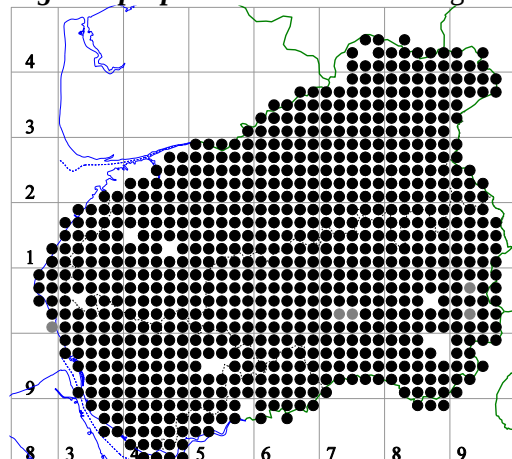


VERONICACEAE Speedwell family

Digitalis purpurea L. Foxglove



Much Hoole DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Woods, hedgerows, banks, upland cloughs and gritstone quarries especially on acid soils; frequent nearby gardens and as a garden weed.

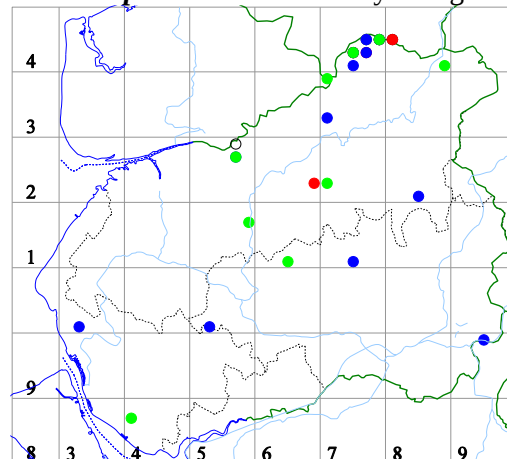
Digitalis lutea L. Straw Foxglove

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; one plant in flower near entrance to RSPB bird-hide, Marshside (SD32Q, G Clarkson, 2007).

Habitat: Disturbed ground.

Comments: Native to western mainland Europe

Erinus alpinus L. Fairy Floxglove



Clitheroe DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; frequent in the Clitheroe area; scarce elsewhere at Darwen (SD6822, P Jepson, 1995); Billinge (SD50F, EM Stephenson, 2002); Cowpe (SD8420, DP & J Earl & SP Toone, 2003); Crosby Hall (SD3201, RF Goodchild, 2009); York (SD7133, 2011); Ash Grove, Ashton-under-Lyne (SJ9599, 2012) & Bamber Bridge (SD5626, 2016) DP & J Earl.

Habitat: Generally semi-established on garden walls.

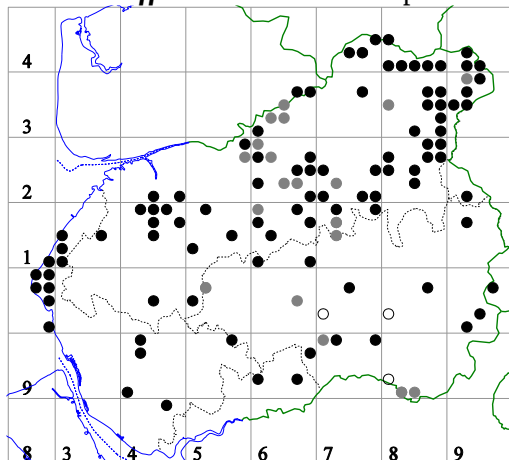
Earliest record traced: On a wall at Dowham village (SD74X, Stocks, Law & Co., 1880, MANCH).

Comments: Native to the mountain regions of south-western Europe.

Veronica L.

Subgenus 1 - *VERONICA*

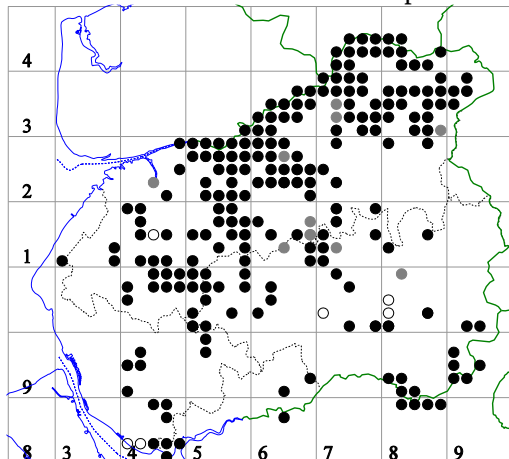
Veronica officinalis L. Heath Speedwell



Freshfield DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Native, Near Threatened (Red List for England), Axiophyte; locally common to frequent in the hill districts, along the coast and on the lowland mosslands, occasional elsewhere.
Habitat: Heaths, acid grassland, cloughs, pastures, sand-dunes and woodland rides.

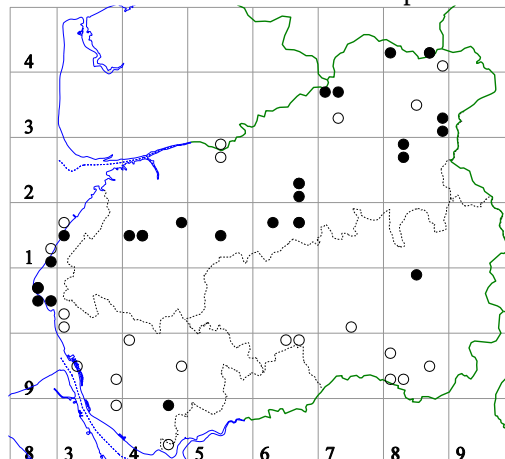
Veronica montana L. Wood Speedwell



Martholme DP Earl 2006

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; most frequent in well-wooded areas, particularly along the river valleys.
Habitat: Woods and woodland rides, especially on clay and damp soils by streams; flushed woodland in the uplands.

