

# Cornfield Flowers Project



## Species Cards



### Yellow-juiced poppy (*Papaver lecoqii*)

#### Least Concern

Virtually indistinguishable from the more commonly found Long-headed poppy

Breaking-off a stem or leaf segment will reveal the bright-yellow sap that defines this species (see photo)

#### REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Nitrogen application; herbicides

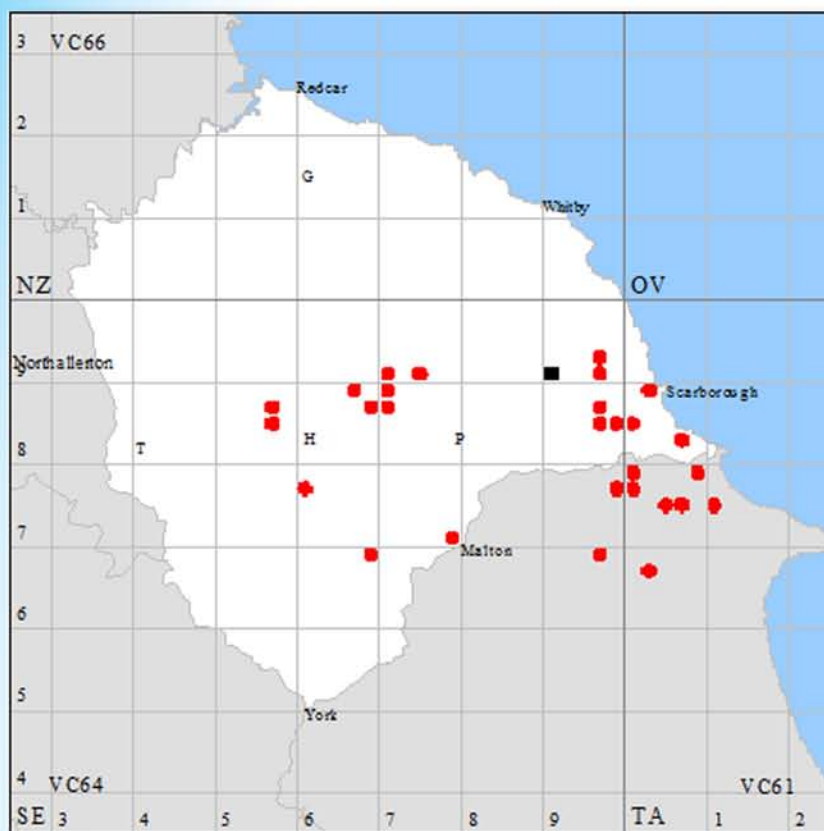
### *Our Yellow-juiced poppy experience...*

The Yellow-juiced poppy was once a separate species, before becoming regarded as a sub-species of the Long-headed poppy for a while, which it closely resembles, but is now regarded as a distinct species again since 2010. The most obvious difference with the very similar Long-headed poppy is that when the young flowering stem is broken, the Yellow-juiced poppy exudes a bright-yellow sap, as opposed to a milky white sap in the former. The Yellow-juiced poppy has inadvertently been responsible for the death of many thousands of Long-headed poppies as botanists check this key character...

Variouly described as infrequent on the northern edge of the Wolds and uncommon in the Scarborough area, there have, nonetheless, been a number of recent records by Jill Smith around Gilling, Bill Thompson near Kirkbymoorside and by Cedric Gillings around Scarborough. While surveying Harriet Air Farm, four miles north of Helmsley in 2010, the Project Officers Chris Wilson and Tom Normandale found good numbers flowering in the fields south and west of the B1257.

The Yellow-juiced poppy does appear to favour calcareous soils in our area, restricting itself to the chalk and limestone.

# Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Yellow-juiced poppy (*Papaver lecoqii*)



## Key

● Post-2000 records  
(inc. CFP introductions)

■ Pre-2000 records

G: Guisborough T: Thirsk

H: Helmsley P: Pickering

Data: BSBI, 2014 Maps produced by MapMate®

## Key Facts - Yellow-juiced poppy (*Papaver lecoqii*)

- Normally found on heavy, calcareous soils
- Typically grows amongst the similar Long-headed poppy, but occasionally found in exclusive populations
- Autumn and spring germinating
- Difficulty in separating species from Long-headed poppy may have resulted in under-recording of true distribution

## UK Conservation Designations

The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (2006) designates all UK wildflowers by their rarity, and hence conservation importance, in the following order:

Extinct → Extinct in the wild → Critically Endangered → Endangered  
Vulnerable → Near Threatened → Least Concern

The Cornfield Flowers Project is spearheaded by the Carstairs Countryside Trust, Ryedale Folk Museum, North Yorkshire Moors Association and North York Moors National Park Authority. It has a demonstration field and nursery at Ryedale Folk Museum and a working arable field at Silpho, near Scarborough. It is supported by the North York Moors National Park Sustainable Development Fund, North York Moors Coast & Hills LEADER Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

