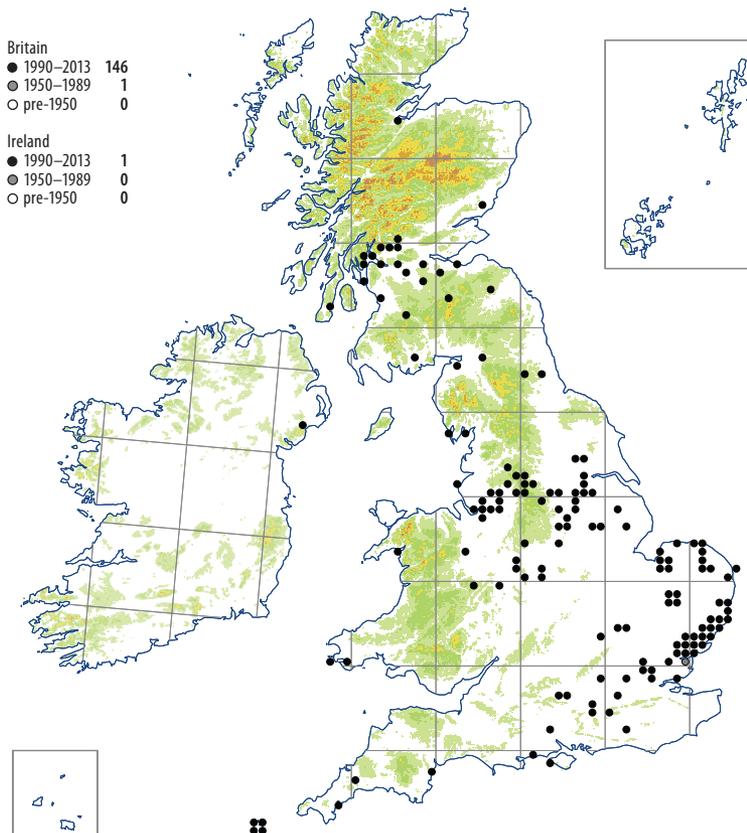


Lophocolea semiteres



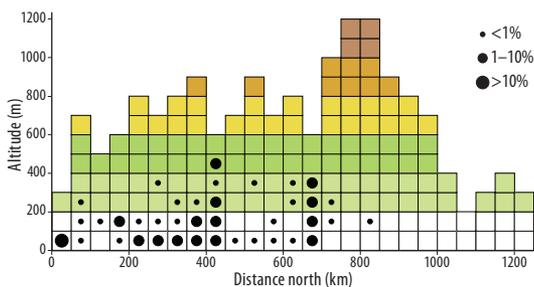
Often forming extensive pure mats on peat, sand and base-poor shales, both in the open and under trees; also locally frequent on rotting logs, stumps and tree bases, especially of conifers. Typical habitats include heathland, base-poor dunes, cliff tops, tracks and footpaths, quarries, post-industrial sites and open woodland. Altitudinal range: 0–345 m.

This Southern Hemisphere liverwort was first recorded in Britain on the Isles of Scilly in 1955 and was independently introduced to the Younger Botanic Garden near Dunoon in Argyll and the Dawyck Botanic Garden near Stobo, Peebles. Paton (1999) reported just these three colonies, although specimens from the 1970s and 1980s were subsequently unearthed from Essex and Suffolk. There has been considerable spread since 2000, and many other colonies

are probably undetected, although the populations in Wales and Ireland are genuinely disjunct from those in England and Scotland at present. Vegetative spread via industrial, military and forestry machinery, or even cars has been suggested because of the rarity of sporophytes.

Dioicous. Sporophytes are locally abundant in Argyll, October to March; rare elsewhere. Most populations are unisexual but some have clonal patches of both sexes (Porley & Haynes, 2009). Regenerants are occasional.

Suboceanic Temperate. Introduced to Europe; it was first collected in mainland Europe in Belgium in 1956 but overlooked for many years. It is now locally abundant in Belgium and the Netherlands, where both sexes are frequent (Stieperaere, 1994), and rare in Germany. Stieperaere *et al.* (1997) have suggested that in future it might largely exclude *L. heterophylla* from pine forests in the Low Countries. Native to Australia, New Zealand and nearby islands, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Argentina and Chile.



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