

THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

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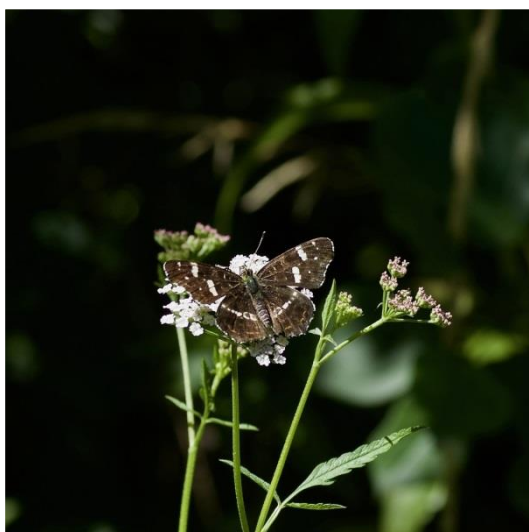


Tour Report

Poland – Butterflies & Moths of Southern Poland

14-22 July 2019

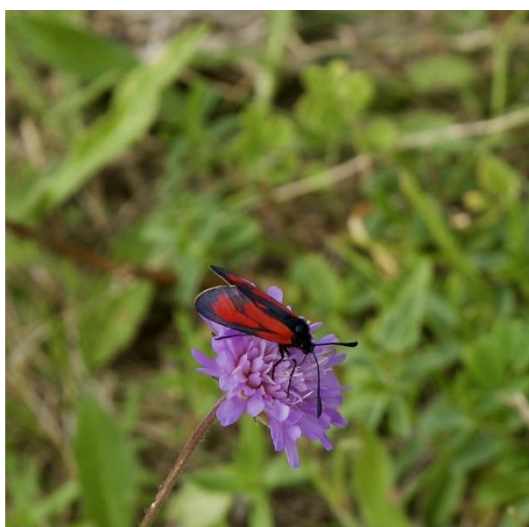
Araschnia levana



Plebejus argus



Zygaena minos



Lycaena helle



Compiled by: Andrzej Petryna

Tour Leader: Andrzej Petryna with 5 participants

Day 1: Arrive Krakow; drive to Szarów

Sunday 14 July 2019

Weather: sunny in early afternoon; heavy storm later. Continuous rain for the rest of the day. Temperature from 20°C/15°C in the storm

After collecting all the participants and leaving the airport, we headed to the nearest part of the Jurassic hills just outside Kraków, to make the most of the daylight and to visit a few interesting sites before arriving at the hotel. We stopped at a large area of wet meadows with numerous butterfly host plants. Even though our walk was soon interrupted by a thunderstorm, we still managed to spot some interesting butterflies, including violet copper, scarce large blue and dusky large blue.

The rain did not stop and the weather forecast for the rest of the day was unfavourable so we finished our walk and drove straight to our hotel in Szarów near Niepołomice, postponing our visit for a more convenient time and better conditions.

After dinner, we discussed our plans for the coming days, with the hope that the weather would improve.

Day 2: Jurassic hills – north-west from Krakow

Monday 15 July 2019

Weather: sunny; 23°C; cloudy in the afternoon

Today we explored another scenic part of the Jurassic hills, located north-east from Kraków, with xerothermic slopes, limestone rocks and deep gorges with small streams. At first we visited some limestone xerotherms, with typical plants including thymus sp., coronilla sp., *anthericum ramosum*, *inula ensifolia*, *salvia verticillata*, *salvia pratensis*, and *melampyrum arvense*. While there, we observed numerous butterflies: swallowtails, map butterfly, marbled white, ilex, blue-spot and white-spot hairstreaks, sooty and scarce coppers, short-tailed, Adonis and chalk-hill blues. We also noticed a lot of crab spiders, *misumena vatia*, preying on different butterflies and bees. In the gorge following the small stream between the rock walls, we found numerous silver-washed fritillary, the summer version of map butterfly, rare coppers seen before at the slopes, and two interesting parasitic wasps – *ammophila sabulosa* and *gasteruption jaculator*.

