

## ***Caucalis platycarpus* L.**

## **Small Bur-parsley**

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Extinct

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Extinct

An annual of arable fields and waste places on calcareous soils, now considered extinct in Britain. In VC5 first found in 1923 by Miss Miller in New Road, Lower Cheddon. In 1924 W.D. Miller recorded it as a garden weed in Monkton Heathfield and in 1927 it was found by W.S. Parry as a garden weed at West Monkton. There have been no subsequent records. In VC6 this species was collected by A. Gapper in 1822 from Charlton (**TTN**) and noted as "not common" in cornfields near Charlton Mackarell [*sic.*] by Murray (1896). It was found once on a sandy bank at Burnham by H.S. Thompson (Murray, 1896) and again at Burnham in 1877, found by Miss Mayow (White, 1912) and in 1927 on waste ground. White (1912) recorded this species on corn-mill refuse in Portishead station-yard from 1902 to 1907. Around Bath it was found in corn at Old Down or Burnt-house Gate by Dr Davis (Babington, 1834), in cornfields on Kingsdown by C.E. Broome (Babington, 1839), at Combe Down at 650 feet by Withers (Murray, 1896) and in cornfields on Combe Down by Flower in 1850. S.T. Dunn (1897) included this species as "plentiful" in his list of aliens from Turkish barley waste in a quarry at Twerton. In 1922 it was collected at Ashton Gate in Bristol by Sandwith (1932). The last record for VC6 and Somerset was in 1940, when Miss Ashby found it as a casual in a chicken run at Winscombe. *Caucalis platycarpus* probably declined in the late nineteenth century due to improvements in seed-cleaning, the decline continuing as a result of susceptibility to herbicides, development of competitive crop varieties and increases in nitrogen applications (Wilson & King, 2003). The last record for Britain was in 1982, when it was recorded by N. Hodgetts on Welby verge, Ermine Street, South Lincolnshire. It is now considered Extinct.