

The Botanical Society of the British Isles —

A Code of Conduct for the conservation of wild plants

In the interests of Conservation of the wild plants of this country the Botanical Society of the British Isles has produced the following Code. The production and wide distribution of this version of the Code has been made possible through the generous help of the World Wildlife Fund (British National Appeal).

Visiting

1 For conservation of our wild plants the first essential is to preserve the habitat, the sort of place and conditions they can grow in. This people can easily and unwittingly damage—and the more people there are, the greater the chance of damage—by, for example, compacting the soil and so preventing seedling establishment, treading on young shoots unawares, or damaging cliff-surfaces.

2 When going to see a rare plant, avoid doing anything which would expose it to unwelcome attention, such as making an obvious path to it or trampling on the vegetation around it.

3 'Gardening' before taking photographs may also have this effect. Bear in mind too how readily nearby plants can be crushed by the toes of kneeling photographers.

4 Remember that photographs themselves can give clues to the localities of rare plants, quite apart from the information accompanying them.

5 Avoid telling people about the site of a plant you believe to be rare. Your local nature conservation trust should, however, be informed, who will help safeguard it.

6 Respect requests from conservation bodies or land owners not to visit particular sites at certain times.

Collecting

7 The uprooting of wild plants is to be strongly discouraged, except, with discrimination, weeds. Most local authorities have by-laws against this, so it may well be illegal.

8 If living plants are needed for cultivation, take seed or cuttings sparingly, and not from those that are rare.

9 Pick only flowers known to be common or plentiful in the locality, but whenever you can, leave them for others to enjoy. If you wish to identify a plant, take the smallest adequate bit; often a photograph may serve the purpose.

10 No specimens should be taken from any nature reserve, nature trail, National Trust property or a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest.

11 In particular teachers, organisers of wild flower competitions and leaders of outings and field meetings should bear these points in mind.

Introductions

12 Plants should not be introduced into the countryside without the knowledge and agreement of your local nature conservation trust or natural history society.

A BROOM RENEWED (*Carmichaelia arenaria*)

In 1936
was found some sticks
A pea and also broom —
By whom?
Simpson
Thomson
And Dr McKay
At Punakai —
Ki on lime
stone, for sometime
not seen, some thinkd
it was extinct
Now I have found
It does abound
On Island Seal
That's for real!

I. ROBINS

(NOTE: Seal Island is 34 miles north of Greymouth)