

***Vulpia ciliata* (Dumort.) subsp. *ambigua* (Le Gall) Stace & Auquier**
Bearded / Purple Fescue

Native

GB & England: Least Concern

GB Scarce

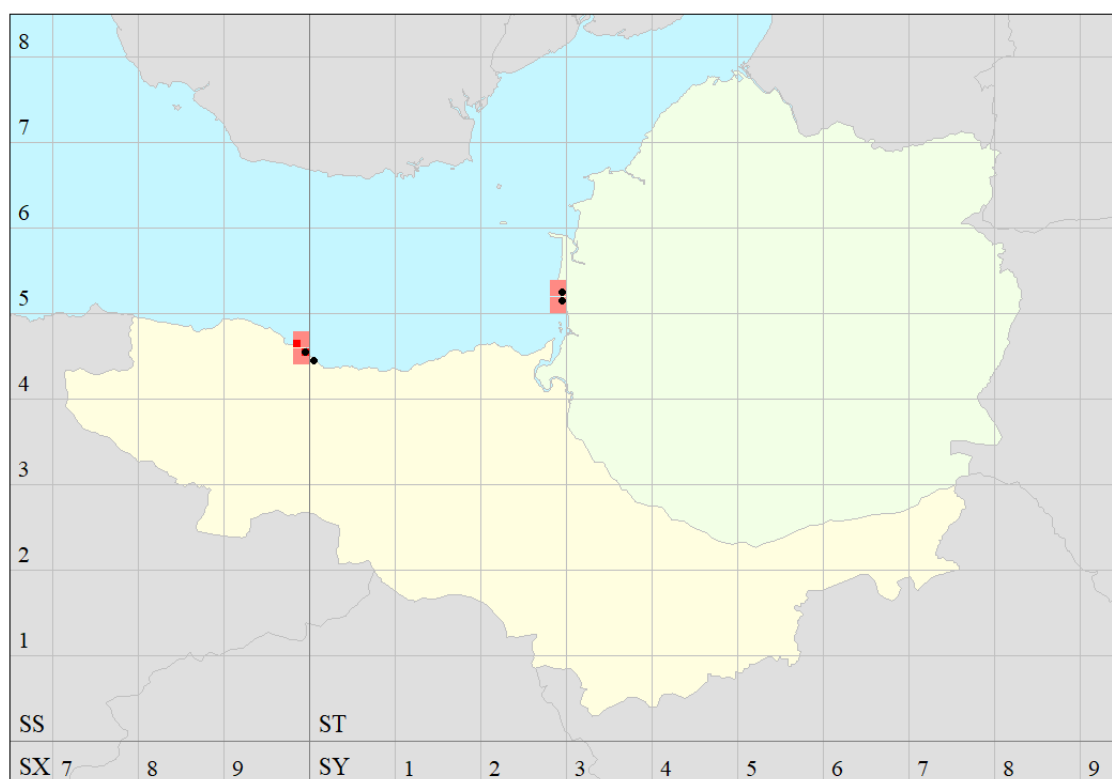
VC5 Rare; VC6 Rare

A loosely tufted annual of disturbed sandy places, found on coastal sand dunes in Somerset but elsewhere also inland on sandy heaths and roadsides. In VC5 first discovered on fixed dunes at Minehead Warren, Dunster (SS9946) by C.J. Giddens and M. Tulloh in 1972 (*Watsonia* **17**: 484). It was recorded further west at Minehead Warren in 1992, and in 1999. In 1989 this species was recorded outside the chalets at Dunster Beach and was refound there in 2019. This small stretch of coast remains the only known location in VC5. *Vulpia ciliata* subsp. *ambigua* was unknown in Somerset until 1960, when it was found by Cecil Sandwith and Noel Sandwith to be abundant over a small area of fixed dune at Berrow (Sandwith & Sandwith, 1961): in VC6 it is still only known from Berrow Dunes. This grass is distributed around the coast of England and Wales and inland in suitable sandy habitats, from south of the Humber to the west coast of Wales. Sites in Somerset are within this range.



Vulpia ciliata subsp. *ambigua* at Berrow Dunes (2014). Photo: FJR

VC5					
Minehead Warren		SS988464	1992	RSC	Good patch
Dunster Beach		SS99724547	2019	GEL, ITS, RFitzG, JW	Frequent around path next to golf course
Dunster Beach		SS99804532	2019	GEL, ITS, RFitzG, JW	In front (seaward side) of chalets
Dunster Beach		ST00244477	2019	GEL, ITS, RFitzG, JW	On compacted sand in front of chalets
VC6					
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29615157	2014	HJC, FJR	Small patch on track across dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29795115	2018	HJC, SRPG	Large patch on S-facing side of dune
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST297514	2008	EJMcD	Numerous pl on barish sandy areas by path
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29005223	2005	IPG, SRPG	A few plants growing on the dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29005245	2014	HJC, FJR	Small patch on back of first dune, by path
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29105203	2005	IPG, SRPG	Several plants growing on the dunes
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29345240	2014	HJC, FJR	Few patches both sides of path
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST294524	2009	HJC, RSC	On sandy car park beside church hall
Berrow Dunes	SSSI	ST29455257	2008	EJMcD	On open, bare ground on golf course



Distribution of *Vulpia ciliata* subsp. *ambigua* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate.
Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records