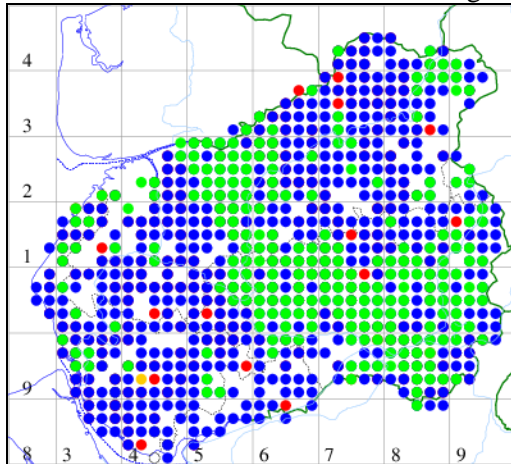


LEPTOSPORANGIATE FERNS
TRUE FERNS

ASPLENIACEAE Spleenwort family

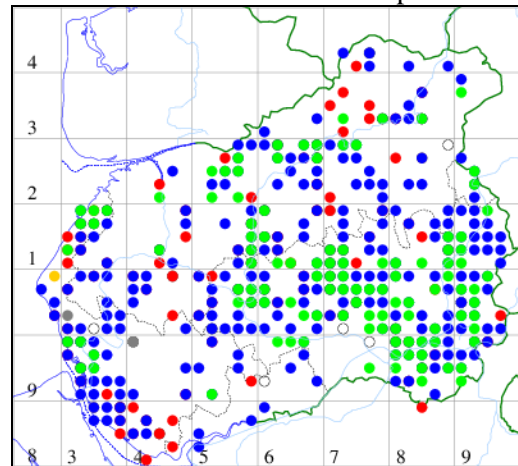
Asplenium scolopendrium L.
Hart's-tongue



Harrock Hill DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread and generally common.
Habitat: Woods (especially in clough-woodland), wooded riverbanks and stream banks; on walls, bridges and viaducts.
Comments: There has been a considerable increase in the abundance of this species since the Clean Air Act, especially on walls in the cities and towns.

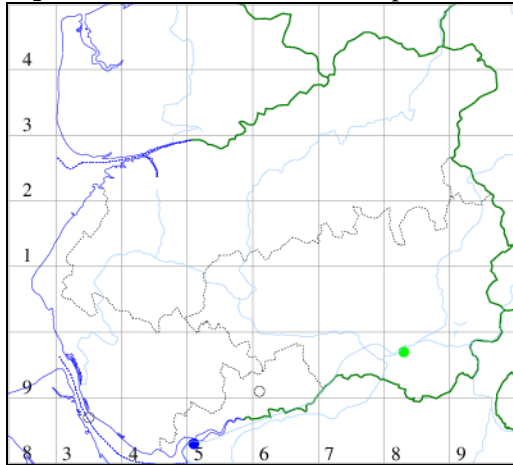
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum L.
Black Spleenwort



Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, now widespread.
Habitat: Sandstone walls, brick walls, railway bridges, canal stonework, shaded rocks and limestone outcrops.
Comments: Formerly local but has increased greatly in recent times in the joints of mortared walls, buildings and bridges especially to the east of Manchester. A record from Cadshaw Valley (SD71E, CA Howe & Rev CE Shaw, 1956, det. Rev. EA Elliot) has been found to be a variety of this species and not to be *Asplenium obovatum* as indicated in Atlas 2000 (per. comm. Rev CE Shaw & P Jepson).

Asplenium marinum L. Sea Spleenwort



Widnes DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England, SCINWE; Rare (2), above the tidal River Mersey beneath the Runcorn and Widnes Bridge (SJ5183, DP & J Earl & SP Toone, 2002) and since found a considerably distance inland at Castlefield, Manchester (SJ8397, J Richardson, 2021).

Former distribution: Known to Dr Bostock at The Dingle, Liverpool (SJ3586) with an 1859 specimen at MANCH and still occurring sparingly in rock crevices (WG Travis, 1904-1908) but subsequently lost to the construction of a jetty for oil tankers.

Inland at Hulme sandstone quarry near Winwick (SJ6091, Withering (1801), Moore (1851) & as var. *crenatum* Moore 1855) this site being destroyed long since (Travis's Manuscript).

Habitat: Bunter sandstone rocks and walls that are usually but not always subject to salt spray drift.

Comments: Plants should be looked for on sandstone rocks and retaining walls in the tidal reaches of the river estuaries.

