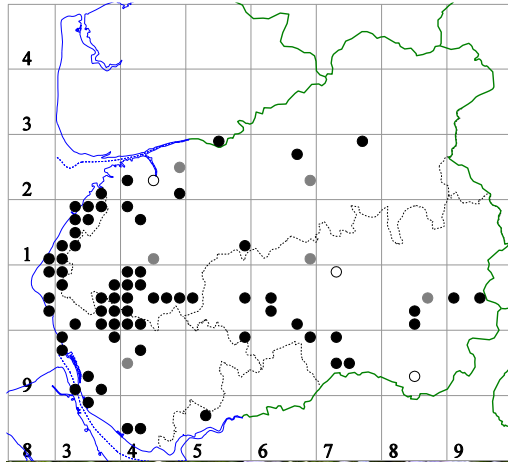


RUBIACEAE

Bedstraw family

Sherardia arvensis L.

Field Madder



Waterloo S Cross 2024



Blackburn DP Earl 2023

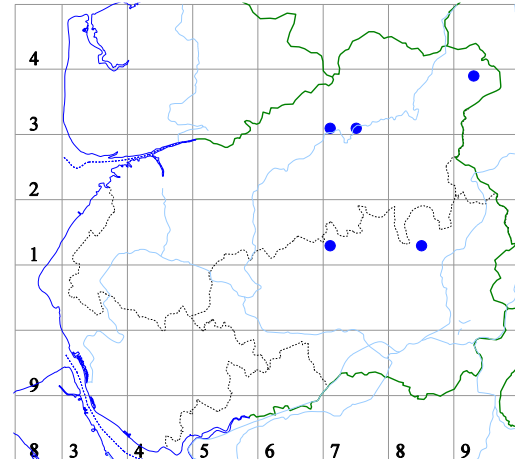
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; occasional to locally frequent in the lowlands especially on sandy soils.

Habitat: Sand-dunes, short turf, lawns and sandy arable field margins.

Comments: Increasing in frequency as a lawn weed. A var. *ovata* was recorded from Lostock (*Botanical Exchange Club Report* 1929 p. 118).

Phuopsis stylosa (Griseb.) J.D. Hook.

Caucasian Crosswort



Wycoller DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; first observed escaping from cultivation by a visitor centre, Wycoller (SD9339, 2008) where plants are spreading along the roadside, Norden (SD8513, 2012) & Sharples (SD7112, 2018) DP Earl; Clayton-le-Moors (SD7530, 2018) & Close Brow Quarry (SD7131, 2019) G Skelcher.

Habitat: Roadside verges and disused quarries.

Comments: Native to Caucasus and Iran.

Asperula cyanchica L. Squinancywort

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); Possibly extinct with two plants in a limestone quarry, Knucknowles, Clitheroe (SD74L, T Hargreaves, 1903); assumed casual at Tockholes (SD62L, *Darwen Flora* 1934) and Hulton (SD60X, Rev CE Shaw, 1957).

Comments: Attempts to find any plants at the Clitheroe locality have been unproductive.

***Asperula arvensis* L.** Blue Woodruff

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; abundant near Eccleston (SJ49X, Dickinson 1851); Brinscall (SD62F, GH Hopley, 1908); Spring Hollow, Stalybridge (SJ99U, F Collier, 1914); Goal fields, Bootle (SJ39H, JD Massey & WG Travis, 1930); Plantation Mill Tip (SD72U, A Hitchon, 1960).

Habitat: Waste ground and rubbish tips.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

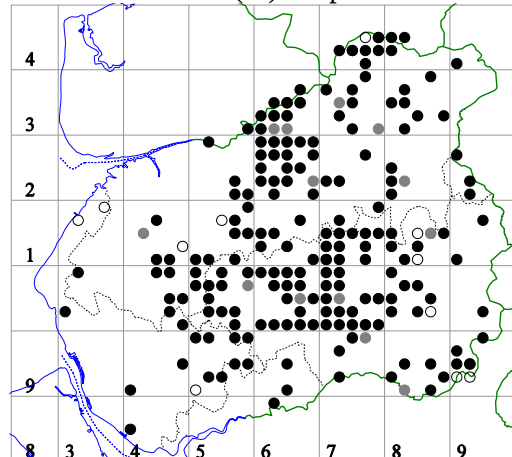
***Asperula orientalis* Boiss. & Hohen.**

Oriente Woodruff

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Gale Clough and Holmes Clough (SD6914, T Greenlees, 1937, BON).

Comments: Native to SW Asia.

***Galium odoratum* (L.) Scop.** Woodruff



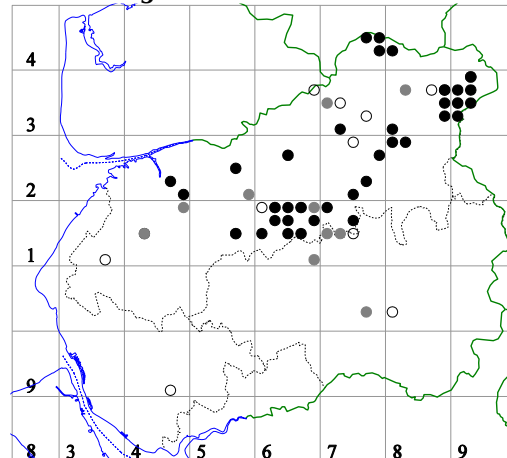
Blackburn DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; locally common along wooded sections of the river valleys as a native plant, frequent elsewhere as a garden escape.

