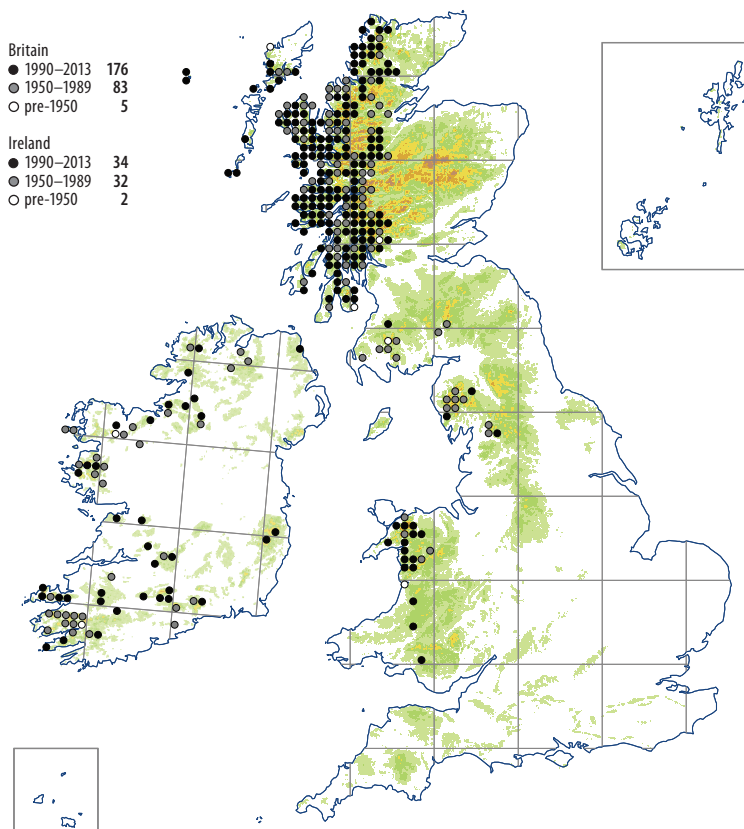


Aphanolejeunea microscopica



This tiny liverwort grows in dense pure patches or as scattered stems amidst other bryophytes (*Frullania* spp., other Lejeuneaceae, *Metzgeria* spp.) on boulders, cliffs and rock walls in shaded and sheltered situations such as low-lying wooded ravines, sea cliffs, north- or east-facing stable screes, and in the proximity of (and sometimes in) streams and waterfalls. It is also epiphytic on birch with *Frullania* spp., *Leptoscyphus cuneifolius*, *Plagiochila exigua* and *P. punctata* and more rarely on ash, hazel, spruce and other tree species. Its substrates are acid or mildly basic. When growing on rock, it tends to occur in damper, more shaded situations than *Harpalejeunea mollerii*, and is less base demanding than *H. mollerii* or *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*. Altitudinal range: 10–540 m.

The newly discovered southernmost British localities, in Wales, are both in ravines where the colonies are likely to have been overlooked in the past. There is some evidence of expansion in Ireland as an epiphyte in conifer plantations, but nothing like on the same scale as *Colura calyptrifolia*.

Paroicous; occasionally fertile, capsules are rare, June to September. Gemmae are frequent.

Pócs & Bernecker (2009) have argued that molecular evidence shows that *Aphanolejeunea* cannot be separated from *Cololejeunea* at generic level; they recognise 43 *Cololejeunea* species which were formerly treated as *Aphanolejeunea*.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. Faeroes, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain; Macaronesia; Africa; S America. There are three related species in Macaronesia (Schumacker & Váňa, 2005).

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