

## ***Euphrasia anglica* Pugsley**

## **English Eyebright**

Endemic Native

GB & England: Endangered

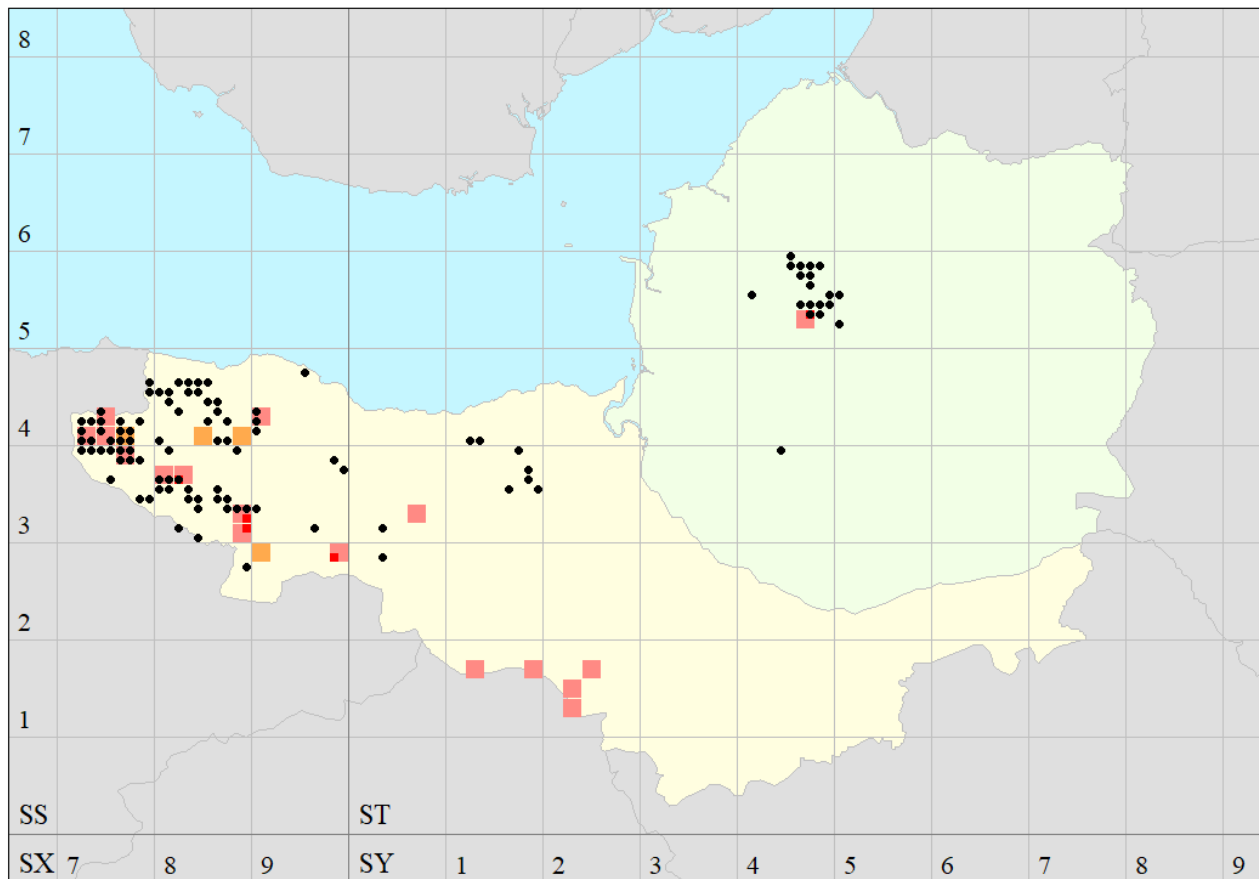
Section 41

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

An endemic hemiparasitic annual of tightly grazed grassland on damp acidic substrates, found on heaths and moorlands, old pastures and disused quarries. In VC5 Roe (1981) described this species as common on Exmoor and the Brendons and frequent on the Quantocks and Blackdowns. It is still found at many sites on Exmoor, the Brendons and on the Quantocks; however there are no recent records for the Blackdowns. In VC6 White (1912) listed records for this species (as *E. rostkoviana*) from Broadfield Down towards Winford, Crook Peak and Wavering Down, Burrington Combe, Rowberrow, and Downside Common, Edford. He noted that it was abundant on the peat moors. Roe (1981) described this species as frequent on the greensand of the Wiltshire border, also occurring on the peat moors and in a few places on the Mendip sandstone. There are no recent records for the east of the county and it is only currently known from one site on the peat moors: Ashcott Plot. On the Mendips however, this species is frequent in grassland around the rim of Cheddar Gorge, including Heydee Hill, Piney Sleight and Black Rock on the north side and from Bubwith Acres to beyond Ram's Cliff on the south side, extending SE to Cheddar Head. There is a recent record from Cross Plain, which is the east part of the ridge of Crook Peak and Wavering Down mentioned by White (1912), and this species is also scattered above Burrington Combe, on Burrington Ham and Black Down, extending west to Dolebury Warren. *Euphrasia anglica* is particularly found in areas of southern England, with scattered populations further north and in Wales and Ireland; however it appears to have declined throughout much of its area of distribution.



*Euphrasia anglica* near Totty Pot, Cheddar Gorge (2016). Photo: HJC



Distribution of *Euphrasia anglica* in Somerset mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; pink squares are 1987-1999; sepia squares are pre-1987 records



*Euphrasia anglica* at Cheddar Gorge (2017). Photo: HJC