

***Fumaria reuteri* Boiss.**

Martin's Ramping-fumitory

Neophyte

Schedule 8

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A scrambling annual of cultivated soil in allotments, gardens and potato fields, most usually found in spring- and summer- sown crops; also on eroded thin soils of hedge banks. Although formerly considered to be a rare declining native, and thus included in Schedule 8 and listed as Endangered by Wiggington (1999), this species is now considered to be a neophyte (Stroh *et al.*, 2023). Absent from VC5. In VC6, first found in a potato field on Combe Down, Bath in 1920 by Noel Sandwith, Mrs Cecil Sandwith and Rev. E. Ellman, specimens confirmed by C. Bucknall and H.W. Pugsley (Sandwith, 1921). This species was not recorded in Somerset again until 2011, when it was reported from a vegetable garden in Newbridge Gardens, Bath by Wendy Lambson, who had known it there for three years; the identification was confirmed by Rose Murphy. In 2023 it was found in three front gardens of a new housing estate in Combe Down, Bath, the identification confirmed by Tim Rich. Although Wiggington (1999) and Preston *et al.* (2002) reported that *Fumaria reuteri* had declined and could be found only in Cornwall and the Isle of Wight, since 2008 it has appeared at a number of new sites, particularly in southern England (see eg. Hounsome, 2011; Knass *et al.*, 2012), but also in Scotland (Teesdale, 2008, McHaffie, 2010). The Bath sites are the most south-westerly of recent records: the last record for Cornwall was in 1993.

VC6

Bath, Newbridge Gdns	ST722655	2011	WAL	Several plants in vegetable garden
Bath, Mulberry Park	ST75496272	2023	HJC	Few plants, shrubbery N side of Kellaway Lane
Bath, Mulberry Park	ST75556285	2023	HJC, DEG	In front garden, N side of Whitaker Road
Bath, Mulberry Park	ST75706294	2023	HJC, DEG	Masses, front garden N side of Whitaker Road



Fumaria reuteri in Bath (2011). Photo HJC