

***Carex davalliana* Sm.**

Davall's Sedge

Native

Extinct

VC5 Absent; VC6 Extinct

A tufted sedge, only ever recorded from one site in the British Isles, in a calcareous mire on the outskirts of Bath. Discovered before 1809 by Mr Groult "On Lansdown in a boggy place on the south side of a hill on which is the first clump of firs, about one and a quarter miles from Bath" and identified by E. Forster, who sent specimens to James Edward Smith. In May 1809 a portrait appeared in Smith's *English Botany*; the specimens remain in the herbarium of the Natural History Museum (**BM**). A specimen in Cambridge was collected at Lansdown, Bath by N.B. Ward in about 1813. Babington (1834) wrote "This plant has not been found for some years", yet there is a further specimen in **BM** from the herbarium of E. Lees, labelled Lansdown, Bath, 15th June 1834. Marren (1999) and Green et al. (2000) give c. 1845 as the date of the last record. When T.B. Flower visited the site in 1852, he found all trace of it destroyed: the land drained and developed (White, 1912). This species is found in continental Europe; the site in Somerset may have represented the northern limit of its former range.