

***Potamogeton gramineus* L.**

Various-leaved Pondweed

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Absent; VC6 Extinct

An aquatic perennial found in relatively shallow water in a variety of habitats, including ditches, streams, rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs, in acid to highly calcareous or occasionally brackish water. In Somerset, never recorded for VC5 and extinct for almost a century in VC6. Early records for Bath (Babington, 1834; Jenyns, 1867), Bristol (Swete, 1854) and Weston-super-Mare (St Brody, 1856) were dismissed by Murray (1896) as misnomers, but White (1912) considered that at least some of them may have been correct. White himself recorded this species in the disused canal near Paulton, in 1895 and in a peat ditch in the moor below Weston-in-Gordano in 1902 and 1904. He also gave records for Clapton Moor and for a ditch in Portishead marshes, collected by G. Brebner in 1897. This last specimen (in **LDS**) was later confirmed by J.E. Dandy, as were specimens from Tickenham Moor, collected by Miss I.M. Roper in 1914 and Weston-in-Gordano, whence the latest specimen seen by Dandy (in **LDS**) was collected by Miss Roper in 1918. Thus all confirmed records for this species in Somerset are from the Gordano Valley, excepting White's record for Paulton. This species has declined in England since 1930 due to loss of habitat. The Somerset sites were at the southwest edge of its former range.