

**Workshop 2**  
**Oral presentation**

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I would like to give a talk in the second of the thematic workshops the one on scientific research and ex-situ conservation. Here is a suggested abstract:

*Woodsia ilvensis* is a rare species of fern that has suffered rapid decline in Britain. Always rare, it was especially prized by Victorian plant collectors and this further reduced the numbers. Known populations have declined over the last 50 years with little apparent recruitment. A species recovery programme has investigated appropriate cultivation techniques and an ex-situ conservation collection has been established at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Several re-introductions have taken place and the plants have been carefully monitored. Cultivation experiments have been conducted in an attempt to explain the apparent lack of re-generation. Breeding experiments have shown a preference for outbreeding. This might mean that the very small populations that remain are less able to regenerate.

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