

Saxifraga rosacea* Moench subsp. *rosacea

Irish Saxifrage

Alien

GB: Extinct in the Wild

Ireland: Rare

VC5 Absent; VC6 Extinct

A stoloniferous perennial herb forming mats on wet rocks beside mountain streams and on cliff ledges. Plants found in 1983 on an old railway line at Windsor Hill near Shepton Mallet by Mrs N. Vaughan-Davies on a Bristol Naturalists' Society meeting were determined as this species by Professor D.A. Webb and reported in *Watsonia* 17: 471. Willis (1987) explained that a specimen collected by Miss I.F. Gravestock was sent to Professor D.A. Webb who reported it of interest in having set seed as a naturalised plant, although apparently considered it a garden cultivar or perhaps hybrid. It was reported by Roe (1988) as a naturalised garden plant. Willis (1987) stated that Miss Gravestock had previously found a similar plant in a hedgerow above the railway tunnel short distance away in 1964/65. The plants could not be re-found in 1995/96 (Green *et al.*, 1997). As a native, this species is found at only a few sites in the west of Ireland, although it was formerly also known from Snowdonia, where it was last seen in 1978 (Ellis, 1983); it has occasionally occurred as an alien elsewhere.