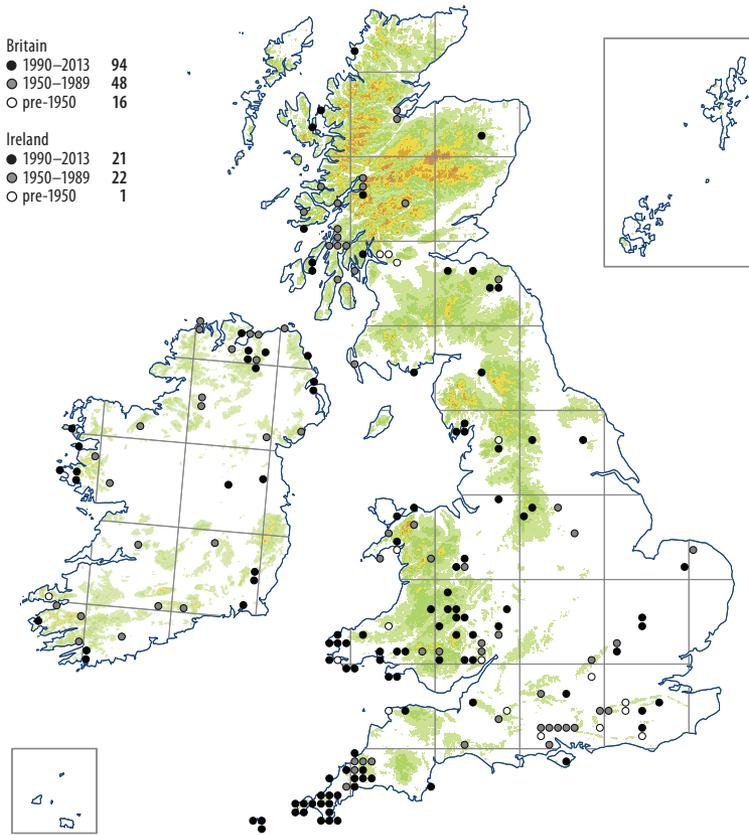


Riccia subbifurca



On damp or seasonally wet, thinly vegetated soil on rock ledges and rocky slopes, lane, stream and ditch banks, tracks through woodland and forestry plantations, sandy riversides, the edges of pools and reservoirs, and in gardens and arable fields. It is usually found on acid soils but is also recorded over chalk, limestone and basic igneous rocks. *Riccia sorocarpa*, which grows in a similar range of habitats, is a frequent associate. It was recorded in 15 fields during the Survey of the Bryophytes of Arable land – nine times with *R. sorocarpa* and *R. glauca*, five with only *R. sorocarpa* and once with only *R. glauca* – and was normally less frequent than either of its congeners when they grew together. Altitudinal range: 0–350 m.

Holyoak (2012) says that *R. subbifurca* has been recorded much more frequently in Cornwall in the last two decades

than before, but that it may have been overlooked as *R. glauca* in the past. Trend analysis for the whole of Britain and Ireland suggests no significant change, so any increase is likely to be restricted to Cornwall.

Monoicous; sporophytes are frequent, recorded in most months.

Riccia warnstorffii Limpr. was revised by Paton (1990). Material from nearly 80 different sites in Britain and Ireland was found to be referable to *R. subbifurca* and no *R. warnstorffii* was seen. There remain some problems with the identification of these two species and *R. crozalsii* (q.v.) and populations identified as *R. subbifurca* on thin soil overlying coastal rock and in arable fields can appear very different macroscopically. DNA Barcoding has not yet resolved these identification problems (Bell *et al.*, 2013).

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. W and S Europe; SW Asia; N Africa; Macaronesia; southern Australia.

C.D. Preston, rev. S.D.S. Bosanquet

