

Web 2.0 teaching and learning tools: for life, not just for term time

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What is Web 2.0?

“**Web 2.0** is a concept that takes the network as a platform for information sharing, interoperability, user-centered design, and collaboration on the World Wide Web.”

[Wikipedia - Web 2.0](#)

Digital Literacy

“**Digital literacy** is the ability to locate, organize, understand, evaluate, and analyze information using digital technology. It involves a working knowledge of current high-technology, and an understanding of how it can be used.”

[Wikipedia - Digital Literacy](#)

10 minutes

A taster of SOME uses of Web 2.0 technologies

- Daily teaching
- UG/MSc Projects
- MSc course
- PhD supervision
- Outreach, Internationalisation
- Big Brother



Daily teaching - Blackboard



Positive

Secure

Corporate

For educational use

Lots of tools

- Discussion
- Wiki
- Blog
- ...

Our control

Negative

Cumbersome

Inflexible

Isolated

Tools feel restricted

Shut down each year

Loses gradebook

Daily Teaching - blogs

Whiteknights Biodiversity

Engages students

Time efficient

Enhances knowledge

- Biology
- Copyright
- Added value

Blogging assignment

Whiteknights biodiversity

Just another blogs.reading.ac.uk site



Confused with Blues!

Posted on July 17, 2012 by [Susan Anderson-Brown](#)

Currently recorded on campus are two species of blue coloured butterflies these are: the Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) and the Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*). To the untrained eye, in flight, they look the same, and telling the difference between the species is therefore difficult. The two species are within the Lycaenidae family, known as the blue butterflies which also includes the Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*), Purple Hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*) and Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*) which are not blue and are found on campus too. [Continue reading —](#)

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- [Is it a moth, is it a butterfly? Part 2 – The Small Skipper](#)
- [Is it a moth, is it a butterfly? Part 1 – The Skippers](#)
- [A New Face](#)

Recent Comments

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- [Alastair Culham](#) on [Gulls on Campus 71 Walnut](#)
- [Sea spurge](#) on [Euphorbia](#)

