

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Narrow-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*)

Endangered

Formerly as far ranging as Scotland, now largely confined to southern and eastern England

Scarce in our area, it has experienced dramatic declines throughout the UK since the 1950s

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Nitrogen application; herbicides; modern competitive crop varieties; shift to autumn

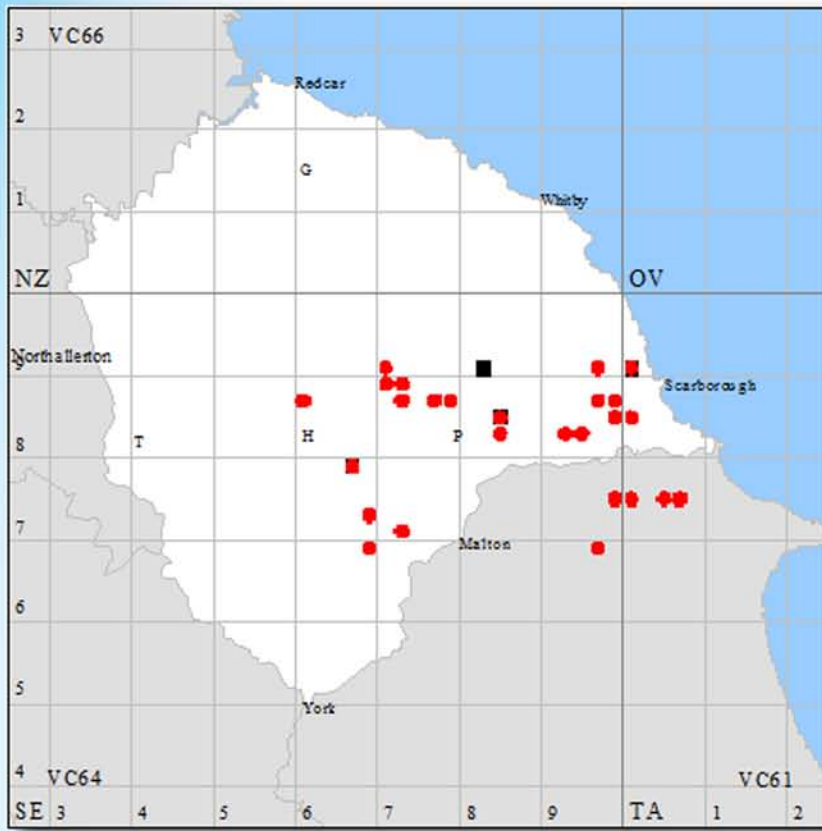
Our Narrow-fruited cornsalad experience...

Narrow-fruited cornsalad merits no mention in Nan Sykes' *Wild Plants and their Habitats in the North York Moors* - it may have been confused with Common cornsalad. It was probably present because it was mentioned in *The Natural History of the Scarborough District* as 'Uncommon; Thornton-le-Dale 1915; Yedmandale, Ayton, Forge Valley 1914.' After that there are no further records until the book was published in 1953. Eva Crackles in *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire* lists it as 'infrequent, most records for the Wolds.'

Classed as Nationally Endangered, Narrow-fruited cornsalad started turning up in our surveys in about 2003, when it was found growing in some quantity in our Mushroom Field, Spaunton, and subsequently in the West Ayton area – corroborating the earlier Scarborough Naturalists records. All the above sites are on soil with a strong base of limestone – confirmed by 21 other local records, almost all on the limestone that lays in a band from Scarborough to about Helmsley.

The Cornfield Flowers Project records show that Narrow-fruited cornsalad is more frequent than Common cornsalad, being found on more than a quarter of our surveys, but nearly always on calcareous soils - very large numbers of plants were found in a recent survey at Weaverthorpe, on chalk.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Narrow-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*)



Key

● Post-2000 records (inc. CFP introductions)

■ Pre-2000 records

G: Guisborough T: Thirsk

H: Helmsley P: Pickering

Data: BSBI, 2014 Maps produced by MapMate®

Key Facts - Narrow-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*)

- Preference for chalk-based soils
- Predominantly spring germinating
- Has a pale-pink tinge to flowers and very erect growing habit
- Separated from other cornsalads by its narrow seeds

UK Conservation Designations

The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (2006) designates all UK wildflowers by their rarity, and hence conservation importance, in the following order:

Extinct → Extinct in the wild → Critically Endangered → Endangered
 Vulnerable → Near Threatened → Least Concern

The Cornfield Flowers Project is spearheaded by the Carstairs Countryside Trust, Ryedale Folk Museum, North Yorkshire Moors Association and North York Moors National Park Authority. It has a demonstration field and nursery at Ryedale Folk Museum and a working arable field at Silpho, near Scarborough. It is supported by the North York Moors National Park Sustainable Development Fund, North York Moors Coast & Hills LEADER Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

