The biology and non-chemical control of Swine-cress
*(Coronopus squamatus* (Forssk.) Asch.)*

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**Swine-cress**
(Swine’s Cress, Wart-cress)

*Coronopus squamatus* (Forssk.) Asch.
(*Cochlearia coronopus* L., *Senerbiera coronopus* Poiret)

**Occurrence**
Swine-cress is an annual or biennial herb that occurs locally in waste and cultivated places, farmyards, pastures, paths, in gateways and by roadsides (Bates, 1935). It is not usually a troublesome weed (Long, 1938). Swine-cress is common in southern and eastern England but infrequent further north (Clapham et al., 1987; Stace, 1997). It is not found above 1,000 ft (Salisbury, 1961). It is characteristic of clay soils (Brenchley, 1911). Swine-cress prefers nutrient rich soil and is tolerant of trampling. It is often found around manure heaps (Morse & Palmer, 1925).

Leaf size and shape is variable (Rich, 1991).

**Biology**
Swine-cress flowers from June to September (Clapham et al., 1987), or May to October (Rich, 1991). It can be found in fruit for 3 months of the year (Salisbury, 1962).

Seeds sown in a 75 mm layer of soil in open cylinders in the field and stirred periodically remained dormant until they had passed through the first winter following sowing in autumn (Roberts, 1986). In the year after sowing seedlings emerged from February to October with peaks of emergence in April and September. Seedlings continued to emerge over the 5 years of the study and viable seeds still remained when the study ended. Seed sown in May germinated in 14 days (Long, 1938).

**Persistence and Spread**
Seeds can remain viable for more than 5 years in cultivated soils (Robers, 1986).

**Management**
Swine-cress is not considered a serious arable weed (Morse & Palmer, 1925). Surface tillage, hoeing and the growing of root crops should keep it in check (Long, 1938).

In pasture, very intensive grazing encourages the development of swine-cress (Horne, 1953).

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**References**