UG/MSc Projects

Individuals with shared needs

Peer learning

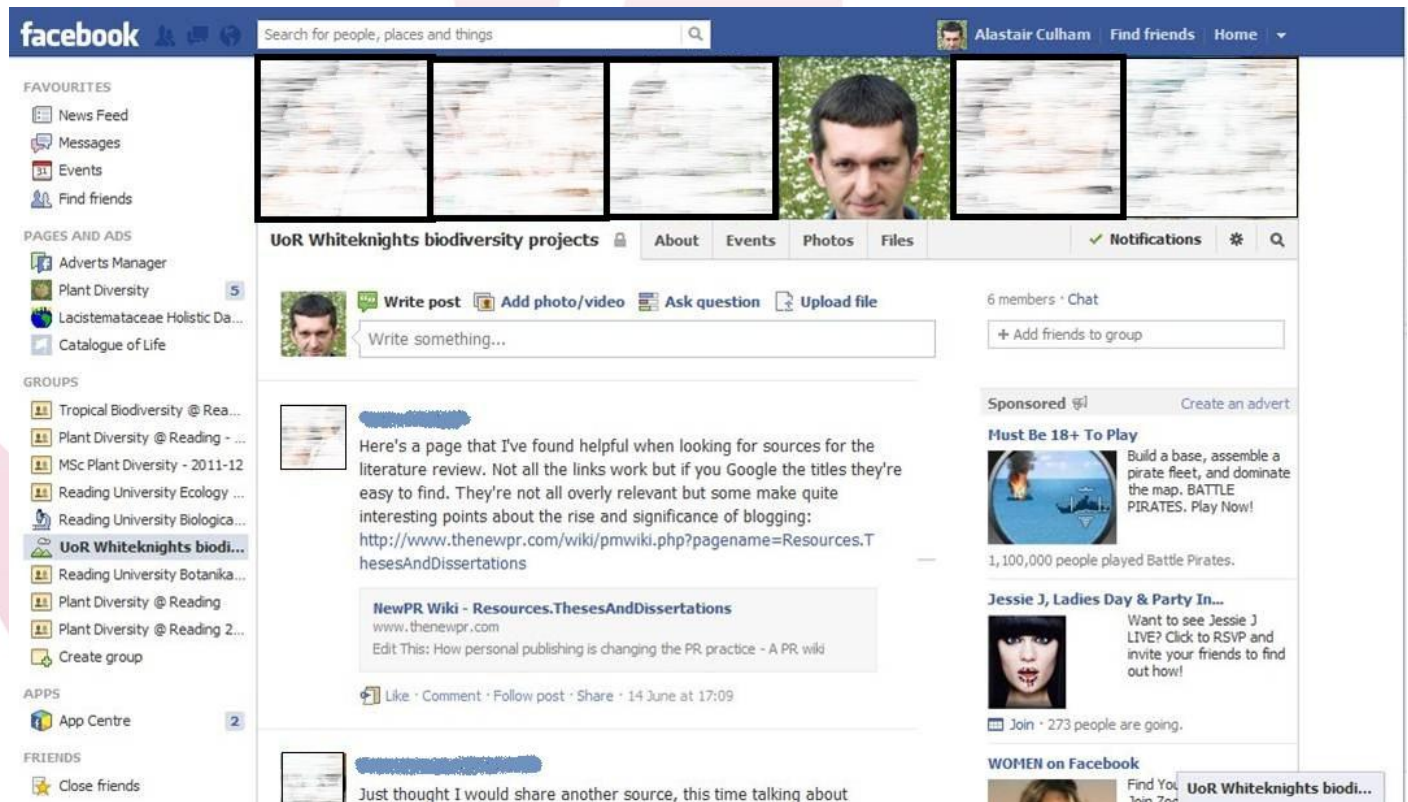
Friendly

Familiar

Trust

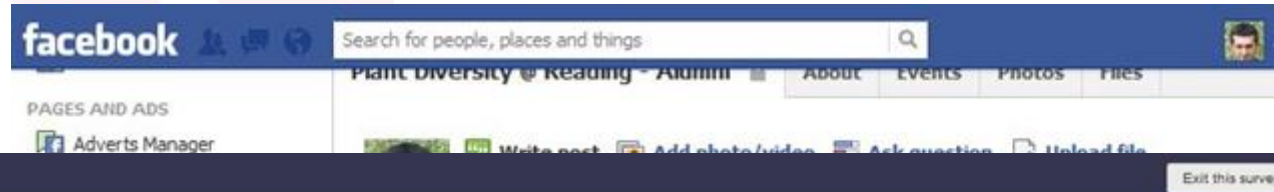
Benefit

Access



UG/MSc Projects

Opportunities



Naturalist Questionnaire

[Exit this survey](#)

This survey is part of an MSc Project by [REDACTED]. Further rationale and Information for Participants can be downloaded [here](#). There are 7 questions to answer (duration approx 4 mins). Thank you for your help!

Q1: Please select the knowledge and skills listed below that you feel you have

Please note Q1 refers ONLY to flowering plant species found growing wild in YOUR local area.

- ☐ Ability to identify most plant species (ie growing wild in your local area)
- ☐ Ability to identify common plant species (approx. 30)
- ☐ Ability to identify common plant families (approx. 15-20)
- ☐ Ability to locate and identify some of the rarer plant species
- ☐ Ability to identify invasive plant species
- ☐ Ability to identify edible species
- ☐ Ability to identify medicinal species
- ☐ Ability to identify different local plant habitats and associated plant species
- ☐ An in-depth knowledge (including identification) of one (or more) locally occurring families or genera (you probably would consider yourself a local expert in this area)
- ☐ Knowledge of botanical names of known species
- ☐ Knowledge of common/local names of known species
- ☐ None of the above

[View all 11 comments](#)

