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978-0-521-23395-8 - Flora of Connemara and the Burren  
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**FLOWERING PLANTS, CONIFERS  
AND PTERIDOPHYTES**

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## NOTES ON THE TEXT

The Latin names of species which have been seen in the Flora region in or after 1959, and which are believed to be still extant there, are printed in **bold** type. The names used are those adopted in the sixth edition (1977) of *An Irish Flora* by D. A. Webb, and are, with a very few exceptions, identical to those used in *Flora Europaea*. Alternative names used in recent Floras or popular works, which are likely to be more familiar to the reader (or, in a very few cases, names used to replace a *Flora Europaea* name which is generally agreed to be incorrect) have been added in *italics*, enclosed in parentheses. These names are in some cases true synonyms, but in many others they are names of non-Irish plants incorrectly applied. The distinction between the two is often a technical and controversial matter, and for this reason no authorities are cited for the alternative names printed in italics, for we believe that such arcane formulae as 'auct. hibern., vix (J. & C. Presl) Reichenb. fil.' are out of place in a book of this kind.

For species which have been reliably reported from the region but have not been seen there since 1958, but for which there are no real grounds for supposing them extinct, the correct name is printed in *italics* and enclosed in parentheses. For species which have never been more than casual in the region, or have been recorded in error, or can with some confidence be presumed to be extinct, the name is set in ordinary roman type and enclosed in square brackets; others in this category are mentioned in a paragraph in smaller type appended to the species to which they are most closely related.

English and Irish names, if reasonably well established in actual speech and fairly precise in their application are added after the Latin name, the English in Roman type, the Irish in *italics*. We have, however, omitted names which are merely copied from one book to another and are rarely or never on the lips of a botanist, as well as those names, all too common in Irish, which are applied indiscriminately to two or more very different plants.

The names of each species are followed by a line which details the districts from which it has been recorded; for definitions and descriptions of these districts see pp. xii–xix. As with the Latin names, **bold** type for a district means that it has been seen there since 1958; *italic* type that it was reliably recorded earlier and may still be there but has not been seen recently; roman type in square brackets that it has been recorded in error, or is extinct, or has never been more than casual or planted. In addition to the figures for the eight districts, the letters A and B are used to indicate occurrence on the Aran Islands or on Inishbofin (including Inishshark), respectively. It should be noted, however, that the Aran Islands form part of district 2 and Inishbofin and Inishshark part of district 7, so that for a plant known only from Aran both 2 and A are given on this line.

There follows next an indication of the plant's most usual habitat in the region, and of its rarity or abundance.

In the main paragraph, localities are detailed for the various districts, unless they are so numerous as to justify a generalized description such as 'occasional' or 'frequent, mainly in the north'. As with the district numbers, a locality printed in *italic* type indicates that there are no records later than 1958; roman type that there is a recent record. Authorities are given for pre-1959 records, but, for reasons given in the introduction, not for those of later date except in the case of a few rare or critical species.

Finally, a note of the first record for the Flora region is given; this is the earliest *published* record which we have been able to trace which indicates unambiguously the presence of the species in our region. Herbarium sheets or unpublished manuscripts of earlier date are mentioned only if the information they provide is of special interest.

The signs \*, ‡, † are used before a Latin name in their traditional sense, to indicate certainly, probably and possibly introduced by man; species which are preceded by none of these signs are presumed to be native to the region. The signs, it must be emphasized, relate to the plant's status in the Flora region, not in Ireland as a whole, for many species which are native in the east are aliens in the west. In the assessment of status much personal judgement and, indeed, guess-work is involved, but we have done our best to weigh the evidence fairly, being guided partly by the frequency of occurrence in natural or semi-natural habitats, and partly by the history of increase, stability or decline.

Horizontal distances are expressed in metric units; vertical distances are normally given in both metres and feet, but in feet only when there is direct or indirect reference to a contour-line or triangulation point on a map. In the identificatory notes, dimensions are expressed in centimetres and millimetres.

