

OS 1-inch map no 48 (Loch Tay). From the National Trust carpark (609376) over Beinn Ghlas (Summit 625405) to Ben Lawers (Summit 635 414)

One reason why Ben Lawers is of such great interest botanically is because much of the underlying strata consists of an easily-eroded rock, known as mica-schist, that weathers readily to produce a 'base-rich' soil in which a variety of special, almost unique, plants grow. However the high average rainfall rapidly washes out the soluble minerals and the special flora is therefore restricted to a few localities of 'rich' soil. Furthermore on steep high ground there is little grazing, allowing sensitive plants to flourish. Most of the mountain is covered with rocky grassland together with a few boggy areas. There is little heather moor on the base-rich rock, a fact that makes Ben Lawers strikingly different from most other Scottish hills, with their poor acidic soils.

Although it is difficult to unambiguously assign the plants to vegetation types, those recorded from the rocky hill grasslands, boggy areas and rocky stream sides were:-

RANUNCULACEAE

- Marsh Marigold - *Caltha palustris*
- Wood Anemone - *Anemone nemorosa*
- Common Buttercup - *Ranunculus acris*
- Creeping Buttercup - *R. repens* o.
- Lesser Spearwort - *R. flammula*

CRUCIFERAE

- Cuckoo Flower - *Cardamine pratensis*
- Wood Bitter-cress - *C. flexuosa*

VIOLACEAE

- Mountain Pansy - *Viola lutea* f.

POLYGALACEAE

- Thyme-leaved Milkwort - *Polygala serpyllifolia* f.

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

- Common Mouse-ear Chickweed - *Cerastium vulgatum* o.

LINACEAE

- Purging Flax - *Linum catharticum*

OXALIDACEAE

- Wood Sorrel - *Oxalis acetosella* f.

PAPILIONACEAE

- White Clover - *Trifolium repens* f.
- Bird's-foot Trefoil - *Lotus corniculatus* f.

ROSACEAE

- Tormentil - *Potentilla erecta* f.
- Alpine Lady's Mantle - *Alchemilla alpina* f.
- Lady's Mantle - *A. vestita* f.

ROSACEAE - continued

- Lady's Mantle - *Alchemilla glabra*
- Rowan - *Sorbus aucuparia*

SAXIFRAGACEAE

- Starry Saxifrage - *Saxifraga stellaris* f.
- Mossy Saxifrage - *S. hypnoides* f.
- Yellow Mountain Saxifrage - *S. aizoides* f.
- Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage - *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* f.

DROSERACEAE

- Sundew - *Drosera rotundifolia*

ONAGRACEAE

- Willow-herb - *Epilobium* sp.

UMBELLIFERAE

- Wild Angelica - *Angelica sylvestris*

EUPHORBIACEAE

- Dog's Mercury - *Mercurialis perennis*

POLYGONACEAE

- Alpine Bistort - *Polygonum viviparum* f.
- Sorrel - *Rumex acetosa* ..
- Mountain Sorrel - *Oxyria digyna* f.

URTICACEAE

- Stinging Nettle - *Urtica dioica* f.

SALICACEAE

- Least Willow - *Salix herbacea*

ERICACEAE

- Heather, Ling - *Calluna vulgaris*
- Cross-leaved Heath - *Erica tetralix* f.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

- Foxglove - *Digitalis purpurea* f.
- Common Speedwell - *Veronica officinalis* f.
- Lousewort - *Pedicularis sylvatica* f.
- Eyebright - *Euphrasia officinalis* agg.

LENTIBULARIACEAE

- Common Butterwort - *Pinguicula vulgaris* f.

LABIATAE

- Wild Thyme - *Thymus drucei* f.
- Self-heal - *Prunella vulgaris*

PLATAGINACEAE

- Ribwort plantain - *Plantago lanceolata*

CAMPANULACEAE

- Harebell - *Campanula rotundifolia*

RUBIACEAE

- Northern Bedstraw - *Galium boreale*
- Heath Bedstraw - *Galium saxatile*

DIPSACACEAE

- Devil's-bit Scabious - *Succissa pratensis* f.

COMPOSITAE

- Golden-rod - *Solidago virgaurea*
- Daisy - *Bellis perennis*
- Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*
- Spear Thistle - *Cirsium vulgare*
- Marsh Thistle - *C. palustre*
- Hardhead - *Centaurea nigra*
- Hawkweed - *Hieracium* sp.
- Common Dandelion - *Taraxacum officinale* o.