Veronica scutellata L. Marsh Speedwell

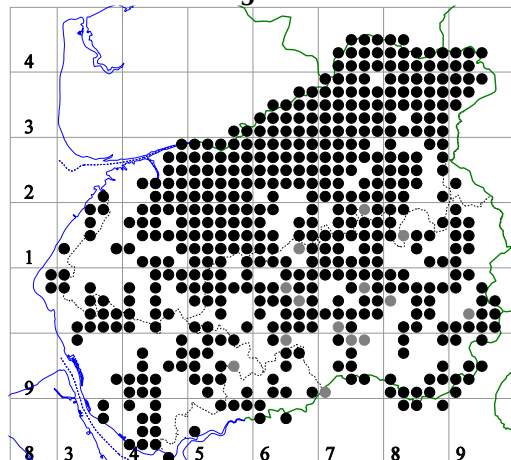


Formby M Knowles 2008

Status & distribution: Native, **Near Threatened** (Red List for England), Axiophyte; occasional along the coast, rare inland in the lowland areas, locally frequent in the hill districts.
Habitat: Dune-slacks, pond margins and draw-down zones of reservoirs.

Subgenus 2 - BECCABUNGA (Hill)
Martinez-Ortega, Albach & M.A. Fisch.

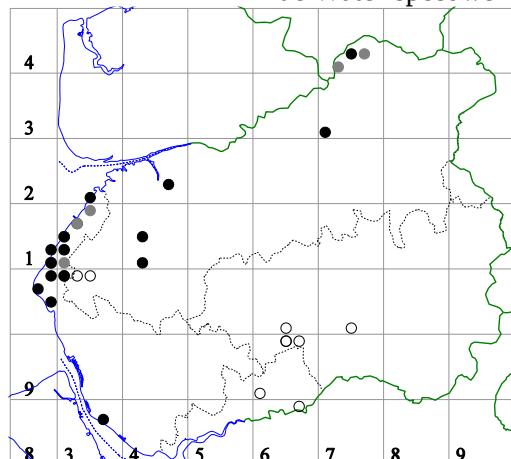
Veronica beccabunga L. Brooklime



White Coppice DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread, most frequent inland, particularly in the dairy and cattle and sheep farming areas.
Habitat: Ponds, ditches, streamsides, riversides, field drains and muddy fields margins.

Veronica anagallis-aquatica L. Blue Water-speedwell



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; occasional to locally frequent along the coastal fringe, scarce inland.

Habitat: Dune-slacks, pond margins and ditches near the sea.

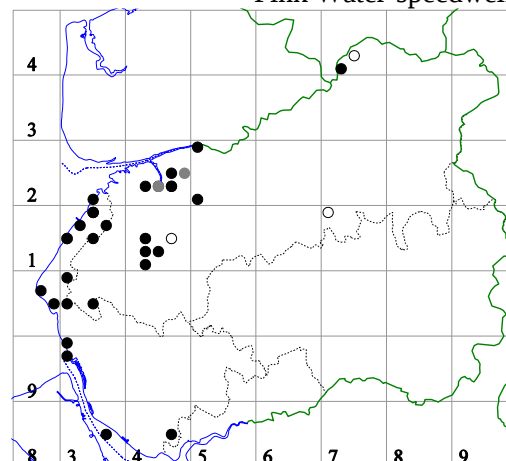
Comments: This species appears to have declined from the former locations between Warrington and Worsley.

Veronica x *lackschewitzii* J.B. Keller = *V. anagallis-aquatica* x *V. catenata*

Status & former distribution: Native, Extinct; Ainsdale Beach (SD21W, GE Hunt, K, 1869, det. CDP) and later by (NG Marchant, 1968); Formby (SD20T, Anon, 1926, LIV, det. CD Preston); Freshfield (SD20Z, H Ball & FA Lees, 1912, BM).

Habitat: Damp sandy ground along the coast.

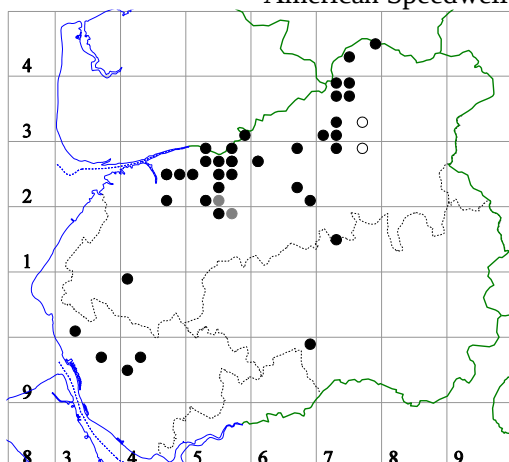
Veronica catenata Pennell Pink Water-speedwell



Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; an occasional species of the western lowlands with an isolated population at Primrose Bridge Lodge, Clitheroe (SD7340, MP Wilcox, 2009).
Habitat: Dune-slacks, damp pastures, ponds and ditches.

***Veronica peregrina* L.**

American Speedwell



Croxteth Country Park S Hartnett 2024



Penwortham DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; long known from the Preston area and now quite widely established in the Ribble catchment; scarce elsewhere at Ormskirk and about Liverpool; a single plant at Bedford Cemetery, Leigh (SJ6899, DP Earl & P Bowdler, 2018).

