

***Scrophularia umbrosa* Dumort.**

Green Figwort

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Least Concern

VC5 Absent; VC6 Extinct

A rhizomatous perennial of damp woodlands and streamsides. In Somerset only ever recorded twice. First found by S.T. Dunn in 1897 in an old quarry near Twerton, Bath, together with many alien species. Dunn (1897) attributed the arrival of these to the dumping of Turkish barley-siftings by a local maltster. White (1912) considered this species to be a casual alien, declaring that *Scrophularia umbrosa* was unknown as a native in Somerset. The only other record for this species was made in 1963 by R.M. Burton near Goblin Combe [ST461654], this site being mapped as native by Preston *et al.* (2002). Although treated as a native species, *Scrophularia umbrosa* was not recorded in Britain until 1840 and is apparently spreading, suggesting that it may in fact be a recent colonist (M.E. Braithwaite in Stewart *et al.*, 1994; A. Horsfall in Preston *et al.*, 2002). Sites in Somerset were at the southwestern edge of its distribution in Britain and Ireland.