MSc course

Engage
Encourage
Enable
Entertain




 Like · Comment · Follow post · 27 October 2011 at 18:19



Hi all,

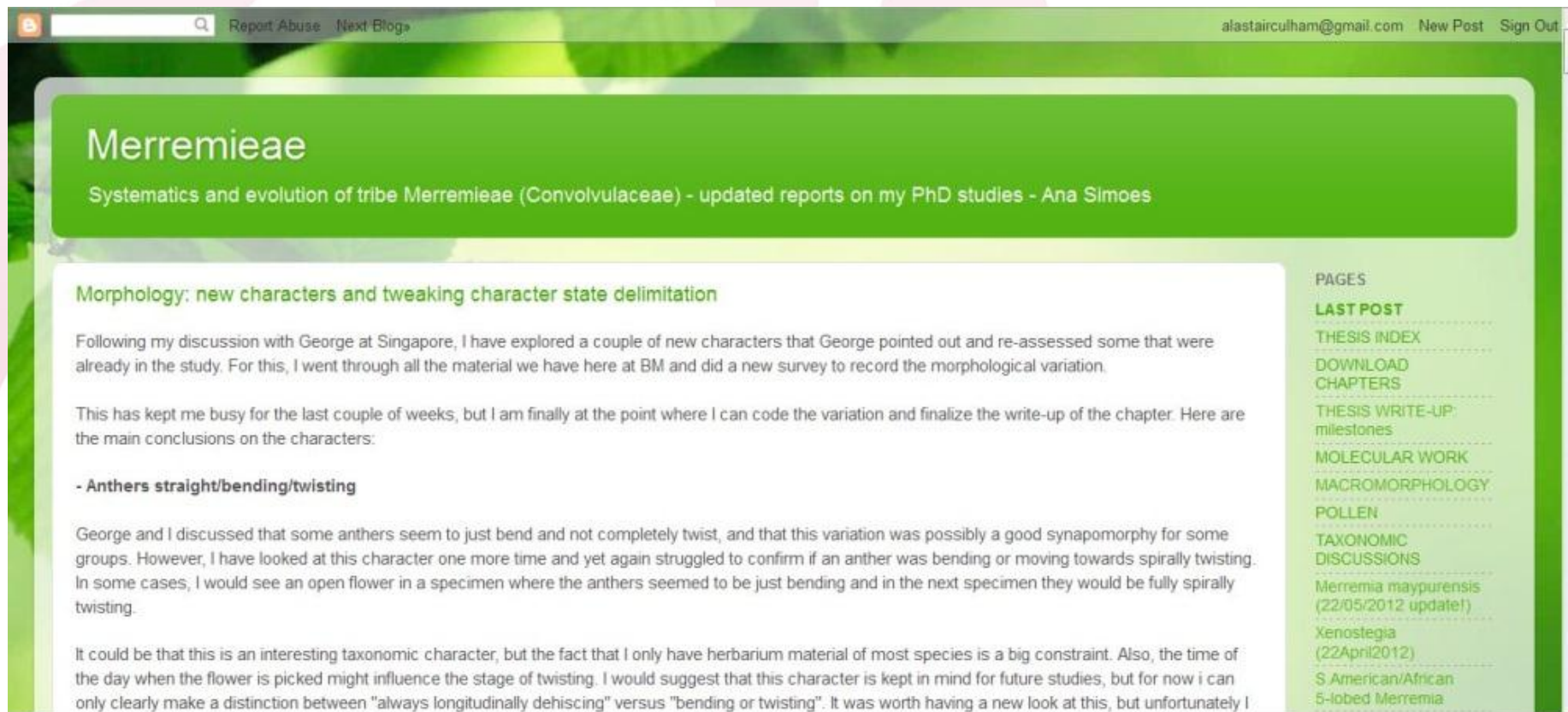
Don't know if this will interest you but I am planning to go to a talk tomorrow (Wed.) called "Don't Drop The Ball on Climate Change", Sarah Wykes, 7:30 pm, Church of Our Lady and St. Anne, South View Ave, Caversham RG4 5AB (no website that I can find).

This is part of the Reading International Festival. Main speaker is lead analyst on CC and environmental matters for CAFOD, so likely to be more about people than plants, but still....Anyone interested in coming with me and ? (We can talk tomorrow)

 Like · Comment · Follow post · 25 October 2011 at 13:28

PhD supervision

Blogging your lab book



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Merremieae

Systematics and evolution of tribe Merremieae (Convolvulaceae) - updated reports on my PhD studies - Ana Simoes

Morphology: new characters and tweaking character state delimitation

Following my discussion with George at Singapore, I have explored a couple of new characters that George pointed out and re-assessed some that were already in the study. For this, I went through all the material we have here at BM and did a new survey to record the morphological variation.

