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Report on a Visit to Glenure by the Members of the Summer Camp

William Coats

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Names.	Approximate Localities and Remarks.
<i>Botrychium Lunaria</i>	Durness—Assynt (abundant in limestone districts).
LYCOPODIACEÆ.	
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Elphin—Ben Loyal (at 1500 ft.).
<i>alpinum</i>	
<i>Selago</i>	
<i>Selaginella Selaginoides</i>	Ben More, Assynt.
EQUISETACEÆ.	
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	
<i>sylvaticum</i>	
<i>palustre</i> *	
<i>limosum</i>	
<i>hyemale</i> *	Achumore, Assynt.
CHARACEÆ.	
<i>Chara syncarpa</i>	Elphin.
<i>crinita</i> *	Knockan, foot of Coul Mòr.
<i>foetida</i>	Achumore.
<i>fragilis</i> *	Loch Awe.

Report on a Visit to Glenure by the Members of the Summer Camp. By WILLIAM COATS.

(Read 12th April 1888.)

I am very pleased to bring before you to-night the following Report on the excursion held last year to Glenure:—

The visit, which lasted a fortnight, viz., from the 26th of July till the morning of the 9th August, was made by five Fellows of the Society and Mr Webb (son of the late Mr F. M. Webb) from Staffordshire—six in all.

There were two detachments of three each. The first, consisting of Drs Watson and Macfarlane and Mr Webb, arrived at Glenure on the evening of Tuesday the 26th July, and remained till the morning of Thursday the 4th August. Dr Watson, however, returned home on Tuesday, the 2nd August.

The second detachment, consisting of Messrs Grieve, Allan, and Coats, met by arrangement at Crianlarich on Tuesday forenoon, the 2nd August, arriving at Glenure the same evening, and remained till the morning of the 9th August.

Train in each case was taken to Connal Ferry, the last

station short of Oban, and after crossing the ferry we had to drive 16 miles to Glenure. The road from Connal Ferry is a beautiful one, skirting the shore of Loch Creran the greater part of the way, and afterwards passing Fasnacloich Loch, a very pretty sheet of water, a mile from Glenure.

Glenure is a wild, very slightly wooded glen in the Appin district of Argyleshire, lying almost at sea-level, and surrounded on every side by high mountains, whose bare summits are seldom without a covering of mist. The name signifies the glen of yew trees, and tradition has it that at one time a large number of yews grew in the glen. This is to a small extent borne out by the fact that, at present, a fine old yew flourishes close to the house of Mr Mackay, the present tenant of Glenure sheep-farm, in whose house the members of the camp had most comfortable quarters.

Mr Mackay, who is now over sixty-five years of age, also informed us that about forty years ago, when there were many more natives about Glens Ure and Creran than now, the young men of that day took a mania for bagpipe playing. To make their pipes they cut down the yew trees then existing on the south-west side of An Grinan, near the head of Glenure, each one taking as much wood as would make two sets of pipes. This extravagance is accounted for by the fact that the wood for the second set formed the payment or part payment they made to a turner who lived at that time near the glen, and made their pipes. But the times are changed, and there are now neither many young men nor yew trees in this wild district.

That this must once have been a beautifully wooded glen is evidenced by two facts—first, that the bleached stumps of many large trees yet remain about the mountain sides; second, there are to be seen in one or two places among the hills what resemble the remains of forts, but what are in reality the ruins of buildings or platforms formerly used for converting the oak wood into charcoal, and must have been built where plenty of wood was close at hand. This charcoal was then conveyed to the iron furnaces at Bunaw on Loch Etive.

The following mountains were botanised over very carefully, notwithstanding the fact that wet weather greatly prevailed :—

Ben Sguliaird, 3058 feet in height; Stob Gaibhre, 2000 feet; An Grinan, 1795 feet; also, Lochan-na-Fola, at an elevation of 1170 feet; Cairn Deirg, 2000 feet; Ben Fraochaidh, 2883 feet, on the north-west side of Glen Creran; a mountain to the eastward of it, not named, 2250 feet; Beinn Fhionnlaidh, 3139 feet; and Fasnacloich woods, with their small but very beautiful waterfalls; and the head of Loch Creran.

On the southern side of the Ure the mountains are mostly granitic, while on the northern or Ballahulish side of the glen slate seems to prevail.

On these mountains, which show many evidences of ice action, are to be seen numbers of travelled or perched boulders, some of them of large size. One near Fasnacloich Loch bears two small Scotch firs on its top, and is well known to geologists; another noticed on Cairn Deirg, weighing many tons, was supported on several small stones by which it was lifted entirely from the ground.

Of the 378 plants marked by Mr Bennett on the London catalogue as already recorded in the Watsonian county in which Glenure lies, there were identified 226; besides these, there were also identified 59 plants not hitherto recorded, making a total of 285 plants, classified under fifty-seven orders.

Of purely alpine plants we found very few, and those forms most ordinarily met with. In fact, the whole district, botanically considered, is a very poor one. The Saxifrages noted were—*S. oppositifolia*, *stellaris*, *aizoides*, *hypnoides*.

On Ben Fhionnlaidh and Ben Sguliaird there was a large quantity of *Gnaphalium supinum*, but all in fruit.

On Ben Fraochaidh we found good specimens of *Tofieldia palustris*, also in fruit.

The difference in the richness and variety of the Breadalbane mountains, with their mica-schist, and the Glenure mountains, with little else than hard, rough granite, was distinctly noticeable. Yet the climate must be almost precisely similar, and being in close proximity, the paucity of the flora seems to be simply a question of soil.

One find I would mention was made at Lochan-na-Fola, viz.,—*Malaxis paludosa*. For this inconspicuous plant we had been looking more or less every day, when Mr Grieve

pounced on it as we were examining a boggy piece of ground at one end of the loch, and within a yard Mr Allan got other two specimens.