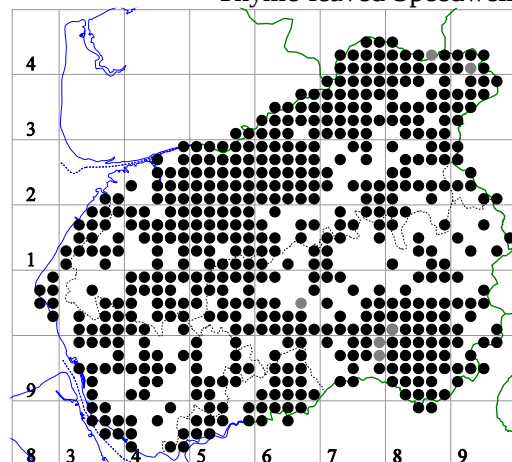
Earliest recorded traced: Garden weed at Altham (SD73R, Miss Becker, *Fl. Preston* 1865).

Habitat: Garden weed, railway chippings, colonist of bare open ground especially on clay soils where there is little competition.

Comments: Native to North America.

Veronica serpyllifolia* L. ssp. *serpyllifolia

Thyme-leaved Speedwell



Hesketh Park DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Lawns, damp grasslands and woodland rides, particularly on clay soils.

***Veronica repens* Clarion ex DC**

Corsica Speedwell

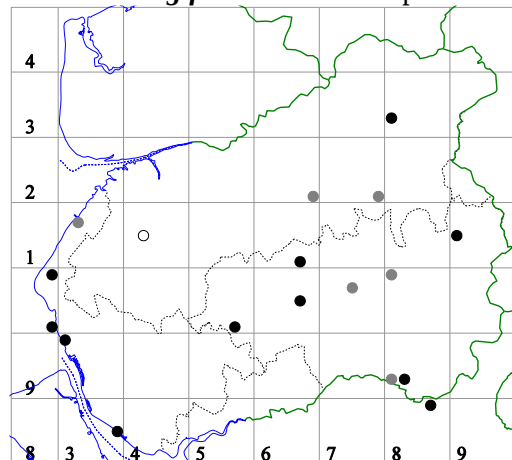
Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; Manchester (SJ89, *Babington* 1904); locally abundant in a lawn at Victoria Park, Nelson (SD83P, A Turner, 1944 & 1949).

Habitat: Lawns.

Comments: Native to southern Spain and Corsica; originally recorded as *V. repens* Clarion ex DC. non Gilib., (*Savidge et al* 1963).

Subgenus 3 - PSEUDOLYSIMACHIUM
(W.D.J. Koch) Buchenau

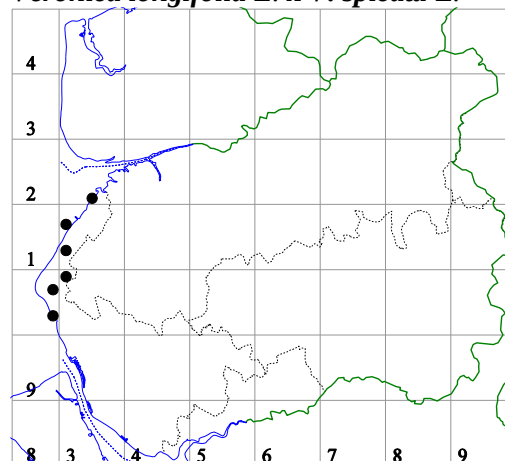
***Veronica longifolia* L. Garden Speedwell**



Hightown J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widespread but occasional.
Earliest record traced: Martin Mere area (SD41H, FW Holder & R Wagstaffe, 1926).
Habitat: Waste ground and rubbish tips, areas where garden refuse is disposed of and naturalised on sand-dunes.
Comments: Native to mainland Europe. Some records may be *V. longifolia* x *V. spicata*.

***Veronica longifolia* L. x *V. spicata* L.**



Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; established along the coast from Hightown Dunes (SD2902) to Marshside (SD5320, 2007).

Earliest record traced: A record for *V. spicata* L. ssp. *hybrida* (L.) Gaudin on a railway bank at Euxton near Chorley (SD51, GH Hopley, 1911) may have been this hybrid.

Habitat: Sand-dunes and sandy heaths near houses.

Comments: Possibly of horticultural origin, often recorded as either of the parent species.

Subgenus 4 - COCHLIDIOSPERMA
(Rchb.) Martinez-Ortega & Albach.

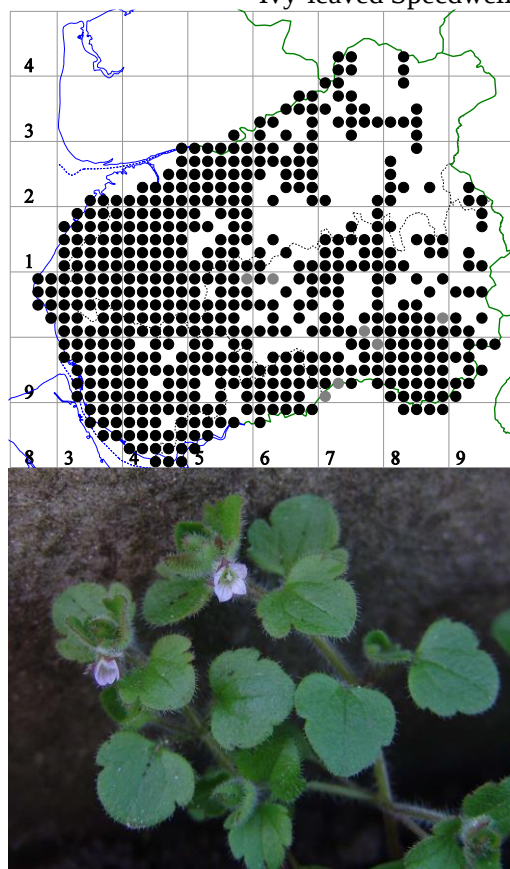
Veronica hederifolia* L. ssp. *hederifolia

Ivy-leaved Speedwell

Comments: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); a scarce and declining casual in the arable regions, considered to be over recorded elsewhere.

