

Euphrasia confusa Pugsley x ***micrantha*** Rchb.

Native

VC5 Scarce; VC6 Absent

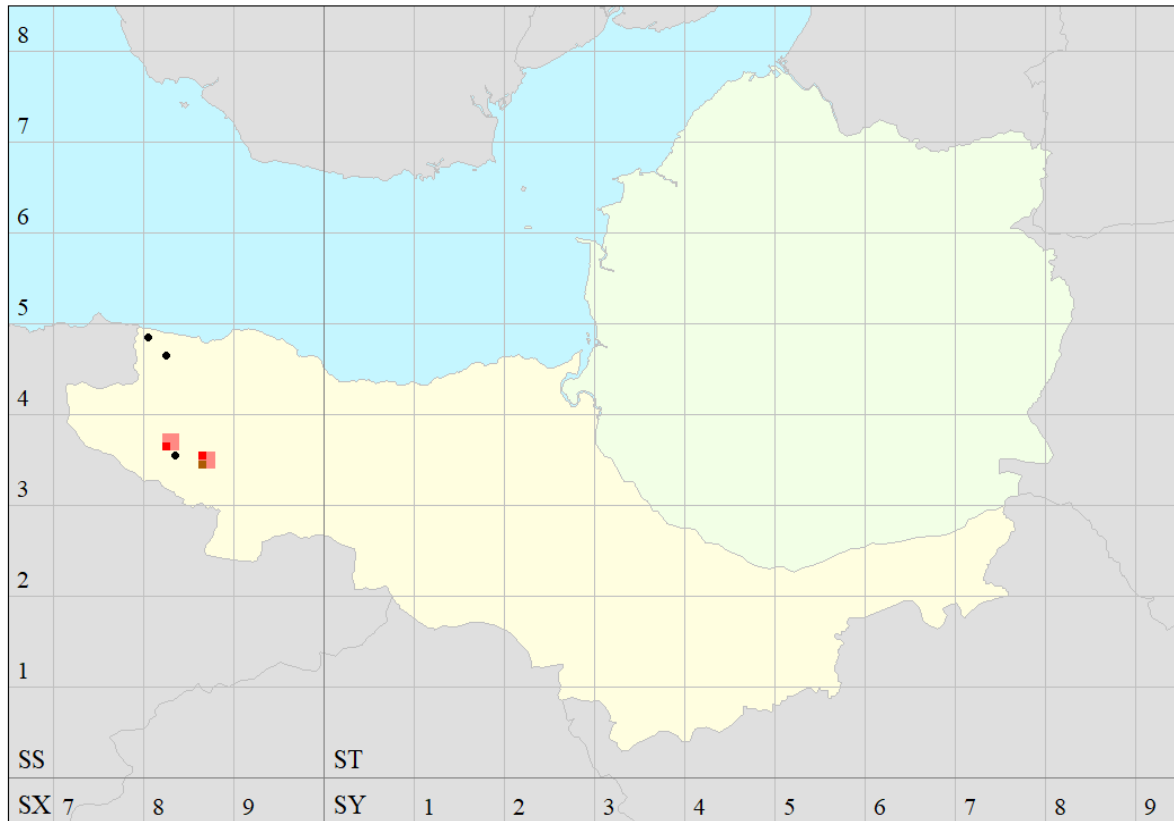
Resembling an erect rigid *E. confusa* with fewer basal branches, longer lower internodes and darker leaves, this hybrid is found in grassland and heathland, on roadsides, banks and coastal turf (Stace *et al.*, 2015). In Somerset *E. micrantha* has only ever been found on Exmoor (VC5), and not since 1987; this hybrid is also restricted to Exmoor, but has been recorded more recently than its rarer parent. The earliest record is a specimen in **BM** collected by E.S. Marshall at Simonsbath in 1918 (det. P.F. Yeo). In 1982, Alan Silverside recorded this hybrid at three sites on Exmoor: on a heathery roadside bank on Winsford Hill (SS8634), on a moorland roadside bank at Comer's Gate, Withypool (SS861353) and, in the absence of both parents, on a road bank north of Lanacre Farm, Lanacre (SS861353) (A.J. Silverside, 1987, letter to R.B.G. Roe). In 2010, specimens collected at Weir Water Valley were identified as this hybrid by Alan Silverside, and in 2015 several plants, identified by Chris Metherell, were found on a roadside bank at Withypool Common. In 2017, Graham Lavender found a population on a roadside at Yenworthy, amongst a swarm of other *Euphrasia* plants. This hybrid is known to persist and form uniform and attractive populations in areas from which *E. micrantha* appears to have gone (Stace *et al.*, 2015); this would appear to be the situation in Somerset.



Euphrasia confusa x *micrantha* at Withypool Common (2015). Photo: FJR

VC5

Yenworthy	SSSI	SS80234814	2017	GEL	In short grass by drive to Yenworthy Farm
Weir Water Valley	SSSI	SS82194642	2010	SRPG	Acid grassland nr Robber's Bridge. Det AJS
Lanacre		SS823365	1987	ENHS	Neither parent nearby. Det. AJS
Withypool Common	SSSI	SS83723503	2015	HJC, CM, FJR	Several plants on bank, N side of road
Winsford Hill	SSSI	SS861353	1987	ENHS	Det. AJS



Distribution of *Euphrasia confusa* x *micrantha* in Somerset mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; pink squares are 1987-1999, either 1km or tetrad records; sepia squares are pre-1987 records