

Orobanche alba Stephan ex Willd.

Thyme Broomrape

Introduction

Least Concern

Nationally Scarce

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Error

An annual parasitic on *Thymus polytrichus*, found on base-rich rocky coastal slopes or inland scree. Recorded once in Somerset (VC5) as a casual. Discovered by Miss J.B. Loraine in 1978 in her garden at Greencombe, Porlock, growing on Thyme imported from France three years previously. It did not reappear in subsequent years. In VC6 recorded erroneously at Berrow Dunes by J.R. Comley in 1985: published in *Watsonia* **16**: 191 (1986) but deleted in *Watsonia* **17**: 476 (1989). This species has a localised distribution, restricted to the Lizard, northern England, the west coast and east of Scotland and scattered sites near the coast in Ireland.