

Euphrasia anglica Pugsley x ***arctica*** Lange ex Rostrup

Native

VC5 Rare; VC6 Rare

An annual, hemiparasitic, tall, robust, large-flowered hybrid with the stature of hay-meadow variants of *E. arctica* but bearing long flexuose glandular hairs. In VC5 this hybrid was found for the first time in 2016 by Graham Lavender, at Goat Hill on Exmoor, growing with both parents, the specimens determined by Chris Metherell. In 2017 it was also collected from Aclands, just south of Goat Hill. In VC6 a specimen in **BM** collected in 1903 from Shapwick was determined as this hybrid by P.F. Yeo. A specimen in **CGE** collected by H.S. Thompson from the “*Carex evoluta* enclosure” in 1922 was also determined as this hybrid (then *E. anglica* x *brevipila*) by P.F. Yeo, as was a specimen in **K** collected by V.S. Summerhayes in 1928 at Sharpham, in low peaty pasture. Both these last two were believed to have come from Sharpham Moor Plot (Yeo, 1956). Further plants were found in moderately long grass in a relatively acid spot at nearby Street Heath (Yeo, 1956). There were no subsequent records until 2011 when this hybrid was collected in a hay meadow beside Ashcott Plot, the identification confirmed by Chris Metherell. This is a rare hybrid: outside Somerset it is known at three sites in Devon, there is an old record from Kirkcudbrightshire, and in 2018 this hybrid was found new to Ireland, in North Tipperary.



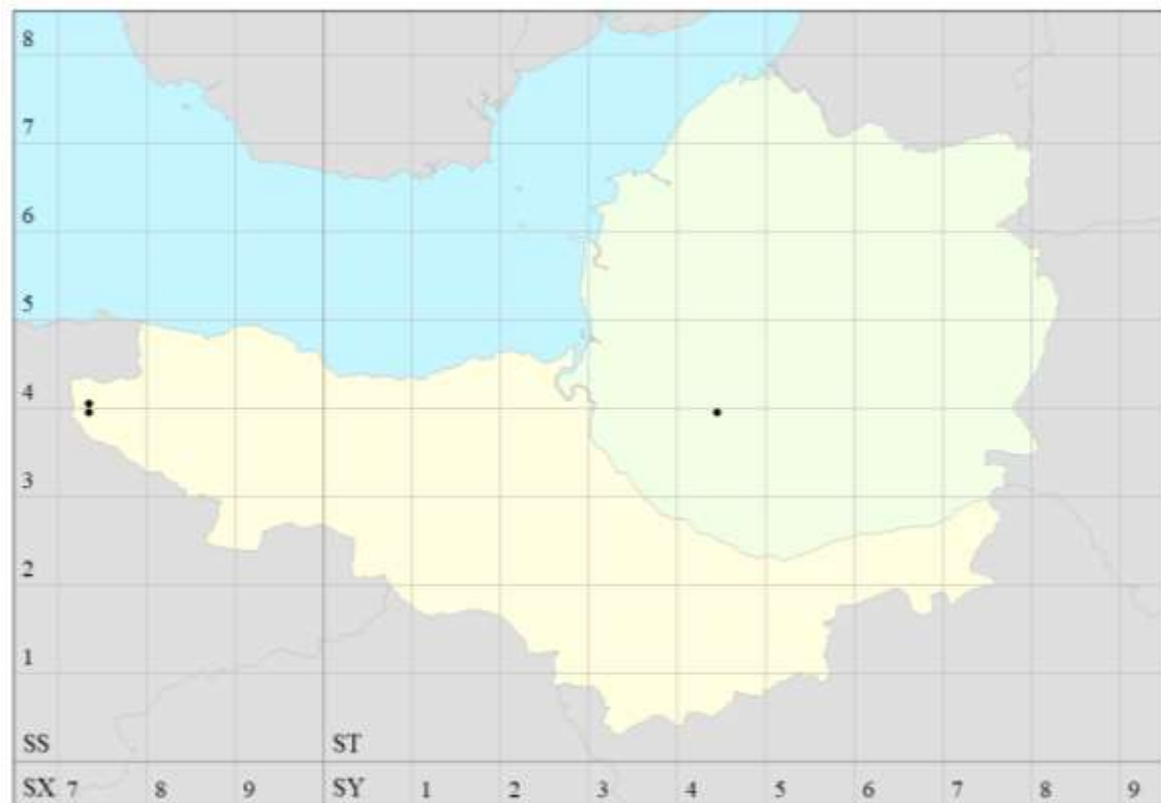
Euphrasia anglica x *arctica* at Ashcott Plot (2017). Photo: HJC

VC5

Goat Hill		SS73254003	2016	GL	Very tall specimens with long glandular hairs
Goat Hill		SS73264003	2017	HJC, GL, MB	Many plants near bottom edge of field
Aclands		SS73313976	2017	HJC, GL, MB	

VC6

Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST44173911	2011	HJC, FJR	In tussocky grassland
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST44183911	2014	HJC, FJR	In grazed grassland just inside gate
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST44213908	2014	HJC, FJR	Several tall plants in species-rich hay meadow
Ashcott Plot	SSSI	ST44233906	2015	HJC, FJR	In species-rich hay meadow E of plot



Distribution of *Euphrasia anglica* x *arctica* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate.
Black dots are post-2000 records