

Crouch, H.J. (date accessed). *Somerset Rare Plant Register account: Polygonum oxyspermum subsp. raii*. Somerset Rare Plants Group, www.sometsrareplantsgroup.org.uk [Last amended 03-03-2021]

***Polygonum oxyspermum* C.A. Mey. & Bunge** **Ray's Knotgrass**
subsp. *raii* (Bab.) D.A. Webb & Chater

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Lost; VC6 Rare

A prostrate annual, biennial or short-lived perennial of beaches or other sandy areas near the sea. In VC5 first found by C.E. Salmon near Dunster, collected from there by E.S. Marshall in 1905; also found in sand at Steart Point, where it was abundant in 1907 (Marshall, 1914). In 1937 found by F.K. Makins on Stert Island (specimen in **K**), where it was last seen in 1992 by Di Maxwell, who found lots of plants in a sandy/gravelly area on the east side of the island: there have been no subsequent records for the vice-county. In VC6 Murray (1896) suggested that St Brody's record of *Polygonum maritimum* at Weston-super-Mare may have been this taxon. The first confirmed record was a specimen (in **K**) collected in 1886 by L.A.M. Riley and E.S. Marshall at Burnham. In 1906 found by E.S. Marshall in hollows amid the sand-hills a little south of Burnham (Marshall, 1914). Recorded by C.E. Moss between Berrow Church and Burnham Church on the very front of the dunes, and also near the little lighthouse at Burnham (White, 1912). Although Miller (1933) wrote that *P. raii* occurred on the coast between Burnham and Brean "in profusion", there have been few records, the last in 1980. The only recent records have been from Sand Bay, where this taxon was first found by A. Coles in 1986 (Green *et al.*, 2000). *Polygonum oxyspermum* subsp. *raii* is scattered around the coast of Britain and Ireland, occurrences fluctuating annually; it has always been rare in Somerset.

VC6					
Sand Bay (S)	SSSI	ST32886342	2014	HJC, FJR	1 smart plant at top of beach
Sand Bay (S)	SSSI	ST328635	2017	MAW	In a number of spots on the shingly part of beach
Sand Bay (S)	SSSI	ST328634	2017	MAW	In a number of spots on the shingly part of beach
Sand Bay	SSSI	ST331653	1998	DM	Several plants



Polygonum oxyspermum subsp. *raii* at Sand Bay (2014). Photo: HJC