

***Juncus subulatus* Forssk.**

Somerset Rush

Neophyte

VC5 Absent; VC6 Lost

A rhizomatous perennial of brackish marshes, native to the Mediterranean. In Somerset, formerly known at Berrow, where first noticed by A.J. Willis in 1957 as two large patches in a saltmarsh (Sandwith & Sandwith, 1959). It was later found that the patches could be seen on an aerial photograph taken in 1954 (FitzGerald, 1990). The date of arrival is unknown but was considered to be recent as the saltmarsh itself had only recently developed (Willis & Davies, 1960). By 1989 *Juncus subulatus* was observed to be declining due to expansion of *Phragmites*, although several large patches were still present (at ST293518) towards the north end of the reed bed (FitzGerald, 1990). The last record was made by Ian Green and members of the Wild Flower Society in 1998: this species is now considered lost due to succession, as the former saltmarsh has become a freshwater reedbed. In Somerset *Juncus subulatus* was at the northern edge of its range until found in 1983 in Grangemouth, Stirlingshire, where it did not persist. The mode of arrival in Somerset was unknown. Willis & Davies (1960) suggested that it may have arrived with shipping or birds – if the latter, it could be considered native. *Juncus subulatus* was included in the first two editions of the vascular plants red data book (Perring & Farrell, 1977, 1983) and is mentioned in the citation for Berrow Dunes SSSI, but is now considered to be a neophyte and thus no longer red-listed.