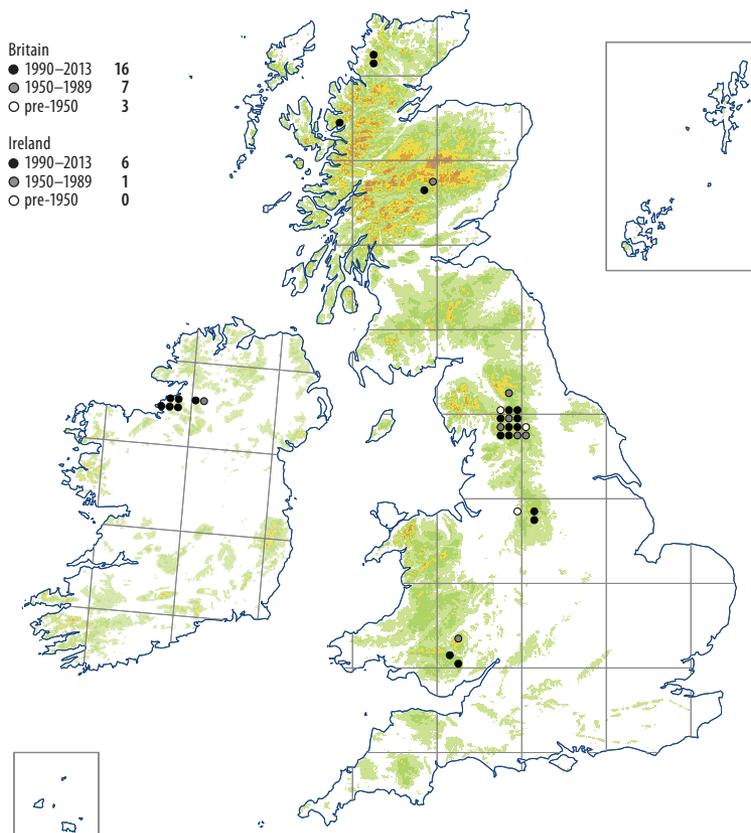


Seligeria trifaria s.l.



Often the only bryophyte species present on lightly to deeply shaded, vertical or overhanging calcareous rocks down which water seeps. An algal scum is usually present, and the moss is often heavily impregnated with tufa. Typically it is found on vertical crags in ravines and gills, but also in recesses and sheltered rock faces on more open hillsides. Most of its sites are on Carboniferous Limestone. In Ireland and S Wales it sometimes grows with *Seligeria oelandica*; other associates may include *Jungermannia atrovirens*, *Gymnostomum aeruginosum* and *G. calcareum*; *Orthothecium rufescens* is present at some of its sites but not usually in close association. Altitudinal range: 140–500 m.

Autoicous; capsules are rather less frequent than in other members of the genus, but not uncommon, mature in summer.

The *S. trifaria* aggregate is a difficult complex of species that is poorly understood. Two of them occur in Britain. Plants with large spores belong to *S. trifaria* s.s. and have been confirmed only from NW Scotland. Plants with small spores have been called *S. patula* (Lindb.) Broth. but it is not certain that this is the correct name. This is evidently much the commoner taxon and it is known from Wales, northern England and Ireland. The distribution of the segregates is not yet sufficiently well known for them to be mapped separately.

European Temperate. The distribution of the segregate taxa is unclear because of the taxonomic uncertainties. In a broad sense, the *S. trifaria* complex has an Arctic-alpine distribution in Europe, but not reaching Svalbard, with a few occurrences in the mountains of the Mediterranean region. It is represented in northern Asia and northern N America by *S. tristichoides* Kindb., which also occurs in Scandinavia.

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