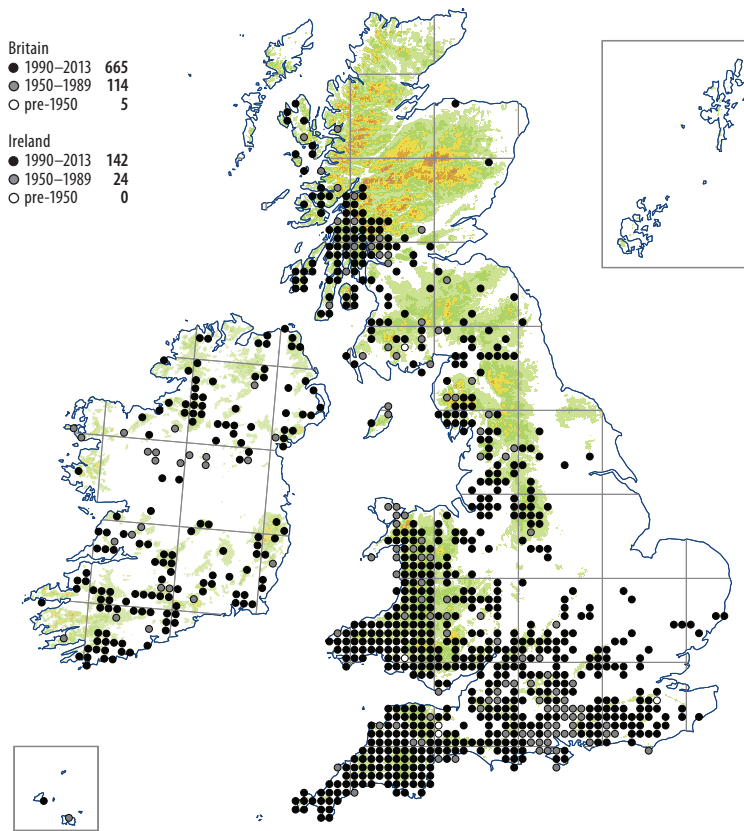


Metzgeria consanguinea



An epiphyte which favours more base-deficient bark than *Metzgeria violacea*, being found chiefly on the trunks and lower branches of willow, alder, beech, birch, rowan, oak and rhododendron. In western Britain and Ireland it may be the dominant bryophyte in conifer plantations, completely plastering trunks and twigs of spruce. It is also locally frequent on rock in ravines and areas of scree, particularly base-deficient rock such as granite, and has been recorded a few times on rock faces by estuaries. *Microlejeunea ulicina* and *Hypnum andoi* are frequent associates. Altitudinal range: 0–475 m.

Metzgeria consanguinea has spread rapidly north-eastwards through England in recent decades; it was collected from two or three new vice-counties a year in the late 2000s and early 2010s. It has also increased dramatically over the last 30 years in mid-west Scotland (G.P. Rothero, *in litt.*).

Dioicous; fairly often fertile with female plants more frequent than male; sporophytes are unknown in Britain and Ireland (Paton, 1999). Gemmae are abundant.

Relatively recently separated from *M. violacea* (Paton, 1977a). Still very under-recorded in Ireland and SW Scotland, but genuinely absent from NE Scotland judging by recent recording there.

Suboceanic Temperate. Western Europe, north-eastwards to Germany; Madeira. The European oceanic *M. temperata* has recently been synonymised with the pantropical *M. consanguinea*, which is known from: China, Japan, India; Indonesia, New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand; Sub-Saharan Africa; Mexico; S America.

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