

***Hornungia petraea* (L.) Rchb.**

Hutchinsia

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Lost; VC6 Scarce

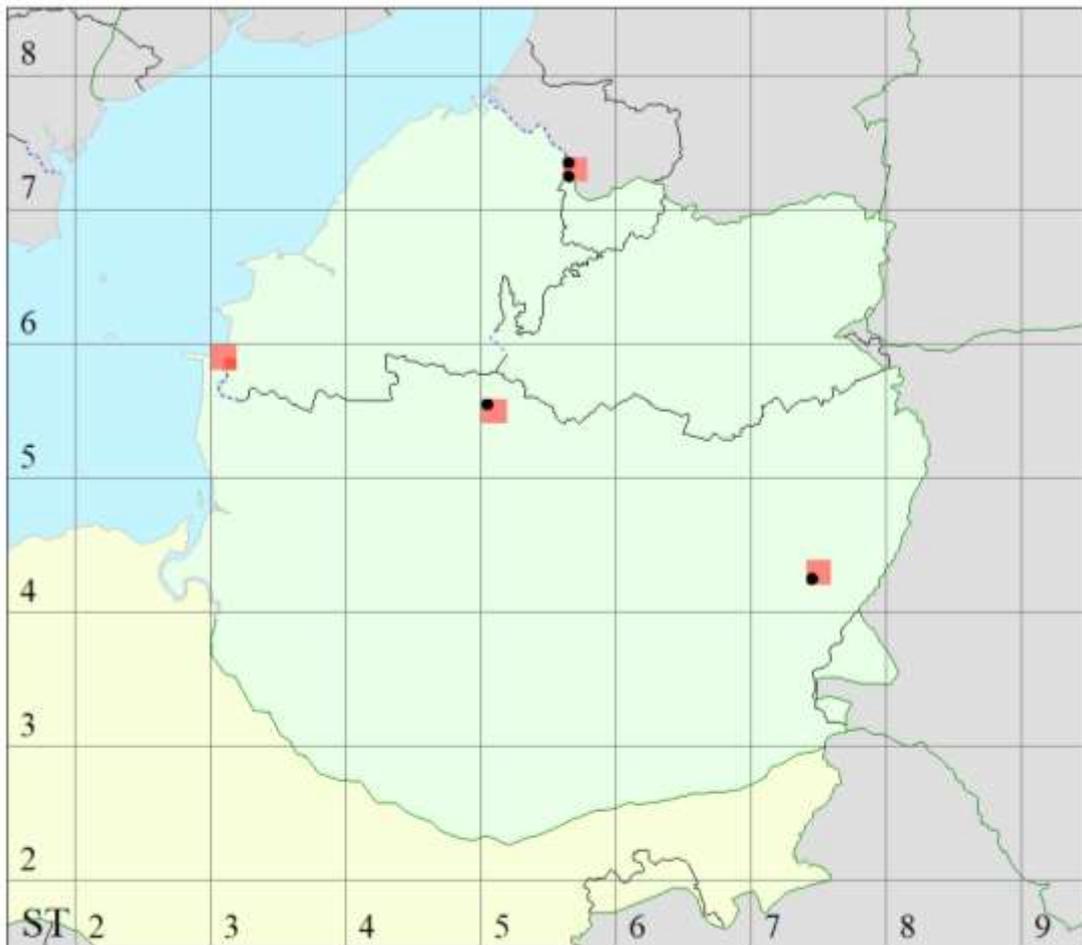
A winter annual, found on very thin soil over carboniferous limestone rocky outcrops and walls. Only ever recorded as an introduction in VC5, where it was planted in about 1940 on top of a field wall in Wembdon, last seen there by H.W. Boon in 1955. In VC6, first recorded by Hudson (1778) at Uphill, where it was also noted by Sole (Collinson, 1791). Although not seen again at Uphill for 200 years, *Hornungia petraea* was recorded there in 1993 by P. Rooney; however subsequent thorough searches by members of Somerset Rare Plants Group and others have been unsuccessful. Recorded by Sole at Worle (Collinson, 1791), a record which Marshall (1914) considered not at all impossible, yet there have been no subsequent records for that site. Watson (1837) listed a record by Collins at Cheddar. White (1912) reported that he had searched the most likely spots in vain. In 1935, however, this species was found by W.S. Parry near Charterhouse, which could be the earlier Cheddar site. It persists in two places at Ubley Warren Nature Reserve. Sole also knew this species "In the woods on the rocks facing the Hotwells" (Collinson, 1791), where it was also recorded by H.S. Thompson "On limestone under Leigh Woods" (Murray, 1896). In recent years it has been known from four discreet sites near the suspension bridge, however it is feared lost from three of these due to scrub encroachment. *Hornungia petraea* was unintentionally introduced onto a garden wall at Millards Hill House, Trudoxhill, where it was first observed by G.B. Milne-Redhead in 1910. It persists luxuriantly at this site. In Somerset, this species is at the southern edge of its British range.



Hornungia petraea at Ubley Warren (2007). Photo: FJR

VC6

Uphill	SSSI	ST316585	1993	PR	
Ubley Warren	SSSI	ST50655539	2020	HJC, JMC	44 pl on rock outcrop in the Rakes
Ubley Warren	SSSI	ST50605530	2020	HJC, JMC	c. 400 pl on spoil heap S of the Rakes
Ubley Warren	SSSI	ST50595529	2020	HJC, JMC	32 pl on rock S of spoil tump S of the Rakes
Ubley Warren	SSSI	ST50615529	2020	HJC, JMC	36 pl on rock SE of spoil tump S of the Rakes
Avon Gorge, by towpath	SSSI	ST56417300	1991	LH	On rocks above railway
Avon Gorge, by towpath	SSSI	ST56437300	2010	LH	1 on rock face between railway and towpath
Avon Gorge, by towpath	SSSI	ST56437302	2010	LH	7 plants on rocky ledges below the towpath
Avon Gorge, by towpath	SSSI	ST56427304	2012	HJC, LH	350 plants on rock outcrop above slab
Trudoxhill		ST74964280	2012	HJC, GHR	1000+ plants on top of soil-capped wall
Trudoxhill		ST74964279	2012	HJC, GHR	1000+ plants on top of soil-capped wall



Distribution of *Hornungia petraea* in North Somerset (VC6), mapped using MapMate.
Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999