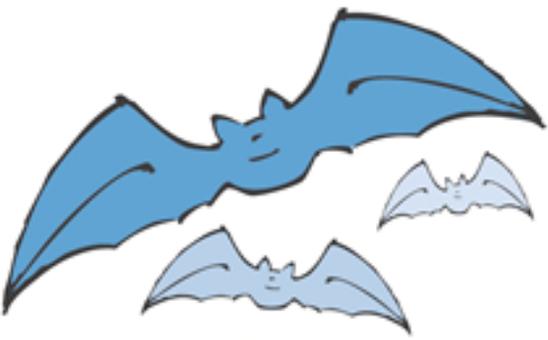
The National Trust



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales



Year of the Bat
2011-2012

Also Available in larger print, please contact Ant for a copy.

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Biodiversity Wales

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