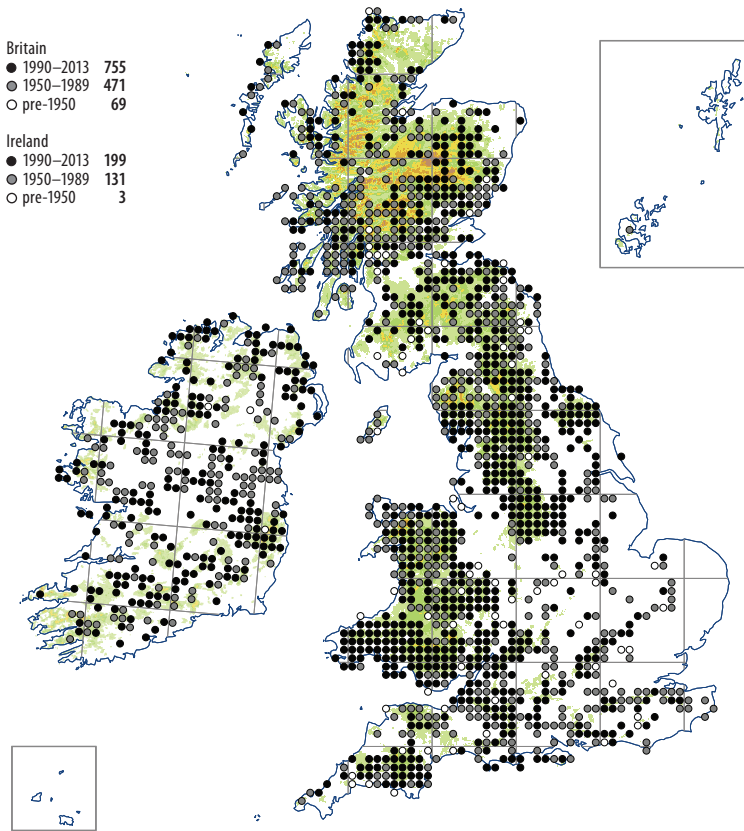


Encalypta streptocarpa



A calcicole occurring on a wide range of substrates. Natural or semi-natural habitats include bare chalk soil and rubble and among tree roots in beech woods, particularly on steep slopes, crevices in limestone crags and outcrops, bare limestone pavement and limestone scree, crevices and small ledges on damp, base-rich cliffs, and dry, often shaded calcareous rock walls of low-lying wooded ravines. Although commonest on limestone and calcareous rocks, it also occurs on base-rich sandstone and igneous rocks, rarely on shale and other rocks with very little base content. It is commonest in well-illuminated places and in light shade, but sometimes occurs on moderately shaded rocks in woods; it may persist but does not flourish in heavy shade. It also occurs on open ground in bare patches in calcareous grassland and on calcareous sand dunes. In most districts its most characteristic habitat is on soft, crumbling mortar of

walls, bridges and old buildings and in soil-filled crevices of old limestone walls. Other man-made habitats include old quarries and pits, and bare chalk banks and hedgerows; it is occasional on crumbling tarmac and concrete, on limestone chippings, and dumps of calcareous rubble. Near limestone quarries it is sometimes plentiful on trees covered with lime dust. Unlike other *Encalypta* species, it is not confined to calcareous areas because of its ability to grow on the mortar of walls and in other artificial habitats. Altitudinal range: 0–650 m.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare. Filamentous gemmae are abundant in leaf axils; gemmae are also produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

Eurasian Boreo-temperate. Almost throughout Europe, from Iceland (but not Svalbard) and northern Fennoscandia southwards, and east to the Ural mountains. Canaries, N Africa (Morocco). Turkey, Syria, Caucasus, Iran. Reports from N America and most of Asia are due to confusion with *E. procera* Bruch (Horton, 1983).

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