

***Euphrasia micrantha*** Rchb.

**Slender Eyebright**

Native

GB: Data Deficient

England: Endangered

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Absent

A hemiparasitic annual of acid heathland, usually in association with *Calluna*, also found on disturbed sandy areas in disused quarries and gravel pits. First recorded in Somerset in 1898 by C.E. Salmon in Badgworthy Valley (Marshall, 1914) which is the western edge of Somerset on Exmoor; it was re-found here near Cloud Farm in 1973 by J.I. Robbins (Roe, 1984). In 1910 C. Bucknall found this species on Exmoor, above Porlock. In 1914 it was collected by A.H. Wolley-Dod (**CGE**) by the old railway at the top of the Brendon Hills and in 1918 E.S. Marshall and W. Watson recorded it as very local about Exford and Withypool. In 1952 P.F. Yeo collected *E. micrantha* on a heath at 1200 feet elevation near Withypool (SS826367), in the immediate vicinity of *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica cinerea* (Yeo, 1956; specimen in **CGE**). The last record for *E. micrantha* in Somerset was in 1987, when John Poingdestre found it at The Chains, Exmoor (Roe, 1988), on the west side of Hoar Oak Water, close to the stream (SS747423), north of the junction with a side stream. There have been no subsequent records, despite searches: this species may now be extinct in Somerset. *E. micrantha* is particularly found in Scotland and northern England, In Ireland, especially in the north, with scattered sites in Wales and southwest and southern England. It has been lost from many sites in southeast England; apparent declines elsewhere may reflect former confusion with other taxa.