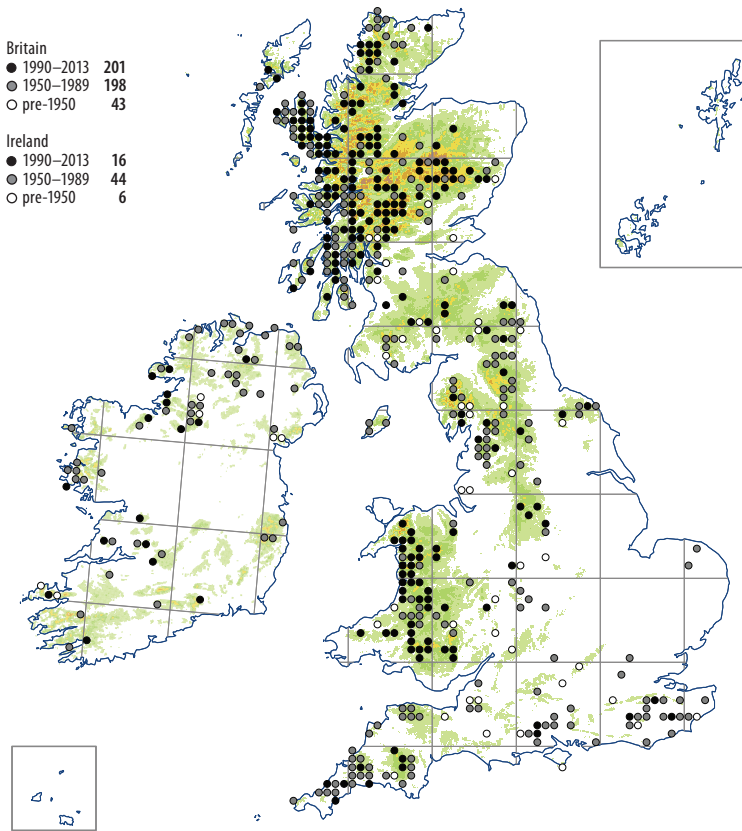


Solenostoma hyalinum

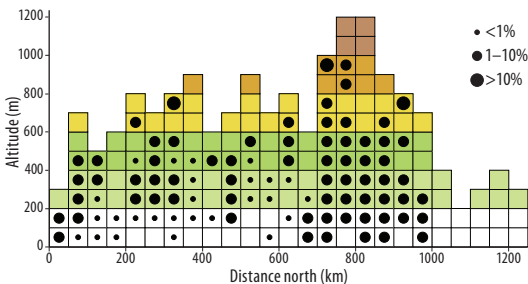


Occurs most commonly on rocks near water level by streams and in ravines, where it may be embedded in detritus, but also in a variety of other habitats such as moist gullies. *Hycomium armoricum*, *Racomitrium aciculare* and *Rhizomnium punctatum* are typical associates, although *Solenostoma hyalinum* often grows on its own. It also occurs widely on sandy, loamy and clay banks in woods and by ditches, and on tracks and hollows kept moist by aspect or ground water, and in these situations is widespread in lowland Britain. The substrate varies from acid to weakly basic. Altitudinal range: 25–480 m.

Dioicous. Perianths are frequent, capsules are occasional, March to May. Gemmae are unknown.

Trends in this species are very difficult to interpret. The map suggests that populations have been lost in the lowlands, and analysis of the records indicates a decline from the 1960s to the 1980s, followed by a levelling off in polluted areas and a recovery in unpolluted regions. However, many recorders have problems with this group of hepatics and *S. hyalinum* is impossible to distinguish with certainty from *S. paroicum* in the absence of gametangia. It is probably under-recorded in some areas and recorded erroneously in others. These problems are compounded by occasional dioicous plants of *S. paroicum*.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe but rare in the Mediterranean region. Turkey, Lebanon, Iran, Russia, Himalaya, China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines; N America; Mexico, Jamaica; Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil.



T.L. Blockeel, rev. S.D.S. Bosanquet