

Silene flos-cuculi (L.) Clairv.

Ragged-Robin

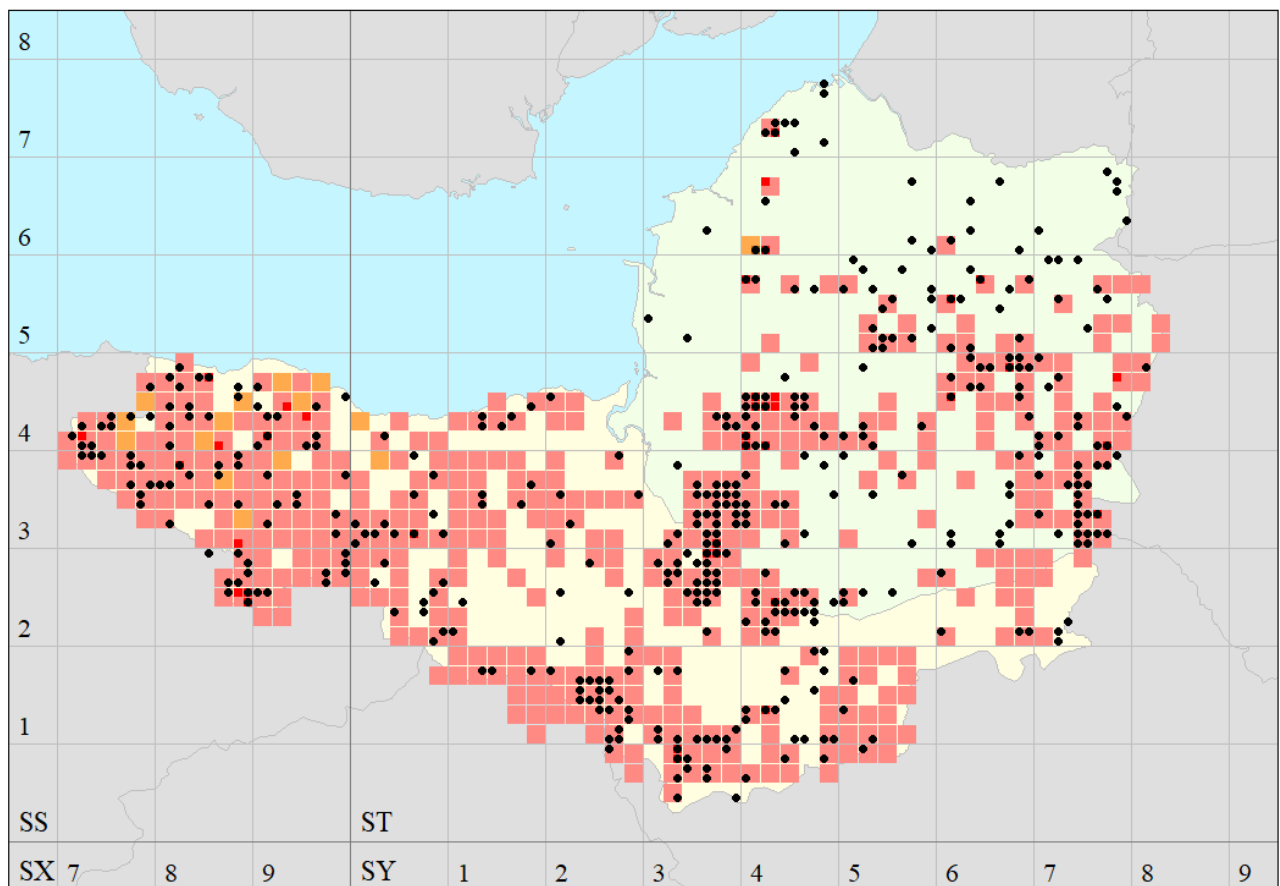
Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A perennial herb of damp grassland, marshes, fens, sides of ditches and damp rides in woodland. In Somerset described by Murray (1896) as "Very common" and by Roe (1981) and Green *et al.* (1997) as common in areas of suitable habitat; however Green *et al.* (2000) noted that while widespread in suitable areas [in the north part of VC6], this species was rarely abundant. It appears to have declined in Somerset in recent decades, although less so on the Levels and in the wet woodlands on Lower Greensand in the Blackdown Hills and in the east of the county. *Silene flos-cuculi* is one of a suite of species of wet, generally infertile 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 *Silene flos-cuculi* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate.
Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records;
sepia squares are pre-1987 records.

Note that this map does not show records from Green *et al.* (2000) for the north part of VC6.