Habitat: Old woodlands especially on clay soils; widely established on shaded

banks and along old railway lines near to habitation.

***Galium uliginosum* L.** Fen Bedstraw

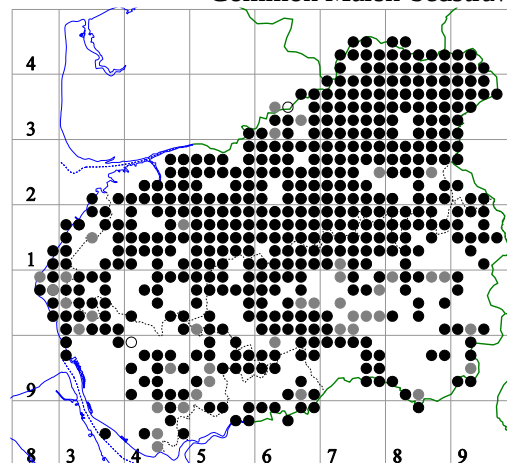


Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; locally common in the hill districts, rare in lowland districts.

Habitat: Fens, base-rich flushes and flushed grassland.

***Galium palustre* L.**

Common Marsh-bedstraw



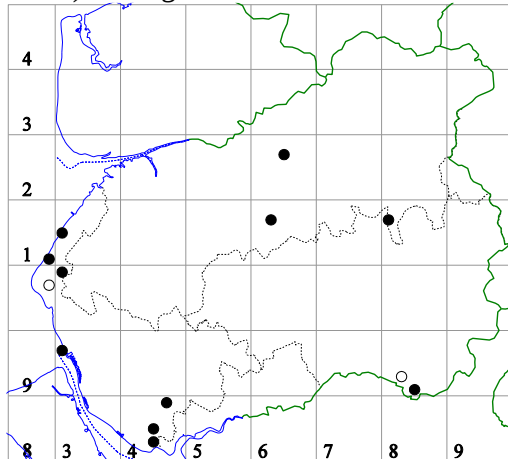
Birkdale DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Wet meadows, flushes, canal margins, pond margins and dune-slacks.

Comments: *Galium palustre* L. ssp. *palustre* is the widespread form.

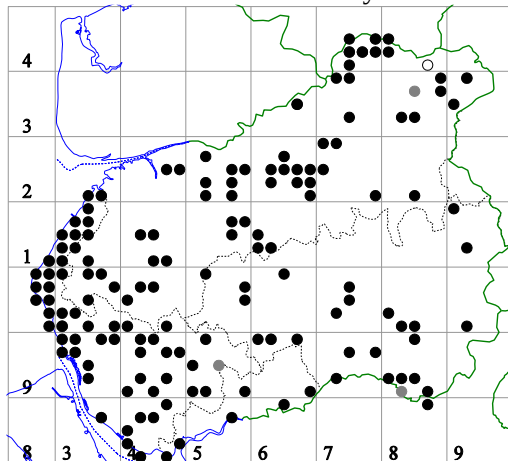
Galium palustre L. ssp. *elongatum* (C. Presl.) Arcang.



Status & distribution: Native, Axiophyte; occasional along the coast and in the lowlands, scarce elsewhere but probably under-recorded.

Habitat: Dune slacks, damp meadows; stream, river and canal sides.

Galium verum L. Lady's Bedstraw



Hightown DP Earl 2008

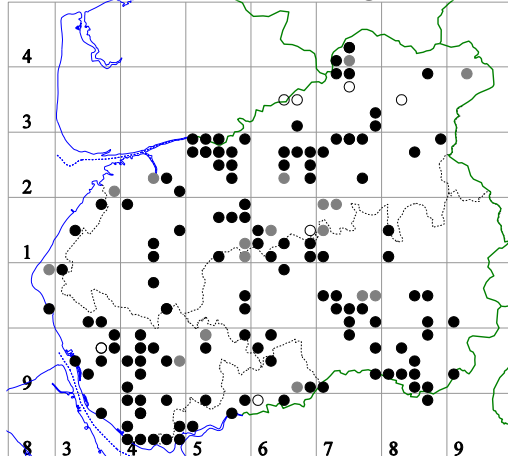


Formby S Hartnett 2024

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; common along the coast, frequent on the limestone, increasingly common and widespread as a component of sown wildflower grasslands such as along the M65.

Habitat: Sand-dunes, limestone grasslands; industrial spoil heaps, disused railway lines and reclaimed sites sown with wildflower grassland seed mixture.

***Galium album* Mill.** Hedge Bedstraw



Preston Junction DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; now widespread at lower altitudes.

Habitat: Grassland, roadsides, railway banks, reclaimed spoil heaps and waste ground.

Comments: Increasing via the sowing of wildflower seed mixtures and rapidly increasing along the embankments of the M6 & M61.

