

The South Lancashire Vascular Plants Flora  
(Section 1B Eusporangiate Ferns)

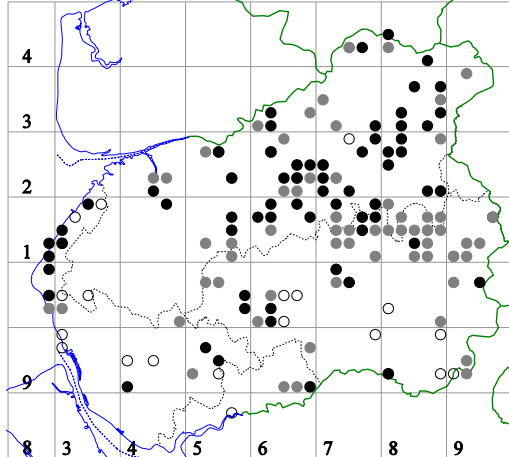
EUSPORANGIATE FERNS

ADDER'S-TONGUES & MOONWORDS

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE

Adder's-tongue family

*Ophioglossum vulgatum* L. Adder's-tongue



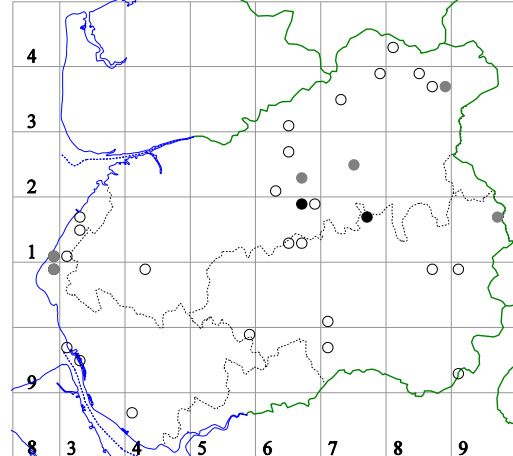
Bretherton DP Earl 2008

**Status & distribution:** Native, Axiophyte, declining. Widespread but occasional although locally frequent in some hill districts; formerly considered common.

**Habitat:** Unimproved pastures, cloughs, churchyards, dune-slacks, in wet woodlands and a colonist of industrial spoil heaps.

**Comments:** This species has declined significantly due principally to the agricultural improvement of old pastures, but a few populations remain where plants are locally abundant, with some comprising many hundreds of fronds. New populations are occasionally discovered, as at Chorlton Ees (SJ89B, D Bishop, 1995).

*Botrychium lunaria* (L.) Sw. Moonwort



Belmont DP Earl 2015

**Status & distribution:** Native, Vulnerable (Red List England); Endangered (2) at the vice-county level at a moorland roadside verge above Belmont, Lancashire (SD61U, P Jepson, 2015); grassland bank at Holcombe Moor, Greater Manchester (SD7616, DP Earl, 2019).

**Former distribution:** Considered frequent.

**Habitat:** Once a feature of old pastures especially in the hill districts; sand-dunes.

**Comments:** This species declined almost to extinction due to loss of habitat, such as dune succession and agricultural improvement of pastures. Plants associated with *Ophioglossum vulgatum* in meadows opposite Arden Hall, Reddish Vale (SJ99B, Grindon 1859) may have included a form of *Botrychium* which is recognised in some works as a separate species.