

***Fumaria densiflora* DC.**

Dense-flowered Fumitory

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Rare; VC6 Extinct

An annual of cultivated and waste ground, usually on chalk, but also on other well-drained soils. In VC5, first found in Paul Street, Taunton in 1974 by Miss C.M. Andrews, det. M.G. Daker. In 1992 one or two patches were found on the side of a rubbish tip at Henstridge Airfield (then disused), in 1996 it was found as a garden weed at The Hitchens, Merriott, and in 1997 as a garden weed at Sherlands, Merriot (Green *et al.*, 1997), all three records made by Paul Green. In VC6 this species has only been found once, by Cecil and Noel Sandwith, as a casual at Bedminster in 1922 (Sandwith, 1932). There have been no subsequent records for VC6. *Fumaria densiflora* has been found at scattered sites in Britain and Ireland, but its main areas of distribution are on the chalk of southern and eastern England, in the far north-east of England and the east of Scotland, north to the Orkneys. There is a single recent record in Ireland. This species has declined in arable locations as a result of increased use of herbicides, poor competition and the move to autumn sowing of cereals. In Somerset it was always a rare casual, with no records for arable land; there have been very few records for the south-west, where soils are generally unsuitable for this species.

VC5

Merriott, The Hitchens	ST440125	1996	PRG	Garden weed
Merriott, Sherlands	ST41G	1997	PRG	Garden weed
Henstridge Airfield	ST755201	1992	PRG	One or two patches on side of rubbish tip



Fumaria densiflora at Ranscombe Farm, Kent (2016). Photo: HJC