Veronica hederifolia* L. ssp. *lucorum
(Klett & H. Richter) Hartl

Ivy-leaved Speedwell



Anfield DP Earl 2011

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

Habitat: Woodland, shaded banks, gardens, arable fields and disturbed ground.

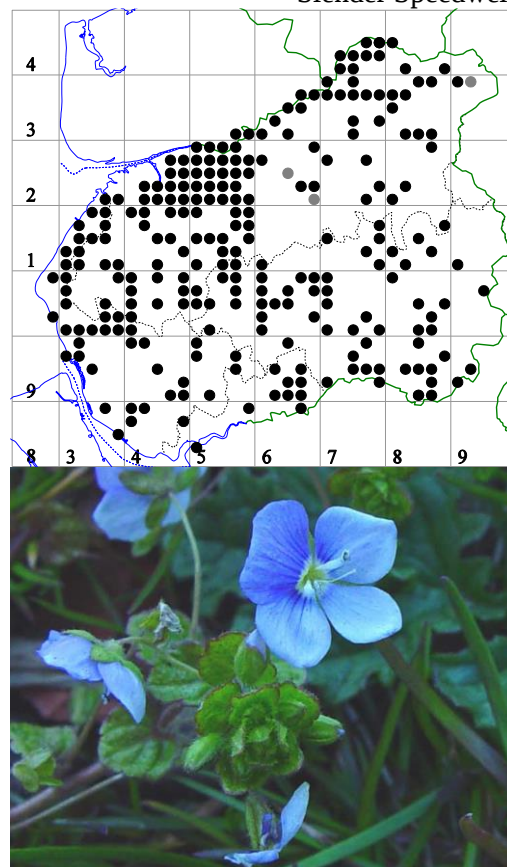
Comments: Most plants are within the range of variation of this subspecies especially those occurring in shaded habitats; ssp. *hederifolia* is generally far less common, being an Archaeophyte and assumed to be a scarce casual in the arable regions. The flowers of ssp. *lucorum* are usually lilac in colour but can be white and a pale blue with the latter colour form probably being confused for ssp. *hederifolia*.

Subgenus 7 - *POCILLA* (Dumort.)

Martinez-Ortega, Albach & M.A. Fisch.

***Veronica filiformis* Sm.**

Slender Speedwell



Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; now widespread and locally common.

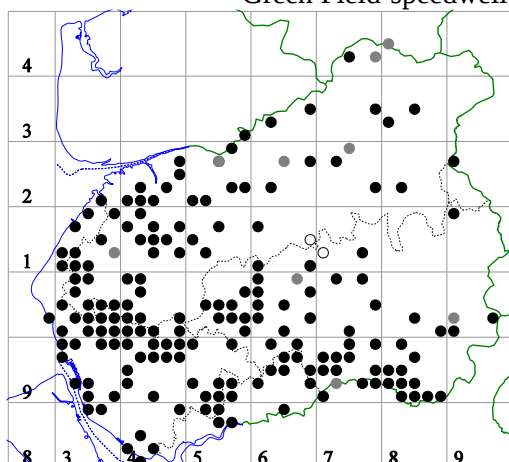
Earliest record traced: Downham (SD74X, MR Tomlinson, 1951).

Habitat: Lawns, grasslands, grazed hedgebanks and riverbanks.

Comments: Native to Turkey and the Caucasus. Rapidly increasing in range and transported to new sites via grass cutting machines.

***Veronica agrestis* L.**

Green Field-speedwell



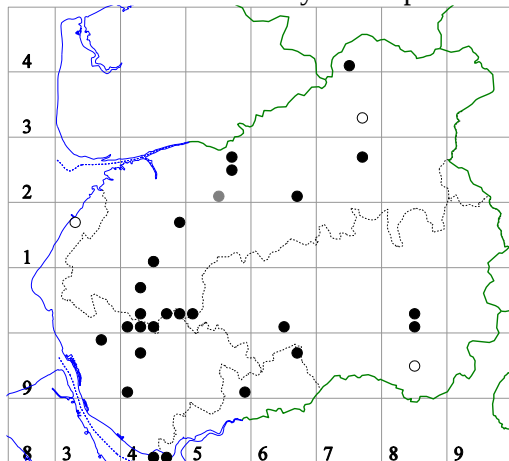
Bamber Bridge DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); frequent in the lowland districts but seldom occurring in abundance, occasional elsewhere.

Habitat: Arable fields, gardens, flowerbeds and disturbed ground.

***Veronica polita* Fries**

Grey Field-speedwell



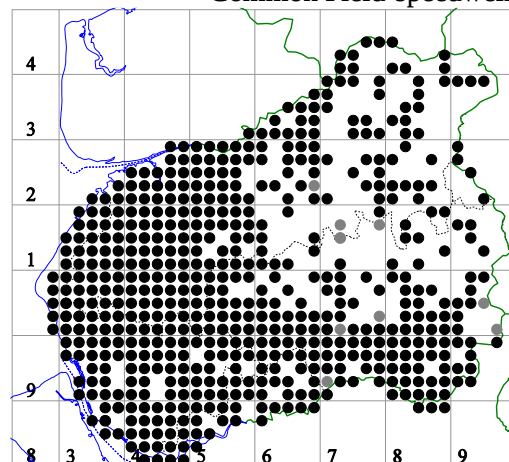
Status & distribution: Native?; local, most frequent in arable districts, rare elsewhere.

