

***Fumaria densiflora* DC.**

Dense-flowered Fumitory

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Lost; VC6 Lost

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 the 1990s, Paul Green recorded this species at three sites: one or two patches on the side of a rubbish tip at the disused Henstridge Airfield (ST755201) in 1992; as a garden weed at The Hitchens, Merriott (ST440125) in 1996; and as a garden weed at Sherlands, Merriot (ST41G) in 1997 (Green *et al.*, 1997). There have been no subsequent records for South Somerset. In VC6 this species has only been found once, by Cecil and Noel Sandwith, as a casual at Bedminster in 1922 (Sandwith, 1932). *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 are only two recent records 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.