

Carex divisa Hudson

Divided Sedge

Native

GB: Vulnerable

England: Least Concern

Section 41

GB Scarce

VC5 Lost; VC6 Rare

A rhizomatous perennial herb found in brackish marshy conditions near the sea. Always rare in Somerset, this species is now known at a single site. In VC5, only ever recorded at Minehead Warren, where it was last seen in 1891 (Roe, 1981). In VC6, White (1912) gave records for Kewstoke Bay (found in 1880 by T.F. Perkins), Burtle Moor (last recorded in 1867), and Shapwick Heath (found by Miss Peck in 1906), but wrote that he never saw this species in North Somerset. In 1911, however, Mrs C.I. Sandwith discovered it on alluvium by the River Avon, opposite Hotwells. White (1922) reported a large patch near the Avon in Ashton Fields, first noticed by H.J. Gibbons, explaining that the site had been enclosed for about ten years within a fence of the “White City” and thus protected from the riverside traffic. It was collected here by H.S. Thompson (specimen in **BM**) and J.W. White (specimen at **K**) in 1920. Miller (1933) reported this sedge “to have disappeared in all its stations except opposite Hotwells ... where it still thrives”; there have been no further records for this site. In 1953, Miss A. Miller found *Carex divisa* at the edge of a pool near Berrow church, and this is where it persists in a brackish marsh amongst sand dunes. In Britain and Ireland this species has been lost from many former sites, particularly in southwest England. It is now largely distributed in the south and east of England, north to the Humber estuary, with scattered other coastal populations. The Somerset site is one of the more westerly locations.

VC6

Berrow Dunes SSSI ST29195247 2014 HJC, FJR Many plants in flower along E edge of pond



Carex divisa at Berrow Dunes (2009). Photo: HJC.