The following abbreviations are used in the text:

#### *Herbaria*

<b>BEL</b>	Ulster Museum, Belfast
<b>BM</b>	British Museum (Natural History), London
<b>CGE</b>	University Herbarium, Cambridge
<b>DBN</b>	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
<b>K</b>	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
<b>NMW</b>	National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
<b>OXF</b>	University Herbarium, Oxford
<b>TCD</b>	Trinity College, Dublin

#### *Publications*

<b>CH1</b>	<i>Cybele Hibernica</i> , edn 1 (Moore & More, 1866)
<b>CH2</b>	<i>Cybele Hibernica</i> , edn 2 (Colgan & Scully, 1898)
<b>FWI</b>	<i>A tourist's Flora of the west of Ireland</i> (Praeger, 1909c)
<b>ICP</b>	<i>The plant communities of the Burren</i> (Ivimey-Cook & Proctor, 1966)
<b>ITB</b>	<i>Irish topographical botany</i> (Praeger, 1901b)
<b>P. cat.</b>	London Catalogues, preserved in <b>DBN</b> , annotated by Praeger in his accumulation of data for <i>Irish Topographical Botany</i>
<b>Atlas</b>	<i>Atlas of the British Flora</i> (Perring & Walters, 1962)
<b>Crit. Suppl.</b>	<i>Critical Supplement to the Atlas of the British Flora</i> (Perring & Sell, 1968)
<b>Fern Atlas</b>	<i>Atlas of Ferns of the British Isles</i> (Jermy <i>et al.</i> 1978)
<b>Census Catalogue</b>	<i>Census Catalogue of the Flora of Ireland</i> (Scannell & Synnott, 1972)

#### *Collectors of field records, mostly unpublished, from 1959 onwards*

<b>GH</b>	G. Halliday
<b>JJM</b>	J. J. Moore
<b>MS</b>	M. J. P. Scannell
<b>DW</b>	D. A. Webb
<b>JW</b>	J. White

## DICOTYLEDONS

### RANUNCULACEAE

#### **Clematis**

\***Clematis vitalba** L. Traveller's joy

1 2 3 (4) 5 . . 8 . . .

Hedges and walls; rarely on limestone pavement. Occasional.

1. At the bridge over the R. Fergus below Inchiquin L. Hedge by Moy Ho. 2. On limestone pavement 2 km E. of Burren village. Hedges near Gragan Castle. 3. Abundant in hedges and on walls S. of Ardrahan. (4). *E. of Moycullen* (Atlas). 5. Covering a ruin 2 km E. of Spiddal. 8. Hedge near Clonbur. Frequent immediately W. of Cong.

First record: Atlas (1962).

In most cases at no great distance from the garden from which it may be presumed to have escaped, and never in the abundance in which it is often seen in the east and south.

#### **Thalictrum**

**Thalictrum alpinum** L.

. . . . . 7 8 . . .

Cliffs, ledges and rocky outcrops on mountains; rare.

7. Cliffs on Muckanaght and Bengower. *Near the summit of Benlettery* (Hart, 1883). Frequent on the N.E. side of Doughruagh; also at the head of the gully between Benchoona and Garraun. 8. In the north-facing corrie on Benbeg. Maumturk Mts.: at Maumeen and near the summit of Letterbreckaun. Sparingly on Benwee at c. 500 m.

First record: Wade (1802). 'Lettery Mountain, Ballynahinch, at the south-east part.'

**T. minus** L.

. 2 3 4 5 . 7 8 A .

Limestone pavement, rocky lake-shores and mountain cliffs; occasional.

2. Pavement near Black Head. Wood-margin by the Caher R., and abundant in the valley on the S.W. side of Gleninagh Mt. Inishmore. 3. Occasional on the pavement, as at the Ballyogan Loughs, near Funshinmore, and S.W. of Mullaghmore. 4. On an island in L. Corrib E. of Ross L. 5. Near the river-mouth at Spiddal. 7. *By the Dawros R.*, 1832 (DBN). Frequent on the E. side of Garraun, from 300 m upwards. 8. Occasional on the shore of L. Corrib, north-westwards from Oughterard. Cliffs on Benbeg and above L. Nadirkmore. *By a bog-pool at Recess* (Hurst, 1902).

First record: Ball (1839). 'On rocks in the bed of the river above L. Inagh.'

Less abundant now in many of its stations than the earlier records would suggest.

## 6

## RANUNCULACEAE

**T. flavum** L. Meadow-rue

(1) 2 3 . . . . .

Rocky ground beside turloughs; rare.

(1). *Ballycullinan* L. (Praeger, 1905). 2. By the turlough W. of Turlough village. 3. Among rocks at the S.E. corner of Coole L. *Dromore* L. (*E. end*) (Praeger, 1905).