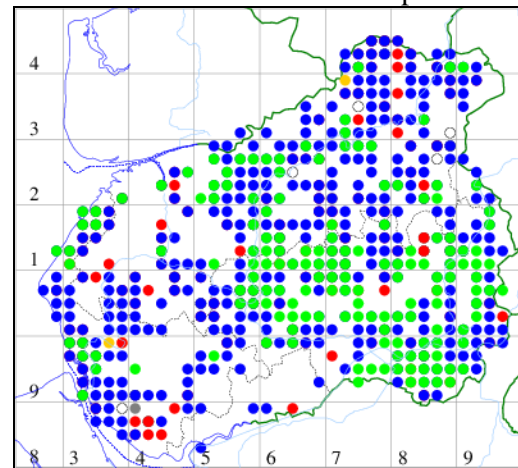
Asplenium trichomanes L. ssp. *trichomanes*

Maidenhair Spleenwort

Status & distribution: Native, Nationally Scarce, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Endangered at the vice-county level only being known to occur at Cliviger (SD82Y, P Jepson, 2005).

Asplenium trichomanes L. ssp. *quadrivalens* D. Meyer

Maidenhair Spleenwort



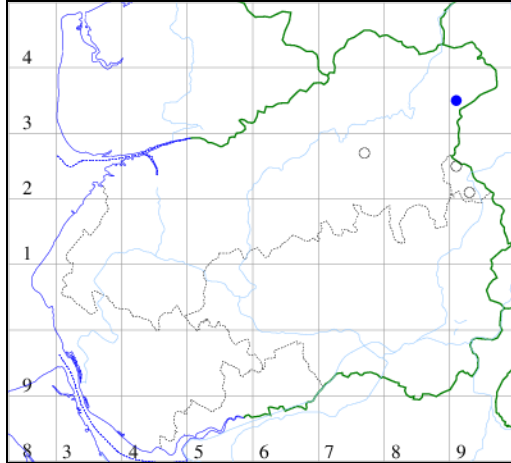
Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread, relatively common and increasing.

Habitat: Mortared walls, damp shaded rocks especially on calcareous substrate.

Comments: A significant increase in frequency since Savidge *et al* (1963). The var. *incisum* Moore was recorded for Cant Clough (SD83V, S Gibson, *Phytologist* 1 p. 478).

Asplenium viride Huds. Green Spleenwort



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Endangered at the vice-county level occurring at a single location in the Thursden Valley (SD93C, P Jepson, 2008), the first record since 1915. A record from Healey Dell (SD8715, K Cowley, 2011) requires confirmation.

Former distribution: Warmden Clough, Accrington (SD72T); “very sparingly in the Burnley district” (CR Richings, c. 1915); Ramsden Clough, Walsden (SD92F); Tower Clough, near Portsmouth (SD92C).

Habitat: On moist shaded calcareous rocks in cloughs in the hills; plants may have occurred on shale outcrops.

Comments: P Jepson recalls that plants may have once occurred on mineral spoil in Sheddon Clough. Plants should be looked for where limestone materials are brought near the surface due to mineral extraction.



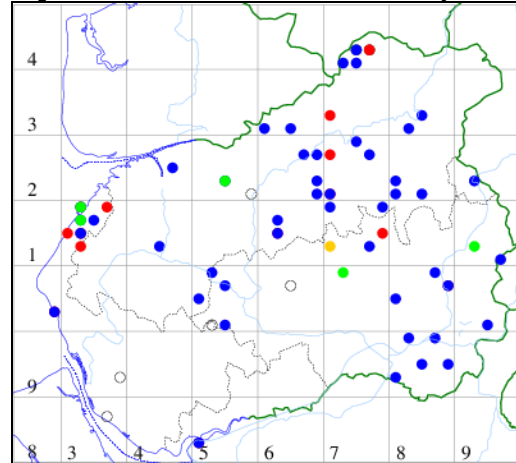
Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread and locally common.

Habitat: Limestone rocks and walls, mortared joints of gritstone and brick walls and bridges.

Comments: Increasing in frequency particularly in urban areas and frequently associated with *A. adiantum-nigrum* on railway bridges.

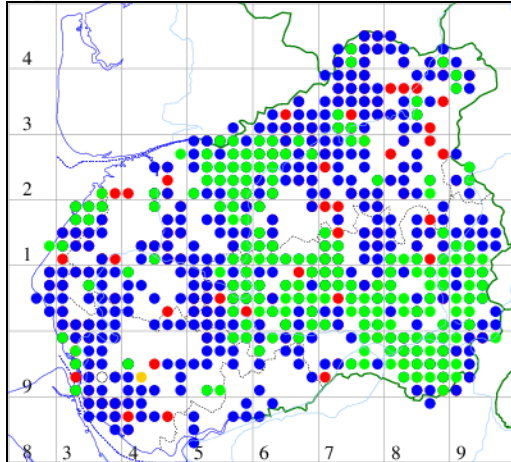
Asplenium ceterach L. Rustyback



Farington DP Earl 2013

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widely distributed but seldom

Asplenium ruta-muraria L. Wall-rue



common, occasional to locally frequent in some districts such as Southport.

Habitat: Brick and grit-stone walls, limestone walls and rocks.

Comments: Appears to be increasing, although populations can soon be lost owing to the restoration of old walls by pointing and the use of fern-killer.