

***Fumaria densiflora* DC.**

**Dense-flowered Fumitory**

Archaeophyte

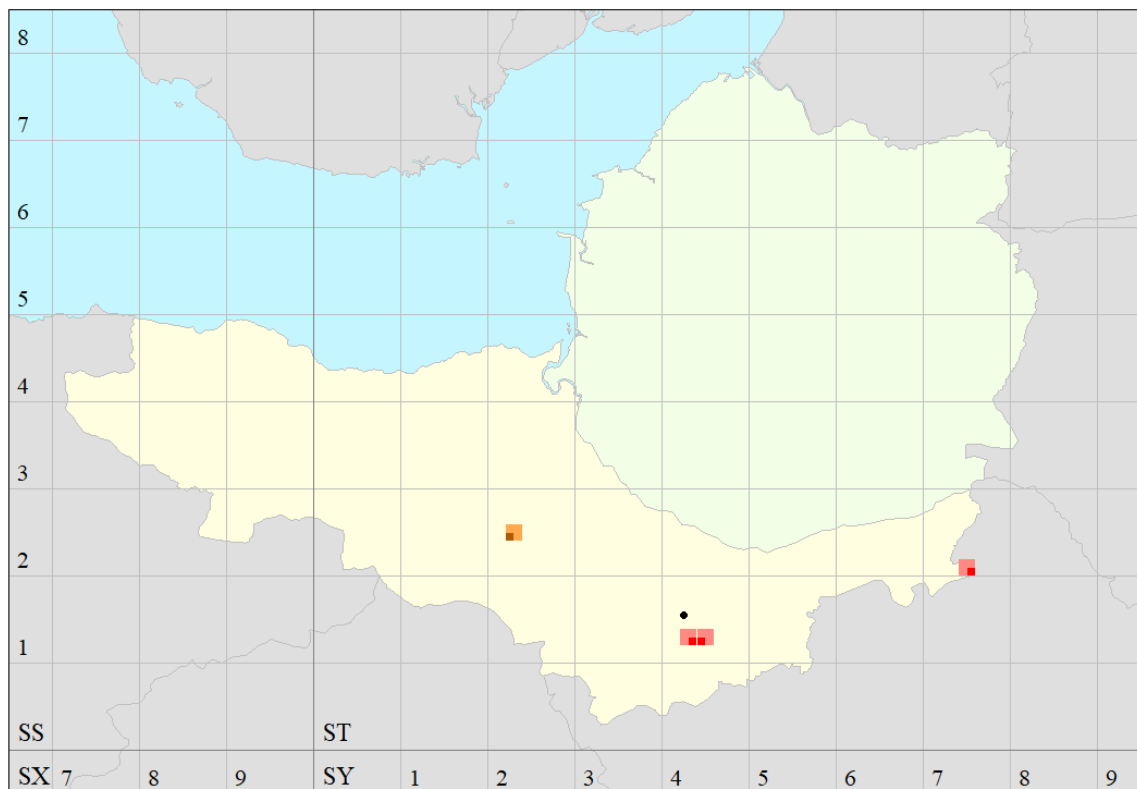
GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Rare; VC6 Lost

An annual of cultivated and waste ground, usually on chalk, but also on other well-drained soils. In VC5, first found in Paul Street, Taunton in 1974 by Miss C.M. Andrews, det. M.G. Daker. In the 1990s, Paul Green recorded this species at the disused Henstridge Airfield and as a garden weed at two sites in Merriott (Green *et al.*, 1997). There were no further records for South Somerset until 2022, when one patch was found by Fred Rumsey in the car park of a farm shop at Lopen Head. In VC6 this species has only been found once, by Cecil and Noel Sandwith, as a casual at Bedminster in 1922 (Sandwith, 1932). *Fumaria densiflora* has been found at scattered sites in Britain and Ireland, but its main areas of distribution are on the chalk of southern and eastern England, in the far north-east of England and the east of Scotland, north to the Orkneys. This species has declined in arable locations as a result of increased use of herbicides, poor competition and the move to autumn sowing of cereals. In Somerset it has always been a rare casual; there have been very few other records in the south-west, where soils are generally unsuitable for this species.

**VC5**

Taunton	ST228244	1974	CMA	Paul Street
Lopen Head	ST42551520	2022	FJR	In weedy area by car park of farm shop
Merriott	ST4312	1997	PRG	Garden weed in Sherlands Road
Merriott	ST440125	1996	PRG	Garden weed at 'The Hitchens'
Henstridge	ST755201	1996	IPG, PRG, DM, JM	Waste ground at airfield



Distribution of *Fumaria densiflora* in Somerset mapped using MapMate. Black dots: post-2000 records; pink squares: 1987-1999; sepia squares: pre-1987 records



*Fumaria densiflora* at Trading Post Farm Shop, Lopen Head (2022). Photo: FJR