First record: More (1855). He records it specifically only for the neighbourhood of Castle Taylor, which lies outside our region, but internal evidence makes it clear that he saw it also at Coole, to which several other records given in the same paper refer.

The habitat is rather unusual for this species; elsewhere in Ireland it grows mainly in water-meadows or on river-banks.

## Anemone

**Anemone nemorosa** L. Wood anemone *Nead coille*

. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 . .

Woods and scrub; sometimes in open grassland or on limestone pavement. Frequent in the Burren, and locally elsewhere, but rare in the more exposed areas.

2. Abundant in the wood at Poulavallan. Widespread in smaller quantity throughout the district, both in hazel-scrub and in crevices in bare pavement. At 170 m (550 ft) on the hill N. of Mullaghmore, and at 300 m (c. 1000 ft) on Carnsefin. 3. Abundant in scrub 1 km E. of Killinaboy. Grassland at Carrowgarriff. W. of Coole L. 4. Near Burnthouse and Carrowmoreknock; not seen in S. part. 5. Abundant in the wood N.W. of Moycullen. 6. In scrub near Flannery Br. On an island in Nahasleam L. 7. Wood W. of Ballynahinch L. Scrub E. and N.W. of Clifden. On small cliffs N. of L. Fee. Frequent on an island in L. Inagh. 8. Frequent at Glann and elsewhere on the N.W. shore of L. Corrib, and on several of the islands. Woods at Ashford Castle and the Hill of Doon. Island in L. Shindilla. By the effluent stream from L. Nacarrigeen.

First record: Foot (1864). 'Grows in Burren in the most exposed and dry localities imaginable, up to a height of upwards of 1000 ft.'

Except perhaps for occurrences in the crevices of limestone pavement, the presence of this species in open habitats is a sure indication of the former existence of woodland or scrub. It possesses, however, great powers of persistence after clearance, and in the last stages of degeneration of hazel-scrub each moribund bush can be seen surrounded by a circle of anemones. See also Webb (1955).

## Ranunculus Buttercup

The yellow-flowered buttercups present no very serious difficulties in their identification, but the white-flowered aquatic species (section *Batrachium*) are difficult. *R. hederaceus*, with very small flowers and the leaves only slightly lobed, is distinctive, but the others vary greatly in accordance with season and depth and movement of water, and are best identified by specialists. The only help that can be given here is to say that if the plant has very long, limp, submerged leaves and large flowers and grows in flowing water it is likely to be *R. penicillatus*; if it grows in shallow water or on wet mud and has small flowers and shortish, bushy, fairly stiff dissected leaves it is likely to be *R. trichophyllus*; and that if it grows in brackish water or very close to the sea there is a good chance that it may be *R. baudotii*.

## RANUNCULUS

7

(*Ranunculus circinatus* Sibth.)

(1) . (3) . . . . .

Lakes; very rare and not seen recently.

(1). *Inchiquin* L., 1892 (CH2). (3) *L. Atedaun and Dromore* L. (Praeger, 1905). *Near Kinvara* (Phillips, 1924).

First record: CH2 (1898). *Inchiquin* L.

**R. trichophyllus** Chaix

1 2 3 4 . . 7 8 A B

Shallow water and wet mud. Occasional to frequent on the limestone and in the extreme west of Connemara; very rare elsewhere.

1. Marsh E. of *Inchiquin* L. 2. Frequent around turloughs and brackish lakes. *Inishmore*. 3. Very frequent. 4. Shore of L. Corrib E. of *Moycullen*. Ditch by *Aughnanure* Castle. 7. By the lake at *Bunowen*, and by other lakelets on the *Slyne* Head peninsula. By the smaller lake on *Omey* I. In a stream E. of *Ballinaboy*. *Inishbofin*. 8. On the county boundary at *Cong*.

First record: *Wright* (1871). *Inishmore*: 'in some quantity near *Bungowla*'.

**R. aquatilis** L.

. [2] 3 . . . . 8 [A] .

Lake-margins, pools and ditches. Occasional in the Burren; rare elsewhere.

3. Abundant at the S. end of L. *Bunny*. Pond 3 km N.E. of *Ruan*. N. shore of L. *Atedaun*. S. of *Garryland*. 8. L. *Mask*, near *Ferry Br.*; also *N. of Clonbur* (*Marshall & Shoolbred*, 1896).

First record: *Marshall & Shoolbred* (1896), as *R. heterophyllus*. 'In a ditch between *Clonbur* and L. *Mask*'.