This has kept me busy for the last couple of weeks, but I am finally at the point where I can code the variation and finalize the write-up of the chapter. Here are the main conclusions on the characters:

- **Anthers straight/bending/twisting**

George and I discussed that some anthers seem to just bend and not completely twist, and that this variation was possibly a good synapomorphy for some groups. However, I have looked at this character one more time and yet again struggled to confirm if an anther was bending or moving towards spirally twisting. In some cases, I would see an open flower in a specimen where the anthers seemed to be just bending and in the next specimen they would be fully spirally twisting.

It could be that this is an interesting taxonomic character, but the fact that I only have herbarium material of most species is a big constraint. Also, the time of the day when the flower is picked might influence the stage of twisting. I would suggest that this character is kept in mind for future studies, but for now I can only clearly make a distinction between "always longitudinally dehiscent" versus "bending or twisting". It was worth having a new look at this, but unfortunately I

PAGES

LAST POST

THESIS INDEX

DOWNLOAD CHAPTERS

THESIS WRITE-UP: milestones

MOLECULAR WORK

MACROMORPHOLOGY

POLLEN

TAXONOMIC DISCUSSIONS

Merremia maypurensis (22/05/2012 update!)

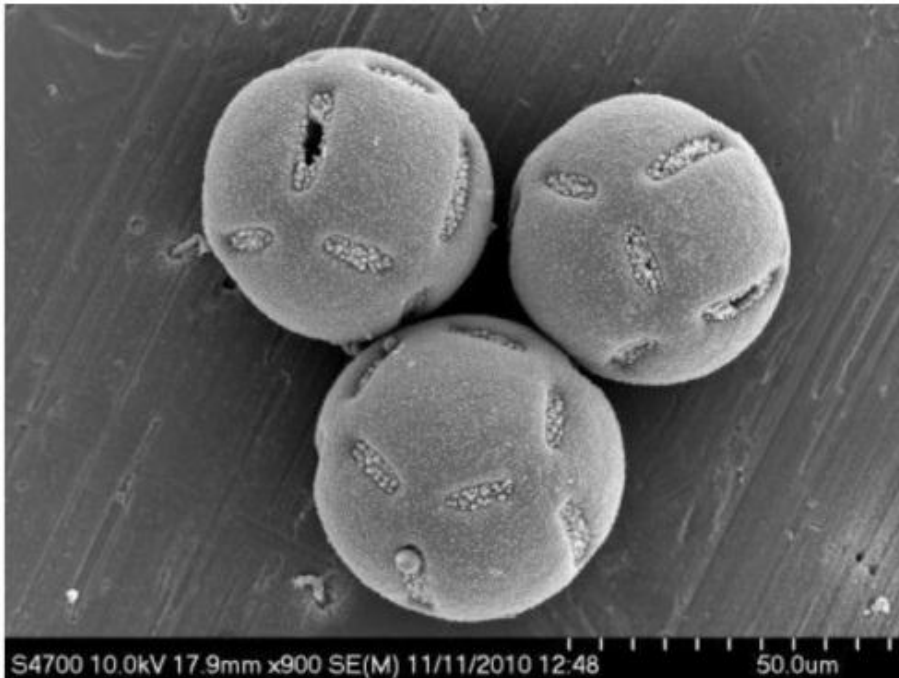
Xenostegia (22April2012)

S.American/African 5-lobed Merremia

PhD supervision

Blogging your lab book

S4700 10.0kV 18.0mm x450 SE(M) 11/11/2010 11:54 100um



The first think that stands out is the greater number of apertures present in this species, with a pattern that is very similar to the 12-colpate pollen found in *Hewittia*. However, there seems to be some variation, and Carol and I believe that some grains actually have more than 12 apertures (see the bottom grain in the image). Light microscopy can help clear this up, because Carol suggested that it could be that the grains are actually 4-colpate on one side and 5-colpate on the other, so there is actually only one apertural pattern present. Not sure if I believe in this, but will be worth checking it with LM.

A quite distinctive feature is that the grains are nearly half the size of most grains I have seen in other species: quite small! Please notice the difference in magnification in both images posted.

The size discrepancy actually supports that the different aperture patterns are, in deed, variation present within the species and not contamination from any of the other samples.

