

VIOLACEAE

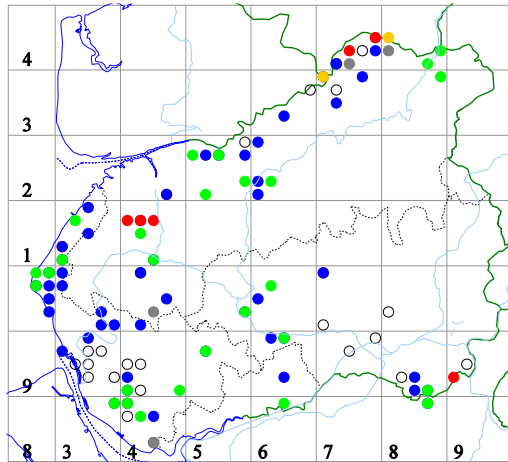
Violet family

Section 1 VIOLA

Violets

Viola odorata L.

Sweet Violet



Bretherton DP Earl 2008



Preston Junction DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widely distributed but local, chiefly as an escape from cultivation.

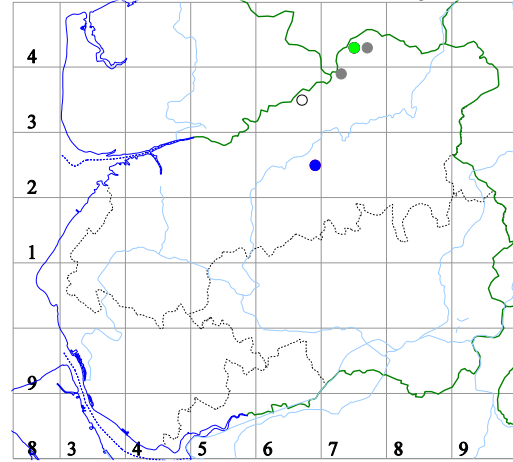
Habitat: Hedgebanks, woodland borders and sand-dunes, usually near habitation.

Comments: Thought to be native at some historic locations in the past but clearly an obvious escape at most modern-day localities. Note the decline from the

former sites in Merseyside and Greater Manchester locations.

Viola hirta L.

Hairy Violet



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Rare (2) as a feature of the limestone district where now probably limited to the Crosshill and Salthill quarries, Clitheroe (SD74L); established as a colonist at Eccleshill Old Ironworks, Darwen (SD62X, P Jepson, 1997 onwards).

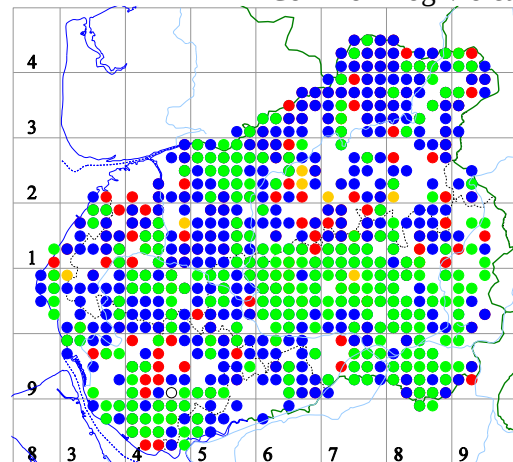
Former distribution: Sale Wheel (SD63S, *Flora of Stoneyhurst* 1891); lane from Horrocksford Quarry to Chatburn (SD74R, V Gordon, 1955, LIV); Ribble bank, Mitton (SD73J, V Gordon, 1963).

Habitat: In limestone grassland, scrub and wood borders and a colonist of ironworks slag.

Comments: Populations have declined significantly in the Ribble Valley.

Viola riviniana Reichb.

