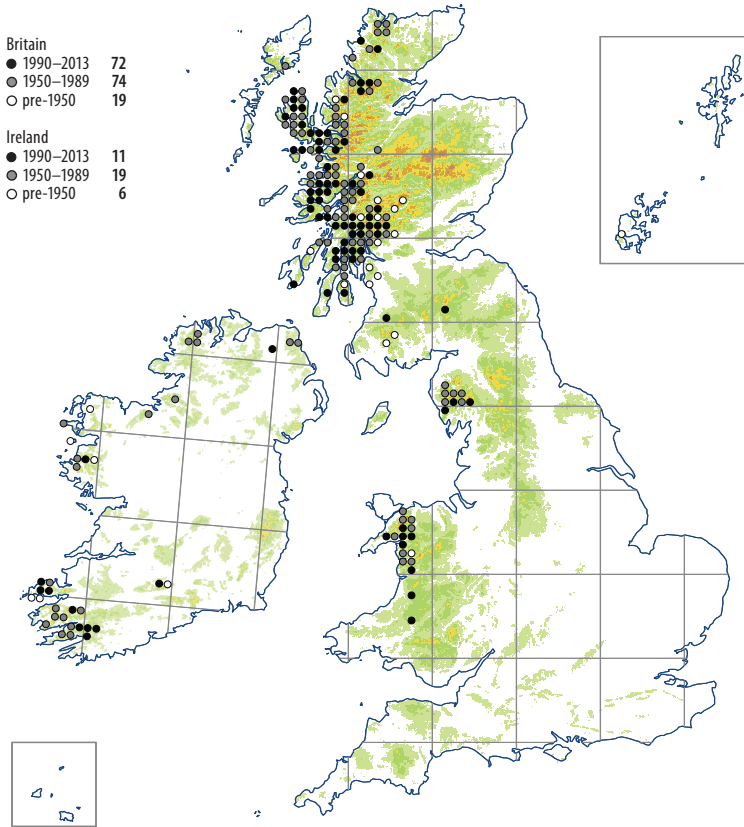


# Metzgeria leptoneura



On wet, acid or basic rocks in sheltered situations. Records are mostly from shady, wooded ravines, where the plant often grows in the spray zone of waterfalls. More rarely it occurs on moist and shaded rocks where trees are lacking, for example above the tree limit on mountains. It often grows on dripping rocky banks over mosses such as *Hyocomium armoricum*, *Oxyrrhynchium hians* and *Philonotis fontana*, and alongside *Plagiochila porelloides*, *Plagiochila spinulosa*, *Saccogyna viticulosa*, *Amphidium mougeotii*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Fissidens dubius* and *F. taxifolius*. This species tends to grow in small quantity, or to be very local on a site: of 83 records made by A.B.G. Averis from ravines in Scotland, it was considered rare in 50 sites, occasional in 27 and frequent in just six. Altitudinal range: 10–930 m.

There has been a distinct decline in records of *Metzgeria leptoneura*, despite a recent increase in attention being paid to oceanic ravines. It is possible that some older records resulted from confusion with *M. conjugata*, and the smaller number of recent records may reflect more accurate recording.

Dioicous; only female in Britain and Ireland. Gemmae are occasional.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. Confined in Europe to the Faeroes, Britain and Ireland. Macaronesia; tropical and subtropical mountains in Asia, Africa and America, south to Tierra del Fuego, the Falklands and Tristan da Cunha; Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia.

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