

# THE FLORA OF RUM

## AN ATLANTIC ISLAND RESERVE

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Rum, one of Scotland's first National Nature Reserves, is a rugged island dominated by the mountains of the Rum Cuillin, the remains of a volcano active 60 million years ago. Its extremely oceanic climate and nutrient-poor but otherwise varied soils give it a distinctive flora. Many common flowering plants are rare on the island, and some uncommon species are remarkably frequent there. The bryophyte flora is rich – the bryophytes outnumber the native vascular plants and include numerous hyperoceanic species. The first thorough investigation of the island's plants was carried out under the direction of Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison, who wrote a Flora of Rum and the neighbouring Small Isles in 1939 and later published a number of unlikely and apparently fraudulent records from the island in a series of papers.

In his Foreword, Andrew Thin, Chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage, describes this new Flora as “not a simple catalogue of plants, but an exploration of Rum, past and present, from a botanical perspective”. The introductory chapters outline the geology and climate of the island, describe its history and land-use before the ‘clearance’ of the population and its subsequent management as a sporting estate and later as a National Nature Reserve. They include a detailed account of the botanical exploration of the island, and a description of the current vegetation. They are followed by a detailed account of the stoneworts, bryophytes, ferns and flowering plants of the island. The book is based on a critical assessment of the known historical plant records, on the wealth of scientific work initiated by the Nature Conservancy and its successors and on a recent survey by members of the British Bryological Society and Botanical Society of the British Isles at the ‘tetrad’ (2 × 2 km square) scale.

The book is a hardback of c. 470 pages, measuring 220 mm × 155 mm, with 27 colour plates and numerous maps and figures. Publication is expected in or before May 2008.

The two pages that follow are *SAMPLES only, at a reduced size*

*The Flora of Rum* will be published in May 2008 at £25 (plus p&p). However it will be made available at the special pre-publication price of £19.50 (including p&p of £4.50) until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 from:

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Please send me . . . . . copy/ies of *The Flora of Rum* at £19.50 per copy (cheques to be made payable to D.A. Pearman). (Overseas members (**not** Irish) add £3.00 to cover extra postage)

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