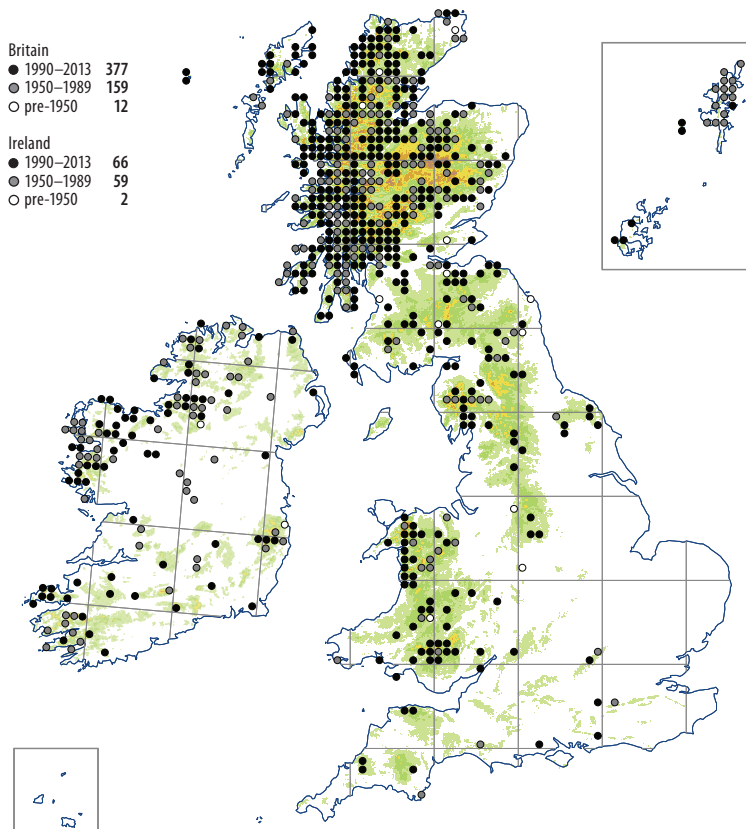


Riccardia palmata



Forms small patches, or occasionally more extensive sheets, on decorticated logs and stumps which have rotted to a soft spongy texture, most typically in sheltered woodland but also in open habitats such as moorland. In humid commercial plantations it sometimes colonises the cut ends of stacked conifer trunks. Frequent associates include *Cephalozia* spp., *Nowellia curvifolia* and *Scapania umbrosa*. In common with some other liverworts characteristic of rotting wood, such as *N. curvifolia*, in parts of Scotland and Ireland it also grows frequently on moist peaty soil on banks and among rocks. *Riccardia latifrons* occasionally grows with it in these situations. Altitudinal range: 5–450 m.

scarce and unpredictable in occurrence towards the edge of its current range, for example in S Wales. Trend analysis indicates only a very slight upward trend.

Dioicous or rarely autoicous; capsules are occasional, March to August. Gemmae are abundant.

Circumpolar Boreal-montane. N and C Europe, Iberian Peninsula, Italy, Balkans; Macaronesia. Russia, China, Japan, Himalaya; N America, Greenland; Caribbean.

M.M. Yeo

Records since the 1991–1994 Atlas suggest a gradual south-eastward range expansion, although *R. palmata* remains

