

***Parentucellia viscosa* (L.) Caruel**

Yellow Bartsia

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Rare; VC6 Lost

A hemiparasitic annual of damp, disturbed grassy sites, tracks and dune slacks, now often introduced in amenity seedings and found on waste ground. In VC5, first found in 1964 in SS84 by J. Rogerson (record on DDb), but there have been no subsequent records from that area. In 1993 a single specimen was found by Paul Green on the bank of a newly made pond northwest of Fitzhead. The only site where this species persists in Somerset is Yarty Moor on the Blackdowns, where it was first found in 2014 by David Northcote-Wright. In VC6 found at Berrow Dunes in 1950 by E.J. Hamlin. It was reported to be surviving at its old station between Berrow and Brean by (Mrs D.H.P.) [Perrett] (Boon, 1960 [1961]), but there have been no subsequent records. In 2008 about 400 plants were found by Phil Quinn on private land at Royal Portbury Dock, in short rabbit-grazed turf, however the site has been re-developed and there have been no further records. This species has increased in Britain through introductions, but has declined at native sites in the southwest due to pasture “improvement”.

VC5

Fitzhead, NW of		ST109299	1993	PRG	1 plant on S side of newly made pond
Yarty Moor	SSSI	ST23561613	2019	SRPG	13 plants in marshy area
Yarty Moor	SSSI	ST23581615	2019	SRPG	1 plant in marshy area
Yarty Moor	SSSI	ST23541613	2020	HJC, FJR	1 plant near top of slope
Yarty Moor	SSSI	ST23551612	2020	HJC, FJR	c.100 plants in flower in small area of marsh
Yarty Moor	SSSI	ST23561610	2020	HJC, FJR	5 plants on track, by gorse
Yarty Moor	SSSI	ST23561611	2020	HJC, FJR	18 plants on track by gorse
Yarty Moor	SSSI	ST23571607	2020	HJC, FJR	1 plant at edge of bramble patch

VC6

Royal Portbury Dock		ST505761	2008	PQ	c.400 pl in short rabbit-grazed turf (private land)
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Parentucellia viscosa at Yarty Moor (2020). Photo: HJC