

**THE FLORA OF
CARDIFF, A
DESCRIPTIVE LIST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649476909

The Flora of Cardiff, a Descriptive List by John Storrie

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN STORRIE

**THE FLORA OF
CARDIFF, A
DESCRIPTIVE LIST**

THE
FLORA OF CARDIFF,

A DESCRIPTIVE LIST

OF THE

INDIGENOUS PLANTS FOUND IN THE DISTRICT OF THE CARDIFF
NATURALISTS' SOCIETY,

WITH A

LIST OF THE OTHER BRITISH AND EXOTIC SPECIES, FOUND ON
CARDIFF BALLAST HILLS.

BY

JOHN STORRIE,

CURATOR, CARDIFF MUSEUM.

PUBLISHED BY

THE CARDIFF NATURALISTS' SOCIETY.

1896.

Nov. 1, 1912
Gray Herbarium
Harvard University

LONDON:

PRINTED BY JOHN DAVIS & CO., LIMITED,

OLD KENT ROAD, S.E.

PREFACE.

THIS is intended as a Hand-book to the indigenous plants found in the Eastern half of Glamorganshire, which forms the district of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society. The boundaries are thus described in their First Annual Report, 1868.

“The district we proposed to work in comprized an area of 530 square miles, bounded as follows :—On the South, by the Severn and Bristol Channel, from the mouth of the River Rumney to the mouth of the Ogmore. On the West, by following up the Ogmore to near Tondu, where it is joined by the Lynfi; thence up the Lynfi to Blaen Lynfi, cross over the hill by Heol Fawr to Cymmer, in the Afon Valley, where it is joined by the Corrwg, thence up the Corrwg fawr, by the village of Glyn Corrwg and Blaen Corrwg farm to its source; cross over the hill near to Carnfach, the highest ground in the county—1971 feet above sea level, and into the valley at the West end of Hirwain Common, to a junction with the boundary between the counties of Glamorgan and Brecon. For our North boundary follow this line past Hirwain, north of Cyfarthfa and Dowlais until we come to the River Rumney, near the Rhyd-y-Milwr, north of the Abergavenny and Merthyr turnpike road, and Rumney Bridge and gate. Then, for our Eastern boundary, follow down the River Rumney to its junction with the Severn.”

On only three occasions have I passed over these limits, a mile or so, and that for an interesting plant just outside the boundary line. The descriptions of the plants are compressed as much as possible, but it is believed they are clear enough to realize the real aim of the book; which is, to enable an intelligent student to go out into the fields, and picking up any wild plant he may find in *perfect condition*, from

examination of its various parts, to be able to determine, with certainty, its English, Welsh, and Botanical name. It must be borne in mind that students ought not to attempt the naming of plants from fragments, or imperfect specimens. This can only be done by those who are familiar with the plant in its perfect state. In this Flora it is not intended to produce any original system of classification or arrangement. It is simply a compilation, in which I have endeavoured to use whatever may tend to forward the object before mentioned. As a catalogue of the plants of the district it is no doubt more or less imperfect, as it has been impossible for me to effectually hunt over the 530 square miles included in the district—there being many places likely to be the habitats of uncommon plants to which I have no access; but no doubt search will be stimulated by the publication of this list, which (so far, as I am aware), is the only one published for the district; and, should it ever be necessary to publish a supplement, all new discoveries will be placed to the credit of the discoverers.

This List of Plants was first prepared in May, 1876, as part of a project I then entertained of writing a series of papers to illustrate the natural history of the environs of Cardiff, of which only one paper was ever published—in the *Weekly Mail* of that date. The manuscript lay by me for a time, when it was utilized as a List of the Flora which I thought of communicating to the Botanical Exchange Club. I was, however, strongly urged to publish it as a pamphlet, but failing to obtain subscribers, and not caring to incur a considerable risk, where there was no chance of profit, I let the matter lie in abeyance, till this year when the Committee of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society generously undertook the risk of publishing an edition. The Welsh names are added at the urgent request of several Members of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society, and are mostly taken from "Richards' Dictionary, 1751"; "The British Language in its Lustre, 1777"; "Davies' Welsh Botany, 1813"; *Phygygwriaeth yr Hwsmon a'r Tylodion*, 1839; and *Y Llysieu-Lyfr Teuluaidd*, 1858." I regret to say that very careful inquiries have failed to discover that more than a very small proportion of our indigenous plants are known in the district either by their Welsh or their English names.

