



## ***SPERGULARIA MARINA* × *S. RUPICOLA***

*Spergularia marina* (L.) Griseb × *S. rupicola* Lebel ex Le Jol. has been recorded from V.cc. 2, 9, 45 and H21. This hybrid should be looked for where the parents grow in close proximity, for example, on stone piers or breakwaters.

The hybrid plants are robust with many flowers which are intermediate in size between those of the parents, and the petals are white towards the base. The stamens are not properly developed and the pollen is abortive. The ovules are also abortive and mature capsules do not form.

At first glance, the flowers resemble those of *S. media*, but look odd and, when growing with both parents, give the impression that three species might be present.

**References** Reynolds, S. C. P. (1989). *Irish Naturalists' Journal* **23**: 114.  
Stace, C. A. (1975). *Hybridisation and the flora of the British Isles*, p.177. Academic Press, London.

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