Earliest record traced: Garden weed at Rusholme (SJ89M, Grindon 1859).

Habitat: Arable fields and disturbed ground.

***Veronica persica* Poiret**

Common Field-speedwell



Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; common at lower altitudes and locally abundant in the west.

Earliest records traced: Between Whalley Range and Chorlton (SJ89H, Mr. Leigh) & Eccles (SJ79U, J Shaw) Grindon 1859.

Habitat: Arable fields, gardens, flowerbeds and disturbed ground.

Comments: Native to south-west Asia.

Subgenus 8 - *PENTASEPALAE* (Benth.)
Martinez-Ortega, Albach & M.A. Fisch.

***Veronica teucrium* L.** Large Speedwell



Crosby J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; between Hall Road & Hightown (SD20V, V Gordon, 1997); Hightown dunes (SD2902, PH Smith, 2012); Birkdale (SD3113, PH Smith & MP Wilcox, det. EJ Clement, 2003).

Former distribution: Birkdale (SD31C, H Britten 1926 *Botanical Exchange Club Report* 1926); Martin Mere area (SD41H, FW Holder & R Wagstaffe, 1926 det. Kew); Ainsdale (SD31B, FW Holder, 1948).

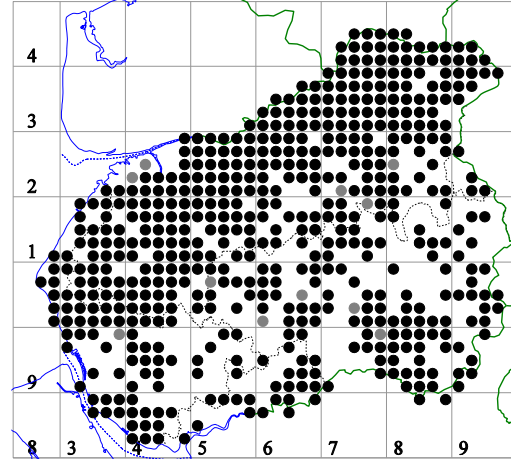
Habitat: Sand-dunes and waste ground.

Comments: Native to mainland Europe.

Subgenus 9 - *CHAMAEDRYIS* (W.D.J. Koch) Martinez-Ortega, Albach & M.A. Fisch.

***Veronica chamaedrys* L.**

Germander Speedwell

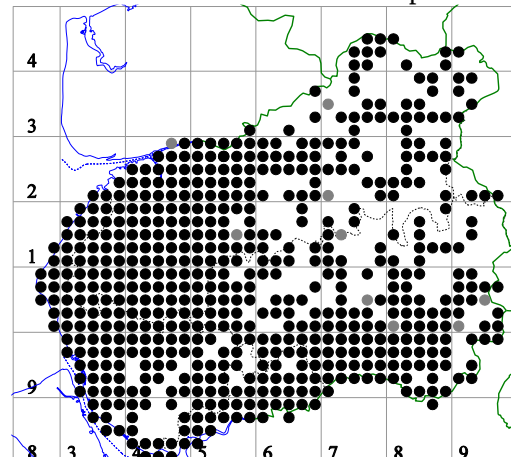


Hesketh Park, Southport DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: Woods, hedgebanks, grasslands and lawns, often replaced by *V. montana* in upland woods.

***Veronica arvensis* L.** Wall Speedwell





Southport DP Earl 2008

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

Habitat: In arable fields, on sand-dunes, wall tops, pavements, flowerbeds, disturbed and waste ground.

Comments: Increasing especially as an urban weed and likely to be present in additional tetrads particularly in the lowland areas.

Subgenus 10 - PSEUDOVERONICA J.B. Armstr.

Veronica salicifolia G. Forst. Koromiko



Bamber Bridge DP Earl 2020

Status & distribution: Neophyte-regenerating; Southport (SD31J, MP Wilcox, 2003); Aintree (SJ39T, DP & J Earl & SP Toone, 2005); Simonstone (SD7734, MP Wilcox, 2009); Bamber

Bridge (SD5625, 2012) & Lower Penwortham (SD5228, 2012) DP & J Earl.

Habitat: Sand-dunes; old railway bank and a pavement weed.

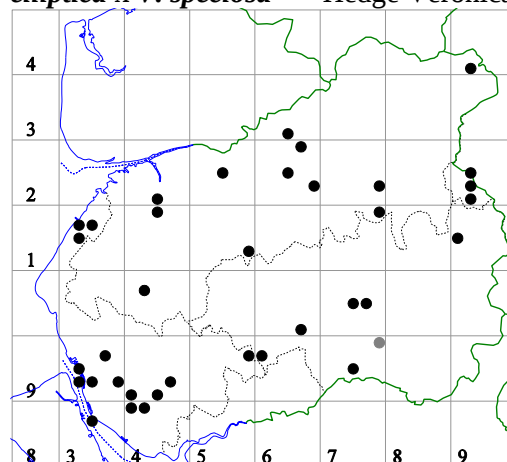
Comments: Native to New Zealand & Chile.

Veronica x lewsi J.B. Armstr. = **V. salicifolia** x **V. elliptica** Lewis's Hebe

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; by a fishing lodge, Pilsworth (SD8208, J Lowell, 2001).

