

***Oxybasis urbica* (L.) S. Fuentes, Uotila & Borsch Upright Goosefoot**

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Critically Endangered

Section 41

GB: Rare

VC5 Lost; VC6 Lost

An annual of nutrient-rich disturbed and waste ground. In VC5 first found by E.S. Marshall in 1907, fairly plentiful in a farmyard at Kilve, recorded as *Chenopodium urbicum* L. var. *intermedium* Moq. (Marshall, 1914; specimen in **BM**). There have only been two further records for VC5, both made by Walter Watson near Taunton. In 1923 he found it beside Cheddon Road, Priorswood, at the north edge of Taunton (specimen in **TTN**) and in 1940 on arable land at Rowford, just north of Taunton. In VC6 Babington (1834) reported this species as frequent on waste and cultivated ground, yet Murray (1896) described it as very rare and wrote "I fear that most Somerset *C. urbicum* should be referred to *C. rubrum*". The only record he admitted was from Weston-super-Mare, a specimen collected by T.B. Flower, in Herb. Boswell. White (1912) added three more records for VC6, the earliest from Edington Burtle in 1836, in Herb. Clark, the other two from Bath. In 1892 D. Fry recorded several plants on house refuse brought from Bath and deposited by the Avon at Newton St. Loe. In 1893 A.E. Burr observed about half a dozen plants on neglected ground at Bath. In 1918 Walter Watson collected this species near Brean (**TTN**). The last record for VC6 was made in Twerton, Bath in 1925. This species declined dramatically in Britain during the twentieth century and is now only a rare casual.