

## REFERENCES

- DYER, A. F. (1963). The use of lacto-propionic orcein in rapid squash methods for chromosome preparations. *Stain Tech.*, **38**: 85–90.
- WEBB, D. A. & HALLIDAY, G. (1973). The distribution, habitat and status of *Hypericum canadense* L. in Ireland. *Watsonia*, **9**: 333–344.

J. A. N. PARNELL

School of Botany, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland

## AN ADDITIONAL CRITERION FOR ASSESSING NATIVE STATUS

Eight criteria which can be used in assessing whether a species is a native member of the British flora have been discussed by Webb (1985). This note outlines a further criterion which has been of use in investigating this problem: the relationship of the species in question to oligophagous insects.

In only a few cases (so far) has entomological evidence been invoked in assessing native status. *Rhynchosinapis wrightii* is the host of two beetles of very restricted distribution. F. R. Elliston Wright used this as evidence for its native status before it was described as a species endemic to Lundy (Wright 1933; Lucas & Synge 1978).

Coombe (1956) showed that the presence of oligophagous insects on *Impatiens noli-tangere* can be used to distinguish sites where the species is probably native (in N. Wales and NW. England) from sites in southern England where it is a garden escape. *I. parviflora*, known to be introduced, is remarkably free from associated insects except where it grows in the vicinity of *I. noli-tangere* at sites where the latter is native.

Entomological evidence must be used with the same caution as Webb's criteria. Introduced species can attract oligophagous insects from related native species, as in the case of *Impatiens parviflora*. Other aliens are associated with insects that were presumably introduced with them. I have found that *Carpobrotus edulis* on the Lizard peninsula, W. Cornwall, frequently bears a scale insect which Mrs Linda Huddleston kindly identified as *Pulvinariella mesembryanthemi* (Vallot). This was originally described from France and only later discovered on native 'mesems' in South Africa. Similarly the weevil *Stenopelmus rufinatus* Gyll. is associated with the introduced fern *Azolla filiculoides* in Britain (Janson 1921; Flint 1979). It may be significant that both *Azolla* and *Carpobrotus* were probably introduced as living plants rather than as seed or spores.

## REFERENCES

- COOMBE, D. E. (1956). Notes on some British plants seen in Austria. *Veröff. geobot. Inst., Zurich*, **35**: 128–137.
- FLINT, J. H. (1979). *Azolla filiculoides* Lam. and its weevil, *Stenopelmus rufinatus* Gyll., in Yorkshire. *Naturalist, Hull*, **104**: 112.
- JANSON, O. E. (1921). *Stenopelmus rufinatus* Gyll., an addition to the list of British Coleoptera. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **57**: 225–6.
- LUCAS, G. & SYNGE, H. (1978). *The IUCN Plant Red Data Book*. Kew.
- WEBB, D. A. (1985). What are the criteria for presuming native status? *Watsonia*, **15**: 231–236.
- WRIGHT, F. R. E. (1933). Contribution to the flora of Lundy Island. *J. Bot., Lond.*, **71**, suppl.

C. D. PRESTON

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon,  
PE17 2LS.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF *SORBUS LANCASTRIENSIS* E. F. WARBURG

Warburg (1957) published the description of a new species of whitebeam, *Sorbus lancastriensis*, from Humphrey Head, Westmorland, v.c. 69 (now Furness, v.c. 69b) and gave its distribution as "apparently restricted to several places on Carboniferous Limestone round Morecambe Bay in