Comments: Native to New Zealand.

Veronica x franciscana Eastw. = **V. elliptica** x **V. speciosa** Hedge Veronica



Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widespread and increasing. Germinating along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal north of Vauxhall and on sandstone rocks near Knotty Ash.

Earliest record traced: Ladywell, Eccles (SJ7898, DP Earl, 1991).

Habitat: Canal banks, railway cuttings and planting scheme areas.

Comments: Of horticultural origin.

Veronica brachysiphon (Summerh.) Bean Hooker's Hebe

Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; near Ormskirk (SD4209, MP Wilcox, 2005).

Habitat: Set-a-side field.

Comments: Native to New Zealand.

***Veronica cupressoides* Hook. f.**
Cypress Hebe



Status & distribution: Neophyte-surviving; Birchin Lane, Whittle-le-Woods (SD5822, DP & J Earl, 2009, det. Ian Worsley, 2011).

Habitat: Roadside embankment.

Comments: Native to South Island, New Zealand. The shrub persisted for several years but may have been lost.

***Veronicastrum virginicum* (L.) Farw.**
Culver's-root

Status & distribution: Neophyte-established; one plant at Falklands Way, Ainsdale (SD3011, PH Smith, 2015). Planted elsewhere.

Habitat: Edge of dune system near housing.

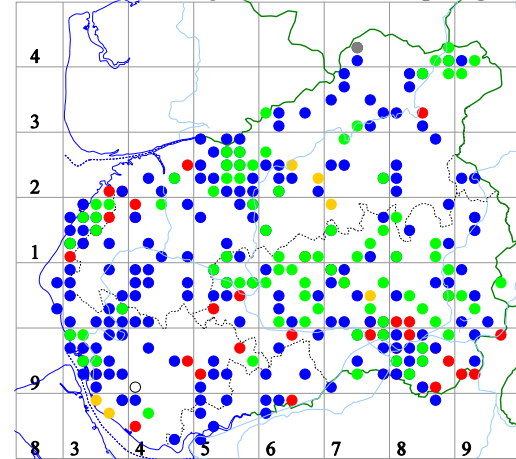
Comments: Native to eastern North America.

***Sibthorpia europaea* L.**
Cornish Moneywort

Status & distribution: Naturalised in South Lancashire; Sandford Grange, Dudlow Lane, Allerton (SJ4088, S Fletcher, 2002).

Habitat: Established in a lawn.

***Antirrhinum majus* L.** Snapdragon



Southport DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widespread, strongly associated with areas of habitation.

Earliest record traced: Whalley Abbey (SD73I, S Hailstone, 1807).

Habitat: Walls, pavements, waste ground, tips and railway lines.

Comments: Native to south-western Europe.

***Chaenorhinum origanifolium* (L.) Kostel**
Malling Toadflax

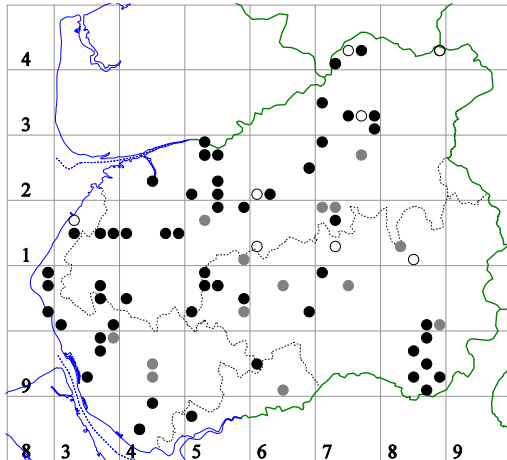


Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised-established; Ainsdale (SD3213, DP & J Earl, 2006); Formby Haslingden (SD7822, dragonsky, 2022); Higher Summerseat (SD7814, DP & J Earl, 2024).

Habitat: On walls and stoney ground within areas of habitation.

Comments: Native to south-western Europe.

***Chaenorhinum minus* (L.) Lange**
Small Toadflax



Leyland DP Earl 2009

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Least Concern (Red List for England), Axiophyte; widespread at lower altitudes and strongly associated with the railway system.

Habitat: Railway ballast and limestone chippings, waste ground, pavements and former industrial sites.

***Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf.**

Weasel's-snout

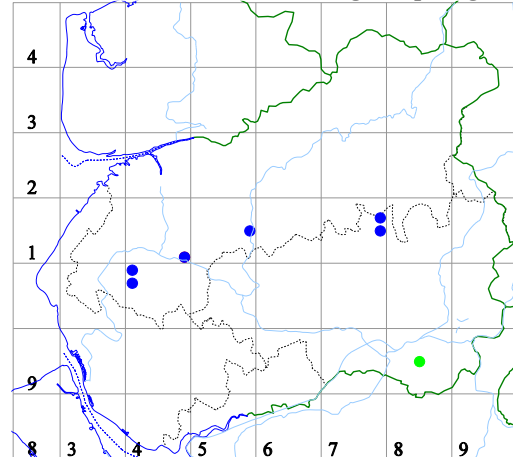
Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, [Vulnerable \(Red List for England\)](#), Casual in South Lancashire; a single plant in an arable land at Melling (SD30V, RF Goodchild, 2006).

Former distribution: Smithills Garden Centre (SD61V, CR Lancaster & D Rugman, 1960); Castleton Malt Tip, Rochdale (Rev CE Shaw, 1967); waste ground, Edge Hill, Liverpool (AJ Coombes, 1976, LIV).

Habitat: Disturbed and waste ground, very rare as an arable weed.

