

## The Fallen, Epitaphs on the Era of Irresponsibility

A growing number of wildflower species are on the edge of extinction – according to The Vascular Plant Red Data List 2005, nine native species have been lost within the British Isles.

Here lies Ghost Orchid;  
once haunted Beechwoods –  
rest in peace.

Here lies Small Bur-parsley;  
legion pot-herb of wastelands –  
rest in peace.

Here lies Alpine Bladder-fern;  
crosiers lost from damp highland rocks –  
rest in peace.

Here lies Cottonweed;  
assieged from Britain's beaches –  
rest in peace.

Here lies Purple Spurge;  
eternally procumbent –  
rest in peace.

Here lies Marsh Fleawort;  
ditched from fens, unrecorded –  
rest in peace.

Here lies Downy Hemp-nettle;  
the deceased passed unremarked from fields –  
rest in peace.

Here lies Summer Lady's-tresses;  
style totally outmoded –  
rest in peace.

Here lies Lamb's Succory;  
succumbed to high-yield wheat –  
rest in peace.

And with each plant, its embedded companions,  
the unknown biota lost to steady human pressure –  
may your souls also rest in peace.