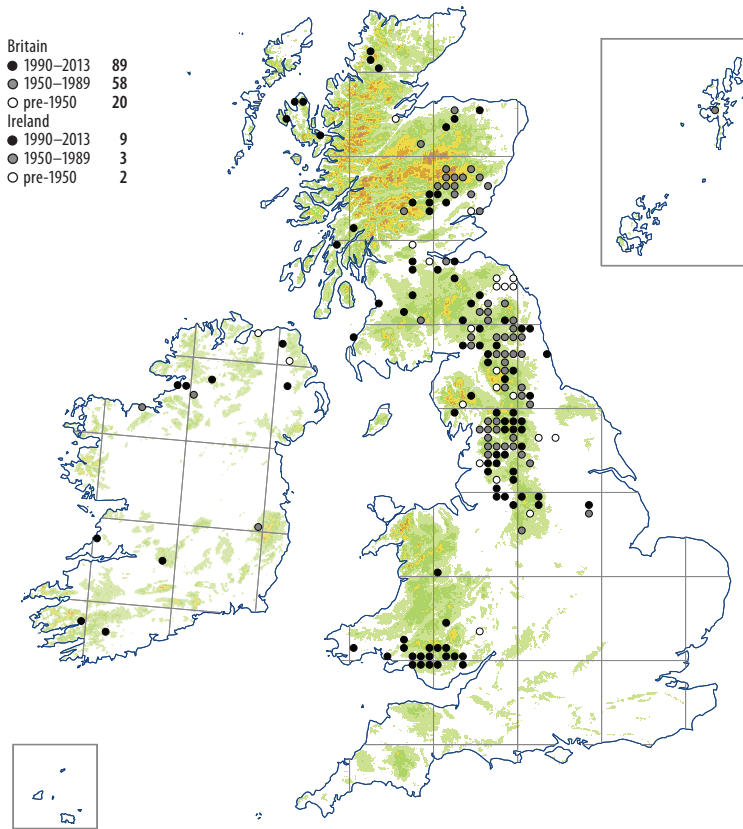


Schistidium platyphyllum



Like *Schistidium rivulare*, this is a riparian species found by fast-flowing streams, typically growing above normal summer water level on rocks and boulders, rarely on tree roots. It has a greater preference for base-rich rocks than *S. rivulare*, being especially characteristic of upland streams on Carboniferous Limestone and base-rich sandstone, and only rarely found on slightly acid rocks. Although largely confined to bouldery streams in the uplands, it has been recorded in lowland Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire on imported boulders used to control erosion by the River Trent. It is also known from stonework and overflow channels of reservoirs, and exceptionally on damp tarmac. *Cinclidotus fontinaloides* is a regular associate, along with *Orthotrichum cupulatum* and *Sciuro-hypnum plumosum*. Also frequently present are *Fissidens crassipes* and *F. rufulus* but usually at a

lower zone in the water. Mixed populations with *S. rivulare* occur. Altitudinal range: 10–480 m.

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

Schistidium platyphyllum and *S. rivulare* were not clearly distinguished until Orange (1995) pointed out their diagnostic characters, and *S. platyphyllum* is probably still significantly under-recorded.

Circumpolar Boreo-arctic montane. Widespread in boreal and temperate parts of Europe, extending north to Svalbard and Arctic Russia, south to Spain and Romania, probably absent from the Mediterranean region (a record from Sicily requires confirmation). Distributed across the Northern Hemisphere, but its precise distribution is uncertain because it has not always been recognised as distinct from *S. rivulare*, or clearly separated from it.

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