

***Euphorbia paralias* L.**

Sea Spurge

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

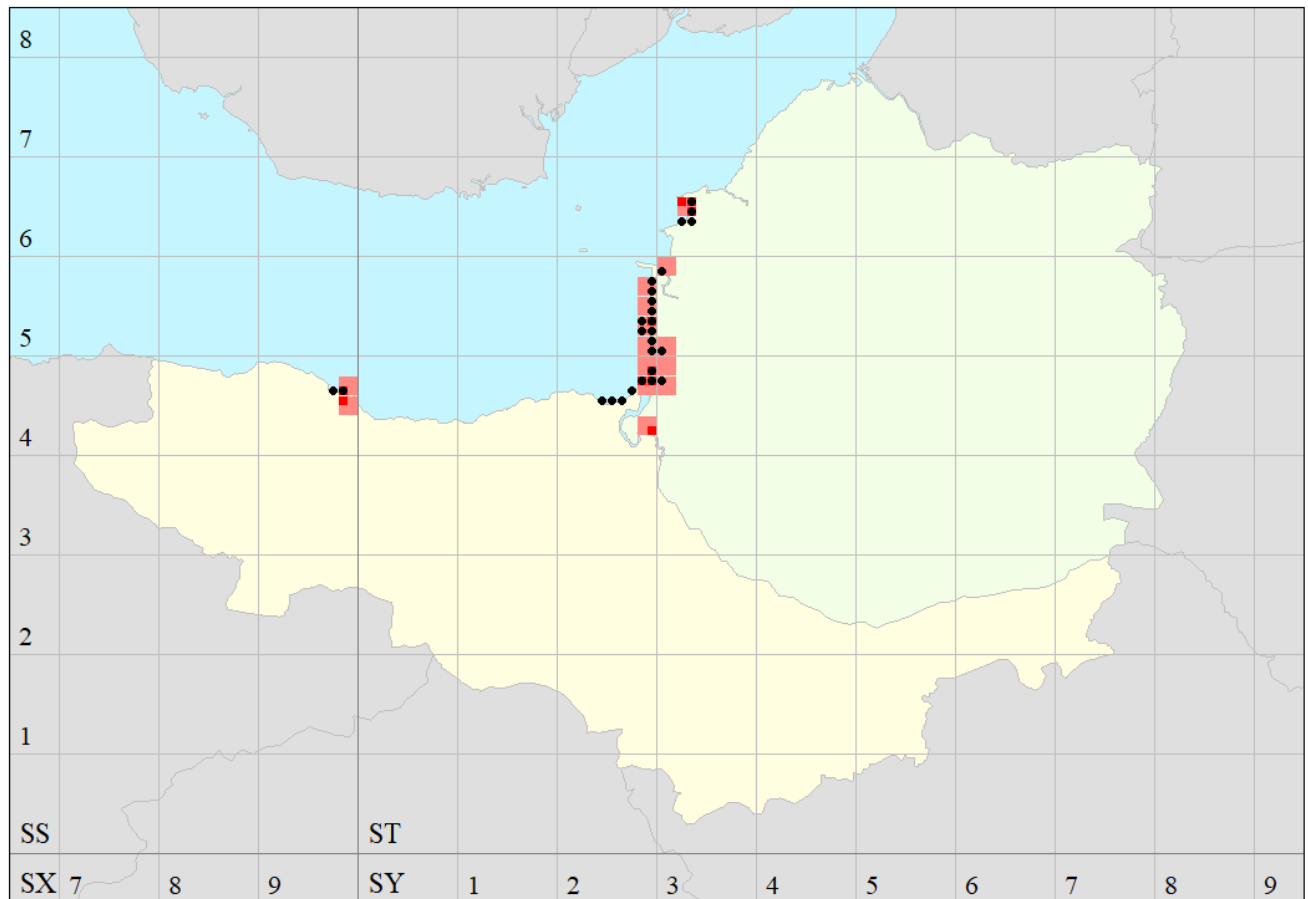
VC5 Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A perennial herb of sandy shores and sand-dunes, particularly found on the strandline, fore-dunes and mobile dunes, and occasionally on shingle. In VC5, known to Murray (1896) at Minehead and at Steart marshes and Stert Island, where seen by J.W. White. Roe (1981) stated that it was last recorded at Minehead in 1953; Green *et al.* (1997) also reported no recent records at Minehead, or at Dunster, where found in 1914 by A.H. Wolley-Dod. In 1995 Caroline Giddens found seven plants at the edge of a car park and more along the inside perimeter of Butlins Holiday Camp at Minehead: it has subsequently been found at Minehead Golf Course and in Minehead. Still to be found at Steart and on Stert Island, the only VC5 sites known to Green *et al.* (1997). Since 2000 this species has also been recorded at several locations at Wall Common, just west of Steart. In VC6, recorded by J.C. Collins on the sandy coast from Burnham to Brean (Watson, 1837). Murray (1896) knew it on the shore at Burnham and abundantly along the coast from Berrow to Brean. He noted that it was rare at Weston-super-Mare and not noticed beyond that point; White (1912) added no further records. Roe (1981) stated that it had disappeared from Weston-super-Mare. There are recent records from Burnham-on-Sea, all along the coast from Berrow to Brean and Uphill Dunes (just south of Weston-super-Mare). In 1987, M.A. Silcocks discovered a single plant on coarse sand brought in to build sea defences at Sand Bay, Kewstoke. Since then, it has been recorded as frequent on the dunes along the bay. As White (1912) stated, it is still “apparently absent higher up the channel”. *Euphorbia paralias* is scattered around the coast of Britain and Ireland, although absent from the east coast of England north of The Wash and in Scotland found only in the southwest. This species has declined in the south of England due to excessive disturbance, but in Somerset is still present at all historically known sites except Dunster beach, and has apparently increased in recent years.



Euphorbia paralias at Wall Common (2018). Photo: FJR

VC5					
Minehead		SS9746	2014	SRPG	
Butlins, Minehead		SS9845	1995	CJG	Inside perimeter of camp, on boundary
Butlins, Minehead		SS984462	1995	CJG	7 plants at edge of tarmac car park
Minehead Warren		SS9846	2011	SRPG	On golf course
Wall Common	SSSI	ST248452	2000	PRG	1 patch on sand dunes
Wall Common	SSSI	ST25944539	2009	SRPG	100+ in sandy area in front of sea wall
Wall Common	SSSI	ST2545	2012	BSBI, WFS, SRPG	
Wall Common	SSSI	ST260454	2018	SRPG	Many plants on shingle ridge
Wall Common	SSSI	ST26184548	2017	EJMcD, CML	Many plants on sandy shingle ridge
Wall Common	SSSI	ST26234543	2012	BSBI, WFS, SRPG	Few plants on sand dune
Stear	SSSI	ST279467	2009	SRPG	3 patches on sand
Stert Point	SSSI	ST28694708	2012	BSBI, WFS, SRPG	1 plant
Stert Island	SSSI	ST2947	2014	HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS	
Stert Island	SSSI	ST2948	2014	HJC, RGC, SJP, ITS	



Distribution of *Euphorbia paralias* in Somerset mapped using MapMate.
 Black dots: post-2000 records; pink squares: 1987-1999