In the afternoon we went back to the wet meadows we visited the day before. This time we were more fortunate with sunshine, and we enjoyed good sightings of violet copper, dusky large blue, short-tailed blue and scarce swallowtail.

Day 3: Drive to Kielce Upland

Tuesday 16 July 2019

Weather: sunny, with some cloud, 18-20°C; wind medium to strong

Today we transferred north-east, to the Kielce Upland and Pińczów region. The area is characterised by numerous crystalized gypsum layers, forming elongated ribs with xerothermic vegetation, such as, *onobrychis* sp., *scabiosa* sp., *eryngium campestre*, *linum chirsutum*, *carlina onopordifolia*, *vincetoxicum officinale* and *stipa capillata*. During our drive we stopped at one of these sites, where we spotted Ripart's anomalous, eastern baton, Reverdin's, Chapman's and turquoise blues, eastern Bath white, pale clouded yellow and great green bush cricket, as well as some zygaenas. As a next stop we visited some meadows at the river Nida, with plenty more common butterflies and white-legged damselflies. It was impossible not to pay attention to the local avifauna, so we also watched marsh harriers and a red-backed shrike male feeding his chicks with great green bush cricket prey. Later in the afternoon we reached our hotel in a small park at the bank of the Nida River, where over dinner we discussed our plans for the next day in Kielce Upland.

Day 4: Kielce Upland

Wednesday 17 July 2019

Weather: cloudy; 20-23°C

As a result of our evening discussion, we spent the day exploring two interesting sites: the forest glade in one of the local nature reserves, and a chalk hill with the old limestone quarry. The first site is home to interesting flora such as *melampyrum nemorosum*, *adonis vernalis*, *scopolia carniolica* and a set of spring orchids (with lady's slipper). This xerothermic meadow offered us interesting sightings, including numerous silver-washed, high brown, queen of Spain and small pearl-bordered fritillaries, marbled white and pearly heath, clouded buff moth, and numerous spiders – wasp spider, venomous *cheiracanthium punctorium*, crab spider (*xysticus lanio*) and (*misunema vatia*). The interesting species of grasshopper, *roeseliana roeselii*, was also spotted there.

On the way to our next site, we visited a breeding colony of bee-eaters, with about 20 birds flying around a sandy slope with nesting holes.

Our next stop, the xerothermic hill, gave us a broad set of interesting blue butterflies: little, short-tailed, silver-studded (Reverdin's), turquoise, Meleager's and chalk-hill, plus three *zygaena* species: *loti*, *minos* and the rarest one – *carniolica*.

Day 5: Drive to Kacwin, Pieniny Mountains

Thursday 18 July 2019

Weather: sunny & cloudy; 20°C

After about four hours' drive towards Poland's southern border, we finally reached the Pieniny Mountains, a scenic range formed mostly of limestone rock. Our guesthouse, located in a small village close to the Slovakian border, offered beautiful views over grassy hills and mountains. We didn't stop there for long. To make the most of the weather and daylight, we drove further towards the meadows and hills at the edge of the forest. Here, we observed about 20 white admirals feeding on umbellifers, along with comma butterfly, map, red admiral, dark green fritillary, Essex and large skippers. In one of the muddy puddles we found several yellow-bellied toads and their eggs tied to the plants under water surface. Another interesting sighting was a broad-leaved helleborine orchid found nearby.

Day 6: Pieniny Mountains

Friday 19 July 2019

Weather: sunny, 20-24°C rain & at the end of the day

During a short local walk towards the Slovakian border we noticed dipper, common buzzard, honey buzzard, grey wagtail, black redstart and a fox. We next drove to the vast area of raised bog near Tatra Mountains, with characteristic flora – cranberry, Labrador tea, bog bilberry, sundew and white-beak sedge, and interesting butterfly species. While at the bog, we spotted Réal wood white, moorland and pale clouded yellow, cranberry fritillary and silver-studded blue. We also came across a nest of wasps, *polistes dominula*, in heather at the top of a raised bog. In general, the water level in the bog was very low, so most of the orchids had already died, but we managed to see heath-spotted and common spotted orchids still in bloom. Our walk was interrupted by rain, and seeing no chance of the weather improving, we decided to have some relaxing time at our guesthouse.

