

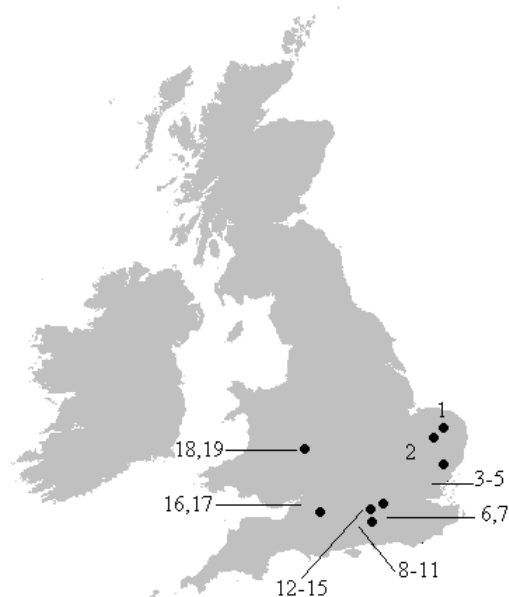
Arabis glabra (L.) Bernh.

Tower Mustard

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Brassicaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Endangered

Habit

Herb (biennial, rarely perennial).

Habitat

Grassy places and disturbed ground on free-draining sandy soils over chalk and limestone.

Reasons for decline

Habitat destruction due to agricultural intensification and building development. Habitat neglect, which results in a lack of open ground for regeneration and the development of coarse competing vegetation.

Overgrazing by rabbits has been suggested. Although tower mustard is a Breckland species there is evidence that it is susceptible to high levels of rabbit grazing.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	Surrey, N. Hampshire, Berkshire, N. Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Breckland, Norfolk & Suffolk	25	Small-1000s

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Roamer House
- 2 Cambridge University Botanic Garden
- 3 Mark Hall Arboretum
- 4 RHS Hyde Hall
- 5 Writtle College
- 6 RBG Kew
- 7 RHS Wisley
- 8 Longstock Park Gardens
- 9 Mottisfont Abbey Rose Garden
- 10 Sir Harold Hillier Garden & Arboretum
- 11 Staunton Country Park
- 12 The Harris Garden
- 13 Windsor, The Savill & Valley Gardens
- 14 Akely Wood Farmhouse
- 15 Cliveden (NT)
- 16 Bristol Zoo Gardens
- 17 University of Bristol Botanic Garden
- 18 Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses, Westbourne
- 19 University of Birmingham Botanic Garden, Winterbourne

Botanical Collections with specialisation on family Brassicaceae or genus *Arabis*

None

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

Cultivation *ex situ* seems to indicate that the plant is susceptible to winter damp (Rich & Rose 1995).

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

A Species Action Plan has been produced for *Arabis glabra*, lead partner is Dominic Price, Plantlife
Tel:01722 342749.

The following LBAPs are working on the species:

BAP for Gloucestershire

London

Suffolk Local BAP

Wokingham District

Habitat Management

The scarification of one Hampshire site resulted in a doubling of the population. In Breckland no special conservation measures are required at present, as the species is rather invasive.

Protected sites with records for *Arabis glabra* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Conservation programmes

Conservation work for this species is ongoing under Plantlife's `Back from the Brink` project which is supported by English Nature's Species Recovery Programme. The following work has already been undertaken for sites in Surrey and Hampshire:

A survey of all known sites.

Habitat management including scrub clearance and ground disturbance.

Seed has been collected and kept in cultivation.

Web References

- UK Species Action Plan: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=106>
- Image: http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web_pages/arabis_glabra_tower_mustard.htm
- NBN Gateway database : <http://www.searchnbn.net>