***Galium sternerii* Ehrend.**

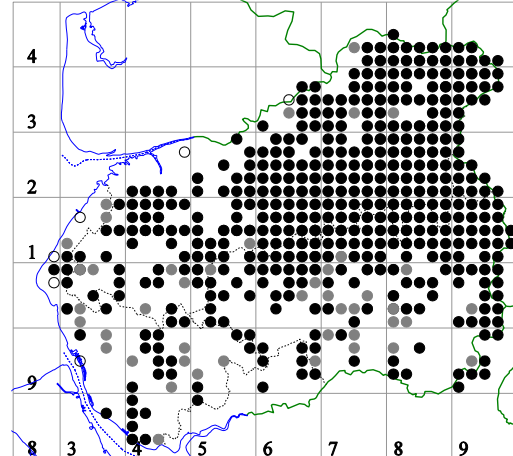
Limestone Bedstraw

Status & distribution: Native, **Nationally Uncommon**, Least Concern (Red List for England), Rare (2); Fairy Hills, Downham (SD74X); Worsaw Hill (SD74R & SD74W).

Former distribution: Plants determined as this species were found on the hushings at Cant Clough (SD93A, SJ Wynne, 1987) and should be looked for at this location.

Habitat: Limestone grassland.

***Galium saxatile* L.** Heath Bedstraw



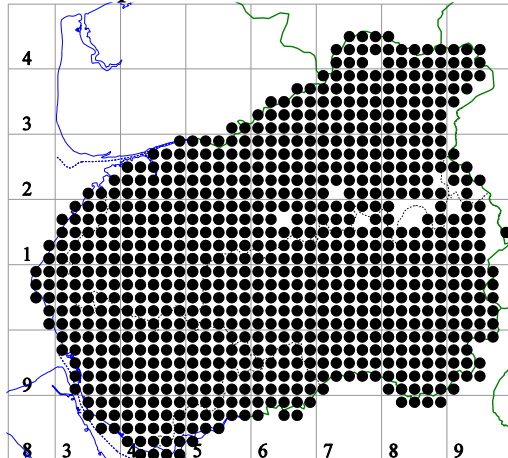
Freshfield DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common in the hill districts, occasional to locally frequent in the lowlands.

Habitat: Heaths, moorlands and acid grasslands; frequent in churchyard lawns at lower altitudes.

Galium aparine L.

Cleavers



Woolton SJ McWilliam 2025



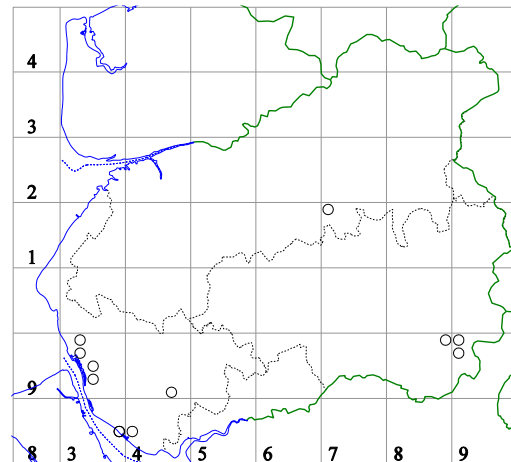
Burscough PS Gateley 2024

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); common at low to mid-altitudes but absent from the highest ground.

Habitat: Woodland borders, hedgebanks, rank grassland and waste ground.

Galium tricornutum Dandy

Corn Cleavers



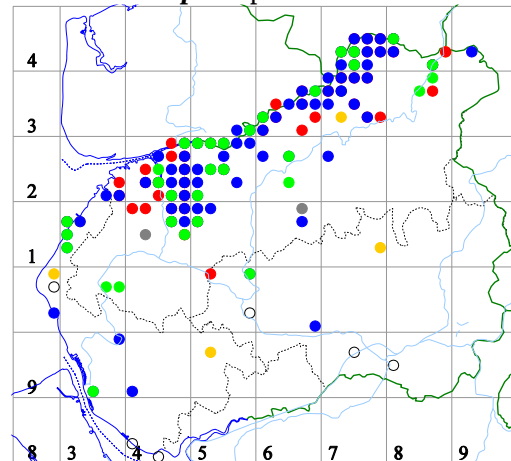
Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Nationally Rare, Critically Endangered (Red List for England); once an occasional casual.

Last record traced: Ashton Tip (SJ99E, Rev CE Shaw, 1966).

Habitat: Railway sidings, ballast, disturbed ground and tips.

Cruciata laevipes Opiz

Crosswort



Read DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, [Near Threatened \(Red List for England\)](#),
Axiophyte; locally common in the Ribble Valley catchment; a recent arrival to the coast between Birkdale and Altcar; scarce elsewhere but increasing as an ingredient in wildflower mixtures.

Habitat: Road verges, hedgebanks, woodland margins, field borders; the strandline and frontal sand-dunes.

Comments: A record for *G. boreale* from Rivington (SD61, *Greenlees & Holden* 1920) could be an error for this species or perhaps *G. boreale* may have been in cultivation at Rivington Gardens.