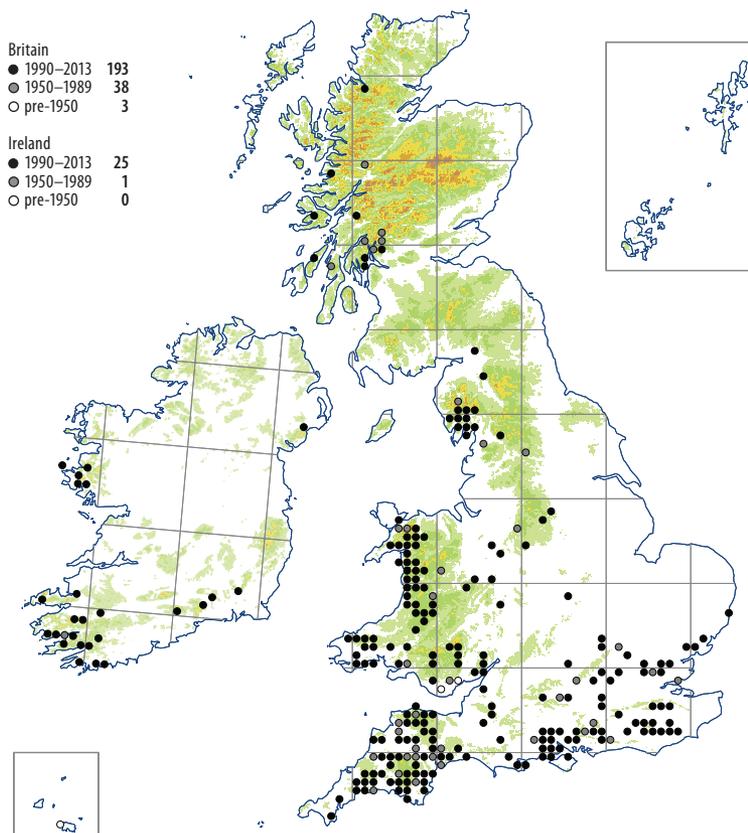


## Leucobryum juniperoideum



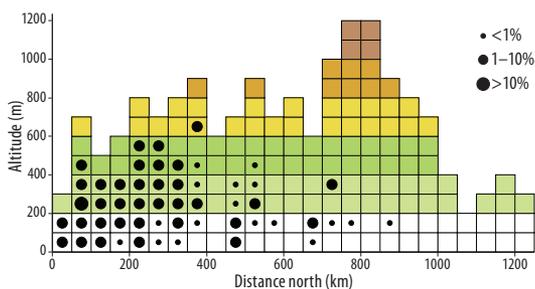
Most records of this species are from acid oak and beech woodland. It is sometimes locally abundant, forming dense cushions at soil level and also extending onto rock outcrops, tree bases and, very occasionally, stumps, trunks and branches (especially of oak, alder and birch). *Leucobryum glaucum* may also be present, and the two species can coexist in close association. *L. juniperoideum* has also been found in wooded ravines, sweet chestnut coppice, conifer woodland and, rarely, in more open habitats such as heathland. It generally avoids poorly drained soils. Altitudinal range: 0–500 m.

Having been recognised only two decades before the 1991–1994 Atlas, *L. juniperoideum* was under-recorded at that time. Records have accumulated substantially since then, but

without affecting the overall pattern of a southern and western range.

Dioicous with males epiphytic on females; capsules are rare, but locally frequent in some woodlands, mature in winter. Vegetative propagation is by shoot fragments and deciduous leaves.

The separation of *L. juniperoideum* from *L. glaucum* was discussed by Crundwell (1972) but can be difficult in the absence of capsules, and there are still inconsistencies in recording. The map is likely to contain some errors, and the detailed distribution of *L. juniperoideum* remains incomplete. The taxonomy is complicated by reports of the American species *L. albidum* (Brid. ex P. Beauv.) Lindb. in Europe, although some authors treat the two species as synonymous.



European Temperate. W and C Europe north to Denmark and southern Sweden, south to Portugal, Sicily and Bulgaria but absent from most of Mediterranean Europe. Macaronesia. Turkey, Caucasus. Himalaya, India, E and SE Asia, including China, Taiwan and Japan. It is also reported in the Southern Hemisphere from Madagascar and nearby islands.

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