The old records for Aran are probably errors for *R. baudotii*.

**R. baudotii** Godr.

. 2 . 4 (5) . 7 . A B

Lake-shore and marshes, usually near the sea. Occasional, but very local.

2. Aran. L. *Aleenaun*. L. *Luick* (*Druce*, 1909). *New Quay*, 1892 (DBN). 4. Marshes E. of *Galway* city. (5). *W. of Galway* (CH1). 7. Near the N. end of *Ballyconneely* Bay. *Aughrusbeg* L. *Inishbofin*.

First record: CH1 (1866). 'Near *Galway*, to the west of the town; *Prof. Melville*'.

[*R. peltatus* Schrank]

A specimen from the W. end of *Ballynakill* L. has been tentatively assigned to this species, but, as it is not typical in all characters and as there are no firm records for elsewhere in the Flora region, it is best held over pending confirmation.

**R. penicillatus** (Dum.) Bab. (*R. pseudofluitans*)

1 . 3 4 (5) . . . . .

Streams and rivers; rarely in lakes. Occasional in the south; rare elsewhere.

1. *Drumcullaun* L. In the river at *Ennistymon*. Abundant in the R. *Fergus* above *Corofin*. 3. In the R. *Fergus* below *Corofin* and above *Ennis*. Stream by L. *Cleggan*.

8

## RANUNCULACEAE

Kiltartan R. 4. In a tributary of the R. Corrib near Terryland. (5). *Barna* (Praeger, 1903a).

First record: Praeger (1903a). 'Barna and Corrib River, '02–Phillips.'

**R. hederaceus** L. Ivy-leaved crowfoot

1 [2] 3 4 5 . 7 8 [A] B

Ditches, marshes, streambanks and small pools. Fairly frequent on the Clare shales; occasional in N. and W. Connemara; rare elsewhere.

1. Frequent. [2]. Recorded by Wright and Hart for all three Aran Islands, but not seen since; apparently extinct. 3. Ditch by L. Bunny. 4. Marsh near the sea E. of Galway city. 5. Streamside near Gentian Hill. 2½ km E.S.E. of Costelloe. 7. Belleek. Doonloughan. Glenbrickeen L. Renvyle. Inishbofin. 8. Drains at W. end of L. Nafuoey. Teernakill Br. Flooded lane at Glann, and abundant in a small stream between Glann and Oughterard. Leenane.

First record: Wright (1871). Aran Islands.

**R. sceleratus** L. *Torachas biadhain*

1 2 . 4 5 . 7 . . .

Marshes; rather rare.

1. Near Ballynalackan Ho. 2. Poulisallagh. 4. Saline meadows at Oranmore. By the N.E. corner of L. Atalia. On the N. side of the Kilcolgan estuary. 5. Marsh at the Claddagh. Marshy field by Gentian Hill. W. of Spiddal. *Inveran*, 1895 (ITB). 7. By Doonloughan and other lakelets on the Slyne Head peninsula. S. of Ballyconneely.

First record: ITB (1901). Inveran.

**R. flammula** L. Lesser spearwort

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 A B

Marshes, drains, lake-shores and other wet places. Abundant throughout Connemara; slightly less so on the limestone, but not absent from any considerable area.

First record: Hart (1875). Aran Islands.

Subsp. *scoticus* (Marshall) Clapham was reported from the Flora region by Praeger (1907), but it now appears that he (following Marshall) took far too wide a view of this variant, and that it grows in Ireland (if at all) only in Co. Mayo.

**R. lingua** L. Greater spearwort

. [2] 3 4 . . 7 [8] [A] .

Marshes, fens and streambanks; local and rather rare.

3. Occasional in the extreme south. Fen at S. end of L. Bunny. Drain at S.W. end of L. Atedaun. *Kilmacduagh* (ITB). 4. Fen in N.E. part of Galway city, 1968; probably now extinct by drainage. E. bank of R. Corrib, near Terryland. 7. By a lake near the centre of the Slyne Head peninsula.

First record: Mackay (1806). By the R. Fergus above Ennis.

There are also old, unconfirmed records for Inishmore (Wright, 1867), Maam (Babington, 1836) and near Letterfrack (More, 1872). The first two are probably errors for robust forms of *R. flammula*; the last may well be correct, but needs confirmation.



## RANUNCULUS

9

**R. auricomus** L. Goldilocks

. 2 3 . . . . .

In hazel scrub or mixed woodland; rare.

