

***Galium parisiense* L.**

Wall Bedstraw

Native

GB & England: Vulnerable

GB Scarce

VC5 Rare; VC6 Rare

A small annual of walls and bare ground, where it is intolerant of competition or nutrient enrichment. Discovered new to VC5 in 2012, when Simon Leach found thousands of plants on verges and bare ground near Taunton railway station. In 2015 he found it at a second site in Taunton, at the Silk Mills Park & Ride car park, then in 2017 on an industrial estate in Taunton. In VC6 this species was recorded twice in the nineteenth century, but both records were considered dubious. Babington (1834) listed a record for Charlcombe [north of Bath: ST76N] which Murray (1896) declared to be “No doubt a misnomer”. White (1912) concurred with this view, yet wrote that “the late Mr T.B. Flower, writing to me in June, 1883, mentioned having found the plant “a few days since on old walls near Bath”.” White doubted this record too, having seen no specimen. The first confirmed record for VC6 was made in 1999, when B.G. Wanford found this species on a gravel path in a garden in Wells. In 2013, it turned up again in Wells, two small plants being found by Fred Rumsey and Helena Crouch at the edge of paving, beside a newly constructed supermarket. In 2019 this species was discovered on spoil in a quarry near Nunney. This largely Mediterranean species was formerly restricted to the south of England and East Anglia and has been lost from many early sites on walls and bare soil, but in recent years has been discovered at many new locations, often in ruderal habitats. Sites in Somerset are within the modern range of this species.



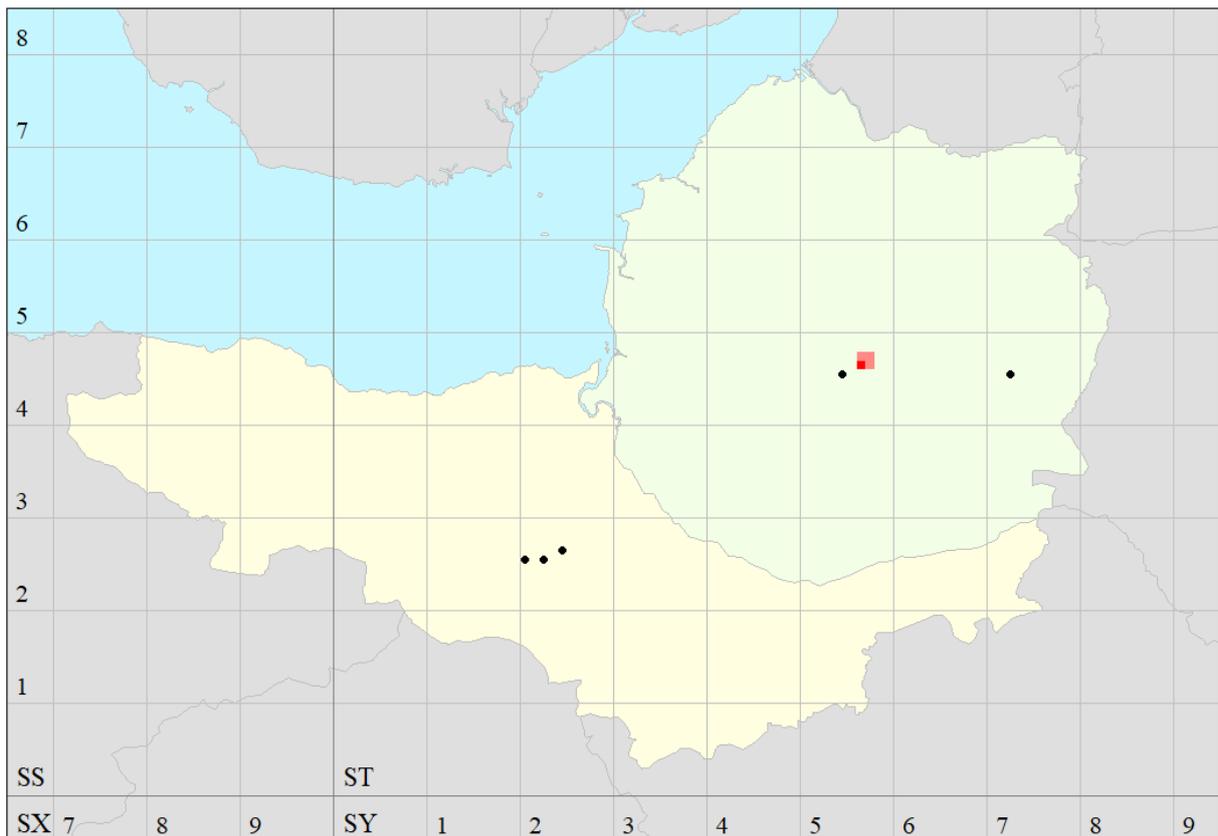
Galium parisiense in Taunton (2012). Photo: SJL

VC5

Taunton, Silk Mills	ST20812542	2015	SJL	39 plants in paving / kerbside at P&R car park
Taunton, Silk Mills	ST20772543	2016	SJL, SJP	Thousands of pl on kerbs/edges at P&R
Taunton	ST22852537	2012	SJL	25-40 plants on verge near railway station
Taunton	ST22872537	2012	SJL	650-700 plants on verge near railway station
Taunton	ST22812540	2012	SJL	800-1000 plants on verge near railway station
Taunton	ST22912538	2012	SJL	40-50 plants on verge near railway station
Taunton	ST22922538	2012	SJL	25-30 plants on verge near railway station
Taunton	ST22992540	2012	SJL	25-30 plants on verge near railway station
Taunton	ST22852539	2012	SJL	150-200 pl on grassy verge in station car park
Taunton	ST22852539	2012	SJL	20 plants at base of earth bank in car park
Taunton	ST22862539	2012	SJL	5-10 plants at base of earth bank in car park
Taunton Station	ST22792541	2012	PRG	Lots below fence
Taunton, Priorswood	ST24322602	2017	SJL	Grassy bank outside industrial unit on estate

VC6

Wells	ST54774527	2013	HJC, FJR	2 plants at edge of paving to N of supermarket
'Beryl', Wells	ST560468	1999	BGW	Gravel path, garden of 'Beryl', Wells
Nunney, W of	ST72324559	2019	JMcG	5 plants growing in fines in a quarry



Distribution of *Galium parisiense* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate
 Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records