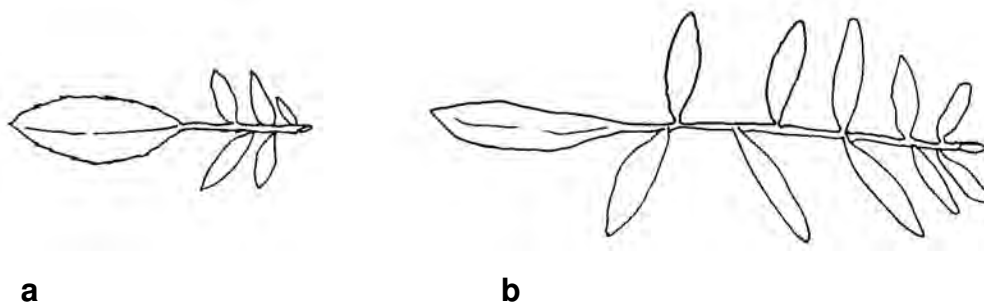


## **ANTHYLLIS VULNERARIA**

*A. vulneraria* L. is taxonomically very complex, consisting of numerous inter-grading variants which are to some extent ecologically and geographically separated (Cullen 1986). Descriptions of the five subspecies are given with lists of Vice-counties from which they have been reported to date. Stewart (1987) gives illustrations of the subspecies.

As a reminder: canescent = covered with dense, fine, greyish-white hairs; sericeous = with long silky hairs, usually appressed; hirsute = covered with long, rather stiff hairs. When collecting material, please note flower and calyx colours and include some mature basal rosette leaves which may have equal or unequal leaflets (Figs. a, b).



Leaflets of *Anthyllis* (a) Inequifoliate, (b)  $\pm$  Equifoliate

a) **subsp. *vulneraria***: Stems decumbent to ascending, sericeous or canescent-sericeous, rarely hirsute below; leaves evenly distributed along the stem; calyx usually with a red tip; corolla yellow or red, rarely orange, purplish or whitish.

- i) **var. *vulneraria***: Corolla yellow; most leaves equifoliate; stems sericeous, rarely hirsute below, rarely branched in the upper part; branches, when present, shorter than the leaves which subtend them. Native; usually in open calcareous grassland in V.c. 1-4, 6-8, 12, 13, 15-17, 20, 22-24, 26, 29, 33, 50, 52, 57, 64, 66-68, 70, 83, 90, 95, 101, 104, 106, 111, H9, H14, H17, H18, H28, H40 and S.
- ii) **var. *langei*** Jalas: Corolla yellow to pink or red or purplish; most leaves equifoliate; stems canescent-sericeous, always branched above, the branches exceeding their subtending leaves. Native; sand-dunes and sea-cliffs in V.c. 1-4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 27, 28, 35, 45, 46, 48-52, 59, 60, 67-70, H1, H3, H9, H16, H28, H38-40 and S.
- iii) **var. *coccinea*** L.: Corolla red; plants usually small, stem decumbent and very sparsely sericeous. Native; sea-cliffs in V.c. 1 and 45.

b) **subsp. *polyphylla*** (Ser.) Nyman: Upright; stems hirsute below, sericeous above; leaves mostly equifoliate with 9-15 leaflets, evenly distributed along the stem; calyx usually without a red tip; corolla pale yellow. Introduced forage plant or sown on roadsides in V.c. 9, 22, 23, 29, 51, 85, 89, 95 and 96 (Akeroyd 1991).

# Plant Crib

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The most similar subspecies in Britain is subsp. *carpatica*, which differs mainly in having inequifoliate stem leaves and a more swollen calyx with somewhat spreading hairs. The tall erect growth form of both is distinctive in the field.

c) **subsp. *corbieri*** (C. E. Salmon & Travis) Cullen: Upright; stems hirsute over their whole length; leaves somewhat fleshy, concentrated in the lower part of the stem; calyx usually not red-tipped; corolla clear yellow. Native; cliffs in V.c. 1, 52, 109 and S and probably elsewhere.

d) **subsp. *carpatica*** (Pant.) Nyman: Upright; stems up to 100 cm, sparsely sericeous; leaves usually concentrated towards the base of the stem, mostly inequifoliate; calyx red-tipped; corolla yellow or whitish. All British and Irish material is referable to var. *pseudovulneraria* (Sagorski) Cullen. Introduced forage and amenity seed mixture plant; disturbed habitats, especially newly sown road verges, in V.c. 9, 19, 22-24, 26, 27, 29, 33, 45, 57, 63, 69, 71, 73, 95, 106, 107 and H14.

e) **subsp. *lapponica*** (Hyl.) Jalas: Decumbent to ascending; stems 10-40 cm, canescent-sericeous; most leaves inequifoliate; calyx rather hirsute, usually red-tipped; corolla yellow. Native; mountains and rocky ground near the sea in V.c. 68, 69, 82, 88, 90, 92, 101, 103, 104, 108, 110, 111, 112 and H28, and is apparently widespread in N and W Ireland. Plants that are intermediate between this and subsp. *vulneraria* occur in the lowlands and valleys of Scotland.

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Cullen, J. (1986). *Notes Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh* **43**: 277-281.  
Stewart, O. M. (1987). *BSBI News* **47**: 12-15.

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