***Asarina procumbens* Mill.**

Trailing Snapdragon





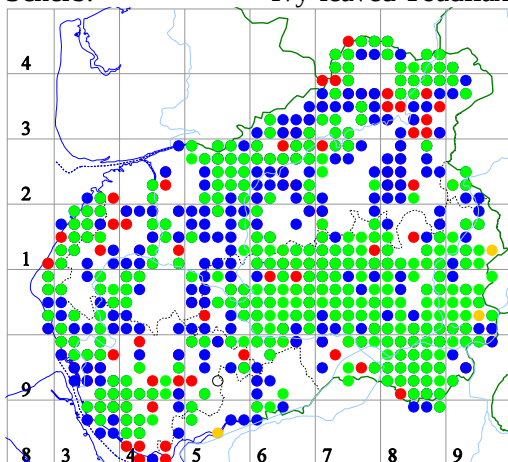
Duxbury J Somerville 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; Parbold (SD4910, DP & J Earl, 1996-2001); Ormskirk (SD40D, DP & J Earl & SP Toone, 2003); Burscough St., Ormskirk (SD40E, MP Wilcox, 2003); greenhouse wall near Duxbury Golf Club (SD5815, Liverpool Botanical Society, 2008); Bury (SD7815 & SD7816, DP & J Earl, 2012).

Habitat: Old walls by habitation.

Comments: Native to France and Spain.

Cymbalaria muralis P. Gaertner, Meyer & Scherb.
Ivy-leaved Toadflax



Downholland Cross DP Earl 2008



Liverpool SJ McWilliam 2025

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; well, established about towns and villages.

Earliest record traced: Simonstone (SD73S, J Dugdale, 1850, BON).

Habitat: Walls and waste ground.

Comments: Native to the mountain regions of southern central and south-eastern Europe.

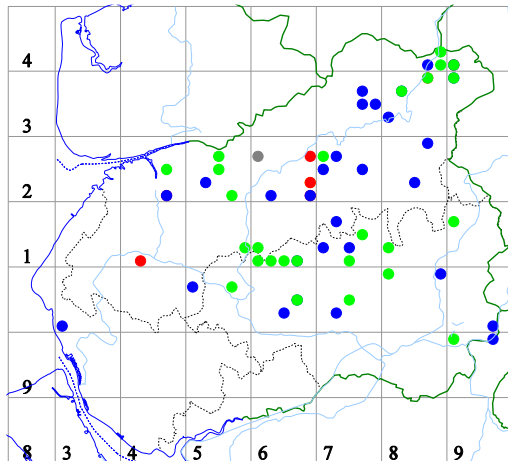
Cymbalaria muralis x *Cymbalaria pallida*



Clitheroe MP Wilcox 2011

Status & distribution: A rare hybrid observed by MP Wilcox at Clitheroe and Simonstone.

***Cymbalaria pallida* (Ten.) Wettst.**
Italian Toadflax



Read DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widely established but far less common than *C. muralis*.

Earliest records traced: Listed for SD62 in 1950 with a detailed record from Hoghton (SD6126, EF Warburg, 1957).

Habitat: Garden walls.

Comments: Native to Italy.

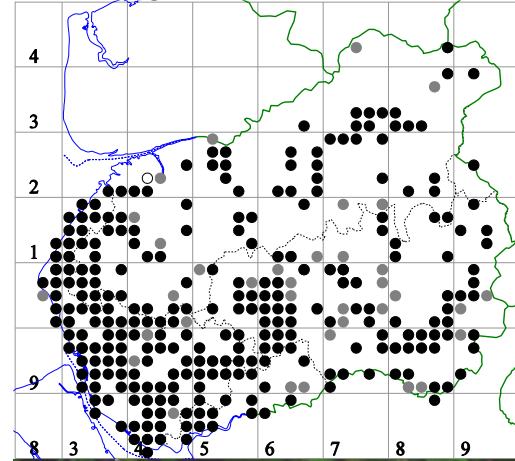
***Kickxia elatine* (L.) Dumort.**

Sharp-leaved Fluellen

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-colonist, Least Concern (Red List for England), Casual in South Lancashire; cornfield weed near Eccles (SJ79U, 1856) & weed of gardens at Ashton-under-Lyne (SJ99, 1857) Grindon 1859; Barden Lane Tip, Burnley (CR Ritching, 1922, *L. & C. Nat.* 1923); Plantation Mill Tip, Accrington (SD72U, A Hitchon, 1959).

Habitat: Cornfields, gardens and tips.

***Linaria vulgaris* Mill. Common Toadflax**



Great Harwood DP Earl 2009



Lunt Meadows M Jones 2019

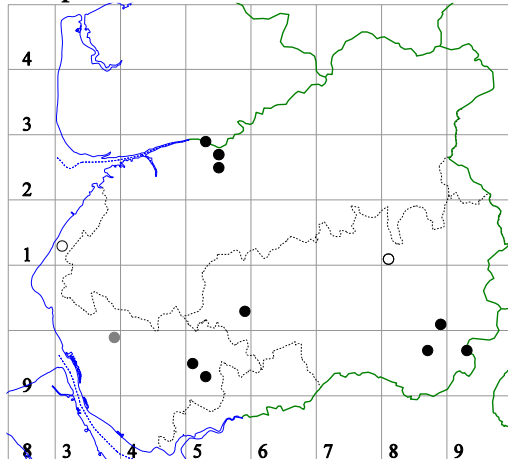
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); locally common in the lowlands with extensions along the hill district valleys.