POTAMOGETONACEAE

- Bog Pondweed - *Potamogeton polygonifolius*

LILIACEAE

- Bog Asphodel - *Narthecium ossifragum*

JUNCACEAE

- Heath Rush - *Juncus squarrosus* f.
- Common Rush - *J. conglomeratus* f.
- Field Woodrush - *Luzula campestris* o.

ORCHIDACEAE

- Heath Spotted Orchid - *Dactylorhiza maculata* ssp. *ericetorum* f.

CYPERACEAE

- Common Cotton-grass - *Eriophorum*

- Deer-grass - *Trichophorum caespitosum*

- Ribbed Sedge - *Carex binervis* f.

- Yellow Sedge - *C. demissa* f.

- Carnation-grass - *C. panicea* f.

- Common Sedge - *C. nigra* f.

- Star Sedge - *C. echinata* f.

- Flea Sedge - *C. pulicaris* f.

- Stiff Sedge - *C. bigelowii* f.

GRAMINEAE

- Red Fescue - *Festuca rubra* f.

- Sheep's Fescue - *F. ovina* agg. f.

- Viviparous Fescue - *F. ovina* ssp. *vivipara* f.

- Annual Meadow-grass - *Poa annua* f.

- Common Meadow-grass - *P. pratensis* f.

- Cock's-foot - *Dactylis glomerata* f.

- Crested Dog's-tail - *Cynosurus cristatus* f.

- Yorkshire Fog - *Holcus lanatus* f.

- Wavy Hair-grass - *Deschampsia flexuosa* f.

- Brown Bent-grass - *Agrostis canina* f.

- Sweet Vernal-grass - *Anthoxanthum odoratum* f.

- Moor Mat-grass - *Nardus stricta* f.

PTERIDOPHYTES (FERNS AND THEIR ALLIES)

LYCOPODIACEAE

- Fir Clubmoss - *Lycopodium selago* f.

SELAGINACEAE

- Lesser Clubmoss - *Selaginella selaginoides* f.

EQUISETACEAE

- Common Horsetail - *Equisetum arvense*

POLYPODIACEAE

- Hard-fern - *Blechnum spicant*
- Alpine Lady-fern - *Athyrium alpestre* f.
- Male Fern - *Dryopteris filix-mas* agg.

Species recorded particularly from 'rich' soil areas:-

RANUNCULACEAE

Alpine Meadow Rue - *Thalictrum alpinum* f.

CRUCIFERAE

Hoary Whitlow Grass - *Draba incana* f.

Alpine Scurvy-grass - *Cochlearia officinalis* ssp. *alpina* f.

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Moss Champion - *Silene acaulis* f.

Alpine Mouse-ear Chickweed - *Cerastium alpinum* f.

Alpine Pearlwort - *Sagina saginoides*

Mossy Cyphel - *Cherleria sedoides* f.

ROSACEAE

Alpine Cinquefoil - *Potentilla crantzii* f.

CRASSULACEAE

Roseroot - *Sedum rosea*

SAXIFRAGACEAE

Purple Saxifrage - *Saxifraga oppositifolia* f.

SALICACEAE

Net-leaved Willow - *Salix reticulata* f.

BORAGINACEAE

Alpine Forget-me-not - *Myosotis alpestre* f.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Alpine Yellow-rattle - *Rhinanthus borealis*

COMPOSITAE

Alpine Fleabane - *Erigeron borealis* f.

Hawkweed - *Hieracium* sp.

LILIACEAE

Scottish Asphodel - *Tofieldia pusilla*

JUNACEAE

Three-leaved Rush - *Juncus trifidus* f.

Three-flowered Rush - *J. triglumis* f.

Two-flowered Rush - *J. biglumis* f.

Spiked Woodrush - *Luzula spicata* f.

CYPERACEAE

Russet Sedge - *Carex saxatilis* f.

GRAMINEAE

Alpine Meadow-grass - *Poa alpina* f.

PTERIDOPHYTES (FERNS AND THEIR ALLIES)

POLYPODIACEAE

Brittle Bladder-fern - *Cystopteris fragilis*

Holly Fern - *Polystichum lonchitis*