

## ***Pinguicula lusitanica* L.**

## **Pale Butterwort**

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Lost

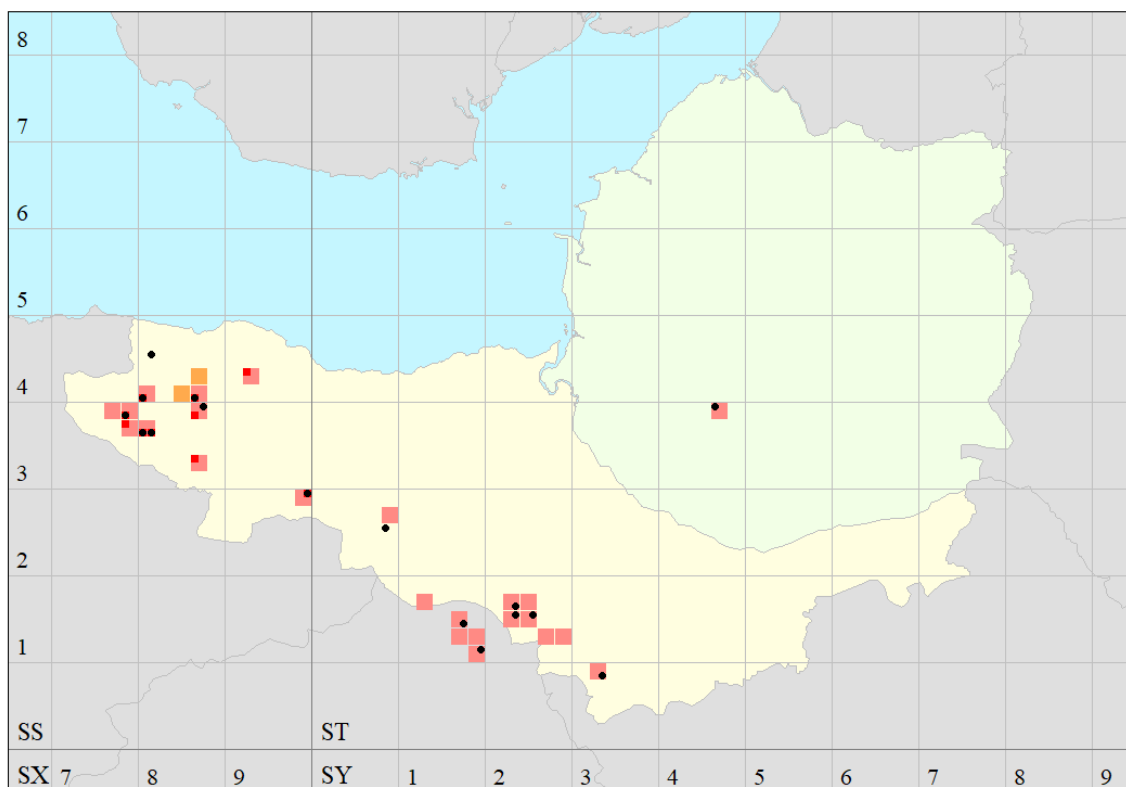
An insectivorous perennial herb of bogs and wet heaths, found on bare peat in acidic flushes, at the edges of runnels and at the bases of clumps of rushes. In VC5 described by Murray (1896) as frequent on the Blackdown Hills. Marshall (1914) added that it was not uncommon on Exmoor. Green *et al.* (1997) recorded this species as local on Exmoor but noted that it had declined on the Blackdowns due to shading. It is still to be found at scattered sites on Exmoor, with recent records in the Barle Valley, at Hoar Moor and Kitnor Heath and at Haddon Moor. Found further east at Holme Moor in 1968 and still there (ST094261) in 1992, but not seen since. Found on nearby Clean Moor by Robert Cropper in 2000 and still there (ST08742524) in 2021. On the Blackdowns, this species appears to have declined further since publication of the flora in 1997: in VC5 there are recent records for Yarty Moor but although it has been recorded at Britty Common since 1915, the latest record for that site was in 2009, when only one plant was found, threatened by overshadowing vegetation. In VC3 (but administrative Somerset) *Pinguicula lusitanica* occurs at Southey Moor, Ringdown Common and Brimley Hill Mire. In 1914, this species was found by W. Watson and W.D. Miller at Chard Common, its most easterly site in VC5; it was re-found there (ST33720822) by Paul Green in 2003 but there have been no records since then. In VC6, noted by Murray (1896) at Glastonbury Moor near Street; also recorded as not plentiful in marshy fields towards the southern border of the moor by Thomas Clark. Mrs Gregory found it plentiful on the peat moor a short distance south of Shapwick Station (White, 1912). In 1959 this species was included in a list of species seen during a BSBI meeting near Sharpham (Willis, 1961). There were no further records until 1985 when found by Myra Collins on Street Heath (near Sharpham), growing on the bare margins of a step-sided pit. The last record for Street Heath (and VC6) was in 2008, a single plant found Robert Cropper. The site has become drier due to adjacent peat extraction and the pits have become overgrown. This species is now feared lost from VC6. *Pinguicula lusitanica* has declined in many areas as a result of habitat loss and overshadowing by other species: this decline has certainly occurred in Somerset.



*Pinguicula lusitanica* at Yarty Moor (2019). Photo: FJR

### VC6

Street Heath	SSSI	ST462392	2001	AB	1 plant
Street Heath	SSSI	ST46393944	2008	RSC	1 plant, the first seen for ten years



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



*Pinguicula lusitanica* at Kitnor Heath (2009). Photo: HJC