Common Dog-violet





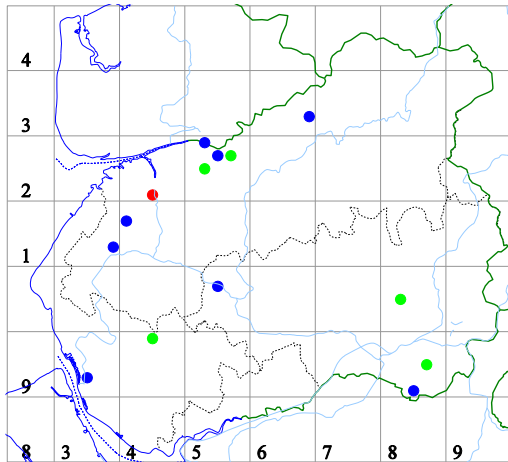
Harrock Hill DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: In woods, hedge banks and grasslands especially on banks with short turf in the uplands; increasing as a pavement weed escaping from gardens and frequently established in lawns.

Comments: Usually rare on the sand-dunes being replaced by *V. canina*.

Viola x bavarica* Schrank = *V. riviniana* x *V. reichenbachiana



St Pauls, Farington DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Axiophyte, possibly scarce with putative hybrids being recorded from several

locations including the banks of the River Douglas, Tarleton (SD42L, 1995); a plantation at Mere Brow (SD41D, 2004); in a churchyard by Parsonage Lane, Didsbury (SJ89K, Manchester Field Club, 2005).

Habitat: Woods, woodland borders and shaded banks.

Comments: This hybrid may be frequent where the parents grow together and could be more widespread than *V.*

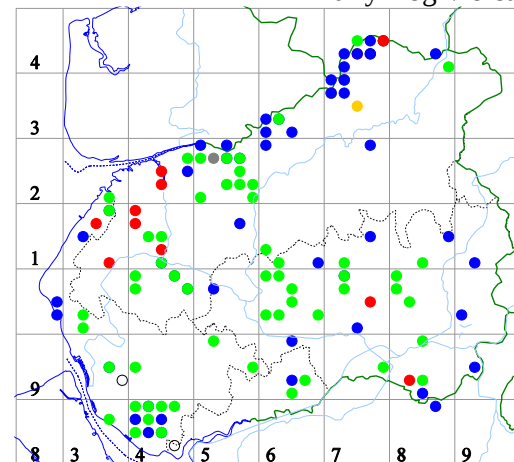
reichenbachiana. Some garden escapes in suburban areas may be within the range of variation of this hybrid.

Viola x intersita* Beck = *V. riviniana* x *V. canina

Status & former distribution: Native, recorded from Oakvale, Liverpool (SJ39V, H Shepherd, 1843, *Botanical Exchange Club Report* 1920).

Comments: This hybrid should be looked for in the sand-dune system.

***Viola reichenbachiana* Jord. ex Boreau**
Early Dog-violet



Childwall DP Earl 2010

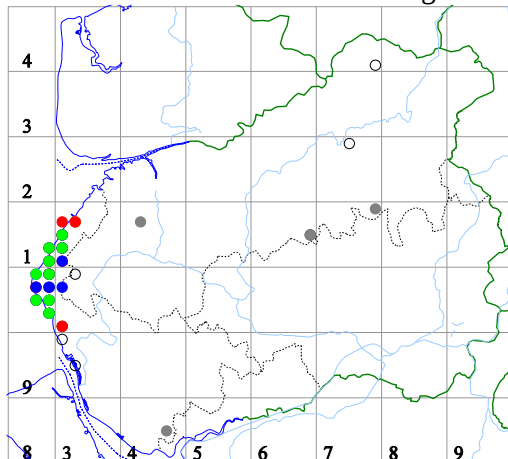
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England),

Axiophyte; most frequent in woods along and in the Ribble Valley, increasingly escaping from cultivation from gardens in suburban areas.

Habitat: Woodlands and hedge banks on basic soils as a native plant; in pavements and lawns as a garden escape.

Viola canina* L. ssp. *canina

Heath Dog-violet



Sefton Coast J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Native, **Vulnerable (Red List for England)**; SCINWE, Axiophyte, locally common along the coast from Hightown to Southport.

