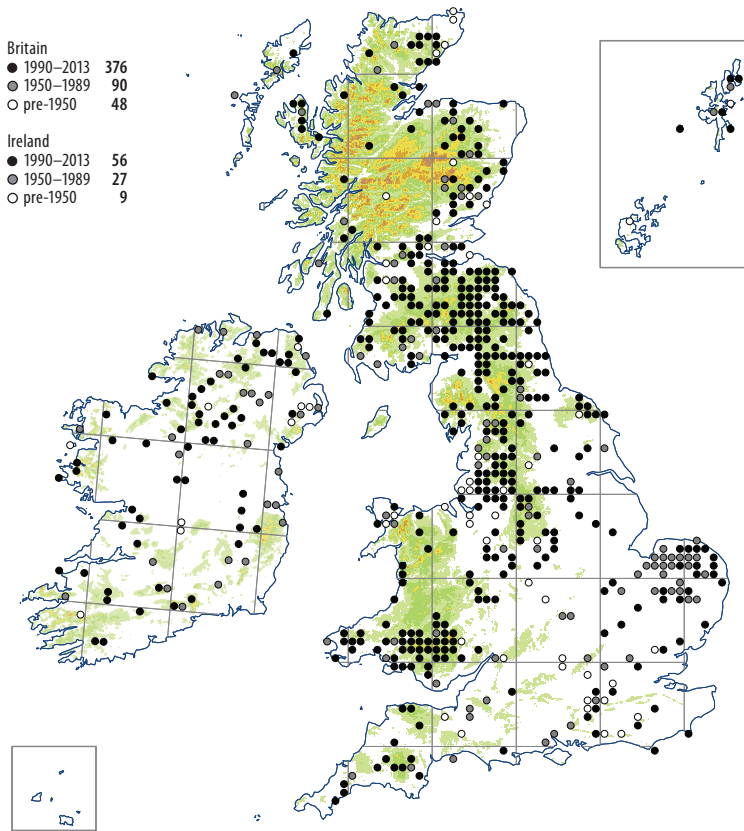


Marchantia polymorpha subsp. polymorpha



A locally frequent riparian taxon, growing on silty boulders or rocks in streams and rivers. The same rocks usually support *Chiloscyphus polyanthos*, *Scapania undulata*, *Hygroamblystegium fluviatile*, *Racomitrium aciculare*, *Schistidium rivulare* and *Sciuro-hypnum plumosum*, and the patchy distribution of *Marchantia polymorpha* is difficult to explain. Subsp. *polymorpha* may also be abundant in fens and lakeside swamps, again rather unpredictably, alongside *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Calliergon cordifolium*, various sphagna and vascular plants such as *Comarum palustre*. Upland lake margins, montane springs and neutral flushes are also occasionally occupied, and there is some overlap in habitat with subsp. *montivagans*. Strongly calcareous and strongly acid conditions seem to be avoided. Altitudinal range: 5–835 m.

Dioicous. Occasionally fertile; carpocephala are rare. Gemmae are frequent.

The current concept of *M. polymorpha* follows Bischler-Causse & Boisselier-Dubayle (1991) and older records often cannot be applied to the current taxonomy. Although Long (1995) revised the British and Irish distribution of the three subspecies, their distribution remains rather patchily known.

European Boreo-temperate. Found throughout much of Europe, including Iceland and Fennoscandia. Asia, including Himalaya; N America. Global distribution uncertain because of confusion with related taxa.

S.D.S. Bosanquet

