

Limosella aquatica L.

Mudwort

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

VC5 Rare; VC6 Rare

An annual found on exposed mud at the edges of lakes, reservoirs, pools, ditches, rivers and rutted tracks. Always rare in Somerset, this species was believed extinct in the county for nearly 150 years. In VC5, recorded by W.H. Coleman in 1848 in shallow ditches in the salt-marshes at Dunster, where it was collected by C.C. Babington in 1849 (specimen in **BM**). Not seen again in VC5 until 2001 when it was found by N.T.H. Holmes, R.V. Lansdown and H. Sambrook on the shores of Wimbleball Lake. In VC6, first recorded by Sole "In cart ruts in splashy places about Highbridge" (Collinson, 1791), but subsequently not seen for over 200 years. Found on the shore of Chew Valley Lake in 1995 by T.W.J.D. Dupree. This species is erratic in appearance, its occurrence dependant on reservoir water levels, but it has been seen a few times at each of the two recent Somerset locations. *Limosella aquatica* has a scattered distribution through England, Wales, southern and central Scotland and Ireland; sites in Somerset are at the southwest edge of its distribution in Britain.



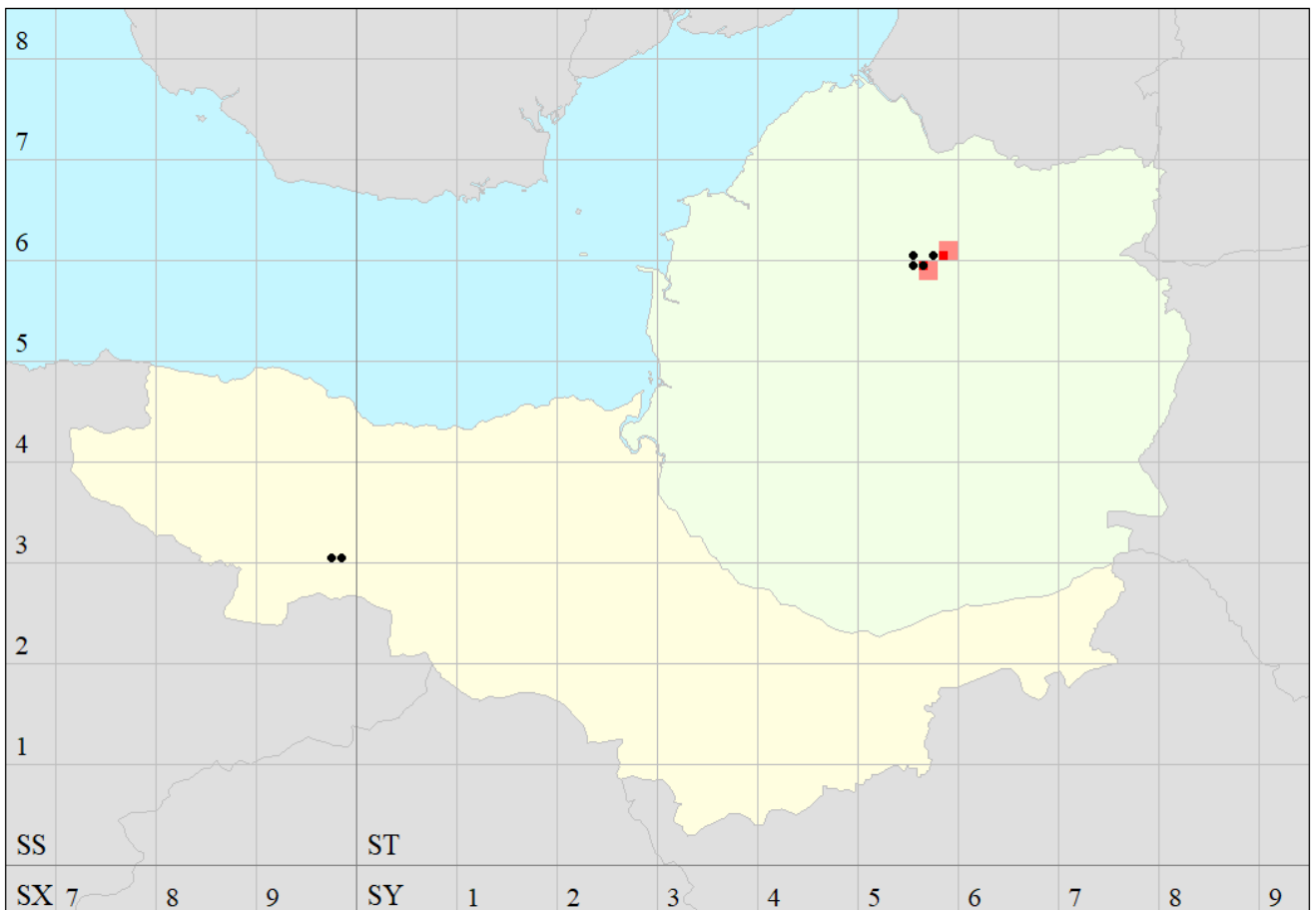
Limosella aquatica at Chew Valley Lake (2011). Photo: HJC

VC5

Wimbleball Lake	SS979306	2001	NTHH, RVL, HS	Many plants distributed along edge of lake
Wimbleball Lake	SS9730	2003	SJP	Many plants around the edge of the lake
Wimbleball Lake	SS97973046	2020	GEL, LE	3 plants, muddy edge of small inlet stream
Wimbleball Lake	SS9830	2003	SJP	Hundreds around edge of lake on bare mud
Wimbleball Lake	SS98023040	2003	WFS Meeting	Locally frequent, dried margins of reservoir

VC6

Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST559599	2021	RJH	Many plants in corner of Villice Bay
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST558601	2022	RJH	A few plants in flower at Villice Bay
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST56225905	2022	RJH	
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST563590	1995	TWJDD	Plentiful on shores of lake
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST57906057	2011	HJC, IPG	1 plant on damp mud on drawdown zone
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST57916058	2011	HJC, IPG	1 plant on damp mud on drawdown zone
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST57926058	2011	HJC, IPG	1 plant on damp mud on drawdown zone
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST57976056	2003	PRG	1 large flowering plant
Chew Valley Lake	SSSI	ST580605	1995	PRG	



Distribution of *Limosella aquatica* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate
 Black dots are post-2000 records; pink squares are 1987-1999, monad or tetrad records