

***Potamogeton alpinus* Balb.**

Red Pondweed

Native

Least Concern

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Extinct

A rhizomatous aquatic perennial of still or flowing water, found in rivers, canals, streams, ditches, lakes and pools, in neutral or mildly acidic water less than 1.5m deep. In VC5, only recorded once, at Wembdon (ST23) by J.C. Collins (Murray, 1896) and not seen since. There have been three records in VC6, all over a century ago. Recorded in marsh ditches near Axbridge (ST45) by J.W. White (1881) and in the River Cary below Somerton (ST42 or 43) by J.G. Baker (Murray, 1896). A specimen (in **LTR**) collected by J.W. White in 1907 from a ditch on Nailsea Moor (ST47) was determined as *P. rufescens* (= *P. alpinus*) by Dandy and Taylor in 1975. This was the last record for Somerset. This species has been lost from many former sites, particularly in England, due to loss of ponds, lack of ditch maintenance or eutrophication. Most frequent in Scotland and the north of England, this species is now rare in southern England and absent from the south-west.