

An Litir Bheag

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 21 (which corresponds to Litir 325). Ruairidh would welcome feedback on An Litir Bheag from listeners/readers. He can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Tha lus ann air a bheil an t-ainm saidheansail *Pinguicula vulgaris*. 'S e an t-ainm a th' air ann am Beurla *common butterwort* no *bog violet*. Tha e a' fàs ann an àiteachan fliucha, àiteachan nach eil idir torrach. Tha e cumanta air a' Ghàidhealtachd.

Tha an lus seo beag. Tha duilleagan buidhe-uaine air. Tha na duilleagan faisg air an talamh. Tha iad fada agus tiugh. Tha na flùraichean purpaidh.

Bidh an lus seo a' glacadh mheanbh-fhrìdean. Bidh iad a' faighinn mhèinnearach mar sin, mar eisimpleir naitraidsean. Bidh iad a' glacadh nam meanbh-fhrìdean anns na duilleagan, a tha leanailteach.

Tha caochladh ainmean air an lus seo ann an Gàidhlig. Mar eisimpleir, *lus a' bhainne* agus *lus an ime*. Bidh an lus seo a' binndeachadh bainne. Ach tha ainm eile, ainm nas cumanta – *mòthan*.

Bha am mòthan air a chleachdadh mar sheun-gaoil. Seo mar a thachair e. Bha boireannach a' dol don mhonadh. Bha i a' dol air a glùin. Bha i a' spìonadh naoi freumhaichean dhen mhòthan. Bha i gan snìomh còmhla mar chuach.

Bha i a' cur na cuaich air a beul. Fear sam bith a thug pòg dhi, bha e a' gabhail gaol dhi. Boireannach a bha an impis leanabh a bhith aice, bha i a' cur cuach mar sin foidhpe. Bha an leanabh a' nochdadh gu sàbhailte an uair sin.

Nuair a bha daoine a' siubhal bha iad a' toirt cuach a' mhòthain leotha. Bha sin airson a bhith sàbhailte. Bha iad a' creidsinn gu robh am mòthan a' dìon daoine an aghaidh buidseachd.

Tha seanfhacal ann a tha ceangailte ris an lus seo. *Dh'òl e bainne na bà baobh a dh'ith am mòthan*. Dh'òl e bainne na bà baobh a dh'ith am mòthan. Tha iad ag ràdh sin mu dheidhinn duine a fhuair a-mach à cunnart air èiginn – mar gur e mìorbhail a bh' ann.

'S e a' Bheurla air an t-seanfhacal: *he drank the milk of the bewitched cow that ate the bog-violet*. Dh'òl e bainne na bà baobh a dh'ith am mòthan.

Bha daoine dhen bheachd gun robh cumhachdan os-nàdarrach aig duine a dh'òl bainne bho bhò a dh'ith am mòthan. Bha iad a' smaoinichadh gur iad na cumhachdan sin a leig leis an duine tighinn beò tron chunnart.

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Faclan is abairtean: air a bheil an t-ainm saidheansail: *which has the scientific name*; àiteachan fliucha, àiteachan nach eil idir torrach: *wet places, places which are not at all fertile*; cumanta: *common*; tha duilleagan buidhe-uaine air: *it has yellow-green leaves*; fada agus tiugh: *long and thick*; bidh an lus seo a' glacadh mheanbh-fhrìdean: *this plant catches insects*; bidh iad a' faighinn mhèinnearach mar sin: *they get minerals like that*; mar eisimpleir naitraidsean: *such as nitrogen*; leanailteach: *sticky*; caochladh: *various*; bidh an lus seo a' binndeachadh bainne: *this plant curdles milk*; bha am mòthan air a chleachdadh mar sheun-gaoil: *the bog-violet was used as a love-charm*; seo mar a thachair e: *here's how it happened*; bha i a' dol air a glùin: *she went [was going] on her knee*; a' spìonadh naoi freumhaichean: *pulling up nine roots*; gan snìomh còmhla mar chuach: *threading them together as a coil*; fear sam bith a thug pòg dhi: *any man that gave her a kiss*; boireannach a bha an impis leanabh a bhith aice: *a woman who was about to give birth*; foidhpe: *under her*; bha iad a' creidsinn gu robh am mòthan a' dìon daoine an aghaidh buidseachd: *they believed the bog-violet would protect [was protecting] people against witchcraft*; dh'òl e bainne na bà baobh a dh'ith am mòthan: *he drank the milk of the bewitched cow that ate the bog-violet*; duine a fhuair a-mach à cunnart air èiginn: *a person who [had] got out of danger by the skin of his teeth*; mar gur e mìorbhail a bh' ann: *as if it were a miracle*; bha daoine dhen bheachd: *people were of the opinion*; gun robh cumhachdan os-nàdarrach aig duine: *that a man had supernatural powers*; a leig leis an duine tighinn beò tro chunnart: *which allowed the man to come alive through the danger*.