2. In three places E. and S.E. of Carran. In scrub W. of the Caher R., near Formoyle.  
 3. Garryland and Coole woods.

First record: Stirling & Beckett (1966). Garryland wood.

Perhaps overlooked elsewhere on account of its early flowering, but it is a rare plant in W. Ireland.

**R. acris** L. Meadow buttercup

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 A B

Meadows, pastures, marshes and roadsides. Abundant throughout, except in the N. part of district 6, where it is scarce.

First record: Wright (1871). Aran Islands.

**R. repens** L. Creeping buttercup

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 A B

Roadsides, ditches, marshes, damp grassland, and as a weed of cultivation. Abundant throughout, except on the driest parts of the limestone.

First record: Wright (1871). Aran Islands.

A remarkable variant, perhaps identical with *R. reptabundus* Jordan, is found at a fairly low level in some of the turloughs, where it is submerged for a large part of the year. It is a small, neat plant, with leaves deeply dissected into linear-oblong segments, at first sight suggesting those of *Apium × moorei*. It remains constant in cultivation.

**R. bulbosus** L. Bulbous buttercup

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 A B

Dry pastures, sand-dunes and rocky ground. Very frequent on the limestone and locally on sand-dunes; rare elsewhere.

1. Occasional by the coast and along the N. margin. 2. Frequent. 3–4. Very frequent.  
 5. Locally frequent near the coast. Pasture by the Oughterard–Galway road 5 km N.W. of Galway. 6. Dunes at Moyrus. 7. Frequent to abundant on nearly all the dunes and areas of blown sand right round the coast. 8. On a peaty roadside bank 1 km E. of Maam.

First record: Wright (1871). Aran Islands.

**\*R. parviflorus** L.

. 2 . . . . . A .

Cultivated fields; rare, and only on Aran.

2. Near the W. end of Inishmore, 1966 (JJM). Inishmaan, 1974 (Goodwillie). Inisheer, 1969 (JJM).

First record: Webb (1980a). Aran Islands.

An interesting, though precarious survival. It was formerly established in S.E. Ireland, but there are no recent records.

**R. ficaria** L. Lesser celandine

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 A B**

Damp or shady places; also in pastures on water-retentive soils or near the coast. Frequent throughout, and locally abundant.

First record: ITB (1901). H16.

Commonest in district 8 and the coastal regions of district 7; rather scarce in district 6. In W. Connemara it can be seen in abundance in exposed pastures behind the beaches. All specimens are referable to subsp. *ficaria*.

#### Caltha

**Caltha palustris** L. King-cup, marsh marigold

**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 . B**

Ditches, marshes, streams and lake-shores; also on damp grassland. Frequent and locally abundant in the east and south, but rather rare in S. and W. Connemara.

**1.** Abundant. **2.** By the Caher R. By L. Aleenaun and the Carran turlough. Marsh at Formoyle. L. Luick. **3.** Frequent except in the N.W., where there is little water. **4.** Frequent. **5.** Wet grassland near the sea 4 km W. of Spiddal. Marsh by the Drimneen R., S.E. of Oughterard. **6.** Island in Athry L. **7.** By lakes N.E. of Clifden and W. of Ballyconneely. 1 km W.N.W. of Cleggan, and by Ballynakill L. Island in L. Inagh. Inishbofin. **8.** Frequent.

First record: ITB (1901). H16.

On the heavy clay soils around Lisdoonvarna this species grows in great abundance in wet, rushy pastures, in the absence of any visible standing or flowing water.

#### Aquilegia

‡**Aquilegia vulgaris** L. Columbine

**1 2 3 4 (5) . . . A .**

Open scrub, stony grassland and roadsides. Frequent N.E. of Galway; rare elsewhere.

**1.** By a lane N. of Ballynalackan Ho. **2.** Inishmore and Inishmaan. On the old road above Black Head. **3.** S.W. of Mullaghmore, far from houses. *Dromore*, 1879 (BEL). **4.** Frequent on limestone knolls N.E. of Galway, as at Menlough, Ballindooly and Kilrogther. Hedges S. of Carrowmoreknock. *(5)*. *By a stream S. of Tonabrocky*, 1891 (CH2).

First record: O'Mahony (1860). 'At no great distance from Menlo castle.'

Perhaps native N.E. of Galway, and, less probably, on Inishmore, although pink- and white-flowered plants are found here as well as blue. An obvious garden escape in most of its other stations.