

Hydrocotyle vulgaris L.

Marsh Pennywort

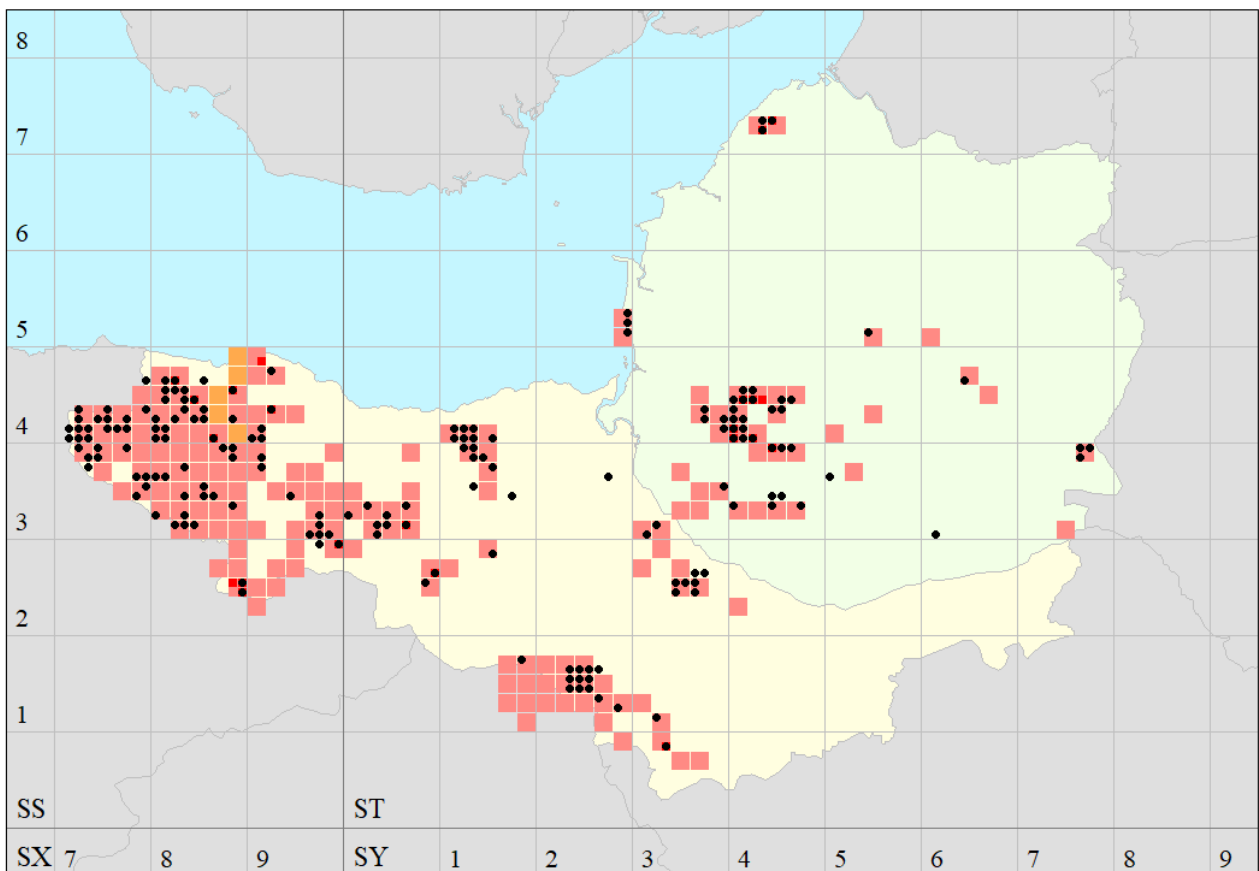
Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A perennial herb of damp or wet habitats, including marshes, bogs, fens, the edges of ponds and lakes, ditch banks, wet spring-lines and dune slacks. In Somerset described by Murray (1896) as "Common, and generally distributed"; authors of subsequent floras have been more specific. Green *et al.* (1997) found this species to be locally common on Exmoor, the Brendons, Quantocks and Blackdowns, and on the Levels, but rare and scattered elsewhere, on the acid areas of the Mendips, on the Lower Greensand at the Wiltshire border and dune slacks at Berrow. Green *et al.* (2000) recorded it (in the north part of VC6) only at Uphill Golf Course, where there are no recent records, and in the Gordano Valley. It is still restricted to these areas but has apparently been lost from many sites, particularly on Exmoor and the Blackdowns, areas of the Levels beyond the Peat Moors and some sites on Mendip, although losses shown on the map below may partially reflect lack of recording in those areas. *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* is one of a suite of species of infertile, moderately acid soils which have declined in lowland England due to loss of habitat, drainage and eutrophication (Stroh *et al.*, 2014): this decline has occurred to some extent in Somerset.



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