

**European Community Directive
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats
and of Wild Fauna and Flora
(92/43/EEC)**


**Second Report by the United Kingdom under
Article 17
on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2001 to December 2006**

**Conservation status assessment for
Species:
S1044 - *Coenagrion mercuriale* - Southern
damselfly**

The information in this assessment corresponds to the "species fact sheet" submitted by the UK to the European Union in February 2008 (second and final submission). Please note that this is a section of the UK's report. For the complete report visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17>

Please cite as: Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2007. *Second Report by the UK under Article 17 on the implementation of the Habitats Directive from January 2001 to December 2006*. Peterborough: JNCC. Available from: www.jncc.gov.uk/article17

Species Name: *Coenagrion mercuriale*

| 1. National level | |
|---|---|
| Species Code | S1044 |
| Member State | United Kingdom |
| Biogeographic regions concerned within the Member state | ATL |
| 1.1 Range map |  A map of the United Kingdom showing the distribution of the species <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> . The map includes the main islands of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the Channel Islands and the Shetland Islands. Shaded areas indicate the range of the species, which is primarily concentrated in the south and southwest of England, with smaller, scattered occurrences in the Midlands and the north. The map is a black and white line drawing with grey shading for the distribution areas. |

1.2 Distribution map



2. Biogeographic level

2.1 Biogeographic region

ATL

2.2 Published sources and/or websites

BDS website (2006). www.dragonflysoc.org.uk British Dragonfly Society, December 2006.

BOYCE, D. 2004. Condition assessment for the southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* on candidate Special Areas of Conservation in Pembrokeshire (Gweunydd Blaencleddau & Preseli (part)). CCW Contract Science. 627. Countryside Council for Wales.

MERRITT, R., MOORE, N.W. AND EVERSHAM, B.C. 1996. Atlas of the dragonflies of Britain and Ireland. ITE research publication no 9. London.

PURSE, B.V. 2001. The Ecology and Conservation of the Southern Damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*). PhD Thesis, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK.

PURSE, B.V., HOPKINS, G.W., DAY, K.J., AND THOMPSON, D.J.

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>2003. Dispersal characteristics and management of a rare damselfly. <i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i> 40, 716-728.</p> <p>ROUQUETTE, J.R. 2005. The Ecology and Conservation Requirements of the Southern Damselfly (<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>) in Chalkstream and Fen Habitats. Environment Agency R&D report W1-066.</p> <p>ROUQUETTE, J.R & THOMPSON, D.J 2005. Habitat associations of the endangered damselfly, <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>, in a water meadow ditch system in southern England. <i>Biological Conservation</i>. 123 (2), 225-235</p> <p>THOMPSON, D.J., PURSE, B.V. & ROUQUETTE, J.R. 2003. Monitoring the Southern Damselfly, <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>. <i>Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Monitoring Series No. 8</i>, English Nature, Peterborough.</p> <p>UK BAP websites. www.ukbap.org.uk and www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk</p> <p>WATTS, P.C., ROUQUETTE, J.R., SACCHERI, I.J., KEMP, S.J. AND THOMPSON, D.J. 2004. Molecular and ecological evidence for small-scale isolation by distance in the endangered damselfly, <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>. <i>Molecular Ecology</i> 13, 2931-2944.</p> <p>Map Data Sources</p> <p>Biological Records Centre - Dragonfly and Damselfly records; CCW - UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Invertebrate data for Ceredigion; Dragonfly Recording Network; Dorset Environmental Records Centre - Dorset SW Pilot species dataset; Natural England – Invertebrate Site Register (via the NBN Gateway)</p> <p>University of Liverpool <i>C. mercuriale</i> survey data (D. J. Thomson pers comm)</p> |
|--|---|

2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 2.3.1 Surface range of the species (sq km) | 4033 |
| 2.3.2 Date of range determination | 2000-2005 |
| 2.3.3 Quality of data concerning range | Good |
| 2.3.4 Range trend | Stable (=) |
| 2.3.5 Range trend magnitude (%) | Not applicable |
| 2.3.6 Range trend period | 1994-2006 |
| 2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend | Not applicable |

2.4 Population

| | | | | |
|---|--|-------|---------|----|
| 2.4.1 Population size estimation | Minimum | 82 | Maximum | 82 |
| | Units | Other | | |
| 2.4.2 Date of population estimation | 2005 | | | |
| 2.4.3 Method used for population estimation | 2 - Extrapolation from surveys of part of the population | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2.4.4 Quality of population data | Moderate |
| 2.4.5 Population trend | Decreasing (-) |
| 2.4.6 Population trend magnitude (%) | Unknown |
| 2.4.7 Population trend period | 2002-2005 |
| 2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend | 3 - Direct human influence; 4 - Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence; |
| 2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional) | Not applicable |
| 2.4.10 Main pressures | 141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 701 - water pollution; 800 - Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general; 803 - infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits; 810 - Drainage; 830 - Canalisation; 852 - modifying structures of inland water courses; 853 - management of water levels; |
| 2.4.11 Threats | 141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 701 - water pollution; 800 - Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general; 803 - infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits; 810 - Drainage; 830 - Canalisation; 852 - modifying structures of inland water courses; 853 - management of water levels; |
| 2.5 Habitat for the species in the biogeographic region or marine region | |
| 2.5 Habitats for the species | The southern damselfly <i>C. mercuriale</i> has very specialised habitat requirements, being confined to shallow, well-vegetated, base-rich runnels and flushes in open areas or small side-channels of chalk rivers. Most sites are on wet heath |
| 2.5.2 Area estimation (sq km) | Unknown |
| 2.5.3 Date of estimation | 05/2007 |
| 2.5.4 Quality of data | Poor |
| 2.5.5 Trend of the habitat | Stable (=) |
| 2.5.6 Trend period | 1994-2006 |
| 2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend | Not applicable |
| 2.6 Future prospects | |
| 2.6 Future prospects for the species | Good prospects_Species expected to survive and prosper |
| 2.7 Complementary information | |
| 2.7.1 Favourable reference range (sq km) | 4033 |
| 2.7.2 Favourable reference population | 110 |
| 2.7.3 Suitable Habitat for the species | Unknown |
| 2.7.4 Other relevant information | |
| 2.8 Conclusions <i>(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)</i> | |
| (2.3) Range | (FV) - Favourable |
| (2.4) Population | (U1) - Inadequate |
| (2.5) Habitat for the species | (U1+) - Inadequate but improving |

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (2.6) Future prospects | (FV) - Favourable |
| Overall assessment | (U1+) - Inadequate but improving |