

## ***Drosera anglica* Huds.**

## **Great Sundew**

Native

GB: Near Threatened

England: Endangered

VC5 Lost; VC6 Lost

An herbaceous perennial of wet acidic peaty places. First recorded for VC5 and Somerset by Sole (Collinson, 1791) in swampy places on Blackdown, the sites not localised. Murray (1986) knew it to be plentiful in a bog on Chard Common, from which he collected specimens in 1891 (**BM** and **MANCH**). There have been no subsequent records from that site, although Watson (1915) included *D. anglica* in a diagram of zonation of ditch vegetation at Chard Common. *Drosera anglica* was collected together with the hybrid *D. x obovata* at Trickey Warren, N of Churchstanton (VC3, but now administrative Somerset), by I.A. Williams on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1919 (**BM**). Found in 1915 at Britty Common by W.D. Miller (Marshall, 1916), it persisted there for many years, last seen by members of the Mid-Somerset Naturalist Society on an excursion in 1952 (Anon, 1953). In VC6, a specimen in **BTH** was collected by C.E. Broome at Shapwick in 1872. White (1912) knew of this species only from specimens in the Boswell and Stephens herbaria, collected “many years ago” in the Wedmore turbarry. There were no further records until 1970, when J.K. Hibberd found plants “almost certainly this species, with leaf blades greater than 2 cm, in a site answering to the “Wedmore turbaries” cited by White” (Willis, 1971). Only a very few plants were found; however their identification was not confirmed and Dr F. Rose (*in litt.*) doubted the record. *Drosera anglica* has declined dramatically in England since the nineteenth century due to drainage, peat extraction and eutrophication (F.J. Rumsey in Preston *et al.*, 2002); the loss of Somerset sites reflects the national decline.