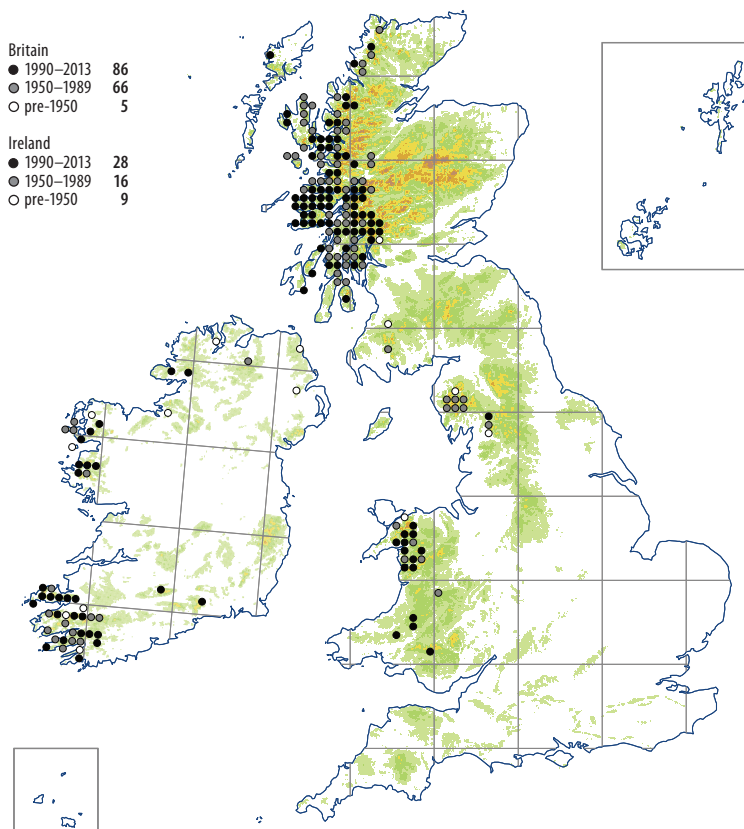


Plagiochila exigua



A strongly hygrophilous hepatic of deciduous woodland, where it grows usually as pure tufts or patches on moist rock outcrops, boulders, streamside rocks, ravine walls and on trunks and branches of trees, especially ash and hazel. It shares these niches with various members of the Lejeuneaceae, including *Aphanolejeunea microscopica*, *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*, *Harpalejeunea molleri* and *Lejeunea patens*, as well as *Frullania tamarisci*, *Plagiochila bifaria*, *P. spinulosa* and *Radula aquilegia*. It also grows outside woods, on sheltered rock faces on steep rocky slopes, particularly in SW Ireland. Altitudinal range: 10–650 m.

Occasionally confused with small forms of *P. punctata*, so perhaps slightly over-recorded.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. Atlantic seaboard of Europe, very rare outside Britain and Ireland, in SW Norway, Pyrenees, Switzerland and NW France; reported also from Italy. Macaronesia; Himalaya, Japan; DR Congo east to Tanzania and south to South Africa, Réunion; south-eastern USA; Mexico, Caribbean; Andes, Brazil.

A.B.G. Averbis, rev. S.D.S. Bosanquet

Dioicous; androecia are frequent, female plants and sporophytes are unknown in Britain and Ireland. Vegetative reproduction is by caducous leaves.

