

Veronica scutellata L.

Marsh Speedwell

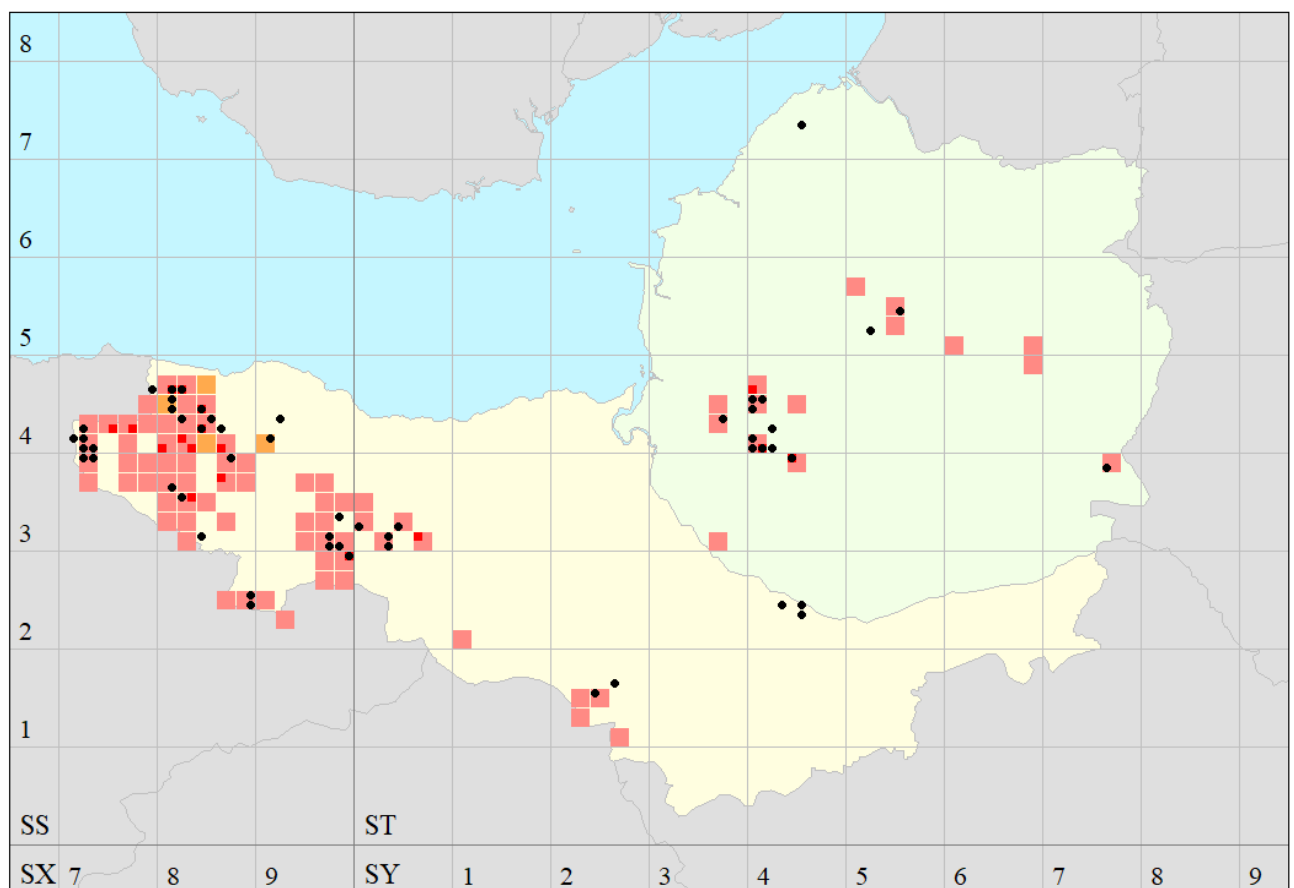
Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Near Threatened

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A perennial herb of wet habitats, including marshes, bogs and mires, the edges of ponds and reservoirs, ditch banks, stream sides and wet flushes. In Somerset described by Murray (1896) as rare. Roe (1981) regarded it to be frequent on Exmoor, the Brendons, the Blackdowns and the Peat Moors but very rare elsewhere, found only at a few sites, mostly in the Gordano Valley, the acid areas of the Mendips and on the Lower Greensand at the Wiltshire border. Still restricted to these areas, it has not been refound at some of its former sites in VC6, whilst it also appears to have declined on Exmoor, the Brendons and the Blackdowns, although losses shown on the map below may partially reflect lack of recording in those areas. *Veronica scutellata* 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 clearly occurred in Somerset.



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