

***Vicia lutea* L.**

Yellow-vetch

Alien

GB: Near Threatened

England: Vulnerable

GB: Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Lost

A sprawling annual native to coastal scrubby grassland, cliffs and shingle, but also found as a casual or occasionally persistent alien inland. In Somerset recorded from seven locations, all in VC6. First recorded about the sandpits on the south side of Glastonbury Tor (Collinson, 1791); also seen by Dawson Turner in sandpits on the side of Glastonbury Tor and by Dr Beeke more plentifully and luxuriant lower down the hill in potato grounds (Turner & Dillwyn, 1805). The earliest specimen from this site (in **BM**) was collected in 1739; Murray (1896) reported it lost, last gathered around 1870. He regarded this species as native: Roe (1981) suggested that it might be an example of a subarctic species surviving inland long after the sea has retreated, and thus native at this site; however it was mapped as alien by Preston *et al.* (2002). At other sites in Somerset it has been found as a casual alien. Babington (1834) included a record by J.F. Davis on the roadside at Midford, which Jenyns (1867) explained was gathered by the Rev. B. Richardson and reported by him to Dr Davis. *Vicia lutea* was included by Dunn (1897) in a list of aliens in a quarry at Twerton, apparently established there for several years. White (1912) found a single plant in the station-yard at Portishead in 1900; it was found again in 1902, 1904 and 1907, and collected by him from that site in 1909, a specimen of which is in **BM**, mounted with another collected by E.S. Gregory in June 1902, from "near quarry behind (Leigh) fair Weston S. Mare". In 1912 a specimen (now at **CGE**) was gathered in a hay-field at Holcombe by Mrs. K. Coleman of Stratton-on-the-Fosse rectory: she had known it at that site for the last five years (Marshall, 1914). Some plants had mauve and white flowers and were attributed to "subvariety *violascens* Rouy". The last sighting in Somerset was by Mrs C.I. Sandwith at Ashton Gate in 1924, recorded as "var. *caerulea* Archang." (Sandwith, 1933). There have been no subsequent records for Somerset. The native distribution, around the coast of southern England and southern Scotland, is considered stable, but alien occurrences have declined (Preston *et al.*, 2002).