

***Pinguicula vulgaris* L.**

Common Butterwort

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Vulnerable

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Extinct

An insectivorous perennial, forming rosettes annually from an overwintering bud, found in bogs, wet heathland and flushes, in base-poor and base-rich conditions. In VC5 only known from one site, Weacombe Combe, West Quantoxhead, where it was found by John Keylock in 1973. He recorded six or seven plants at ST118407, later confirmed as seven plants by Henry Boon, who also found three plants further down the combe at ST117408. Its location near a well-used path led to suspicion that it was introduced (Roe, 1981) and it only persisted for a couple of years (Green *et al.*, 1997). In VC6 first recorded from Glastonbury and Burtle Moors by Sole in Collinson (1791). Clark (1858) reported it as rather plentiful in marshy fields towards the southern and eastern borders of the moor. It was found on the peat moor near Shapwick Station by Mrs Gregory and recorded by D. Fry in 1886 as abundant on Walton Heath near Glastonbury (White, 1912). C.E. Moss knew it as an occasional species on the peat moors (White, 1912). In 1920 T.H. Green saw seven plants in an enclosure SE of Ashcott Station and it was also found by H. Slater in a neighbouring enclosure (White, 1922). W.D. Miller considered this species to be doomed on the peat moors owing to peat cutting and drainage (White, 1927); he later included it in his list of plants with a precarious hold in the county, reporting it lost from one site on Walton Heath, with three or four plants seen in another spot in 1926, but no records since 1928 (Miller, 1933). There have been no subsequent records in VC6. Away from the peat moors, *Pinguicula vulgaris* was found in 1875 by Miss Livett in a boggy dell or ravine near Gurney Slade and Old Down, on the road from Wells to Bath, but the spot was drained and the site lost (White, 1912). *Pinguicula vulgaris* was lost from many lowland sites in Britain and Ireland by the end of the nineteenth century due to drainage and agricultural intensification, with losses continuing in central and southern England during the twentieth century.