Day 7: Pieniny Mountains

Saturday 20 July 2019

Weather: rainy morning, warm & humid afternoon; 25°C

Our plans for today were altered by the rainy morning. Instead of visiting higher parts of the Pieniny Mountains, we decided on a short local walk. There was little chance of seeing butterflies, so we

concentrated on birds and foxes in the meadows. When the weather finally improved, we drove towards Three Crowns, the highest peak of Pieniny Mountains, where we took a scenic walk up along one of the gorges, the breeding habitat of Apollo butterfly. In our favour, clouds gave way to sunshine and in such beautiful conditions we spotted some Apollos, swallowtail, short-tailed and silver-studded blues, comma, white admiral, pale clouded and clouded yellows. The walk became even more interesting when we took a closer look at the surrounding plants, including *gentiana cruciata*, *cirsium erisithales*, *delphinium elatum*, *aruncus sylvestris* and *digitalis grandiflora*. On the way back we stopped at the meadow near the village, where the eastern short-tailed blue was spotted. This species probably doesn't breed now in Poland, but we see some of them migrating from Slovakia.

Day 8: Tatra Mountains

Sunday 21 July 2019

Weather: sunny, +20-14°C & a heavy storm at Kasprowy Wierch summit

Our plan for today included a visit to the highest part of Carpathians in Poland – the Tatra Mountains. The highlight of the day was a cable-car trip to the top of Kasprowy Wierch (1,987m above sea level) in order to see the alpine flora and fauna. However, the weather was unstable and once we arrived at the top, a heavy thunderstorm forced us to stay at the cable-car station for some time. When the rain finally stopped, we had a walk along the ridge with breathtaking views over the valleys. Weather conditions were still no good for butterflies. Instead we spotted many interesting alpine plants, including *trifolium badium*, *poa alpina* var. *vivipara*, *tofieldia calyculata*, *campanula alpina* and *polymorpha*, *geum reptans*, *asplenium viride*, *sempervivum montanum* and *pseudorchis albida* (small white orchid).

After returning down from the top, we stayed in the area for another walk, this time along the valley of a small alpine stream, where the rare butterfly large ringlet was spotted, as well as a few more interesting plants: *svertia perennis*, *carlina acaulis*, and *orobanche flava*. We barely managed to reach our minibus before the next wave of heavy rain lashed down and accompanied us all the way to our hotel.

Day 9: Transfer to Krakow airport

Monday 22 July 2019

Weather: sunny; 24°C

We left our guesthouse just after breakfast and headed back to Kraków. The transfer went smoothly and we arrived early enough to visit the historic centre of the city. After a short orientation walk we agreed it was a good idea if all participants had some free time to explore the Old Town independently. Afterwards we drove to the Balice airport, where our trip ended.

Checklist

THE TRAVELLING
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	Common Name	Latin Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
	Butterflies										
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓					✓		
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓							
3	Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>							✓		
4	Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓	✓	✓					
10	Lulworth skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>								✓	
11	Small skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
12	Essex skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
14	Large skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	✓				✓	✓			
15	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
17	Green-veined white	<i>Pieris napi</i>						✓			
18	Eastern bath white	<i>Pontia edusa</i>			✓						
19	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
20	Wood white	<i>Leptidea sinapsis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		

