

**Additions to the dandelion (*Taraxacum*) flora of Somerset**

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# ADDITIONS TO THE DANDELION (*TARAXACUM*) FLORA OF SOMERSET

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In recent years the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) has held an annual 'Dandelion Workshop' somewhere in Britain, usually in a county where the *Taraxacum* flora is poorly known. In 2016 it was the turn of Somerset; the workshop, held 15-18 April, was based in Taunton and hosted by the Somerset Rare Plants Group (SRPG). Places visited in S. Somerset (VC5) included Minehead, Dunster beach, Ash Priors Common, Thurlbear Wood and several other sites along the northern fringe of the Blackdown Hills, and in N. Somerset (VC6) Middle Hope and Sand Point. The meeting was led by the national expert/referee for *Taraxacum*, John Richards, and was attended by many Somerset botanists along with a sprinkling of competent and enthusiastic 'taraxacologists' from further afield such as John Day, Leslie Tucker, Mark Lynes and Claudia Ferguson-Smyth. An account of the meeting, including the daily itinerary and details of sites visited, is published elsewhere (Leach 2017).

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are first county/vice-county records of *Taraxacum* species made during the workshop, together with other county/vice-county 'firsts' collected either before or after that workshop. For species for which several records were made, only the first is listed here. Also included are a few earlier (and hitherto unpublished) first records that have come to light since the workshop and found to be missing from the national *Taraxacum* Database and/or BSBI Distribution Database.

Records with voucher specimens lodged in the SANHS herbarium are annotated TTN. This herbarium used to be stored at Taunton Castle, in the county museum (now Museum of Somerset), but is now at the Somerset Heritage Centre under the day-to-day care of the South West Heritage Trust. Specimens held in the herbarium can be examined by prior arrangement with the curator, Dennis Parsons.

A note on recorders: specimens from the workshop itself are shown merely as having been

collected by 'BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop', rather than by any particular individual, as the original finder of a given specimen was usually unclear. For specimens gathered before or after the workshop, names of recorders are either given in full or denoted by their initials as follows: RFitzG, Ro FitzGerald; GL, Graham Lavender; SJL, Simon Leach; JW, Jeanne Webb.

Apart from one record from VC6 (of *Taraxacum hamatulum*), all records listed below are from material collected since 2000 and determined by John Richards (AJR). Twenty-six of the 49 species catalogued here were collected for the first time in Somerset during 2016, of which 17 were gathered during the weekend of the workshop. Dates refer to records made in 2016 unless otherwise stated. As at 1 March 2017, the *Taraxacum* flora of Somerset stands at 116 species, 89 in VC5 and 84 in VC6.

***Taraxacum acroglossum*** – Cleeve Abbey, Washford (ST046407), 24 May, in short grass in car park, JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum aequilobum*** – Old Cleeve (ST041417), 7 Feb 2004, wall in driveway nr Hybeck, JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum alatum*** – Taunton (ST235244), 1 Mar, in flower bed in front garden of 15 Trinity Street, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.

***Taraxacum arenastrum*** – Cleeve Hill, Watchet (ST05314292), 5 May 2004, in limestone grassland, JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.

***Taraxacum argutum*** – Thurlbear Quarrylands (ST273208), 5 May, in rabbit-grazed damp calcareous grassland, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum atactum*** – Barford Park (ST2335), 13 Mar, in sheep-grazed neutral grassland, RFitzG, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5.

