

***Myriophyllum alternifolium* DC.**

Alternate Water-milfoil

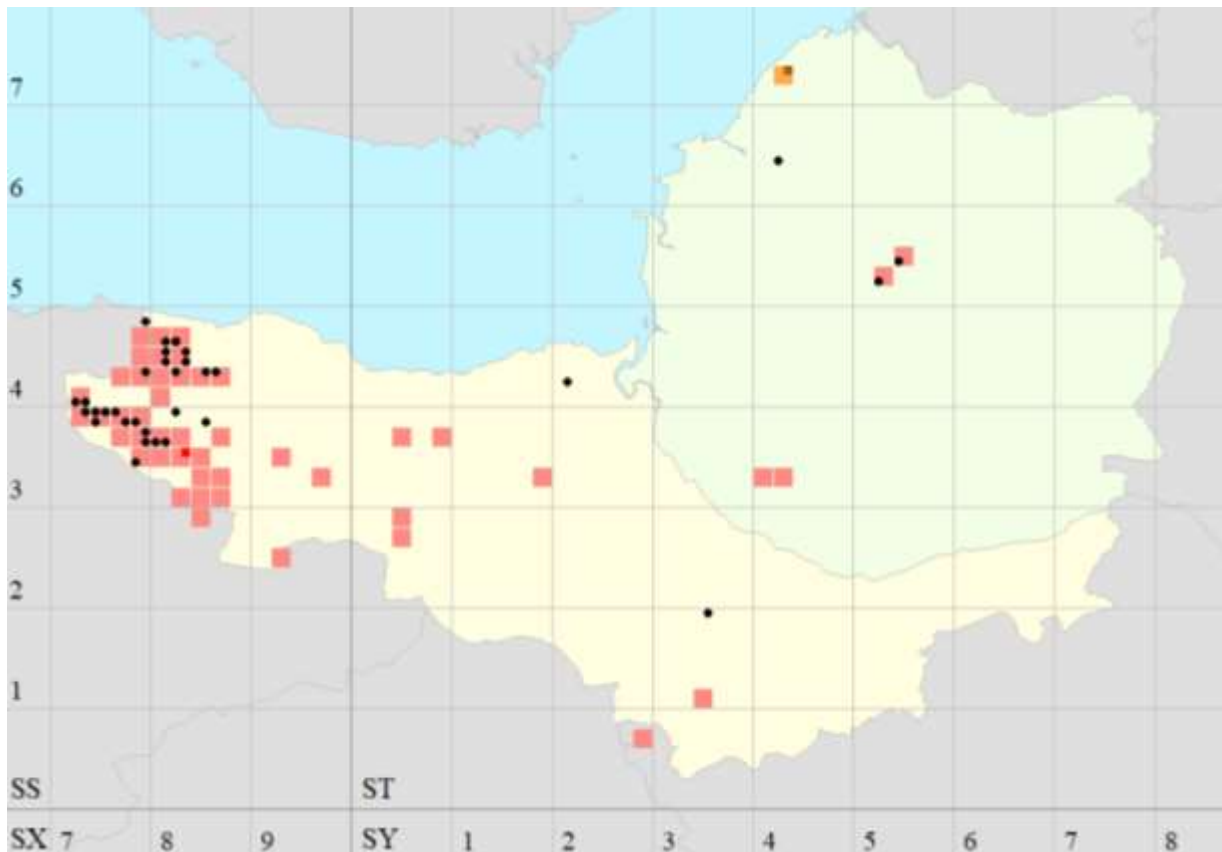
Native

GB & England: LC

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Scarce

A submerged aquatic perennial of nutrient-poor acidic streams, rivers, ponds and lakes. In VC5 not uncommon on Exmoor, where it can be found in the Rivers Barle and Exe, in smaller streams such as Chalk Water and Weir Water, and in Nutscale Reservoir. Away from Exmoor it is rare, with no recent records in the Quantocks or Brendons, or in a stream north of Chard Reservoir at Knowle St Giles (ST31K) where it was last seen in 1991. The only post-2000 records for VC5 are in a pond at a cottage near Stogursey (ST218422), found by Ro FitzGerald, and in the River Isle at Isle Abbots (ST35761917), found by John Poingdestre. In 2019 it was re-found in a pond and stream at Wambrook (in modern Somerset but VC9). In VC6 *Myriophyllum alternifolium* was first recorded from Axbridge Moors by H.S. Thompson (Murray, 1896). White (1912) first found this species in several ditches on the Nailsea side of Tickenham Moor in 1902. In 1904 he found it in ditches near the Bristol Channel between Portbury and Portishead. In 1910 he collected it in moor ditches below Weston-in-Gordano; it was re-found there in a rhyne on Walton Moor by Robert Cropper in 1978 (Willis, 1980b) and in a cleared peat ditch on Walton Moor (ST438734) in 1982 by J.O. Mountford (Willis, 1984). This species may persist in the Gordano Valley, although there are no post-2000 records. Green *et al.* (2000) include a record for a rhyne near Wick St Lawrence, but it has not been found there again and the habitat may be unsuitable. In 2003, Faith Moulin found this species on Congresbury Moor: it was re-found in a ditch of Biddle Street SSSI in 2007 and there have been subsequent recent records in that area (records held at BRERC). It is also known from two ponds on Mendip, one north of Priddy where it was first found by Joan Appleyard in 1973 (Willis, 1974), the other a small pond on the hillside above Garrowpipe Spring, where this species was first found in 1993 by Ian Green. There have been no further records from Beacon Hill, where it was seen in 1971 by C.A. Howe (Roe, 1981), whilst records mapped by Green *et al.* (1997) in ST43B and ST43G were believed by them to be errors. This species suffered losses in lowland England before 1930 and has been lost from some sites in Somerset.

VC6					
Congresbury Moor	SSSI	ST428646	2003	FM	
Priddy, N of		ST52135226	2018	HJC, FJR	Frequent across Typha-filled pond N of B3135
Garrowpipe Spring		ST548546	2009	HJC, JPC	Good quantity in flower across pond



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



Myriophyllum alternifolium in a pond N of Priddy (2009). Photo: FJR