

CHAROPHYTES FROM THORNE MOORS

Martin Limbert
Museum and Art Gallery, Doncaster

The records of charophytes or stoneworts (Chlorophyta, Characeae) from Thorne Moors are relatively few, although at least six taxa have been noted during more than a century of recording. These are detailed below, taxonomic sequence and nomenclature following Moore (1986).

Chara vulgaris L.: Listed by Woodruffe-Peacock (1920-21), under "Ditches or Their Sides", with the additional comment "also pools and wells". It is not known which var. was encountered.

C. vulgaris L. var. *vulgaris*: Located in 1987 in a drain on the eastern edge of former wasteland associated with Thorne Colliery. This area, now extensively covered with Common Reed *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Steudel, lies between the colliery and Inkle Moor.

C. vulgaris var. *longibracteata* (Kütz.) J. Groves and Bullock-Webster: Documented by Woodruffe-Peacock (1920-21), who included the taxon under "Ditches or Their Sides", with the qualification "under warp influence in narrow drains". This record was quoted by Bunting *et al.* (1969).

C. hispida L.: Noted by Woodruffe-Peacock (1920-21), who placed it under "Ditches or Their Sides". The var. involved is not known.

C. globularis var. *virgata* (Kütz.) R. D. Wood: Occurs in one of the 'northern' canals (as defined by Smart *et al.* 1986). First detected in 1982, and still present in 1987.

Nitella flexilis (L.) Agardh var. *flexilis*: Noted by J. M. Taylor (annotated textbooks; Bunting *et al.* 1969), who died in 1947.

[*Tolypella intricata* (Trent. ex Roth) Leonh.: Recorded from Goole Fields, but close to the northern edge (7520), by Thos. Birks jnr in 1882 (Lees 1888, Sledge 1934, Bunting *et al.* 1969, Moore and Greene 1983)].

T. nidifica var. *glomerata* (Desv.) R. D. Wood: Woodruffe-Peacock (1920-21) logged this species under "Ditches or Their Sides", adding that it occurred in "pools too". This was apparently derived from fieldwork by Woodruffe-Peacock and W. T. Humphrey, probably during the 1870's. The details were repeated by Sledge (1934) and Bunting *et al.* (1969). The only subsequent record is of specimens found in 1987, in the drain from which *Chara vulgaris* var. *vulgaris* (q.v.) was also collected.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to B. C. Eversham for the 1982 details of *Chara globularis* var. *virgata*. Mrs. J. A. Moore has identified specimens of charophytes collected by the writer in 1987, and has kindly checked a draft of this paper prior to publication. J. M. Taylor's annotated textbooks are held at Doncaster Museum.

REFERENCES

- Bunting, W., M. J. Dolby, C. A. Howes and P. Skidmore (1969) *An Outline Study of Hatfield Chase. Part 1.* Thorne.
- Lees, F. A. (1888) *The Flora of West Yorkshire. Bot. Ser. Trans Y.N.U. Vol.2.*
- Moore, J. A. (1986) *Charophytes of Great Britain and Ireland.* London.
- Moore, J. A. and D. M. Greene (1983) *Provisional Atlas and Catalogue of British Museum (Natural History) Specimens of the Characeae.* Abbots Ripton.
- Bledge, W. A. (1934) Botany, in *Y.N.U. Excursion Circular no. 385: Goole.*
- Smart, P. J., B. D. Wheeler and A. J. Willis (1986) Plants and peat cuttings: historical ecology of a much exploited peatland - Thorne Waste, Yorkshire, U.K. *New Phytol.* 104: 731-48.
- Woodruffe-Peacock, E. A. (1920-21) *The Ecology of Thorne Waste. Naturalist* 45: 301-4, 353-6, 381-4; 46: 21-5.