21	Real wood white	<i>Leptidea reali</i>						✓			
22	Moorland clouded yellow	<i>Colias palaeno</i>						✓			
23	Pale clouded yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		
26	Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>			✓				✓	✓	
30	White admiral	<i>Limenitis camila</i>					✓		✓		
34	Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>				✓					
35	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓			✓		✓		
36	Map butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>		✓			✓	✓			
37	Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
38	Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
39	Peacock butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
41	Silver-washed fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	
42	Dark green fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>					✓	✓			
43	High brown fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>				✓					
45	Queen of Spain fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>				✓					
49	Cranberry fritillary	<i>Boloria aquilonaris</i>						✓			
50	Small pearl-bordered fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>				✓		✓			
56	Marbled white	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
60	Scotch ringlet	<i>Erebia aethiops</i>					✓				
62	Large ringlet	<i>Erebia euryale</i>								✓	
67	Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	

69	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
71	Pearly heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>				✓		✓	✓		
72	Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pampilus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
73	Chestnut heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>						✓			
76	Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓	✓					
78	Illeü hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>		✓							
79	Blue-spot hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium spini</i>		✓							
80	White-letter hairstreak	<i>atyrium w-album</i>		✓							
81	Sooty copper	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>		✓		✓					
82	Scarce copper	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i>		✓		✓		✓			
83	Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓				✓			
86	Violet copper	<i>Lycaena helle</i>	✓	✓							
87	Scarce large blue	<i>Maculinea teleius</i>	✓								
89	Dusky large blue	<i>Maculinea nausithous</i>	✓	✓							
91	Little blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓		✓					
92	Short-tailed blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>		✓		✓			✓		
93	Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓		✓		✓			
94	Eastern baton blue	<i>Philotes vicrama</i>			✓						
96	Brown argus	<i>Arícia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓			
97	Silver-studded blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>				✓		✓	✓		
98	Idas blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>				✓					

99	Reverdin's blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>			✓	✓					
100	Ripart's anomalous blue	<i>Polyommatus riparti</i>			✓						
101	Chapman's blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>			✓						
102	Turquoise blue	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i>			✓	✓					
103	Meleager's blue	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i>				✓					
104	Chalk-hill blue	<i>Polyommatus coridon</i>		✓		✓					
105	Common blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
106	Adonis blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>		✓							
108	Eastern short-tailed blue	<i>Everes decoloratus</i>							✓		
	Moths										
1	Argent & sabre	<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>			✓						
2	Unknown	<i>Crambus hamella</i>								✓	
3	Common heath	<i>Ematurgia atomaria</i>								✓	
4	Mother of pearl	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>								✓	
5	Ruby tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>								✓	
6	Oak rustic	<i>Dryobata labecula</i>								✓	
7	Latticed heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	✓								
8	Galium carpet	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>								✓	
9	Small rivulet	<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>								✓	
10	Silver y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
11	Eastern burnet moth	<i>Zygaena carniolica</i>				✓					

12	Six-spot burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>				✓	✓				
13	Type of burnet moth	<i>Zygaena loti</i>				✓					
14	Type of burnet moth	<i>Zygaena minos</i>				✓					
	Orchids	Orchidaceae									
1	Common spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>						✓			
2	Heath-spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>						✓			
3	Fragrant orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>							✓	✓	
4	Small white orchid	<i>Pseudorchis albida</i>								✓	
5	Broad-leaved helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>					✓				
	Birds	Aves									
1	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
2	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					✓				
3	Eurasian marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓			✓			
4	Eurasian sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					✓				
5	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓		✓				
6	Common coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓					
7	Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓							
8	Caspian gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>							✓		
9	European turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			✓						
10	Common cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				✓					
11	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓					

12	Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓						
13	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓						
14	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						✓			
15	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓					
16	Red-backed shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓						
17	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>					✓				
18	Western (Eurasian) jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				✓					
19	Hooded crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>					✓				
20	Eurasian (black-billed) magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>				✓					
21	Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>					✓				
22	Eurasian blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓						
23	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓		✓				
24	Common starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓		✓		✓			
25	Common blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓					
26	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>					✓				
27	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				✓					
28	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓	✓	✓			
29	White-throated dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>						✓			
30	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				✓					
31	Eurasian tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>					✓				
32	Water pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>								✓	

