

Valerianella eriocarpa Desv.

Hairy-fruited Cornsalad

Introduction?

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

An annual of dry open habitats, found in arable fields, disturbed grassland, walls and quarries. This species is believed to be native in Dorset, where it occurs on thin soils in either open calcareous grassland or parched maritime grassland, in communities almost entirely composed of native species (Pearman & Edwards, 2002) and possibly also on the Isle of Wight. Elsewhere it is considered to be an introduction. In Somerset, only ever recorded in VC6 where it was first found in 1935, a quantity in one spot on slopes above Cheddar, discovered by C.I and N.Y. Sandwith and H.W. Pugsley, thought to be a recent introduction (Sandwith, 1936). In 1979 it was found by R.G.B. Roe at Charlton Mackrell on waste ground bordering a quarry. It was last seen at this site in 2000, when 100 plants were recorded by members of Somerset Rare Plants Group on sparsely vegetated old tarmac. No details can be found for a record for ST76 in DC2 (1970-86) mapped by Preston *et al.* (2002). This species may now be extinct in Somerset. Since 2000 it has only been recorded along the south and southwest coast of England (from the Isle of Wight westwards) and at two sites near the coast in Wales. The record at Charlton Mackrell was the most recent substantially inland record for Britain.

VC6

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|------|------|---|
| Charlton Mackrell | ST532290 | 1993 | IPG | 20 plants in one small area on quarry waste |
| Charlton Mackrell | ST533291 | 1998 | IPG | 1 plant in the quarry |
| Charlton Mackrell | ST534290 | 2000 | SRPG | 100 plants on sparsely vegetated old tarmac |



Valerianella eriocarpa at Scabborough Farm, Kent (2013). Photo: CHS
[awaiting Somerset photo]