Habitat: Native to sand-dunes; a colonist inland strongly associated artificial

habitats such as railway ballast, canal banks, roadside banks and industrial spoil heaps.

Comments: Formerly common along the railways but declined once steam power ceased and with the change of ballast type from limestone to meldon.

Linaria x sepium Allman = *L. vulgaris* x *L. repens*



Ashton-under-Lyne DP Earl 2010

Status & distribution: Native x Archaeophyte; widespread, occasional to locally frequent.

Habitat: Railway sidings.

Comments: Usually growing with both parent species, known to form hybrid swarms where the parent species grow together to produce a spectrum of intermediates.

Linaria dalmatica (L.) Mill.

Balkan Toadflax

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual; Birkdale (SD31H, H Britten, 1924); sandy ground, Birkdale Club House (SD31H, JD Massey & WG Travis, 1929); wall near Ainsdale Beach Station (SD31B, FW Holder, 1954); ash tip at Leigh (SJ69P,

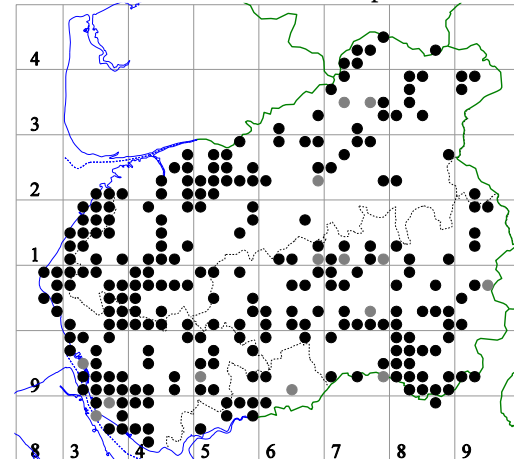
Rev CE Shaw, 1948, and still there in 1968, T Edmondson).

Habitat: A sandy bank, a wall and on an ash waste tip.

Comments: Native to south-eastern Europe.

Linaria purpurea (L.) Mill.

Purple Toadflax



Freshfield DP Earl 2008

Status & distribution: Neophyte-naturalised; widely recorded especially in urban areas.

Earliest record traced: Waste ground between Edge Hill and Wavertree (SJ38P, AJ Coombes, 1976), perhaps overlooked

prior to this date and earlier records may be traced.

Habitat: Walls, waste ground, pavements and tips.

Linaria x *dominii* Druce = *L. purpurea* x *L. repens*

Status & distribution: Neophyte x Archaeophyte; Rochdale (SD81W, DP Earl, 2003).

Former distribution: Atherton (SD60W, BW Fox, 1957); Goosehouse Lane, Darwen (SD62W, P Jepson, 1979, det. D McClintock).

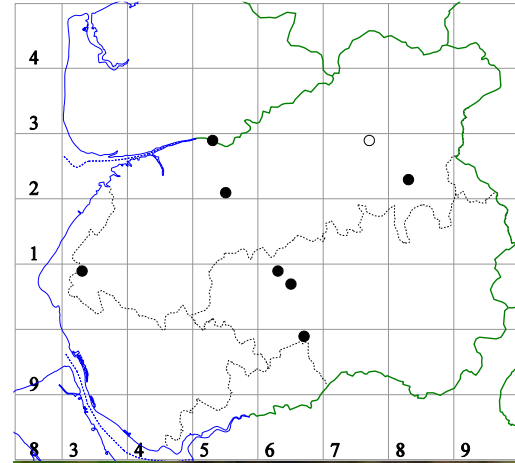
Habitat: On a garden wall; formerly a roadside verge and a railway embankment.

Comments: It is likely that this hybrid has been overlooked, plants resembling *L. repens* or *L. purpurea*, but which are clearly atypical are frequently seen as garden wall weeds.

Habitat: Mainly found on railway sidings, occasionally on tips and as a weed of garden walls.

Linaria maroccana Hook. f.

Annual Toadflax



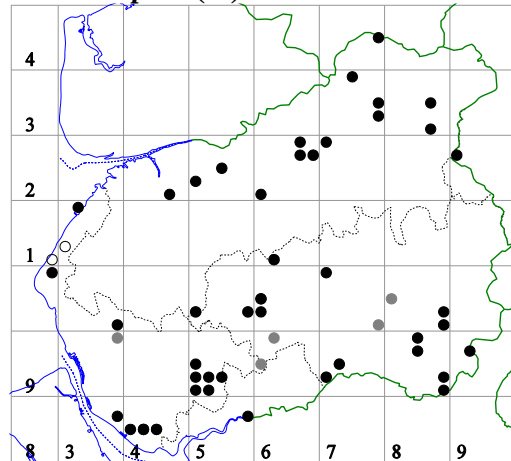
Westhoughton DP Earl 2012

Status & distribution: Neophyte-casual-sown; Plantation Mill Tip (SD72U, A Hitchon, 1964); Formby Moss (SD30J, S Taylor, 2005); in the churchyard, Newchurch (SD8322, DP & J Earl, 2011); by the Bridgewater Canal, Leigh (SJ6699, 2012); A6/A627 roundabout (SD6308, 2012); James Street, Westhoughton (SD6506, 2012); Hurst Grange car park margins (SD5228, 2015) & Heald House Road (SD5521, 2015) DP Earl.

Habitat: Waste tips and areas sown with wildflower mixes.

Comments: Native and endemic to Morocco.

Linaria repens (L.) Mill. Pale Toadflax



Lostock Hall DP Earl 2011

Status & distribution: Archaeophyte-denizen, Least Concern (Red List for England); widespread, occasional to locally frequent.