

Anthemis cotula L.

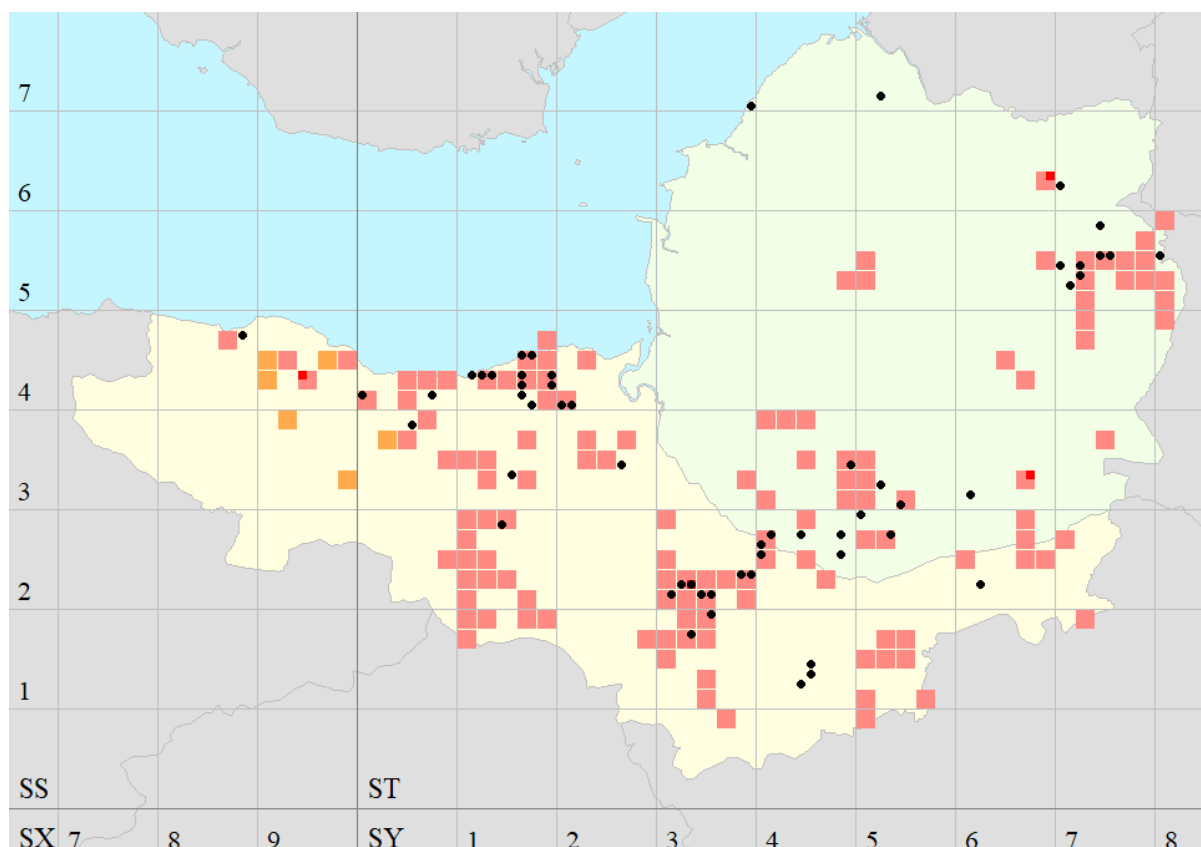
Stinking Chamomile

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Vulnerable

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A spring-germinating annual plant associated with disturbed ground including, but not exclusively, arable fields. Stinking Chamomile grows on a variety of soil types including calcareous loams and clays. In Somerset this species is not scarce in either VC5 or VC6 but appears to have declined in recent years. Murray (1896) regarded it as common on roadsides and cultivated land except in the west of the county. Roe (1981) stated that it was common on the Lias and Oolite, but rather scarce elsewhere. In VC5 it has been recorded since 2000 at scattered sites near the coast, including Porlock Marsh, Carhampton, Huish Barton, St Audrie's Bay, arable fields by Ten Acre Copse, at Kilton and at Lilstock. Elsewhere in VC5 there are only recent records for a few sites in central Somerset, including Fivehead Arable Fields SSSI and Drayton, where it was frequent along the route of a newly laid gas pipe. In VC6 this species has only been found recently at sites in central Somerset, including arable fields at Pitney, Knole and Hurcot; on reclaimed landfill at Dimmer Tip; at Clevedon and Failand in the north, and at several sites in the east of the county, for example in arable fields near Faulkland, Hemington and Tellisford and at the edge of a path in Ammerdown Park. *Anthemis cotula* has declined similarly in many areas of Britain due to its susceptibility to herbicides.



Distribution of *Anthemis cotula* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records; sepia squares are pre-1987 records