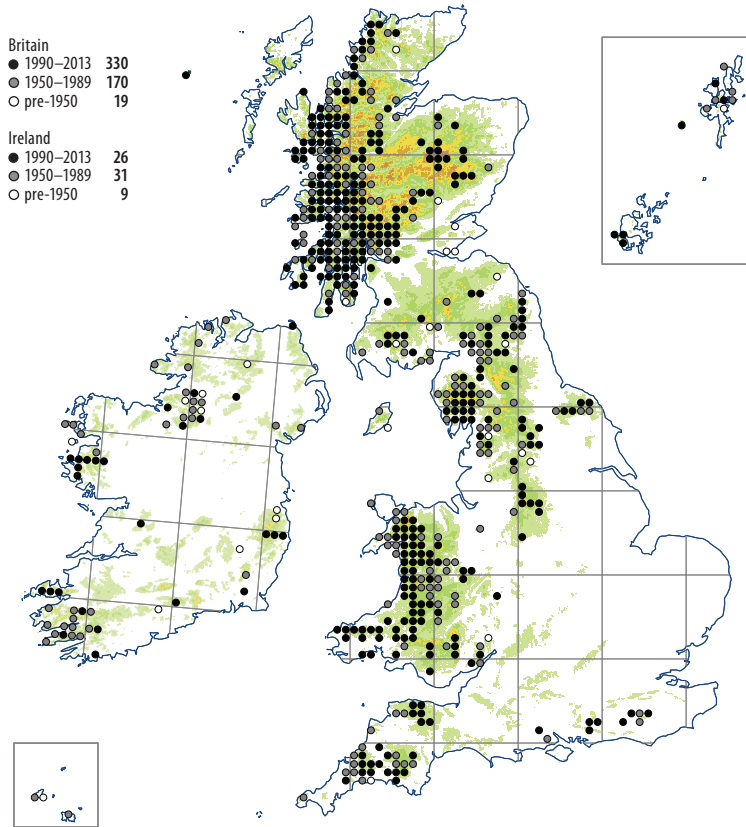


Bazzania trilobata



A calcifuge, particularly characteristic of western oak woodland, where in humid conditions it can be locally dominant in the bryophyte layer, forming large, deep cushions on banks, boulders, cliffs and rocky outcrops. *Plagiochila spinulosa* and *Scapania gracilis* are common associates. It also grows on deep humus and brown earth soils, especially in grazed woodland, as well as on logs; it is occasionally arboreal. In SE England it is mainly associated with sandstone rocks in shaded valleys. Outside woodland, it occurs in sheltered places on boulder-strewn slopes and block scree, including on some north-facing coasts. Altitudinal range: 5–800 m.

Dioicous; occasionally fertile; sporophytes are very rare, May to July. Plants sometimes have caducous leaves (Paton, 1999) and these may act as a means of vegetative reproduction.

The extreme sensitivity of this species to drought has been demonstrated experimentally. If the shoots are dried for just one day in the laboratory they do not resume photosynthesis on rehydration. However, laboratory conditions are probably more severe than those usually experienced in the field, where there will be diurnal fluctuations in humidity, and the growth form of the plant may protect many of the shoots from dehydration during dry periods (Sollows *et al.*, 2001).

Suboceanic Temperate. In Europe, most frequent in the west, becoming uncommon in the extreme northern and continental regions and absent from most of the Mediterranean region. Canary Islands, Madeira; Russian Far East, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China; N America.

T.H. Blackstock, rev. C.D. Preston

