

Rumex x callianthemus Danser

(*R. maritimus* x *obtusifolius*)

Native

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A tall striking hybrid dock with lanceolate leaves and upright branches. It is larger and less spreading than *R. maritimus* and does not turn golden-yellow at maturity. Leaves are more acute than those of *R. obtusifolius* and tepals, whilst broad as in *R. obtusifolius*, have numerous long teeth along the margins as in *R. maritimus* (Akeroyd, 2014; Stace *et al.*, 2015). In Somerset, known only from the Somerset Levels, VC6, where first found in 1994 by Lindi Wilkinson, who discovered one plant in a peat cutting at Walton Heath, growing with both parents. It was found again by Ian Green in 1996, growing at the edge of water at Shapwick Heath. In 2015 Helena Crouch and Stephen Parker found one very tall plant in an area of tall herbs in the corner of a field at Catcott Lows. The identifications of all plants were confirmed by John Akeroyd. This is a rare hybrid, first recorded in Britain by J.E. Lousley in 1939 in Cambridgeshire and only ever found at a few scattered sites in England. Sites in Somerset are at the southwestern edge of its distribution.

VC6

Walton Heath		ST456387	1994	LKW	1 plant in peat cutting, S side of track
Catcott Lows	SSSI	ST40124186	2015	HJC, SJP	1 pl in tall herb vegetation, SW corner of field
Shapwick Heath	SSSI	ST426408	1996	IPG	Edge of water



Rumex x callianthemus at Catcott Lows (2015). Photo: HJC

Valves are broad like those of *R. obtusifolius* but tubercles are unequal and there are numerous slender teeth of different lengths around the margins.