Of the authorities above quoted, Dr. Davies is by far the most reliable, as he has quite exhausted the "Meddygon Myddfai," corrected their errors and re-cast everything that was known before his time. The Dictionary of Richards, of Llangrallo, is chiefly valuable as giving the Glamorganshire names.

Those who have mastered this Flora will find great and varied information imparted in the most delightful manner in the Floras of Withering, Hooker, and others, and in English Botany, that magnificent work of Sowerby and Boswell Syme, where no pains or cost have been spared to enhance the value of the information.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE DISTRICT.

TRIMEN'S BOTANICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:—Glamorgan (41) province, S. Wales. Drained by small rivers flowing into the Bristol Channel. No complete flora.

Polypodium vulgare, v. *Cambricum*, in a wood near Denys Powis Castle, not far from Cardiff (now extinct). John Ray, 1690. Ray's specimen is still preserved in the British Museum of Natural History at South Kensington.

Adiantum Capillis veneris, in Barry Island and Port Kirig (Humphrey Llhyd). [Still grows abundantly in both habitats.—J. S.]

BOTANISTS' GUIDE THROUGH ENGLAND AND WALES. By Dawson Turner and Lewis Weston Dillwyn. London, 1805.

Page 298. *Alopecurus bulbosus*, Cardiff Marshes, Rev. J. Lightfoot.

Rhamnus catharticus, Flat Holmes, Dr. Turton. *Asparagus officinalis*, meadows between Cowbridge and the sea, Dr. Turton. *Saponaria officinalis*, plentifully between Cardiff and Llandaff, Dr. Turton. *Dianthus caryophyllus*, walls of Cardiff Castle, Dr. Turton.

Sibthorpia Europea, near Pontypridd, Sir J. Callum. *Campanula hederacea*, moist places near Pontypridd, Sir J. Callum.

Page 753. *Gnaphalium Margaritaceum*, between Caerphilly and Quaker's Yard. *Equisetum sylvaticum*, Quaker's Yard. *Carex levigata*, near Quaker's Yard, Mr. E. Forster, Junr.

Cnicus heterophyllus, roadside between Llandaff and Cowbridge, Lewis Weston Dillwyn.

NEW BOTANISTS' GUIDE. By Hewitt Cottrell Watson. London, 1835. Vol. I.

Page 216. *Prunus padus*, Merthyr Tydfil. *Saxifraga hypnoides*, Glyn Corrwg. [Not been able to find it.—J. S.]

R. Woods, in PHYTOLOGIST, says the *static* of the district Rocks is *Dodartii*. *Orbanche Hedera*, at Sully. *Althea officinalis*, Barry Island. *Agrostis setacea*, Newton Down. *Gastridium lendigerum*, Penarth. *Atriplex Badingtonii*, Sully and Barry. *Nepeta Cataria*, Caerphilly. *Empetrum nigrum*, St. Lythans. [Not able to find it.—J. S.] *Mentha rotundifolia*, Taff's Well. *Veronica Buxbaumii*, Lavernock. *Inula Helenium*, Sully. *Galium tricornis*, Barry. *Oenothera biennis*, Barry. *Hypericum dubium*, *Melilotus arvensis*, Sully.

J. W. G. Gutch, in PHYTOLOGIST, Vol. I., p. 104, says—*Atropa Belladonna*, Mr. Dillwyn records it from Llandaff [Last found in 1873—J.S.], and *Lastrea thelypteris*, Bogs. [I have not found this in district.—J. S.]

Westcombe, in PHYTOLOGIST, Vol. I., p. 780, says—*Cnicus tuberosus*, between St. Donat's and Dunraven. [Does this still exist? I failed to find it.—J. S.]

J. W. G. Gutch, in PHYTOLOGIST, Vol. III., says—*Rubus saxatilis*, near Glyn Corrwg. *Rosa Systyia*, *Surculosa* and *tomentosa* are found near Bridgend.

Miss Ollivant in the Proceedings of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society gives a list, and Mrs. Traherne follows.

In a flora of Glamorgan it would be strange if a notice of the writings of Iolo Morganwg was omitted. Iolo, whose poems have the genuine ring of true poetry, and will survive, has been rather unfortunate in dealing with the Botany of the district, as many of the following quotations from his works will show.