

Melittis melissophyllum L.

Bastard Balm

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections

Starting references

Family

Lamiaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

Habit

Strong-smelling perennial herb.

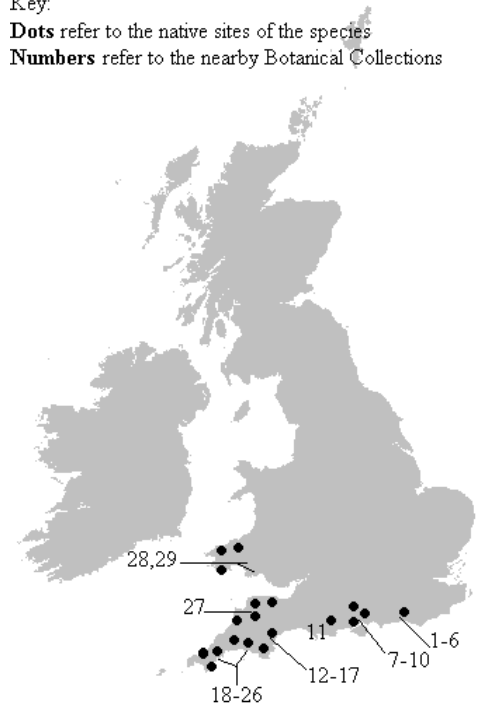
Habitat

Woodland, wood-borders, hedge banks and scrub on base-rich soils. In the New Forest, it is a plant of ancient woodland. It favours light shade and can be almost abundant in cleared or coppiced woodland. Lowland.

Reasons for decline

Overshading and pony grazing.

Distribution in wild



Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
Wales	Cardiganshire	1	
	Pembrokeshire	5	
England	W Cornwall	7	
	E Cornwall	13	
	S Devon	18	
	N Devon	8	
	N Somerset	4	
	Dorset	1	
	S Wiltshire	1	
	S Hampshire	4	
	W Sussex	1	

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Newhaven Botanic Garden
- 2 Sheffield Park
- 3 West Dean Gardens
- 4 High Beeches Gardens
- 5 Nymans Garden (NT)
- 6 Borde Hill Garden
- 7 Longstock Park Gardens
- 8 Mottisfont Abbey Garden (NT)
- 9 Sir Harold Hillier Garden
- 10 Staunton Country Park
- 11 Abbotsbury Subtropical Garden
- 12 Paignton Zoological & Botanical Gardens
- 13 Bickton Park Botanical Gardens
- 14 Exeter University
- 15 Castle Drogo
- 16 Knightshayes Garden (NT)

- 17 The Shippen
- 18 Duchy College
- 19 St Michael's Mount (NT)
- 20 Trebah Garden Trust
- 21 Glendurgan Gardens (NT)
- 22 Trelissick (NT)
- 23 Tregothnan Botanic Garden
- 24 Eden Project
- 25 Lilac Cottage
- 26 Tregrehan
- 27 RHS Rosemoor
- 28 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 29 Swansea Botanic Garden

Gardens with specialisation on family Lamiaceae

None

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Seed - best sown in a cold frame in the autumn. When they are large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and plant them out in the summer. Division in spring or autumn. Very easy, larger clumps can be replanted direct into their permanent positions, though it is best to pot up smaller clumps and grow them on in a cold frame until they are rooting well. Plant them out in the spring.

- Cultivation

Succeeds in any good soil in partial shade. Prefers a rich loam. Grows well in thickets, woodland edges and the garden border. Plants are hardy to about -20°C. The flowers have a pleasing sweet honey-like scent. The leaves become sweetly fragrant as they dry, they retain their fragrance for a long time. Members of this genus are rarely if ever troubled by browsing deer.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

Designated LBAP Areas sites with records for *Melittis melissophyllum* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Habitat Management

Protected sites with records for *M. melissophyllum* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- Images:
<http://www.bioimages.org.uk/HTML/T52573.HTM>
<http://www.bioimages.org.uk/HTML/R156536.HTM>
- Plants For A Future, Database : http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Melittis+melissophyllum&CAN=LATIND
- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>