



DAUCUS CAROTA

Two wild subspecies of *D. carota* L. can be recognised, though a complete range of intermediates occur. These can be distinguished as follows:

Subsp. *carota*: Leaves thin, hairy, not shiny; umbel flat in flower, markedly concave in fruit, rays unequal, glabrous or with sparse very short hairs.

Subsp. *gummifer* (Syme) Hook. f.: Leaves rather thick, glabrous or sparsely hairy, glossy above; umbel domed in flower, convex to slightly concave in fruit; rays \pm equal with frequent to dense patent or recurved short hairs.

The extreme form of subsp. *gummifer* found on sea cliffs and dunes has the rays of the umbel densely hispid, and usually \pm equal in length giving the umbel a characteristic domed shape. This form is commonest on the coasts of Devon and Cornwall but extends north to V.c. 103, at least, and east to Kent. Further north and east, less hairy forms occur, and specimens with a few scattered hairs on the umbel rays have been noted from western Scotland and the east coast of England. These plants approach subsp. *carota* in their unequal umbel rays and taller more slender habit. Subsp. *gummifer* has been recorded from V.c. 1-6, 9-10, 14-15, 41, 44-46, 49, 52, 62, 74, 79, 80, 83, 101, 103, S, H3, H6, H20 & H21. Subsp. *carota* is widespread.

The cultivated carrot, subsp. *sativus* (Hoffm.) Arcang. differs from the other two subspecies in having a fleshy tap root. It may occur on roadsides in market garden areas and the fens.