

The South Lancashire Flora
(Vascular Plants Family 004 Ophioglossaceae)

EUSPORANGIATE FERNS

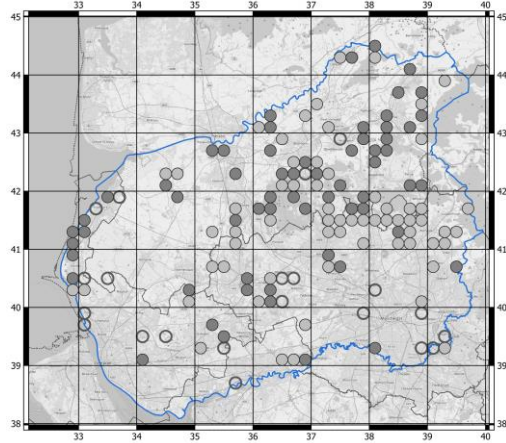
ADDER'S-TONGUES & MOONWORDS

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE

Adder's-tongue family

Ophioglossum vulgatum L.

Adder's-tongue



Bretherton DP Earl 2008

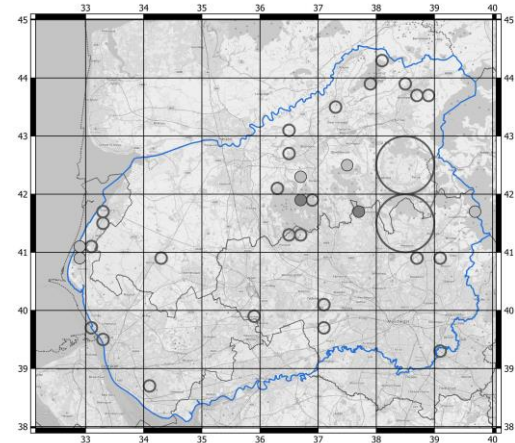
Status & distribution: Native, Least Concern (Red List for England); SCINWE, Axioiphyte, widespread but occasional although locally frequent in some hill districts; formerly considered common.

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 for England); SCINWE, Rare (2), Endangered 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.