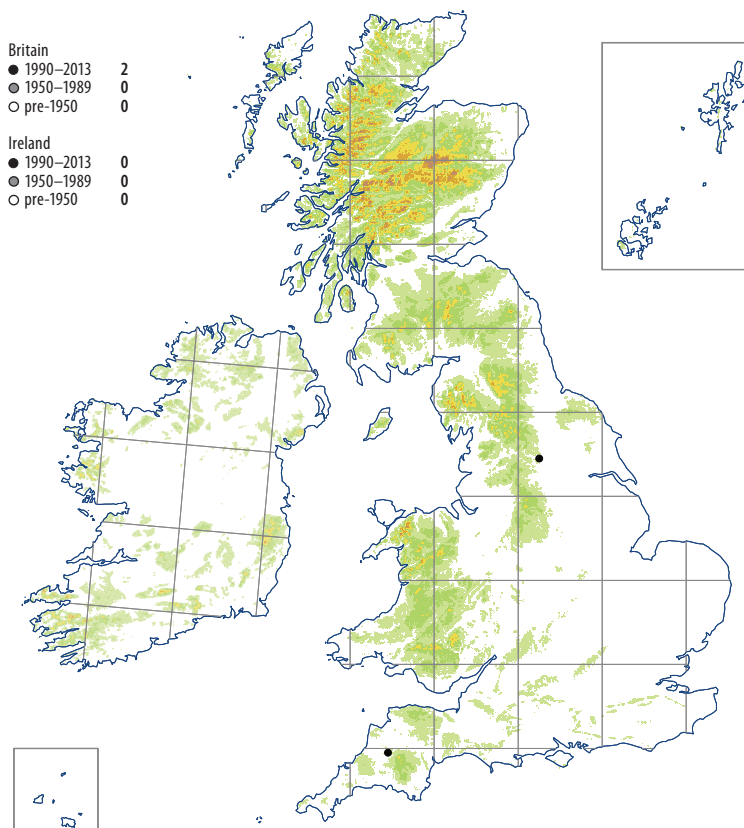


Ephemerella readeri



A colonist of bare mud, in Britain known only from reservoir margins. At Lindley Wood Reservoir in Yorkshire it occurs on mud exposed in the draw-down zone, and was present in large quantity in 2006 and 2010. Other rare species of exposed mud also occur at this locality, including *Physcomitrium sphaericum* and *Riccia huebeneriana*, along with more common species such as *Aphanorhagma patens*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum* and bulbiferous species of *Pohlia*. At Roadford Reservoir in Devon it was collected on unshaded damp mud among sparse low grasses and *Juncus*. *Micromitrium tenerum* occurs at this site. Altitudinal range: 95–120 m.



Recent records of apparent hybrids between *P. sphaericum* and *A. patens* may represent *E. readeri* and it is likely to be found at further reservoir sites. A potential threat to *Ephemerella* and other bryophytes of reservoir margins is the invasive flowering plant *Crassula helmsii*, which is abundant at Lindley Wood, rapidly smothering bare mud and significantly limiting the potential growth of these species, at least in some years.

Paroicous; capsules are abundant, in late summer and autumn.

Ephemerella readeri was first collected in Britain in 2006 (Hooper *et al.*, 2010). It may be an overlooked native species or a recent introduction, either by natural means or by human agency, although its introduction with *Crassula helmsii*, as suggested by Hooper *et al.* (2010), seems improbable.

Oceanic temperate. Elsewhere in Europe it has been found in Portugal, Spain and France, the earliest collection dating from 1988 (Urrúnaga Reservoir, Spain). N America, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand; probably elsewhere, but its wider distribution is uncertain because of taxonomic confusion with *A. patens*.

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◀ Roadford Reservoir, North Devon, 2011. Des Callaghan