

Daphne x houtteana Lindl. & Paxton (*D. mezereum x laureola*)

Native

GB Rare (Extinct?)

VC5 Absent; VC6 Extinct

A rare hybrid shrub, intermediate in leaf-retention between its deciduous and evergreen parents (*D. mezereum* and *D. laureola* respectively). In Somerset found once, in 1907, by Edward S. Marshall, on a wood-border between Somerton and Compton Dundon, towards Kingsweston. He described the plant as having "Flowers glabrous, whitish green; usually reddish externally, below. Leaves evergreen, but thin and impatient of frost; smaller than in normal *Laureola*, approaching those of *Mezereum* in texture and veining, and drying yellow. Wood and bark fairly intermediate" (Marshall, 1914). *D. mezereum* was unknown in the area at that time, although still to be found in a few locations in VC6. Marshall reported that cuttings taken from the plant died; there have been no further records. This hybrid is endemic to Britain and has only been recorded in two other vice-counties, the last record being in 1954.