

***Polygonatum odoratum* (Mill.) Druce**

Angular Solomon's-seal

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

VC5 Lost; VC6 Rare

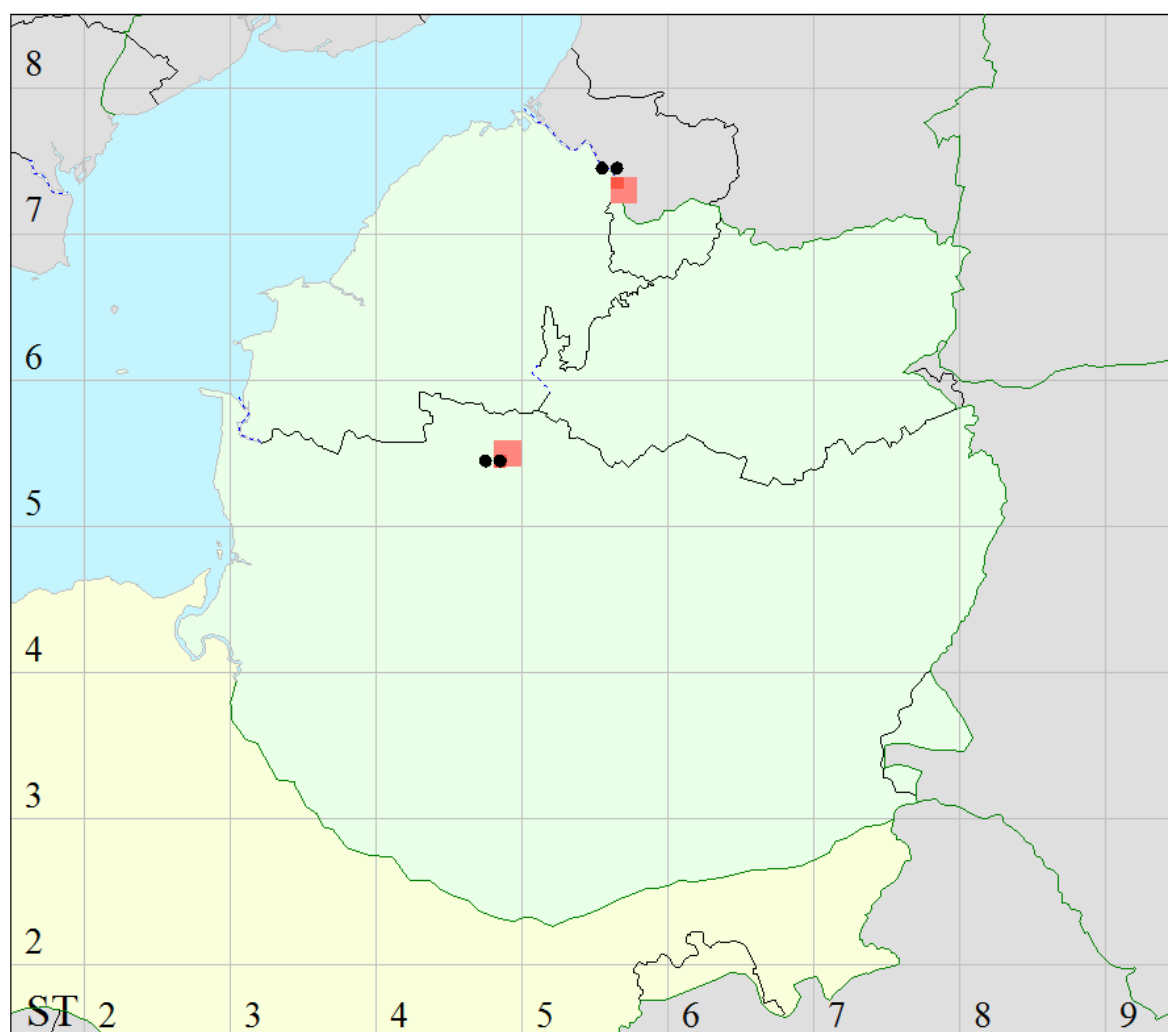
A perennial rhizomatous herb found in woods, on rocky limestone outcrops and quarry cliffs. Only ever thought to be an introduction in VC5, recorded at Oare in 1912 by H.S. Burnell-Jones (Marshall, 1914). In VC6, found at more sites and persisting at three. Formerly known by Sole from "woods at East Harptree under Mendip" (Collinson, 1791), but not recorded here subsequently. Recorded in Asham Woods in 1917 by Miss I.M. Roper and seen again in 1918 by H.S. Thomson, who also found it in Babington Wood and Melcombe Woods. Not recorded again at any of these three sites, or in Park Wood, Wells, where it was found in 1955 by E.F. Payne. Roe (1981) considered this species to be an introduction at these last three sites. Found by White in 1919 in a wood east of Rhodyate Hill (near Congresbury). Not seen here again until 1984, when it was refound by A.J. Parsons in Ball Wood, near Congresbury (Roe, 1984). Mark and Clare Kitchen, and later Ro FitzGerald, recorded "a patch on crest of limestone crag" (Willis, 1986), but there have been no records since. The extant sites in VC6 were known to Murray (1896) and White (1912), these being the upper part of Cheddar Gorge, and Leigh Woods. First recorded at Cheddar Cliffs by W. Christy in 1835, it was reported by White to be "still there in two places; one near the pine wood, and the other at the top of a cliff in a combe on the north side of the gorge". It is still to be found high on the south side of Cheddar Gorge, and also at Black Rock, Cheddar, where 75 shoots were seen in 2009 but only 2 in 2016. In Leigh Woods, White also knew two patches; it still thrives in two places. As a native, this species is found in northwest England, the Peak District, in South Wales and around the Severn Estuary. Sites in Somerset are the most southerly native locations.



Polygonatum odoratum at Black Rock (2009). Photo: FJR

VC6

Cheddar Gorge, S side	SSSI	ST47905445	2016	HJC	2 tiny shoots W of main population
Cheddar Gorge, S side	SSSI	ST47915445	2016	HJC	75 shoots on mossy rock ledges
Black Rock, Cheddar	SSSI	ST48605475	2009	HJC, FJR	70 shoots on ledges at top of quarry face
Black Rock, Cheddar	SSSI	ST48615473	2009	HJC	5 shoots at top edge of quarry
Black Rock, Cheddar	SSSI	ST48605474	2016	HJC	2 tiny shoots on rock ledge below cliff edge
Avon Gorge	SSSI	ST560730	1999	SJP	[Dubious grid reference]
Leigh Woods (Quarry)	SSSI	ST55897438	2009	SRPG	78 shoots up W-facing side of quarry
Leigh Woods (Quarry)	SSSI	ST55917441	2010	SRPG	6 shoots on rock ledge near base of quarry
Avon Gorge	SSSI	ST56037436	2010	RSC	Persisting above firing range



Distribution of *Polygonatum odoratum* in North Somerset (VC6), mapped using MapMate. Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999, monad or tetrad records