

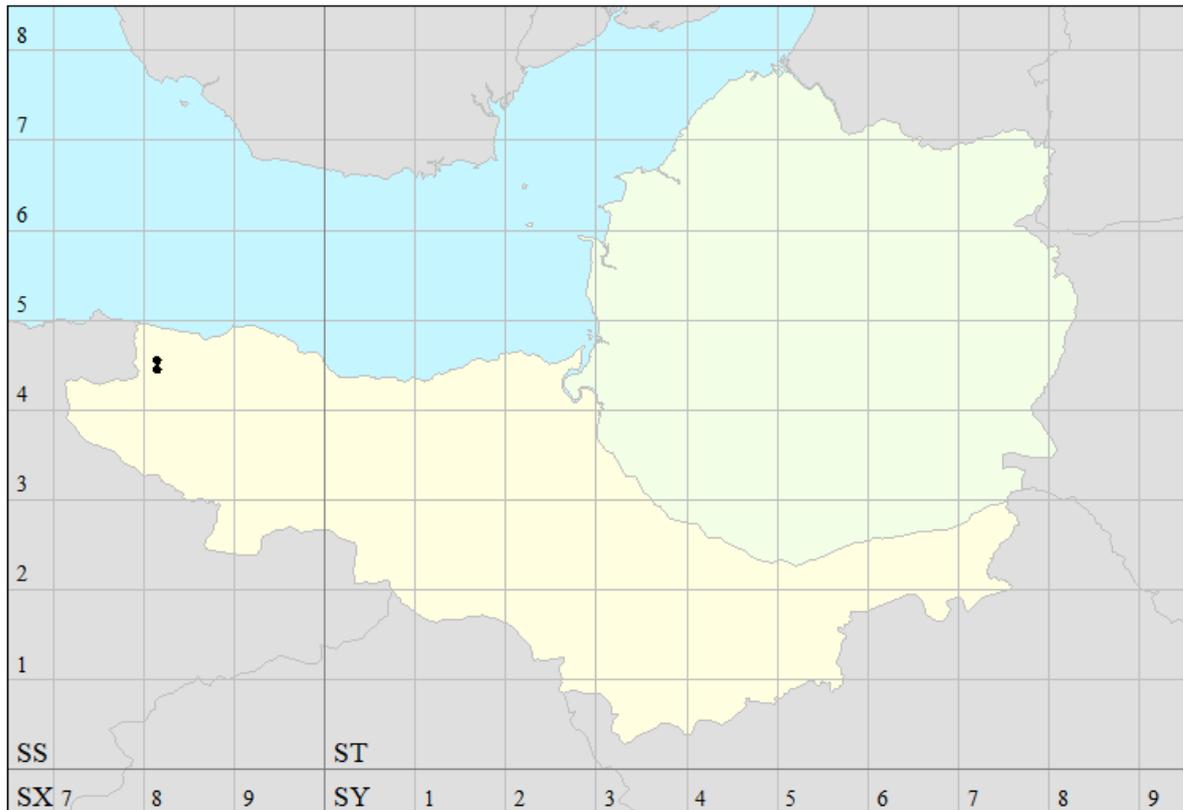
***Euphrasia confusa* Pugsley x *scottica* Wettst.**

Native

VC5 Rare; VC6 Absent

A slender hemiparasitic annual resembling *E. scottica* but differing in its flexuous main stem and, when present, more flexuous branches; more finely toothed, often pale green leaves and a larger flower with elongate lower lip. This hybrid differs from *E. confusa* in its tall habit, with longer internodes and short branches (Stace *et al.*, 2015). It is most frequent in upland areas and can persist independently of both parents, growing on the margins of peaty flushes, often extending into drier heathland communities on steep rocky slopes. In Somerset *E. confusa x scottica* was discovered by Graham Lavender in 2017, at Chalk Water, just south of Oareford on Exmoor, growing on the very edge of the river in short grassland, the identification confirmed by Chris Metherell. This is not far from Badgeworthy Valley, where *E. scottica* was found in 1898 by C.E. Salmon. Although *E. confusa* is not uncommon on Exmoor, *E. scottica* has not been found in Somerset since 1918, when it was collected somewhere near Simonsbath (in SS73) by E.S. Marshall (specimen in **CGE**), so the discovery of this hybrid, persisting for a century since the last record of one parent, is a most significant record. *E. confusa x scottica* is distributed in the uplands of Wales, northern England and Scotland; the site in Somerset is the most southerly occurrence.

VC5					
Chalk Water	SSSI	SS81944482	2017	GEL	50 plants on bank of stream
Chalk Water	SSSI	SS81964522	2017	GEL	50 plants on very edge of river in short grassland
Chalk Water	SSSI	SS81964523	2017	GEL	50 plants on bank of river, opp. other population



Distribution of *Euphrasia confusa x scottica* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate