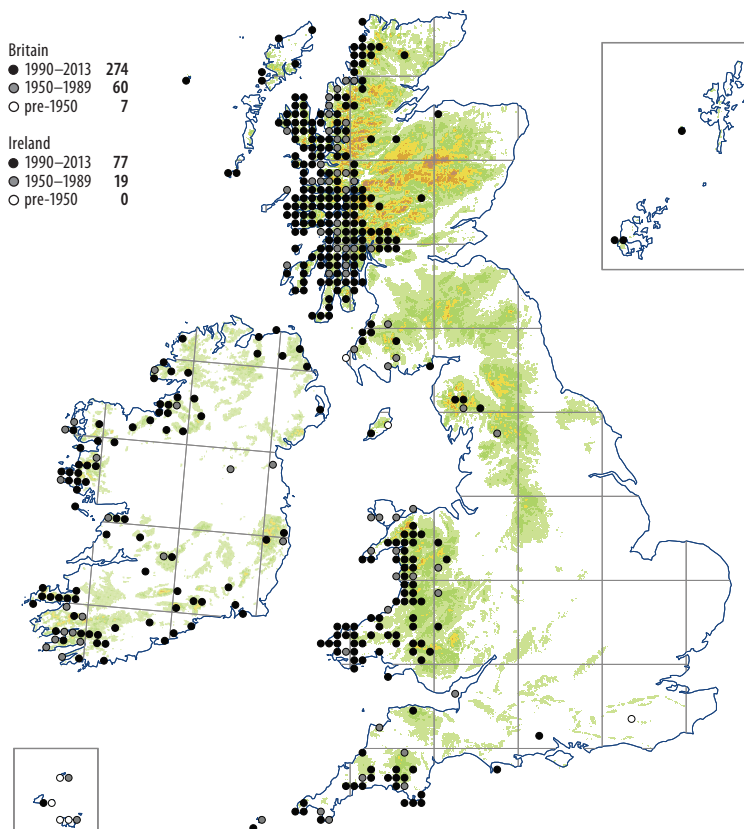


Plagiochila bifaria



Locally frequent in deciduous woodland, where it grows usually in pure tufts or patches on basic to mildly acid rock outcrops, and on the trunks and branches of trees, especially ash and hazel. It is also found on sheltered rock faces in more open situations, especially near the coast in S Wales and SW England, and it is more tolerant of exposure than *Plagiochila spinulosa* (e.g. Bosanquet, 2010). In the northern part of its range it favours a south-west to south-east aspect. All localities have a mild and humid climate. Altitudinal range: 0–700 m.

Although described as *P. killarniensis* in 1905, it was subsequently confused with *P. spinulosa* and only clearly distinguished from that species by Paton (1977b). *P. bifaria* is considerably better recorded now than in 1991, especially in Britain. The isolated record in the Weald is based on a collection made in 1866.

Dioicous; both male and female plants occur in Britain and Ireland, and have been found intermixed; sporophytes are unknown.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. Atlantic seaboard of Europe from Scotland south to Spain and Portugal; very rare further east, in Belgium, Luxembourg and northern Italy. Foula is the northernmost world locality for *P. bifaria*. Azores, Madeira, Canaries; Mexico, C America, Caribbean, Andes south to Bolivia, Brazil, Galapagos Islands. The former European endemic *P. killarniensis* was synonymised with *P. bifaria* by Heinrichs *et al.* (1998), a conclusion now supported by molecular data (Heinrichs *et al.*, 2004).

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