



Why does identifying species correctly matter?

Joseph Beale

Identification Trainers for the Future



Natural History Museum Identification Trainers for the Future



**Identifying
species correctly
can help us
monitor pollution.**

**Lichens as
indicators of
sulphur dioxide
pollution.**

***Flavoparmelia caperata*
in Greenwich**



**Identifying
species correctly
can help us
monitor species
(eg UKBMS).**

**If something is
declining, we can
act before it's too
late (hopefully).**

**Small Copper *Lycaena
phlaeas* in Greenwich**



Identifying
species correctly
helps us assess
how our wildlife
is changing and
why.

Former rarity Bee
Wolf *Philanthus
triangulum*,
Blackheath



Predict future changes, invasive species.

**New arrivals -
Viper's Bugloss
Mason Bee in
Greenwich.
What's next?**

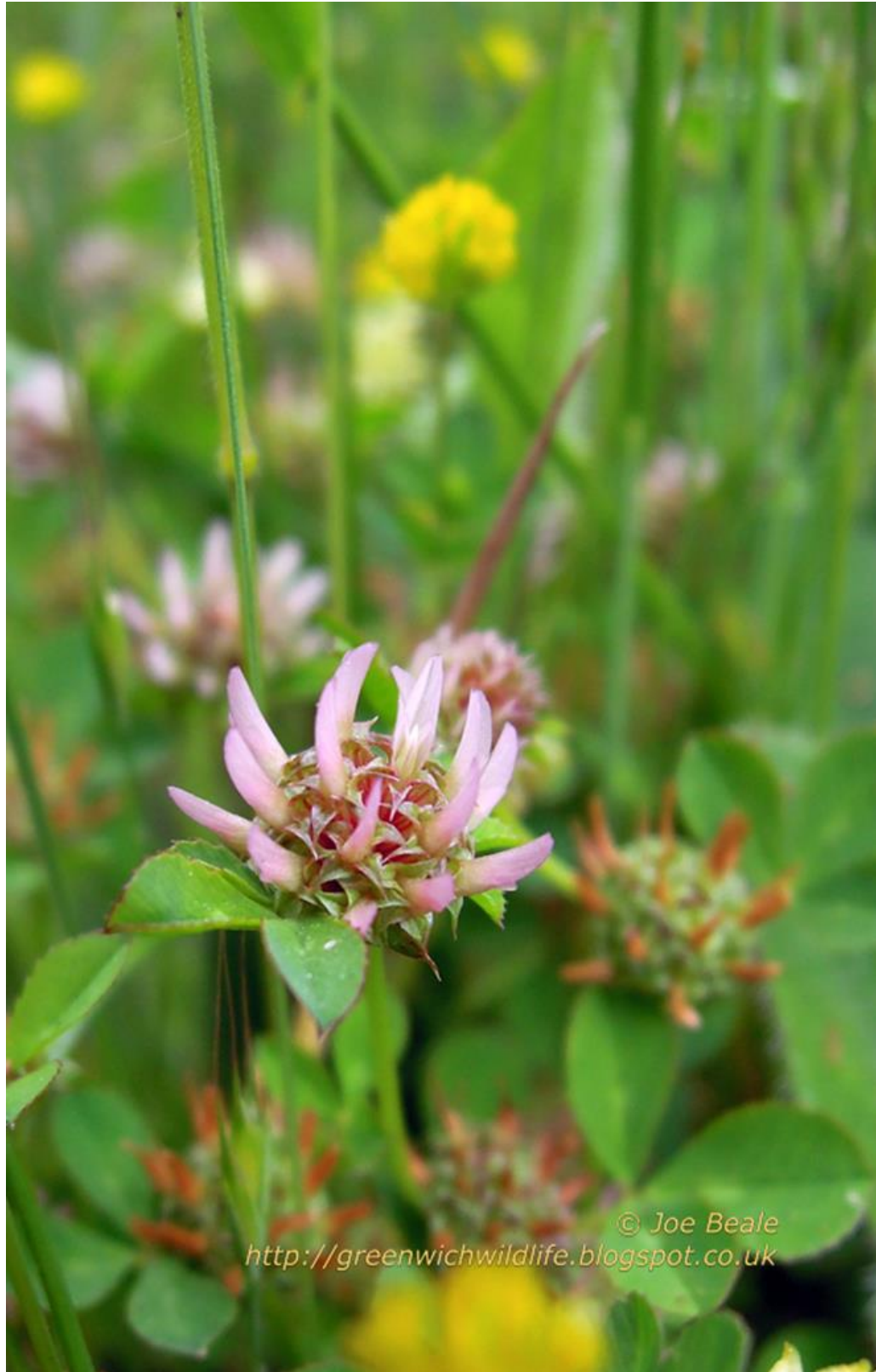
D.G. Notton, Tang, C.Q., and Day, A.R., "Viper's Bugloss Mason Bee, *Hoplitis* (*Hoplitis*) *adunca*, new to Britain (Hymenoptera, Megachilidae, Megachilinae, Osmini)", *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, vol. 29, September, pp. 134-143, 2016



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<http://greenwichwildlife.blogspot.co.uk>

**Identifying species correctly can help us monitor the impacts of climate change.
E.g. Pateman et al. (2012)**

Range expansion of Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* in Greenwich



Identifying species correctly enables us to protect and appropriately manage sites and habitats.

***Trifolium glomeratum* in Blackheath**

Other issues – best use of effort/budgets, maintaining scientists' credibility...

The sheer joy and excitement of knowing what's around!

Thank you!

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