



## **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.

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|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Leaves 3-13 mm; shoots prostrate or decumbent                                                                                   | <i>arvensis</i> var. <i>nana</i> E. F. Linton     |
| 1. | Leaves 10-40 mm; shoots ascending                                                                                               | 2                                                 |
| 2. | Seeds brownish-black, covered with pale, club-shaped papillae, wing narrow or absent; stems and leaves sparsely glandular-hairy | var. <i>arvensis</i>                              |
| 2. | Seeds black, dull, minutely tuberculate, narrowly winged; stem and leaves densely glandular-hairy                               | var. <i>sativa</i> (Boenn.) Mert. & W. D. J. Koch |

*Reference* Ratter, J. A. (1986). *Notes Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh* **43**:283-286