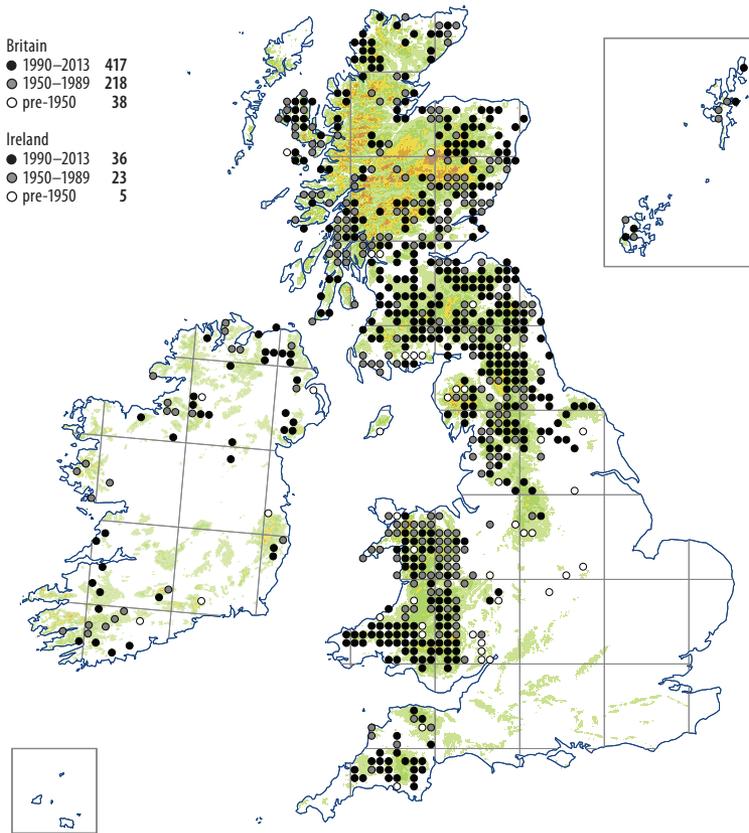


Schistidium rivulare



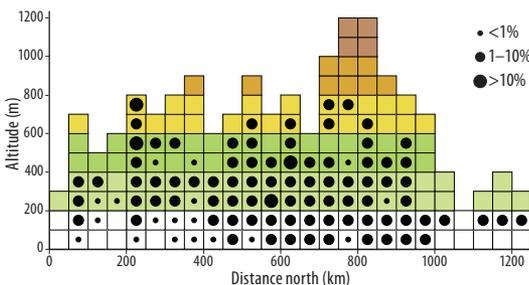
A characteristic riparian species of base-rich to slightly acid watercourses, in the open or in light to moderate shade. It occurs as large, often pendent tufts at or slightly above water level on rocks, boulders, large stones and tree roots in fast-flowing rivers and large streams. It grows typically in a zone that is only occasionally submerged, and higher than that occupied by aquatic *Fissidens* species, *Hygroamblystegium fluviatile* and *Platyhypnidium riparioides*, though often associated with them. In shaded sites and by calmer waters it tends to be outcompeted by larger mosses such as *Thamnobryum alopecurum*. Other associates in base-rich streams include *Cinclidotus fontinaloides*, *Sciuro-hypnum plumosum* and *Fontinalis antipyretica*, and in more acid environments *Fontinalis squamosa* and *Racomitrium aciculare*. Less often it occurs on boulders by lakes and on dripping basic cliffs. It may also colonise the walls and overflow

channels of reservoirs, and it has been found on old, shaded tarmac in Northumberland. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

Historical records did not clearly differentiate this species from *Schistidium platyphyllum*, but there is no evidence of significant decline. However it has probably been lost from a few of its more lowland sites because of eutrophication of river water.

Autocious; capsules are common, mature in spring and early summer.

The mapped distribution is still somewhat incomplete, and some of the mapped records may refer to *S. platyphyllum*, as the two species were not clearly distinguished until Orange (1995) pointed out their diagnostic characters. There is probably also some confusion with *S. apocarpum*, which often occurs in riparian habitats and may have very short hair-points.



Circumpolar Wide-boreal. Widespread in boreal and temperate parts of Europe, rare in the Arctic but extending north to Svalbard, south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region. Madeira, N Africa (Morocco). Turkey. Across Asia south to the Himalaya and China, Japan. N America south to Arizona and New Mexico. A bipolar species, in the Southern Hemisphere in southern S America, subantarctic islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. Possibly tropical America, tropical Africa, Australia and New Zealand, but these occurrences may belong to related species.

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