33	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					✓				
34	White/pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				✓			✓		
35	Western yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						✓			
36	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>					✓	✓			
37	European greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>					✓	✓			
38	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				✓					
39	Common linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>					✓				
40	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				✓	✓				
	Mammals	Mammalia									
1	Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				✓					
2	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>						✓	✓	✓	
3	Red squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>					✓				
	Amphibians	Amphibia									
1	Yellow-bellied toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>					✓				
	Dragonflies	Anisoptera									
1	Common bluet	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>					✓				
2	Bog hawk	<i>Aeshna subarctica</i>							✓		
3	Blue featherleg	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>					✓				
	Other Insects	Insecta									
1	Flower crab spider	<i>Misumena vatia</i>		✓		✓					
2	Flower crab spider	<i>Xysticus lanio</i>				✓					

3	Red-banded sand wasp	<i>Ammophila sabulosa</i>		✓							
4	Carrot wasp	<i>Gasteruption jaculator</i>		✓							
5	Yellow sac spider	<i>Cheiracanthium punctorium</i>				✓					
6	European paper wasp	<i>Polistes dominula</i>						✓			
7	Great green bush cricket	<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i>			✓						
8	Roesel's bush-cricket	<i>roeseliana roeselii</i>				✓					
	Flora										
1	Thymes	<i>Thymus sp.</i>		✓							
2	Sainfoins	<i>Onobrychis sp.</i>			✓						
3	Wood cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i>				✓					
4	field cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum arvense</i>		✓							
5	Star gentian	<i>Gentiana cruciata</i>							✓		
6	Brown clover	<i>Trifolium badium</i>								✓	
7	Vetch	<i>Coronilla sp.</i>		✓							
8	Pincushion flower	<i>Scabiosa sp.</i>			✓						
9	Pheasant's eye	<i>Adonis vernalis</i>				✓					
10	Yellow thistle	<i>Cirsium erisithales</i>							✓		
11	Alpine meadow-grass	<i>Poa alpina var. Vivipara</i>								✓	
12	St Bernard's-lily	<i>Anthericum ramosum</i>		✓							
13	Field eryngo	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>			✓						
14	European scopolia	<i>Scopolia carniolica</i>				✓					

15	Candle larkspur	<i>Delphinium elatum</i>							✓		
16	Alpine asphodel	<i>Tofieldia calyculata</i>								✓	
17	Slender-leaved elecampane	<i>Inula ensifolia</i>		✓							
18	Downy flax	<i>Linum hirsutum</i>			✓						
19	Small white orchid	<i>Pseudorchis albida</i>								✓	
20	Lady's-slipper orchid	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>				✓					
21	Broad-leaved helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>					✓				
22	Common spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>						✓			
23	Heath spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>						✓			
24	Goat's beard	<i>Aruncus sylvestris</i>							✓		
25	Alpine bellflower	<i>Campanula alpina</i>								✓	
26	Lilac sage	<i>Salvia verticillata</i>		✓							
27	Meadow sage	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>		✓							
28	Broomrape	<i>Orobanche flava</i>								✓	
29	Creeping avens	<i>Geum reptans</i>								✓	
30	Common liverwort	<i>Polymorpha</i>								✓	
31		<i>Carlina onopordifolia</i>			✓						
32	White swallow-wort	<i>Vincetoxicum officinale</i>			✓						
33	Stemless carline thistle	<i>Carlina acaulis</i>								✓	
34	Green spleenwort	<i>Asplenium viride</i>								✓	
35	Large yellow foxglove	<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>							✓		

36	Feather grass	<i>Stipa capillata</i>			✓						
37	Felwort	<i>Svertia perennis</i>								✓	
38	Mountain houseleek	<i>Sempervivum montanum</i>								✓	
39	Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus L</i>						✓			
40	Labrador tea	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>						✓			
41	Bog bilberry	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>						✓			
42	Common sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>						✓			
43	White-beak sedge	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>						✓			