



Isle of Man Cabbage (*Coincya monensis* subsp. *monensis*)



Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yannoo Beiyn-Feie

Background

The Isle of Man Cabbage was first described on the Island, hence its name, after being found at Ramsey Mooragh Shore. It is an endemic plant to the British Isles; therefore it has special conservation importance. In the UK, it is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. Translocation of this species has previously been successful on the Sefton coast, Lancashire and the Ayres National Nature Reserve. More translocations are planned in the UK.

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been reformatted from a Rare Species Action Plan, produced by Wildflowers of Mann in 2004, and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the same year.

Description



Growing to 40 cm, the plant tends to look straggly, but the flowers are bright and showy. The plants produce reasonable quantities of seed.

British Isles Distribution

This British Isles endemic subspecies occurs from southwest Britain to the west coast of Scotland, on at least 22 sites. Two of these sites are on the Isle of Man: the Ayres (including MWT Cronk y Bing Nature Reserve) and Ramsey Mooragh Shore Area of Special Scientific Interest.

Isle of Man Distribution

It has previously been recorded in southern and central Mann, but these populations are long gone. The Ayres sites have contracted to one plant on the Area of Special Scientific Interest, as well as the few recently planted individuals. The species appears to be extinct at MWT Cronk y Bing Nature Reserve, but grows in good numbers to immediately to the west. In 2022 a single plant of the species was relocated at the Ramsey Mooragh Shore Area of Special Scientific Interest (P. Tomlinson).

Habitat and Ecology

This perennial plant, closely related to other coastal cabbages such as the Lundy Cabbage, is in the brassica family.

The Isle of Man Cabbage is restricted to sandy coastal sites, where it survives above the high tide line, amongst the thin vegetation colonising semi-stabilised sand (often embryo dunes). As an often short-lived plant, it requires a constant source of bare ground for seedlings to establish themselves. Thus, these



shifting sands provide ample opportunity. Where public recreation disturbs the vegetation, the plant can colonise a little inland (as has happened at Ramsey Mooragh Shore).

Legal protection

Listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and red-listed under *Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022*.

Threats

The main threats to the plant are rabbits that favourably browse the leaves, and catastrophic storm events which can wash away whole populations.

Reason for BAP

The species is critically rare.

Aims

To ensure that the species has a long-term future on the Isle of Man.

Linked BAPS

Sand Dunes BAP

Delivery Options

Active

Challenges

The Isle of Man Cabbage will be encouraged to form several sizeable populations on the Ayres shoreline and interior by introducing clumps of plants.

Some plants have already been grown by the Wildflowers of Mann Project and are ready for planting out.

Rabbit proof fencing may be erected to protect the plants while they become established.

Delivery Plan

Strategy

Lead

Action

Timing

Responsibility

Collect seed.

Summer 2005

Wildflowers of Mann

Sow/grow seed.

Spring 2005-08

Wildflowers of Mann

Identify suitable Ayres sites.

Spring 2005

Wildflowers of Mann, Ayres Warden

Gain permissions to plant on National Nature Reserve.

Spring 2005

Wildflowers of Mann

Plant out.

Autumn 2005-08

Wildflowers of Mann

Monitor.

Summer >2006

Wildflowers of Mann



Review.	Summer 2010	Wildflowers of Mann, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Annual Updates		
Year		
2005	<p>Seed collected and surveys made.</p> <p>Initial introduction at Ballaghennie Ayres.</p> <p>Visit to Wirral and Sefton Coast with Louise Samson, to investigate species needs - report written.</p>	
2006	<p>Plants put into fenced enclosure at Ayres.</p> <p>New population (80 plants) found at Jurby dunes and several new populations at Ayres.</p>	
2007	<p>Poor growth and limited survival of Ayres plants with Ballaghennie plants all gone, and caged plants showing poor growth.</p>	
2008	<p>Work on this species ceased, as native populations considered in better shape than expected.</p>	
2018	<p>Coastal erosion at Ramsey Mooragh Shore Area of Special Scientific Interest has probably eradicated known population here.</p>	
2022	<p>Single plant at Ramsey Mooragh Shore Area of Special Scientific Interest found. Ayres population probably much reduced.</p>	

