

***Carex davalliana* Sm.**

Davall's Sedge

Native

GB & England: 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 **BM**. A specimen in **CGE** 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.