

### Species only recorded once at each height were:

0-1m above ground one plant only: *Festuca rubra*, *Sagina procumbens*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

1-2m above the ground one plant only: *Lamium purpureum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Centranthus ruber*, *Taraxacum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Pseudofumaria lutea*.

## Comment

The usual "wall specialist" species, *Asplenium ruta-muraria* (Wall-rue), *Asplenium trichomanes* (Maidenhair Spleenwort) and *Cymbalaria muralis* (Ivy-leaved Adflax) were the most frequent species, as in my earlier report. Also, as in the earlier report, these species were considerably more frequent in the upper section of the walls. An earlier study of individual plants suggested that individual plants of *Asplenium trichomanes* may have a limited lifespan, but appeared to colonise readily. Possible reasons for this distribution include salt application to roads and paths in winter and the frequent use of herbicides at the base of the wall.

There are also other habitat differences between the upper and lower section of the walls, including light exposure and water availability. The possible effect of other factors such as wall cleaning by humans, competition by bryophytes and grazing by invertebrates is uncertain. This part of Dundee on the east coast of Scotland experiences frequent sea-mists or haar, which may bring extra moisture to the walls and influence plant growth.

The number of plants of other species is small, so it is difficult to reach any conclusion about their distribution on walls. The majority of the *Cerastium* plants were on one wall. A similar study of mortared stone walls in some small coastal Ross towns showed a similar trend for the *Asplenium* species but not *Cymbalaria* (Ballinger in preparation)

These mortared stone town walls are an important habitat, especially for wall ferns.

## Reference

Ballinger B. (2020) *50 Walls in Dundee* BSS News 115 24-27  
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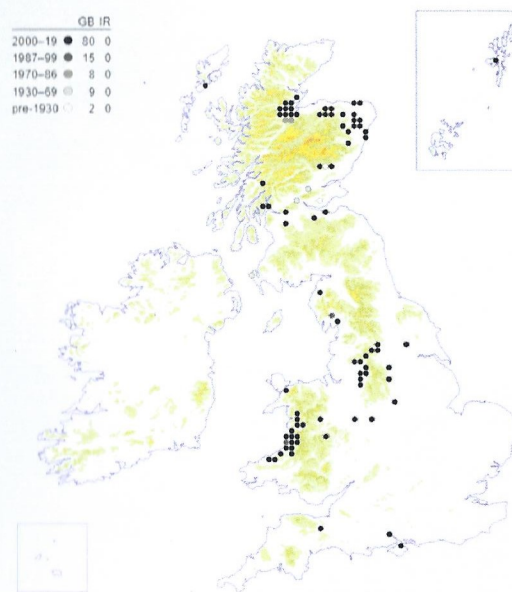
Full species list at  
[www.tinyurl.com/SppLists](http://www.tinyurl.com/SppLists)

# *Geum macrophyllum*

## An alien that is spreading

Maria Chamberlain and Chris Jeffree describe how to distinguish this plant from *Geum urbanum*

	GB	IR
2000-19	80	0
1987-99	15	0
1970-86	8	0
1930-69	9	0
pre-1930	2	0



*Geum macrophyllum* Willd. in BSBI Online Plant Atlas 2020 eds P.A. Stroh, T.A. Humphrey, R.J. Burkhart, O.L. Pescott, D.B. Roy & N.J. Walker <https://plantatlas2020.org/Atlas/2004694/index.html> (Accessed 23/09/2024)

The large-leaved avens, *Geum macrophyllum* Willd., is larger showier and brighter than our native *Geum urbanum*. Its native range extends across North America, over the Bering Sea to north-eastern Russia (Gajewski, 1957).

The BSBI map shows that it is now gaining strongholds in several areas of the UK, although there appear to be none in the London area. In 2003 Stace recorded it in 17 vice-counties; in 2013 the BSBI Distribution Base showed records from 25; in 2019 it showed up in 80.

It was first reported in our home area of Stockbridge in 2010 (McKean and McHaffie, 2012).

However, we first became aware

of it in our local park just this year, although we did do a thorough survey of the area during lockdown. Although, this species was not mentioned in *Plant Life of Edinburgh and the Lothians* (2002), it was reputedly already here in the Botanic Garden on Inverleith Row, introduced as a bona fide collection in 1967 from the University of British Columbia. There were then additional collections from Kyoto in 1980 and Hoyt Arboretum in 1988 (Hinchcliffe, pers. comm). Is it possible that these collections in the RBGE and/or the changing climate are responsible for its subsequent spread?

The differences between morphological characters of *Geum urbanum* and *Geum macrophyllum* are summarised by Chris Jeffree in the following table: