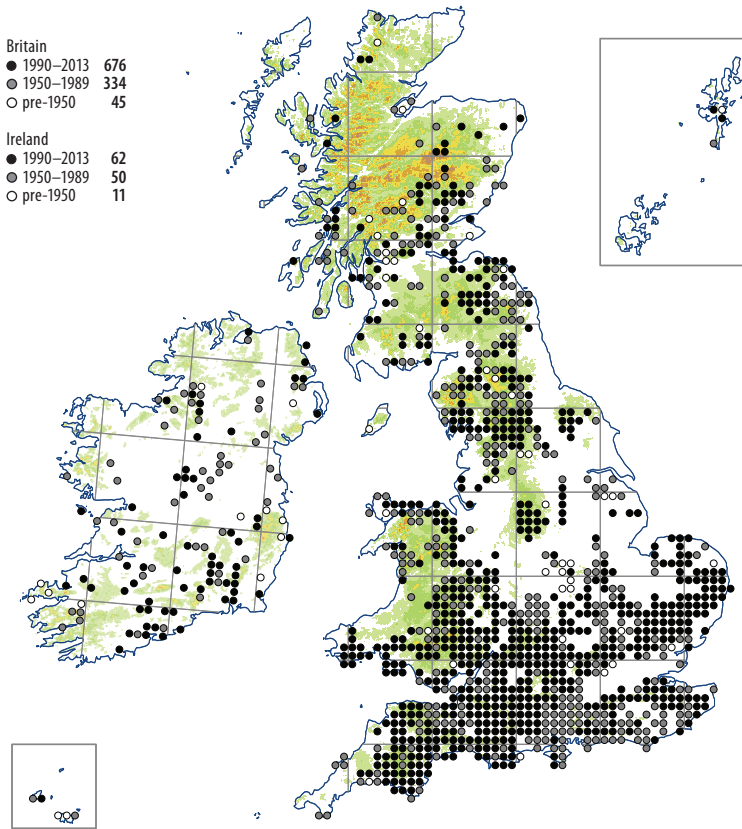


# Porella platyphylla



In southern England this species is commonest on and around tree bases and roots, particularly beech and ash, in woodland on chalk soils, and on bare chalk soil on shaded banks, with *Anomodon viticulosus*, *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Encalypta streptocarpa*. It also occurs, more rarely, on logs. Further north and west it is commonest on limestone or other basic rocks and stone walls, usually where there is some light shade. It also occurs on tree bases by streams and in ravines, and in shady lanes and hedges. In its few northern Scottish localities it is mainly on dry but shaded limestone cliffs; on Skye it grows with *Anomodon viticulosus*, *Encalypta streptocarpa* and *Syntrichia montana*. It is less shade-demanding than *Porella arboris-vitae* but more strongly calcicolous and less moisture demanding than either *P. arboris-vitae* or *P. cordaeana*. Altitudinal range: 0–670 m.

Dioicous; female plants are common, male plants are rare, sporophytes are rare, June to September, November.

The desiccation tolerance of *P. platyphylla* has been investigated experimentally. Plants dried for seven days show complete physiological recovery within 24 hours of rehydration (Marshall & Proctor, 1999).

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widely distributed in Europe; south to N Africa, C Asia and California; absent from the Arctic. Its relationship to the N American *P. platyphylloidea* (Schwein.) Lindb. has long been problematic; molecular data show that the American plant exists as several lineages which may be ancient hybrids between *P. platyphylla* and *P. cordaeana* (Heinrichs et al., 2011).

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