

***Galium tricornutum* Dandy**

Corn Cleavers

Native

GB & England: Critically Endangered

Section 41

GB Rare

VC5 Lost; VC6 Lost

An annual weed of cereal crops on dry calcareous soils. Murray (1896) and White (1912) both regarded this species as “rather rare”, but each listed a number of sites, indicating that it was widely distributed. Murray added that it was “generally plentiful where it occurs”. By 1930 however, it had declined dramatically, probably the result of improved seed cleaning and intensification of crop production. In VC5 in the 1920s, W. Watson recorded it at Pitminster and Taunton in 1920 and nearby Cheddon in 1923, whilst W.D. Miller recorded it at Blue Anchor and Curry Mallet in 1924. The last record for VC5 was for Lyngford, Taunton where W. Watson saw this species in 1935. It dwindled similarly in VC6. H.S. Thompson collected specimens from an oat field above Woollard Hill, near Pensford in 1920; it was seen on a patch of sandy soil at Burnham and Highbridge in 1926 and near Charlton Mackrell and Kingweston in 1938. The last sighting in VC6 and Somerset was at Compton Dundon, by E.J. Hamlin in 1955. This Critically Endangered archaeophyte was formerly distributed throughout England, with a few sites in Wales and Scotland. It is now lost from most counties.