This plant was noted as having been found on these mountains more than a century ago, by the then minister of Killin. He has left a record of the rarer plants only, found by him, and since then, I understand, the plant has not been again observed in this district.

Ferns are not plentiful in the district. We noted 22 species, but of these there is only one fact worth mentioning, viz., that wherever we came across slaty limestone strata cropping out, there we were sure to find *Asplenium viride* growing luxuriantly. On Ben Fhionnlaidh we came across a beautiful patch of parsley fern growing in a sheltered gully, almost the only fern I think we found on that mountain. This fern was likewise got by the first party, but on Ben Sguliaird.

On the morning of Wednesday, the 3rd August, Messrs Grieve, Webb, and Coats set out before 9 A.M. to botanise that day over Ben Fhionnlaidh—Dr Macfarlane and Mr Allan going in an opposite direction. There had been rain during night; the morning did not look very promising, and mist covered the tops of the surrounding mountains, but by eleven in the forenoon the day had improved considerably.

At the base of the mountain we separated, and soon lost sight of each other, each taking a different course, to cover as much ground as possible, with the intention of meeting on the plateau shown on the Ordnance Survey map at the 2000 feet level. This we ultimately did. At this time, about 2 P.M., thin mist was covering the whole top of the mountain. We soon got into it without our progress being impeded. Above 2250 feet the ground was very rough, with large detached granite boulders, but very little vegetation of any kind.

At 3.15 P.M. we gained the summit, and sat down to rest ourselves by the edge of a precipice overlooking a corrie of great depth.

The mist had now nearly cleared away from the summit, but was being driven in large masses into the corrie far below. All at once we saw our shadows distinctly thrown by the sun on the mist away down in the abyss in the centre

of a brilliant triple circular rainbow, a small segment of which was cut off by the edge of the precipice where we were sitting. This phenomenon, which was new to all of us, appeared and disappeared at short intervals several times, after which the sun's light came out stronger than before, and it disappeared altogether.

The movements made by the party were of course reproduced within this brilliant band of colour, the centre of which appeared to be from 40 to 50 feet in diameter.

There was little wind at the time, but what there was was blowing in a circular direction, carrying the mist over the summit in one direction, and up the valley leading to this corrie, and over an adjoining neck, in exactly the opposite way. We were, of course, considerably impressed with the spectacle, and noted all the points as carefully as we could.

This phenomenon is almost precisely similar to that known as the Ulloa circle, first described by the Spanish traveller Francisco Ulloa.

This very pleasant holiday came to an end on the 9th August, when the second detachment returned home.

*List of Plants noted at the Botanical Camp in Glenure in 1887,
as additions to previous records.*

Anemone nemorosa.	Armeria maritima.
Nymphaea alba.	Glaux maritima.
Cardamine hirsuta.	Anagallis arvensis.
Viola tricolor.	Ligustrum vulgare.
Sagina procumbens.	Menyanthes trifoliata.
nodosa.	Borago officinalis.
Hypericum Androsæmum.	Anchusa officinalis.
quadrangulum.	Myosotis arvensis.
Potentilla Fragariastrum.	Utricularia vulgaris.
Circæa lutetiana.	intermedia.
Conium maculatum.	Mentha hirsuta.
Conopodium denudatum.	Thymus Serpyllum.
Viburnum Opulus.	Stachys sylvatica.
Solidago Virgaurea var. cambrica.	Lamium Galeobdolon.
Aster Tripolium.	Plantago maritima.
Filago germanica.	Atriplex littoralis.
Gnaphalium uliginosum.	hastata.
Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum.	Euphorbia Helioscopia.
Petasites vulgaris.	Fagus sylvatica.

Juniperus nana.	Asplenium Adiantum-nigrum.
Taxus baccata.	Ruta-muraria.
Orchis latifolia.	Scolopendrium vulgare.
Habenaria viridis.	Cystopteris fragilis.
Tofieldia palustris.	Polystichum aculeatum.
Potamogeton natans.	Lastrea Oreopteris.
Carex paniculata.	Osmunda regalis.
glauc.	Equisetum palustre.
Deschampsia cæspitosa.	Chara fragilis.
Melica nutans.	

Heterophylly in New Zealand Veronicas. By ROBERT LINDSAY, Curator, Royal Botanic Garden. (Plates V. and VI.)

(Read 14th June 1888.)

The shrubby species of *Veronica*, which abound in New Zealand, are of great interest both from a botanical and from a horticultural point of view. A large number of species have proved to be thoroughly hardy, and well adapted for cultivation in our climate. Forming, as most of them do, small, compact, evergreen bushes, they are found to be invaluable for the decoration of rock-gardens or other situations where dwarf-growing shrubs are required. One of the first to recognise their value in this respect was the late Mr Isaac Anderson Henry, who from time to time exhibited these plants at our meetings, and from whose garden at Hay Lodge, Trinity, many of the species now in cultivation in this country can be traced. The late Mr Gorrie was also an assiduous collector of New Zealand plants, including *Veronicas*. But the feature I wish specially at present to notice is, that some of the species, viz., those which have been termed "Whip-cord" *Veronicas*, present remarkable instances of heterophylly. My attention was first directed to this occurrence in a rather peculiar manner. In the summer of 1881 Mr Henry exhibited a plant, under the name of *Veronica salicornioides*, at a meeting of the Scottish Horticultural Society, for which he was awarded a first-class certificate. An objection was afterwards raised on the ground that, as this plant was more like a Conifer than a *Veronica*, the certificate should have been withheld until the plant had been seen in flower. Mr Henry had no doubt that the plant was what he represented it to be; still, in the absence