SPERGULA ARVENSIS

Three varieties of *S. arvensis* can be recognised (Ratter 1986). Var. *nana* Linton is an early-flowering dwarf form, found in open turf in the Channel Islands but may not be worth recognising. There is a cline in the frequency of the other two varieties; var. *arvensis* predominates in the south, and is largely replaced by var. *sativa* in the north and west.

1. Leaves 3-13 mm; shoots prostrate or decumbent
   1. Leaves 10-40 mm; shoots ascending

2. Seeds brownish-black, covered with pale, club-shaped papillae, wing narrow or absent; stems and leaves sparsely glandular-hairy
2. Seeds black, dull, minutely tuberculate, narrowly winged; stem and leaves densely glandular-hairy

*var. arvensis* E. F. Linton
*var. arvensis* var. *nana* (Boenn.) Mert. & W. D. J. Koch
*var. sativa* (Boenn.) Mert. & W. D. J. Koch

**Reference**