

***Chenopodium vulvaria* L.**

Stinking Goosefoot

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Endangered

Schedule 8

Section 41

GB Scarce

VC5 Lost; VC6 Lost

A foetid annual of enriched disturbed ground, formerly a ruderal of sites enriched with animal dung, but now largely restricted to coastal habitats enriched by sea-bird droppings. In VC5, only known from Minehead Warren, where it was found by H.W. Pugsley in 1910 (Marshall, 1914). In VC6 first recorded by Babington (1834) on waste ground in Bath. Babington (1839) included a record by T. Inman by the riverside below the gasworks in Bath: it was found here again by D. Fry in 1886, who reported it "almost exclusively close to the Gas Works, the stench from which harmonizes well with the unutterably fetid odour of the plant" (White, 1912). White himself saw it there in 1894 and 1896. There are three specimens in **BM** from Bath: one from near Bath collected in 1850 by T. Dutton; one from waste ground in Bath collected in 1881 by T.B. Flower and one from Bath collected in 1896 by E.G. Aldridge. Dunn (1897) found this species in an old quarry at Twerton. The last record for the Bath area (and Somerset) was a collection from Bathford by L.V. Lester-Garland in 1925 (specimen in **K**), although Miller (1933) wrote that it was "to be found at Bath Gas Works till two or three years ago". Murray (1896) also included records for Burnham, found by Miss Mayow, and about Brean and Berrow, found by T.B. Flower, who collected a specimen at Berrow Sands in 1849. It was found at Shapwick by W. Watson (Marshall, 1914). White (1912) recorded about a dozen plants on refuse in Portishead station-yard in 1906, and again each year until 1910, and Mrs Cecil Sandwith found it on a dust heap at Portishead in 1914. There have been no records for Somerset since Miller (1933) wrote that "it appears to be almost lost as a Somerset plant". This species had declined dramatically in Britain by 1930, probably as a result of declines in the use of horses and of dung as fertiliser. The only recent records are from coastal sites in Dorset, Hampshire and Suffolk and around the Thames Estuary, and from Glasgow.