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The **colour plates** are situated between pages 32 and 33. They illustrate a selection of the habitats represented in the parish, in a variety of seasons. The order corresponds to that in the chapter on vegetation.

Figures 1,2,4 and 9 by Ann Cook, 3 and 5 by Wendy Price, 6 and 7 by Trish Kohn and 8 by Alex Lockton. Colour plates from photographs by I.M.E. unless otherwise credited.

FOREWORD

This comprehensive Flora covers one of the most interesting and beautiful areas of Scotland. It is the first to tackle any part of the Highlands at this level of detail. Besides the meticulous coverage of flowering plants and ferns, the bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) have been given equal treatment. Introductory chapters include clear accounts of the geology, climate, landscape history and vegetation of the area, to enable visiting botanists to appreciate the flora in a much wider context.

The straightforward style has resulted in a very readable and easy to use document. The authors are to be congratulated on their painstaking research into the historical records, and on bringing to fruition ten years of field survey.

I believe that this publication will renew interest in the Assynt flora and stimulate botanists to find new localities for its plants and try to re-discover the old sites for species that have not been recorded recently.

The care, effort and thoroughness that have gone into this book will ensure that it will remain the most significant work on the Assynt flora for many years and will hopefully increase concern for the well-being of this extremely special area.

Alex Scott
Scottish Natural Heritage
Ullapool

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S.N.H. promotes the care and improvement of the natural heritage of Scotland, its responsible enjoyment, understanding, appreciation and sustainable use. One of the ways in which they do this is by supporting surveys of plant and animal life in areas of interest. Their local office is at 17 Pulteney Street, Ullapool, Wester Ross IV26 2UP.

The B.S.B.I. is the national society for anyone interested in the flowering plants and ferns of Britain and Ireland. It has a network of local recorders, organises meetings and surveys, and publishes atlases, handbooks, journals and newsletters. Correspondence about its activities may be addressed to Dept. of Botany, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

The Glasgow N.H.S. encourages the study and recording of all branches of natural history, particularly that of the west coast of Scotland. It administers the Professor Lloyd Binns Bequest Fund which supports publications and research projects. For information about the Society contact the General Secretary, c/o Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow G3 8AG.

We much appreciate the co-operation we have had from local landowners during the survey work for this Flora. Peter Voy, Factor to the Assynt Estate, facilitated access and the use of estate boats, and keepers Andrew MacKay and Duncan Morrison ferried us to remote areas. Jim and Margaret Payne kindly provided information about previous surveys on Ardvär.

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We are sorry if we have missed anyone out!