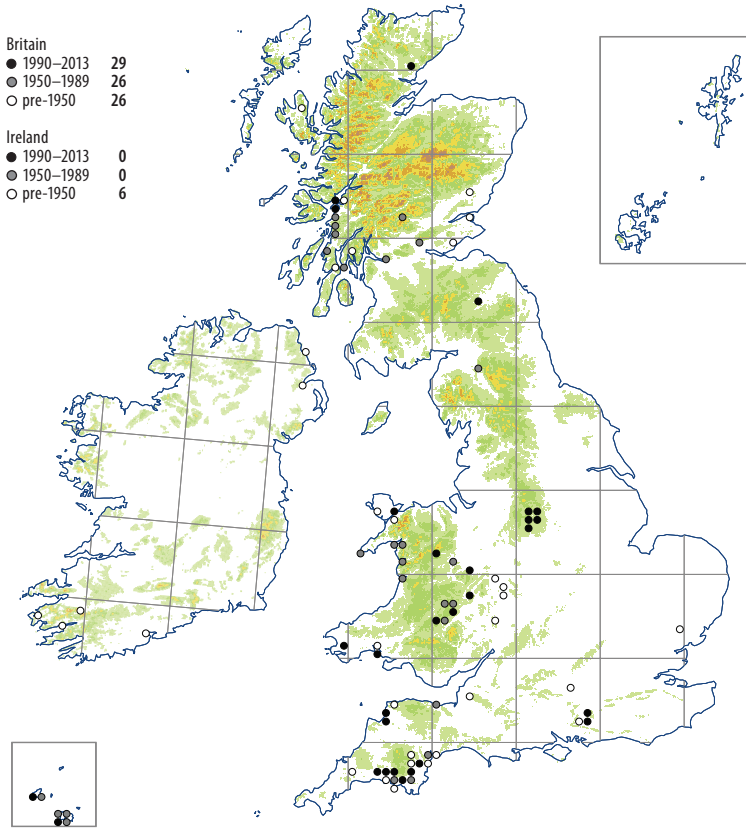


Targionia hypophylla



On loamy, rocky or sandy roadside banks, on thin layers of soil over rocks and walls, and, rarely, in coastal turf. Although not a strict calcicole, it is often associated with limestone or basic igneous rock. *Targionia* usually occurs in sunny sites which dry out in summer: it is one of the most xerophytic of British liverworts. The genera *Targionia*, *Reboulia* and *Preissia* form an interesting series, with *Targionia* most and *Preissia* least adapted to existence in Mediterranean microclimates. This difference is reflected in their British distribution. However their habitats overlap, and *Targionia* and *Reboulia* occasionally occur side by side in the Peak District. *Entosthodon muhlenbergii* is a frequent associate on limestone, whilst some mid Wales populations on igneous rock grow alongside *Frullania fragillifolia*, *F. tamarisci*, *Fissidens dubius*, *Pterogonium gracile* and *Trichostomum brachydontium*. Altitudinal range: 10–290 m.

Apparently declining, especially on roadside banks where small colonies consisting of a few tens of thalli are vulnerable to shading from increased vascular plant growth. Larger, more resilient populations remain on thin soil overlying igneous rock in certain areas, such as the Welsh Marches, and on limestone in the Peak District. The northernmost site in the world, in Sutherland, was discovered in 2008.

Monoicous; sporophytes are frequent, maturing in winter or early spring.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. A southern species, frequent in the Mediterranean countries and reaching its northern limit in Scotland. Widespread in warm regions of the world, south to South Africa, Australia, Argentina and Chile.

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