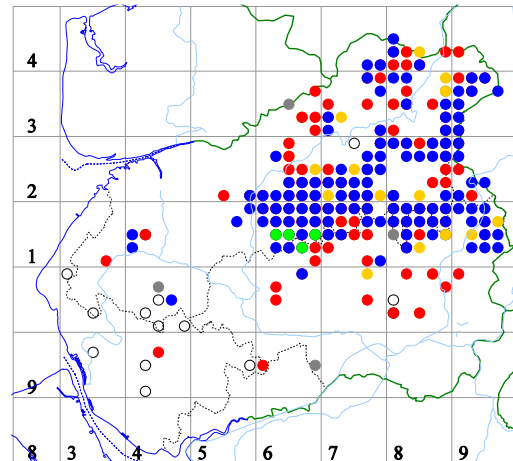
Former distribution: Crosby & Bootle (SJ39); Halewood (SJ48, V Gordon, 1956, LIV); Six Fields, Martin Mere (SD41I, FW Holder, 1931 & 1955, LIV); Risley Moss (SJ69Q, n.d.) with imprecise records for the Manchester (SJ89, 1800, LIV) and Blackburn (SD62) areas.

Habitat: Sand-dunes and formerly on inland heaths and moors.

Comments: Assumed to be lost from the former inland localities with recent inland records being classed as dubious, probably being errors for *V. riviniana*.

Viola palustris* L. ssp. *palustris

Marsh Violet



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Axiophyte, frequent in the hill districts, but now very local indeed in the lowland areas.

Habitat: Marshes, wet flushes, bogs and wet-wooded cloughs.

Comments: Thought to have been a frequent species on the lowland mosslands prior to drainage, peat extraction and farming.

Section 2 MELANIUM

Pansies

***Viola cornuta* L.**

Horned Violet

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; one plant by cottages, Walker Fold (SD6712, Manchester Field Club, 2010).

Former distribution: Manchester (SJ89, J Shepherd, 1800, LIV).

Habitat: Grassy embankment.

Comments: Native to the Pyrenees.

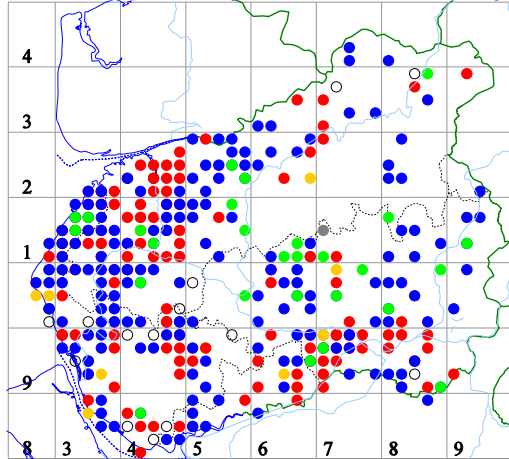
[*Viola lutea* Hudson Mountain Pansy]

Status & former distribution: Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England); SCINWE. There have been several dubious records for this species including a literature reference for Longworth Road, near Bolton (SD6716 to SD7014, *Greenlees & Holden* 1920).

Habitat: Assumed to be recorded from a moorland roadside.

Comments: It has been suggested (A & N Bamforth) that historic records may relate to casual introductions associated with the application of lime to pastures. Another possibility is the occurrence of upland records of *V. tricolor*.]

Viola tricolor* L. ssp. *tricolor Wild Pansy



Bold Heath DP Earl 2009



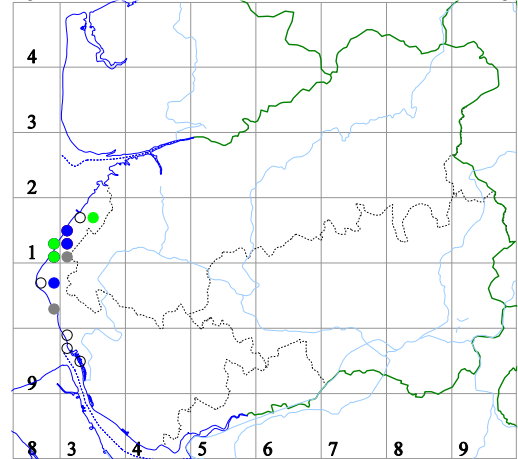
Southport DP Earl 2008

Distribution: Native, [Near Threatened \(Red List for England\)](#); Axiophyte, frequent in the west and to the east of Warrington as an arable weed, generally a garden escape elsewhere.

Habitat: Arable fields, waste ground, tips and pavements.

