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THE HERBARIUM OF THE LATE JOHN WESTLEY CARR

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Resumen. Se comenta el Herbario del fallecido John Westley Carr (1911-1978), que se encuentra en la Universidad de Reading y que contiene únicamente plantas Andaluzas. Junto con éstas hay mapas de distribución incompletos, pero valiosos, así como algunas buenas ilustraciones.

Summary. Attention is drawn to the herbarium of the late John Westley Carr (1911-1978) at the University of Reading. This consists entirely of Andulacian plants. Associated with it are incomplete, but useful, species distribution maps, as well as some beautifully painted illustrations.

The recent publication of the *Flora Vascular de Andalucía Occidental* (VALDÉS, TALAVERA & FERNÁNDEZ GALIANO, 1987) hopefully should stimulate and encourage further floristic studies in southern Spain. Spanish botanists may, therefore, be interested to know a little about an important collection of flower paintings, associated voucher specimens and distribution maps of the Andalusian flora, lodged in the herbarium of the Plant Science Laboratories of the University of Reading (RNG).

The herbarium of the late J. WESTLEY CARR (1911-1978) was presented to RNG in 1979 by his widow Mrs. DOROTHY CARR.

JOHN CARR was an amateur botanist who became interested in recording plant distributions and contributed to the Flora of his native county Essex (JERMYN, 1975) and the *Atlas of the British Flora* (PERRING & WALTERS, 1962). The success of this work gave him the idea of a similar project recording the

rich flora of Andalucía, using the same 10 km. squares of the U.T.M. grid. A number of members of the Botanical Society of the British Isles co-operated, taking the opportunity to examine the Mediterranean flora under a knowledgeable leader: eight field surveys resulted. These were listed by SMYTHIES & CLEMENT (1979) in their obituary of JOHN CARR and are reproduced in Table 1.

DATE	CENTRE	LEADER
7-21.iv.1974	Algeciras	J.W. Carr & E.J. Clement
23.iii-6.iv.1975	Algeciras	J.W. Carr
19.v-2.vi.1975	Ronda	E.J. Clement
11-25.iv.1976	Arcos de la Frontera	D. McClintock
23.v-6.vi.1976	Torre del Mar	E.J. Clement
3-17.iv.1977	Jerez de la Frontera	A. Copping
24.iv.-8.v.1977	Antequera	R.R. Mill
15-29.v.1977	Lanjarón	E.J. Clement

Table 1. Botanical surveys organized by J.W. Carr and volunteer workers.

Specimens in the private herbarium of Mrs BRINTON-LEE of San Roque were recorded and entered on the maps. Some squares were mapped by botanists resident in Andalucía (Mrs B. MOLESWORTH-ALLEN, B.E. SMYTHIES and S. HOLMDAHL) or visiting the area (principally R.M. BURTON). Although the provinces of Cádiz, Málaga and the western half of Granada were all botanized, recording must be very incomplete as a single visit only was made to each 10 km square and then only in the spring.

JOHN CARR'S expeditions always included a botanical artist, and a collection of about 550 superb paintings has been built up, the property of Mrs DOROTHY CARR, but at present on loan to RNG. The artists who painted the specimens were: HILARY BROAD (née Carr), JILL CONDY, SEAN EDWARDS, ROBERT HEPPEL, ELIZABETH LUARD, JILL SMYTHIES and ROSEMARY WISE. It is hoped that somehow JOHN CARR'S wish that these paintings be published will be fulfilled, for they are of high standard, and would then be available for all those interested in the flora of Andalucía. An example showing *Silene stockenii* Charter is shown in Fig. 1, with its associated distribution map. Collectively the paintings were known as «the Opus» by the project workers.

JOHN CARR built up a large herbarium to assist identification. Each taxon is usually represented by a single specimen. Each sheet was kept in a plastic bag and filed in alphabetical order of genera and species in cardboard boxes. The herbarium was taken into the field each time from England in the back of a Land Rover, in order to assist specimen identification in the field (these

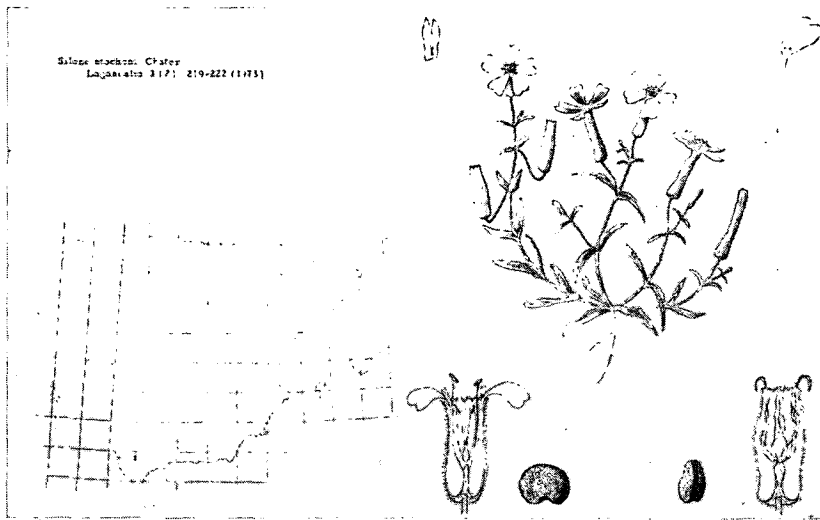


Fig. 1. Distribution map and illustration of *Silene stockemi* chater, included in J. Can «Opus».

are surely some of the most-travelled plant specimens). Specimens were verified by British specialists and by hard-working dedicated amateurs. A systematic index gave references to the literature, illustrations, which taxa were represented in the herbarium and which had already been painted by an artist.

On incorporation of the specimens into RNG, the opportunity was taken to count the sheets: unlocalized (613); 10-km. grid square reference only (783), and 10-km grid reference with some extra location details (712). This gives a total of 2108 gatherings in JOHN CARR'S herbarium.

Each specimen has an accession number and is listed in an accession book, but sadly this book gives no further data. Over 1500 sheets are missing, some through beetle damage, but most apparently thrown away, having been replaced by a better specimen.

Apart from documentation, the quality of the specimens is extremely variable: some are representative and well-preserved, some mere fragments, others badly pressed. However, the strength of the collection lies in its comprehensiveness and the carefulness of many determinations. Certainly,

there are over 1300 species represented, and when incorporated JOHN CARR'S herbarium added 120 taxa that were not previously in our European collections.

A number of projects on Spanish and Mediterranean plant groups are being actively researched at Reading, including the revision of *Flora Europaea*, volume one by Dr J.R. AKEROYD (AKERROYD, 1988; AKEROYD & WALTERS, 1987), and JOHN CARR'S herbarium has proved a valuable contribution to our work. It is perhaps unfortunate that it has not assisted more with the production of *Flora Vascular de Andalucía Occidental* (VALDÉS, TALAVERA & FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO, 1987), and it is hoped that any workers in the future on the flora of Andalucía, especially the eastern part, will note the existence of this collection and the unpublished data associated with it. The curator is happy to loan specimens to recognized institutions and supply xeroxes of the unpublished data on request.

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