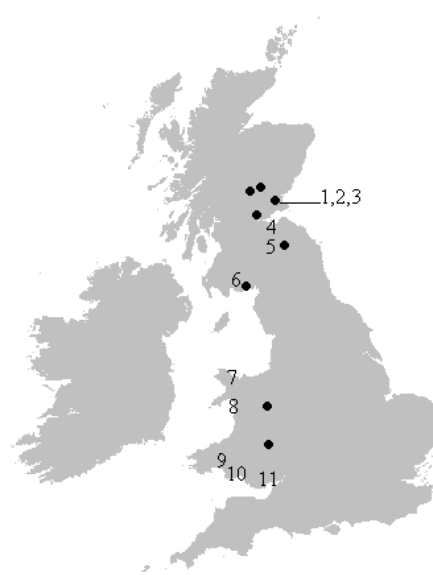


# *Lychnis viscaria* L.

Key:

**Dots** refer to the native sites of the species

**Numbers** refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



## *Starting references*

### **Family**

Caryophyllaceae

### **IUCN category**

Vulnerable

### **Habit**

Tufted wintergreen perennial herb.

### **Habitat**

Dry, open south and west-facing basic and intermediate igneous rocks, although it occasionally occurs on sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.

### **Distribution in wild**

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km <sup>2</sup> occurrences)	Population (plants)
Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Southwick Water, Kirkcudbrightshire</li><li>• Glen Farg, Perthshire</li><li>• Holyrood Park, Edinburgh</li><li>• Near Selkirk, Selkirkshire</li></ul>	14	Less than 5 to several 100 clumps
Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breidden Hill, Montgomery</li><li>• Radnorshire</li></ul>	2	~70 plants

## *Ex situ Collections*

### **Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species**

- 1 University of Dundee Botanic Garden
- 2 St Andrews Botanic Garden
- 3 Branklyn Garden
- 4 RBG, Edinburgh
- 5 Dawyck Botanic Garden
- 6 Threave Garden
- 7 Treborth Botanic Garden
- 8 Portmeirion Gardens
- 9 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 10 Swansea Botanic Garden
- 11 Dyffryn Gardens

### **Gardens with specialisation on species *Lychnis viscaria***

RBG, Edinburgh

### **Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections**

*Lychnis viscaria* set copious amount of seeds which readily germinate (over 90%) at 16°C. Pre-treatment of seed is not necessary

Information on the propagation and cultivation methods, from E. MacKintosh & G. McGillivray, Alpine Dpt, RBG Edinburgh.

Seed are sown in August, in clay pot containing 2:1 John Innes seed compost/fine grit and top-dressed with fine grit. The clay pot is plunged in sand in a north-facing cold frame.

The following September, when seed germinate, the pot is moved in a north-facing cool glasshouse.

Seedlings are pricked out in October in individual plastic pots, in a free-draining compost containing 2:2:1/2 John Innes No. 2/granite grit/perlite and top-dressed with fine grit or clay pots containing 2:1:2 JI No. 2/leaf mould/granite grit, with a fine grit top-dressing. The pots are placed in a north-facing cool glasshouse.

In February, the plants are transferred to an unheated cold frame for hardening-off. The frame is open during day time and closed at night between October and Easter, but open 24 hours from Easter to mid September.

The species appears to be parasite and disease-free in cultivation. The plants get a monthly supplementary feeding regime of half the recommended amount of *Miracle-Gro*

In Sweden, the fungus *Ustilago violacea* (Pers.) Roussel infects *Lychnis viscaria* and causes lifetime sterility. The disease however, has not been reported in British populations (*Journal of Ecology*. 1995. **83**, 1039-1051).

### **Conservation information**

#### **Linkages to BAPs**

*Lychnis viscaria* is recorded in the following LBAPs:

Tayside BAP

Stirling Council Area BAP

Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership

Fife (LBAP)

Falkirk Area BAP

Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership

Midlothian (LBAP Areas), West Lothian (LBAP Areas)

Scottish Borders LBAP

Dumfries and Galloway (LBAP Areas)

Powys LBAP

#### **Known conservation programmes**

'Recovery' programmes, including habitat management and translocations, have been carried out at some threatened sites in Scotland and on Breidden, Wales.

In Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, a reinforcement programme was conducted in 1993-94 by Phil Lusby for the Scottish Rare Plant Project (based in RBGE). Seed from four surviving clumps was collected in Holyrood Park and cultivated at the RBGE. 20 raising plants were replanted at a suitable area in Holyrood Park in May 1994, while the rest were retained at the RBGE to act as an isolated seed source and reserve for further reinforcement programme if necessary.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage have run a restocking programme similar to that at Holyrood Park at one of the Kirkcudbrightshire localities.

#### **Habitat Management**

In October 1994 The Scottish Rare Plant Project, with Scottish Natural Heritage, carried out clearance of tree saplings at one of the threatened Glen Farg populations. The response was rewarding as the population flowered abundantly in June 1995, set copious amounts of seed and now constitutes an important seed source for the surrounding area.