White Stonecrop, *Sedum album*

**Overview**

**Short description of *Sedum album*, White Stonecrop**

A typical stonecrop, with procumbent stems, sending up erect flowering stems to 20cm and many shorter sterile shoots. Leaves alternate and sometimes tinged reddish, fleshy, more or less cylindrical; flowers star-like in a flattened panicle, white or with a hint of pink.

**Description of *Sedum album*, White Stonecrop status in GB**

White stonecrop is a common inhabitant of dry stony places in England, Wales and Ireland; somewhat less common in Scotland, especially the uplands and west.

**Habitat summary: *Sedum album*, White Stonecrop**

Open dry sites such as limestone rocks, walls, roofs, old airfield runways, shingle, paths and gravel. Sometimes sown into ‘green roofs’.

**Overview table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment:</th>
<th>Terrestrial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Species status:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native range:</td>
<td>Europe, Asia-Temperate, Northern Africa, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional type:</td>
<td>Land plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status in England:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status in Scotland:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status in Wales:</td>
<td>Non-Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of first record:</td>
<td>1634</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Invasion history: *Sedum album*, White Stonecrop**

**Origin**

A polymorphic species with a vast natural range including a multitude of climates, altitudes and terrains. This is an archaeophyte in GB, although thought possibly to be native in parts of the Malverns, Mendips and Devon.

**First Record**

Not known.

**Pathway and Method**

Possibly native. Vegetative parts or seed may be transported by vehicles or other means, or deliberate planting.

**Species Status**

There has been a marked increase in GB since 1962.

**Ecology & Habitat: *Sedum album*, White Stonecrop**

**Dispersal Mechanisms**

Once introduced this plant spreads quickly by creeping stems which may form large mats. Its seeds ripen...
Once introduced this plant spreads quickly by creeping stems which may form large mats. Its seeds ripen August-September.

**Reproduction**
The flowers are hermaphrodite and are pollinated by bees and flies, although this species is also self-fertile. Seeds ripen August-September.

**Known Predators/Herbivores**
A rare Sedum-specific Mirid bug *Chlamydatus evanescens*, two aphids, *Nasonovia dasyphylli* and *Aphis sedi*, two sawflies, *Athalia cornubiae* and *Athalia lugens* (the latter however usually feeding only on crucifers), the generalist Mullein Wave moth *Scopula marginipunctata*, and two weevils *Apion tilirostre* and *Apion sedi*, the first of which usually feeds only on legumes, and the second of which is specific to the Crassulaceae.

Plants in this genus seem to be immune to the predations of rabbits.

**Resistant Stages**
None known.

**Habitat Occupied in GB**
Open dry sites such as limestone rocks, walls, roofs, old airfield runways, broken concrete, shingle, paths and gravel. Increasingly sown into ‘green roofs’.

**Distribution:** *Sedum album*, White Stonecrop
Common in England, Wales and Ireland, somewhat less so in Scotland, especially in the uplands and west. Possibly native in parts of the Malverns, Mendips and Devon.

**Impacts:** *Sedum album*, White Stonecrop

**Environmental Impact**
The flowers provide pollen and nectar for insects and this is a common component of sown ‘green roofs’. It is undoubtedly exhibits vigorous growth and may form large mats; however, its small stature and tendency to colonise bare places means it is only likely to become problematic in limestone areas containing rarities.

**Health and Social Impact**
The leaves are edible, and the leaves and stems are applied externally as a poultice to inflammations and are especially recommended for treating painful haemorrhoids.

**Economic Impact**
None known.

**References & Links:** *Sedum album*, White Stonecrop

**Identification**

**Biology, ecology, spread, vectors**

http://www.plaf.org/user/plant.aspx?latinname=Sedum+album


Green roofs, e.g.: http://www.urbanhabitats.org/v04n01/london_full.html

**Management and impact**

http://www.cabdirect.org/abstracts/19722302932.html?ui=Sessionid=8CF70E7565C578257FB1C5324AF2A&8

**General**