

Drosera rotundifolia L.

Round-leaved Sundew

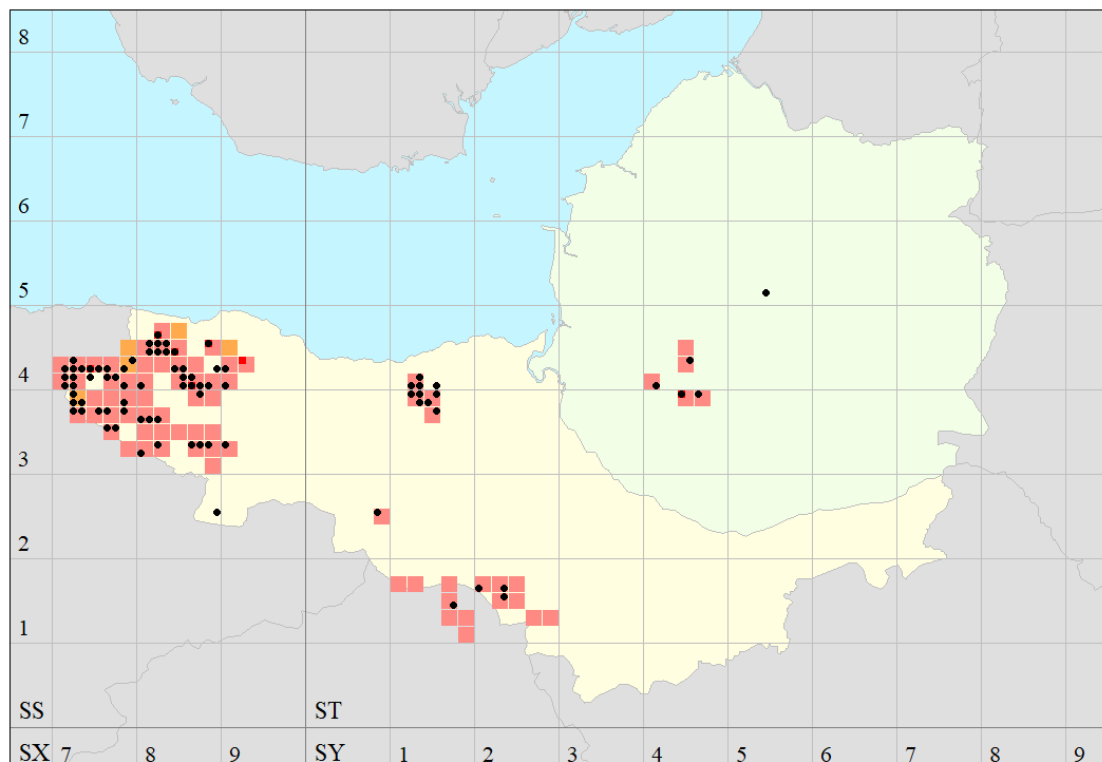
Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Scarce

An insectivorous herbaceous perennial forming rosettes on bare peat in open bogs, flushes and wet heathland. In VC5 this species is mainly restricted to sites on Exmoor, the Quantocks and the Blackdowns and has declined in all of these areas. Away from these hills it is only known from Clean Moor SSSI (ST0825) and Briggins Moor SSSI (SS8925), where it was discovered in 2014 by Stephen Parker and members of the BSBI. In VC6 *Drosera rotundifolia* is Scarce and has declined markedly. Murray (1896) described it as "Plentiful on the peat moor"; it is now almost restricted to the peat moors, but is not plentiful and is only known from Ashcott Plot, Street Heath, Shapwick Heath and Westhay Moor. There are no recent records for ST44M, where it was last seen in 1992. Away from the peat moors, this species was recorded in the far southeast of VC6 by Murray (1896) on Gasper Common, now in Wiltshire. It was also recorded by H.F. Parsons on Downhead Common (Murray, 1896), but there have been no subsequent records for those areas. On the Mendips it was recorded on Blackdown [Black Down] by D. Fry and at Priddy by H.F. Parsons (Murray, 1896). White (1912) wrote that it grew "In boggy spring-heads and like spots on the Mendip moorland" but gave no records. It was not seen again on the Mendips until found by Helena Crouch and Fred Rumsey in 2011, in a boggy springhead on North Hill, Priddy (outside an SSSI). This species has declined in much of England due to loss of habitat, as a result of afforestation, encroachment by scrub, peat digging and development.



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

VC6

Shapwick Heath	SSSI	ST416408	2002	MC, PW	Scattered in field E of track at Canada Farm
Shapwick Heath	SSSI	ST44183973	2008	EJMcD, SJP	Abundant in wet heathy areas of 70 Acres
Shapwick Heath	SSSI	ST44273970	2008	EJMcD, SJP	Abundant on drier track in 70 Acres
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST441392	2008	SRPG	Few plants on cleared area of peat moor
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST440391	2011	HJC, FJR	Scattered plants, mostly at W / centre of plot
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST442393	2012	SBG	
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST44113914	2014	HJC, FJR	On Sphagnum hummocks, N side of ditch
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST44193916	2017	HJC, JMcG, SJP	Many plants in short grassland
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST441391	2019	EJMcD	Frequent at edge of ditches
Street Heath	SSSI	ST46373945	2009	HJC, FJR	Few plants on damp peat near peat pits
Street Heath	SSSI	ST46393943	2009	HJC, FJR	Few plants on damp peat near peat pits
Street Heath	SSSI	ST46373942	2015	AB, SBG	E side of N compartment
Street Heath	SSSI	ST46363945	2015	AB, SBG	E side of N compartment
Street Heath	SSSI	ST46363941	2015	AB, SBG	E side of N compartment
Westhay Moor	SSSI	ST45344393	2016	AB, SBG	Along south edge of ditch
Westhay Moor	SSSI	ST45324393	2016	AB, SBG	Along south edge of ditch
Westhay Moor (Mire)	SSSI	ST453435	2013	SRPG	By newly excavated pond
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45254341	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45254342	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45264342	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45264343	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45264344	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45264345	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45274342	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45274345	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45274346	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45354345	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45354346	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45364347	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45364348	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45364351	2016	ATC, SBG	Near N boundary of Compartment F3
Westhay Moor (F3)	SSSI	ST45374350	2016	HJC, FJR	Scattered on bare areas in F3
Westhay Moor (Mire)	SSSI	ST4543	2017	ATC, SRPG	Scattered throughout M1c (N) on moss
Westhay Moor (Mire)	SSSI	ST45404359	2017	HJC, SBG	Many plants around pond
Westhay Moor (Mire)	SSSI	ST4543	2017	VG, SBG	Mainly on Sphagnum, in M1c (S)
Westhay Moor (Mire)	SSSI	ST454438	2017	AB, SBG	In several places, on Sphagnum
North Hill, Priddy		ST54095115	2011	HJC, FJR	Several pl, bog nr top of field, SW side of hill



Drosera rotundifolia at Widcombe Moor (2015). Photo: HJC