Comments: Less common than *V. arvensis* in the arable habitat and declining; cultivars and horticultural hybrid derivatives are increasingly found as escapes from gardens in urban areas.

***Viola tricolor* L. ssp. *curtsii* (E. Forst.)**
Syme Seaside Pansy



Ainsdale DP Earl 2008



Ainsdale Lido PS Gateley 2010

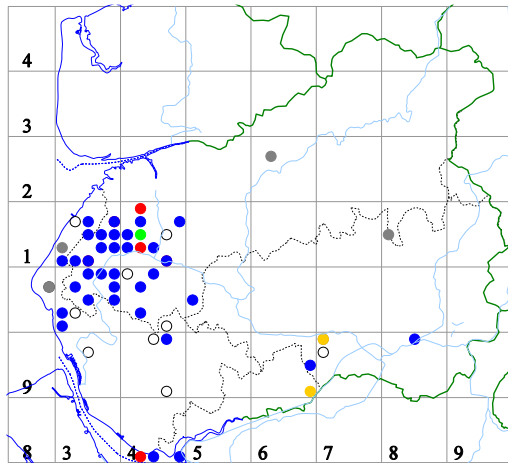
Status & distribution: Native, [Near Threatened \(Red List for England\)](#); SCINWE, Scarce (5), occasional between Freshfield and Birkdale.

Former distribution: Once more widespread along the coast from Bootle to Southport.

Habitat: Sand-dunes.

Comments: A record from Simonswood Moss (SJ49P, JA Wheldon, 1907, LIV) seems dubious and was perhaps within the range of *Viola tricolor* ssp. *tricolor*.

Viola x contempta* Jord. = *V. tricolor* x *V. arvensis



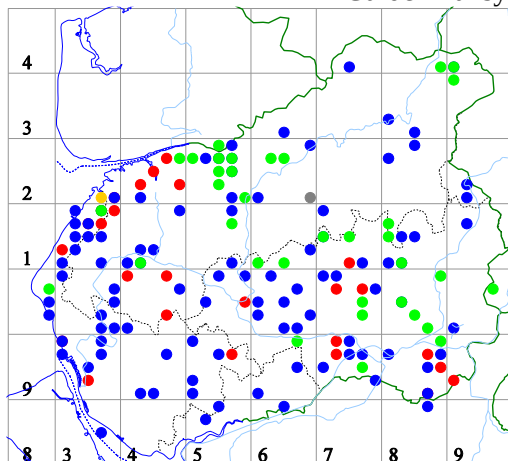
Hightown DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Native, Axiophyte; frequent in the arable areas of the West Lancashire district, rare elsewhere but probably overlooked.

Habitat: Arable fields and disturbed ground.

Comments: Plants usually occur where the two parent species grow or once grew together.

***Viola x wittrockiana* Gams ex Kappert**
Garden Pansy



Otterspool DP Earl 2008

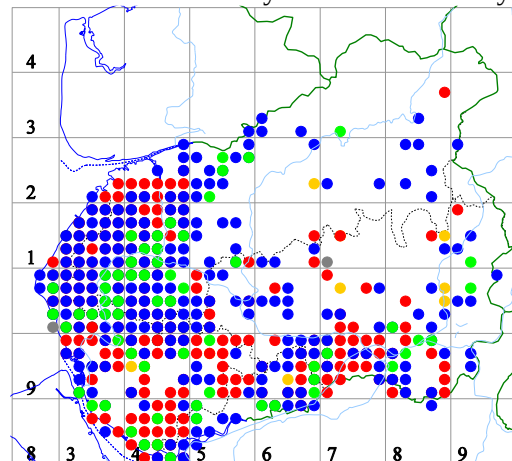
Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; widespread and frequent and can persist for a few years.

Earliest record traced: In a stack yard, Churchtown (SD31U, FW Holder, 1929, LIV).

Habitat: Pavements, disturbed ground and tips.

Comments: Of horticultural origin.

***Viola arvensis* Murray** Field Pansy



Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); Axiophyte, widespread at lower altitudes, locally common in the arable

areas, occasional and generally casual elsewhere.

Habitat: Arable fields and waste ground.

Comments: Several varieties have been recorded in the past.