- Taraxacum cambricum*** – Minehead, Marsh Common (SS97944576), 16 Apr, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum cophocentrum*** – Ash Priors Common (ST15302894), 17 Apr, wooded road verge, S side of Donovan Lane, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.
- Taraxacum corynodes*** – Ash Priors Common (ST15222906), 17 Apr, road verge, Donovan Lane, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum curtifrons*** – Sand Point (ST32786602), 18 Apr, in open species-rich glade on S side of ridge, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC6 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum degelii*** – Weston-super-Mare (ST316600), 21 Apr 2013, in the sea lawns, C. Gait, det. AJR, specimen in herbarium of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff (NMW); first record for VC6 and Somerset. Dunster beach (SS99914511), 16 Apr, in dune grassland in front of chalets, W of ash trees, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.
- Taraxacum densilobum*** – Culbone hill (SS83424757), 9 May, GL, det. AJR; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum dilaceratum*** – Sand Point (ST32956599), 18 Apr, beside path leading through woodland from car park up to ridge, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC6 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum dilatatum*** – Hankridge retail park, Taunton (ST254254), 3 Mar, on grass verge outside B&Q, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second (possibly third) for Somerset.
- Taraxacum edmondsonianum*** – Church Close, Old Cleeve (ST041417), 10 Apr 2006, on grassy bank, JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum fulviforme*** – Dragons Cross (ST043418), 31 Mar 2007, roadside bank, JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5.
- Taraxacum glauciniforme*** – Blue Anchor (ST02164348), 16 Apr, on edge of pavement at W end of seafront, nr Driftwood Cafe and Blue Anchor station, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5.
- Taraxacum hamatum*** – Backwell Down (ST4967), 10 May 1984, in pasture on limestone ridge, RFitzG, det. C.C. Haworth; first record for VC6 and Somerset, pre-dating VC6 records already on the BSBI Distribution Database. Curland (ST285176), 1 Apr, in verge of green lane, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5.
- Taraxacum hamiferum*** – Thurlbear Wood (ST27052082), 15 Apr, woodland glade in species-rich calcareous grassland, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR 2016, TTN; first record for VC5.
- Taraxacum horridifrons*** – Minehead, Marsh Common (SS97944575), 16 Apr, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum lacerifolium*** – Minehead, Marsh Common (SS97964579), 16 Apr, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.
- Taraxacum laeticolor*** – Hankridge retail park, Taunton (ST254254), 3 Mar, grass verge, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5.
- Taraxacum laticordatum*** – Thurlbear Wood (ST27172111), 15 Apr, on edge of broad muddy ride, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5.
- Taraxacum leucopodum*** – Taunton (ST235244), 30 Apr, in seldom-cut lawn in back garden of 15 Trinity Street, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum lucidum*** – Thurlbear Wood (ST27062081), 15 Apr, woodland edge between the two large glades, in species-rich grassland, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum melanthoides*** – The Quants (ST18881804), 17 Apr, in species-rich grassland and scrub, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum mimulum*** – Woolston Moor (ST099400), 26 Apr, in damp grassland with abundant *Succisa pratensis*, *Betonica officinalis* etc, RFitzG & JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.
- Taraxacum necessarium*** – Taunton (ST235244), 18 Apr, on path in front garden of 15 Trinity Street, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset. Ham Wall (ST451395), 20 Apr, in barish ground of track and gateway on SE side of Ashcott Bridge, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC6, second for Somerset.
- Taraxacum nigridentatum*** – Thurlbear (ST27232133), 15 Apr, on bare laneside bank, at corner of lane opposite entrance to Thurlbear

Wood nature reserve, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.

***Taraxacum pallescens*** – Minehead, Seaward Way (SS97874582), 16 Apr, verge between road and building site, nr Tesco supermarket, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.

***Taraxacum pallidipes*** – Minehead, Seaward Way (SS978457), 16 Apr, verge between road and building site, nr Tesco supermarket, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum prionum*** – Taunton (ST253253), 3 Mar, lay-by at edge of dual carriageway on A358 adjoining Hankridge retail park, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum proximum*** – Minehead, Summerland Avenue (SS970461), 24 Feb 2004, on garden wall, JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, third for Somerset.

***Taraxacum pruinatum*** – Ash Priors Common (ST15192905), 17 Apr, on verge of W side of lane at edge of woodland/scrub, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum retzii*** – The Quants (ST18851804), 17 Apr, in area of scrubby grassland at S end of Butterfly Conservation nature reserve, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum rhamphodes*** – Thurlbear Wood, to S of nature reserve (ST27152067), in long grass beside track to Slough Green, 15 Apr, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum sahlinianum*** – Ash Priors Common (ST15432889), 17 Apr, wooded lane bank on S side of Donovan Lane, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset. Sand Point (ST33016596), 18 Apr, at base of steps by turning circle, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC6, second for Somerset.

***Taraxacum semiglobosum*** – Ash Priors Common (ST15092889), 17 Apr, on road verge opposite car park, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum subhamatum*** – Hawkcombe (SS88354585), 10 Apr, edge of bridleway, GL, det. AJR; first record for VC5, fifth for Somerset.

***Taraxacum subxanthostigma*** – Staple Hill (ST24681597), 17 Apr, dry grassy bank on W side of entrance to Forestry Commission (FC) car park, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum sundbergii*** – Staple Hill (ST24681597), 17 Apr, dry grassy bank on W side of entrance to FC car park, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum tenebricans*** – Minehead, Marsh Common (SS97984582), 16 Apr, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.

***Taraxacum trilobatum*** – Taunton (ST235244), 16 Apr, in seldom-cut lawn in back garden of 15 Trinity Street, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum tumentilobum*** – Thurlbear (ST27412129), 15 Apr, lane opposite parking place on N side of Thurlbear Wood nature reserve, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5, second for Somerset.

***Taraxacum undulatum*** – Somerset Heritage Centre (ST205258), 21 Mar, on waste ground, SJL & I. Salmon, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset. Ditchat (ST626354), 3 Apr, in flower bed at Tunlake, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC6, second for Somerset.

***Taraxacum unguilobum*** – Minehead, North Hill (SS928477), 8 May 2007, grassy sward at 270m, JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5.

***Taraxacum valens*** – Minehead, Marsh Common (SS97944575), 16 Apr, BSBI/SRPG Dandelion Workshop, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5.

***Taraxacum vastisectum*** – Orchard Wood (ST25152050), 6 May, edge of woodland ride/footpath, SJL, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

***Taraxacum xanthostigma*** – Washford (ST048419), 20 Apr, in hedgebank on Monks' Path, JW, det. AJR, TTN; first record for VC5 and Somerset.

## Reference

Leach, S. [J.], 2017. 'Field meeting report: *Taraxacum* workshop, Somerset (v.cc. 5 & 6), 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> April', *BSBI Yearbook 2017*, 46-47.