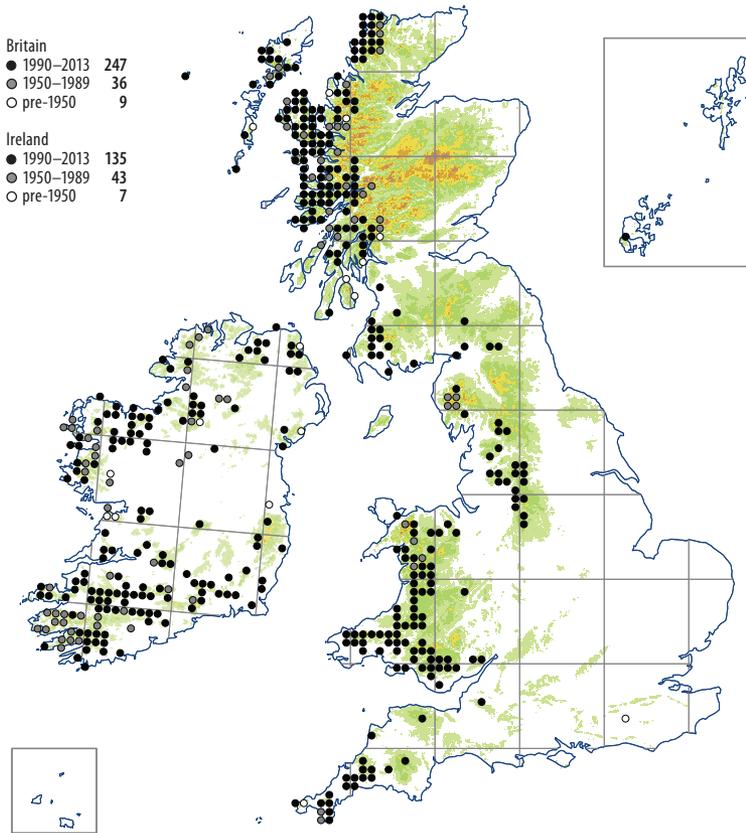


Colura calyptrifolia



This highly distinctive species grows as tiny, pure tufts or scattered stems among other liverworts on rocks or epiphytically in humid, sheltered situations. These include ravines, rocky gorges, low-lying wooded streamsides, lakesides, rocky coasts, and damp north- or east-facing montane cliffs, where the rock tends to be mildly calcicolous and may also support *Cephaloziella divaricata*, *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*, *Lejeunea patens* and *Radula aquilegia*. Suitably humid conditions are also provided by overhanging conifers, boggy wetlands or deep quarries, where *Colura* is found almost exclusively as an epiphyte alongside *Metzgeria consanguinea*, *Hypnum andoi*, *Ulota* spp. and *Zygodon conoideus*. In ravine systems, it is almost invariably but inexplicably the rarest of the quartet *Aphanolejeunea*, *Drepanolejeunea*, *Harpalejeunea* and *Colura*, but in conifer plantations and other sites where it grows

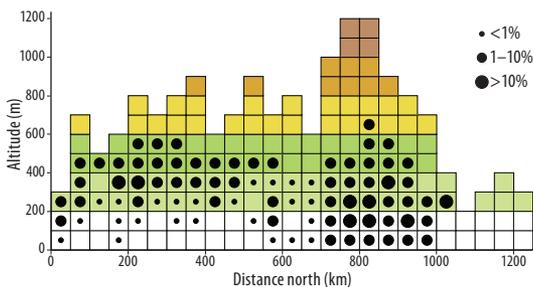
as an epiphyte it is far commoner than its three relatives. Altitudinal range: 0–700 m.

Colura remains present in relatively small quantity in most of its traditional saxicolous sites, but its abundance as an epiphyte has increased meteorically. At the time of the 1991–1994 Atlas there were records from eight hectads south-east of Snowdonia and Cumbria; now there are records from more than 90. Some valleys in conifer plantations in S Wales now have hundreds or thousands of tufts of *Colura* on every willow. In SW Scotland it has even been recorded colonising dumped rubbish and old rope (Averis, 2009).

Autoicous; perianths are usually present, capsules are fairly frequent, April to September (Paton, 1999); gemmae are fairly common, sometimes numerous.

The water sacs of *Colura* have movable lids and Barthlott *et al.* (2000), studying *C. zoophaga* Eb. Fischer, have shown that they trap animals such as ciliate protozoa; whether they provide nutrients to the plant is unknown.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. NW France, Macaronesia, recently found in Norway (Hassel *et al.*, 2014); Nepal, Sri Lanka, Réunion; S America from Venezuela south to Tierra del Fuego, Caribbean; tropical and southern Africa, Mauritius, Île Amsterdam, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, subantarctic islands.



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