Discussion

- Jun 2010 (2)
- Jul 2010 (3)
- Aug 2010 (2)
- Sep 2010 (2)
- Oct 2010 (3)
- ▼ Nov 2010 (8)
 - Summary of the Molecular Pilot Study
 - Pollen analysis at Kew: week 1
 - Week 2 - Kew: more pollen types
 - Problems with email address
 - Week 3 - Kew Summary of Pollen Analysis at Kew
 - Kew Week 4 - new character?
 - Kew Week 5 - new samples from K
- Dec 2010 (1)
- 2011 (29)
- 2012 (25)

Outreach, Internationalisation

Open blogs

- Whiteknights biodiversity
- Digitally ready
- Tropical biodiversity

Indexed by Google



Outreach, Internationalisation



University of
Reading

Facebook site

- Plant Diversity
 - Newsletter
 - Events calendar



Big Brother



Am I talking to myself?

Facebook

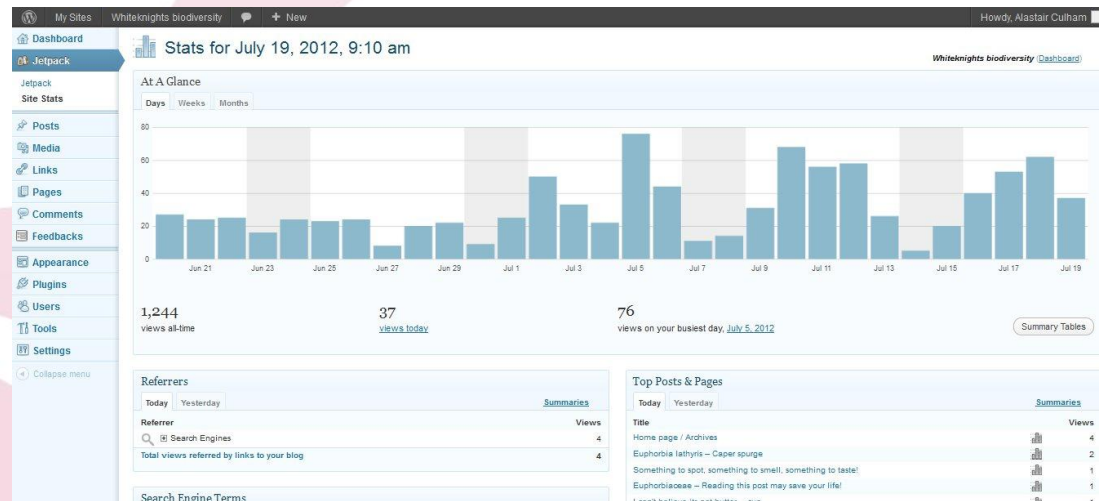
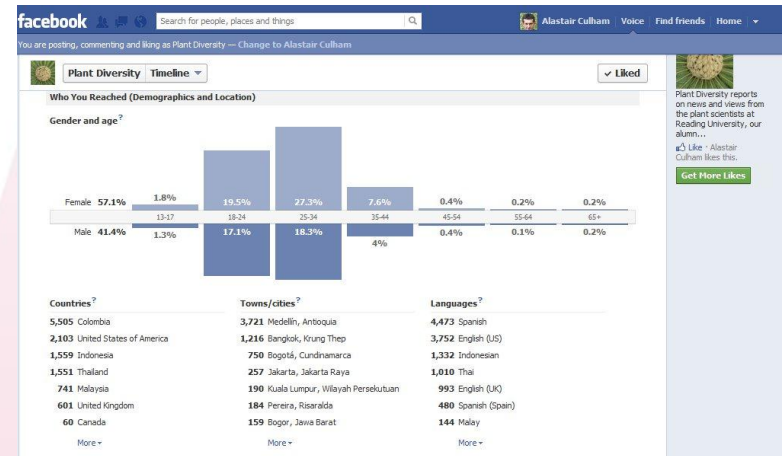
- Interactive by design

Blogs

- Jetpack

General

- Google analytics
- Goo.gl



Overview

- Think about your needs
- Think about continuity of engagement
- Think about the time you have
- Do use Wikipedia – intelligently
- Do think beyond Blackboard
- Ride the wave

Experiment, Enjoy, Engage

Thanks for your time