

***Cryptogramma crispa* (L.) R.Br. ex Hook.**

Parsley Fern

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Vulnerable

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Absent

A small, deciduous, largely upland fern restricted to acidic substrates, particularly scree slopes but also found on mortar-free walls. In Somerset, only ever reported from two or three sites near Simonsbath, on Exmoor, and now considered to be extinct. First found by N. Ward Jr in 1840, growing sparingly on a stone wall at "Challicombe, Somersetshire" (although Challacombe is actually in Devon). A second specimen was collected at an elevation of 1000 or 1200 feet, (on Exmoor?), Somerset, by Dr. M.M. Bull in 1872 (Murray, 1896). Subsequently not seen for many years until a few plants were found by Mrs C.M.A. Cadell in 1956, growing on scree near Simonsbath. Recorded there, in Cornham Brake, for twenty years, at an altitude of 1075 feet (327m); it was last seen early in 1976 by Caroline Giddens, but is believed to have perished in the severe drought of that summer and has not been seen since. Nationally this species is found in Wales, Northern Ireland, northern England and Scotland, with a single population on Dartmoor, in Devon, which is a southern outlier, as were plants in Somerset.