

***Euphrasia tetraquetra* (Bréb.) Arrond.**

Western Eyebright

Native

GB: Data Deficient

England: Near Threatened

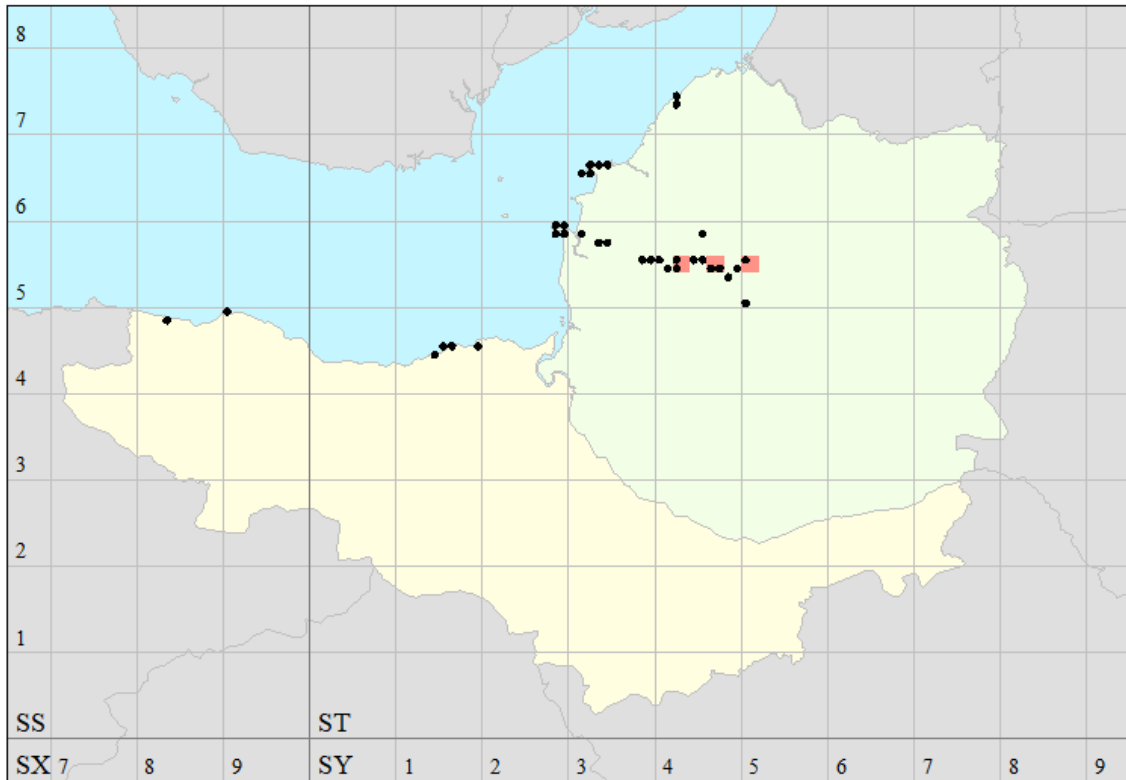
VC5 Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A hemiparasitic annual of short turf on exposed coastal cliffs and sand dunes, also rarely inland in short grassland on limestone and chalk. The earliest record for VC5 is a specimen (in **BM**) collected by R.P. Murray in 1893 in ST04. It is now known from several sites along the coast of VC5 but there are no subsequent records from ST04. In 1970 R.G. and I.G. Roe recorded this species (as *E. occidentalis*) at Broomstreet (SS84D); it was refound a little east of here in 2014 towards Ivy Stone, and further east in 2008 at Selworthy. C.A. Howe found this species in 1973 at Kilve Cliff (ST141443). In 2018 it was refound at Kilve Cliffs and at two sites near Lilstock and at Shurston Bars near Hinckley Point, where first found by Ro FitzGerald in 2012. An inland record by C.A. Howe from South Cadbury (ST62) in 1966 was confirmed as this species by P.F. Yeo. The earliest record for VC6 is a specimen (in **CGE**) collected in 1854 in ST36. At the coast there are recent records from Brean Down, Uphill, Sand Point and Middle Hope and Walton-in-Gordano. There are fewer sites at the coast than there are inland, where it is found in short turf on the limestone of the Mendips. There are recent records from Purn Hill, Hellenge Hill, Crook Peak, Wavering Down and Cross, Shute Shelve Hill, Callow Bank, The Perch, Dolebury Warren, Cheddar Gorge, Charterhouse, Ubley Warren and Westbury Beacon. Roe (1981) also mentioned inland records by C.A. Howe, confirmed by P.F. Yeo, at Compton Dundon [ST53] and Pitcombe [ST63], but there have been no subsequent records this far inland. *E. tetraquetra* is distributed around the coast of southern and western England, Wales, northern England, Scotland and Ireland, with scattered inland records. Sites in Somerset lie within this area of distribution.



Euphrasia tetraquetra on Brean Down (2014). Photo: HJC

VC5					
Ivy Stone		SS831488	2014	GEL	6 plants
Selworthy Cliff	SSSI	SS90964917	2008	JW	23 plants on steeply sloping cliff face at 114 ft
Kilve cliffs		ST14114427	2018	SRPG, WFS	Several in species-rich grassland on slumped cliffs
Lilstock	SSSI	ST15634500	2018	RFitzG	50 pl in calcareous grassland, edge of unstable cliff
Lilstock		ST16264536	2018	GEL, RFitzG, JW	30 plants on cliff edge
Shurton Bars	SSSI	ST19034570	2018	GEL, RFitzG	40 plants in grass at edge of cliff
Shurton Bars	SSSI	ST19204587	2018	GEL, RFitzG	50 plants at edge of cliff in short grass
Shurton Bars	SSSI	ST192459	2012	RFitzG	In short cliff grassland by way down to beach



Ditribution of *Euphrasia tetraquetra* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate
Red squares are 1987-1999 records; black dots are 2000- records



Euphrasia tetraquetra at Cheddar Gorge (2017). Photo: HJC