

COMPOSITAE

B 533/1

MATRICARIA
RECUTITA L.
M. chamomilla
Bucc.

Wild Chamomile

• 1830 onwards

• Before 1830

Casual only in Scot-

land & Ireland

• All records

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C 532/2

MATRICARIA
MATRI-
CARIOIDES
(Less.) Porter
Pineapple
Weed

• First British

record, 1871

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C 533/4

CHRY-
ANTHEMUM
PARTHENIUM
(L.) Bernh.
Feverfew

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A CARD CATALOGUE OF BRITISH LIFE!

As punched cards revolutionized the workplace, they became visible symbols of business and government automation. Less visible, but equally important, was their role in scientific research.

Punched cards and computers transformed every task that required compiling, organizing, manipulating, and printing data. A 1940s survey of British plants and animals was a notable example of a large-scale study built on new technology.

A SCIENTIFIC CENSUS

Punched cards got their first big test in America's 1890 census. Half a century later, they made possible another census: a comprehensive catalogue of British flora and fauna.

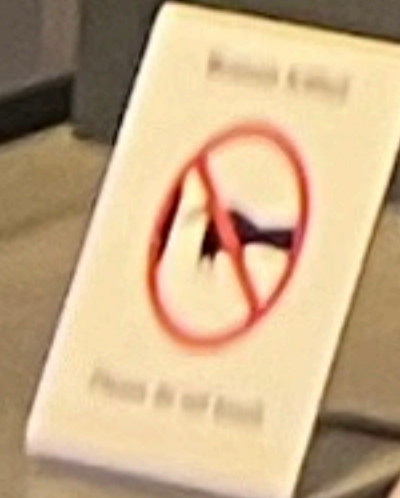
Documenting the island's ecology demanded technology both portable and reliable. Punched cards fit the bill. In the late 1940s, the Powers-Samas Company developed a system using 40-column cards. Researchers in the field wrote directly on the cards. Afterwards, clerks punched in the data for processing.

The results were used in the British Flora in 1950.



Operator at Powers-Samas punch, ca. 1942. The system used to compile data for The Atlas of the British Flora used 40-column cards that were less than half the size of a traditional IBM punched card.

Operator at sorters, ca. 1962. To the American eye, these Powers-Samas machines, designed for smaller punched cards, looked like miniature versions of IBM equipment.



Powers-Samas Card Punch & Powers-Samas Sorter, ca. 1942. Powers-Samas Corporation, New York, NY.

A 535/2

ARTEMISIA
VERLATORU
Lamotte

• All records

A 535/5

ARTEMISIA
NORVEGICA
Fr.

• 1950 onwards

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