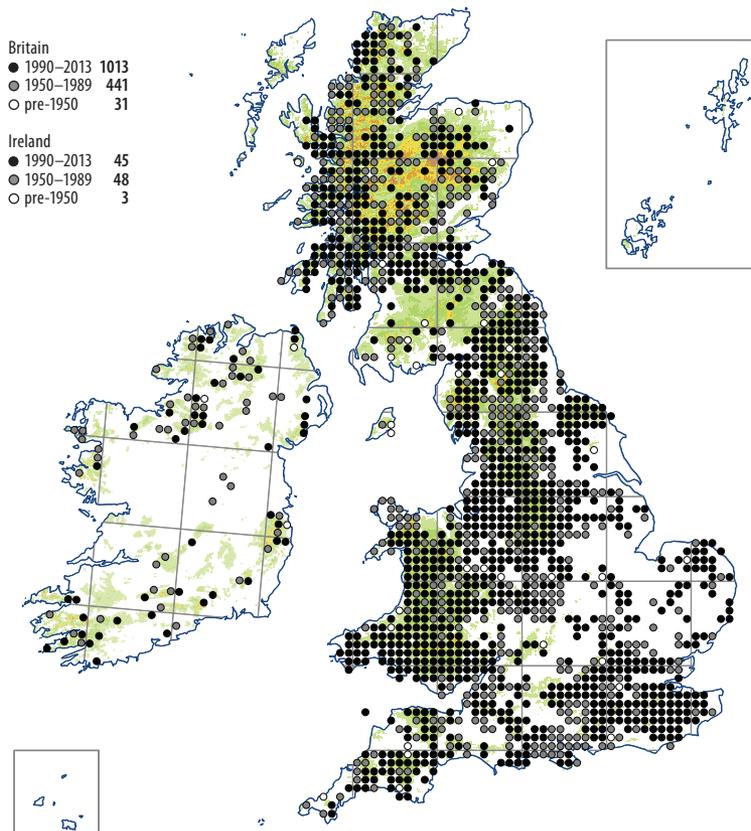


Tetraphis pellucida



A calcifuge which colonises organic matter and sandstone rocks in shaded, humid situations. It is frequent in areas of acid soil on logs and tree stumps in an advanced state of decay, where associates include *Cephalozia catenulata*, *Lepidozia reptans*, *Lophocolea* spp., *Nowellia curvifolia* and *Orthodontium lineare*. It is also widespread on sandy and peaty banks in woods, on peat under ericaceous shrubs and on the sides of eroding hags, on peaty soil over rocks and between boulders, on decaying grass tussocks and, more rarely, on acid bark of living trees (there often with *Lophocolea heterophylla*). It also grows in quantity on base-poor sandstone rocks. In areas of calcareous clay it is much rarer, although it can occasionally be found on slowly rotting tree stumps and logs; in chalky areas it is almost totally absent. On peaty soil and sandstone it grows with *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Lepidozia reptans*,

Lophozia incisa, *L. ventricosa*, *Scapania umbrosa*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* and *Mnium hornum*. Altitudinal range: 0–750 m.

Many of the more obvious gaps in its distribution have been filled since the 1991–1994 Atlas. It is rather rare in the most highly oceanic regions, but its scarcity throughout Ireland is nevertheless surprising. In recent decades it has become less common on the bark of living trees in areas where high levels of acid deposition have fallen.

Autoicous; capsules are occasional, more often produced in wet habitats, maturing throughout the year. Gemmae are borne in terminal cups and are almost always present; they may be splash-dispersed (cf. Brodie, 1951).

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe, from northern Fennoscandia south to Portugal, Corsica, Sardinia and N Greece, but absent from most of the Mediterranean region. Turkey. Circumboreal, south to China (Yunnan) in Asia and Florida in N America.

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