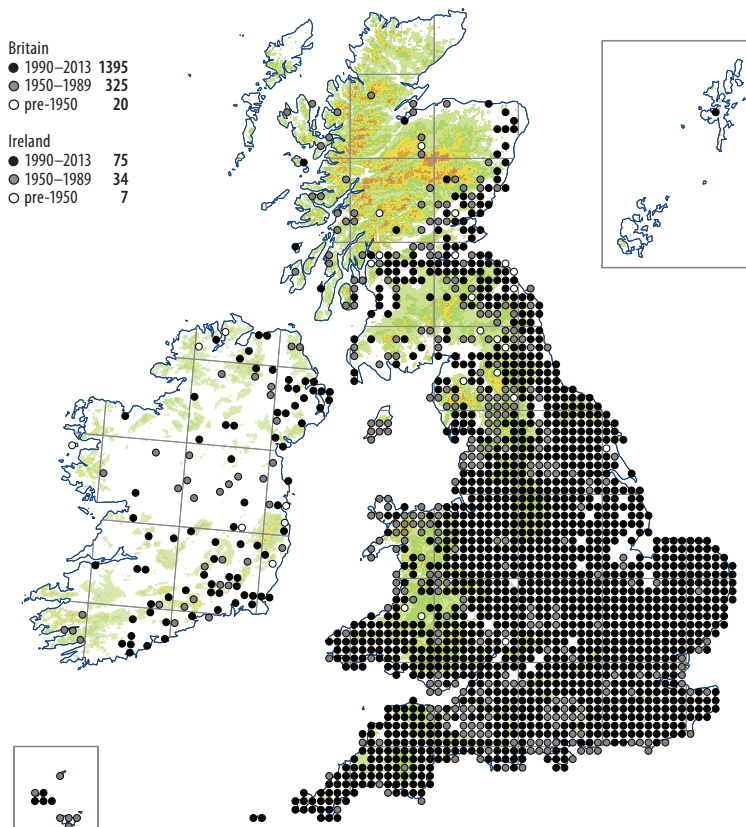


Lophocolea heterophylla



On rotting wood, on tree boles and trunks, occasionally on base-poor rocks, sometimes on soil in shade. It is regularly found alongside *Lophocolea bidentata*, and also grows with *Nowellia curvifolia*, *Dicranum tauricum*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Orthodontium lineare* and *Tetraphis pellucida*. In southern and eastern England it is the commonest species of leafy liverwort, but becomes uncommon in the north and west and is usually found on just a handful of logs at north-western sites. Altitudinal range: 0–450 m.

Lophocolea heterophylla is more tolerant of atmospheric pollution than most Jungermanniales. It was the only leafy liverwort to survive in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne in the period of maximum SO₂ pollution (Gilbert, 1968), albeit only on calcareous mortar, and it increased in frequency in response to simulated acid rain applied to stands of

spruce forest in Germany (Rodenkirchen, 1992). Along with a number of other calcifuge bryophytes, it has declined in lowland Britain since the 1980s. Recent recording in Irish conifer plantations gives the impression that *L. heterophylla* is less rare there than the 1991–1994 Atlas suggested, but the timing of any increase due to plantation is unclear.

Paroicous; capsules are abundant, all year but mostly spring and early summer. Gemmae are occasional.

Circumpolar Temperate. In Europe from mid Scandinavia southwards, less frequent in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia; N Africa; Siberia, Russian Far East, Korea, Japan, China, Mongolia, Himalaya; N America; Cuba; Brazil.

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