



## Purple milk-vetch

*Astragalus danicus*

### Description:

Purple milk-vetch is a low-growing plant in the pea family. It has small, hairy leaves in pairs along the stem. It flowers in June and July. The flowers are light purple and found in a close group at the end of the stem. The seed pods are narrow and like small, brown pea pods. It grows only on chalk or limestone soils.

**National status:** UK Priority Species, Red list endangered species

**Local status:** Found at some of the best quality chalk grassland sites in South and East Cambridgeshire and West of Peterborough, and still present in low numbers on a few lower quality sites.

**Associated habitats:** Chalk grassland

**Key sites:** Devil's Dyke, Fleam Dyke, Newmarket Heath, Roman Road, Great Wilbraham Common, Warren Hill, Barnack Hills and Holes, Bedford Purlieus, Southorpe Paddock, Southorpe Roughs.

### Suggested actions to benefit this species:

- Chalk grassland where this species is already present should be managed by traditional grazing.
- Do not use fertilisers on land where it is present.
- On sites where this species was historically present, soil disturbance may allow it to re-colonise from the seed bed, if appropriate management is in place.
- Submit your records of purple-milk vetch to the local records centre! <http://www.cperc.org.uk/>



### Sources of further information:

[http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wild\\_plants/plant\\_species/purplemilkvetch](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wild_plants/plant_species/purplemilkvetch)