

***Antennaria dioica* (L.) Gaertn.**

Mountain Everlasting

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Vulnerable

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A dioecious, stoloniferous perennial, closely carpeting the ground on thin soils. Absent from VC5, this species has been known in small quantities from a few sites in VC6 but is now found at only one where its existence is precarious. The earliest record was on rocks on the south side of Brean Down (St Brody, 1856), where it was later reported to White (1912) by Mrs Gregory and Mr F. Beames, but not seen by White himself. Found in 1898 by Mrs Gregory in one spot on Worle Hill and seen there by White in 1902 and 1905. In 1913, it was recorded on the turf moor near Ashcott by C. Perrens and also in a rough heathy field at Failand by Mrs Inglis (Marshall, 1914). Found on Loxton Hill by Miss I.M. Roper in 1920 (White, 1922) and on a rocky slope near the upper end of Cheddar Gorge by E.J. Hamlin in 1922 (White, 1923), where it was last seen in 1925. Miss H.M. Dixon found a tiny patch in 1926 in a large field near the head of Goblin Combe (White, 1927). There were no further records for VC6 until it was discovered by Linda Carter in 2005, at Ubley Warren (near the upper end of Cheddar Gorge). A single patch is known, growing on an eroding ledge on a grassy slope, covering less than 0.2m². This species has declined considerably in lowland England; in Somerset it is near the southern limit of its distribution in Britain and Ireland.

VC6

Ubley Warren SSSI ST50365537 2012 HJC Patch 35 x 14cm, on an eroding grass ledge



Antennaria dioica at Ubley Warren (2007). Photo: FJR