



SONCHUS ARVENSIS

Glabrous forms of the normally glandular hairy *S. arvensis* L. have been known in Britain for many years but their identity still requires elucidation (Lousley 1968); please collect all glabrous or very sparsely glandular plants. Intermediates with sparse pubescence may occur, and may be hybrids. Glabrous forms of subsp. *arvensis* occur occasionally, especially by the coast, so check involucre lengths.

Subsp. *arvensis*: Capitula and upper parts of peduncles densely glandular-hairy (rarely glabrous); mean involucre length 19.4 mm (range 14-20 mm); inflorescence usually dichotomously branched (rarely subumbellate); $2n = 54$.

Subsp. *uliginosus* (M. Bieb.) Nyman: Capitula and peduncles glabrous; mean involucre length 14.5 mm (range 11-18 mm); inflorescence often subumbellate; $2n = 36$.

Reference Lousley, J. E. (1968). *Proc. BSBI* 7: 151-157.