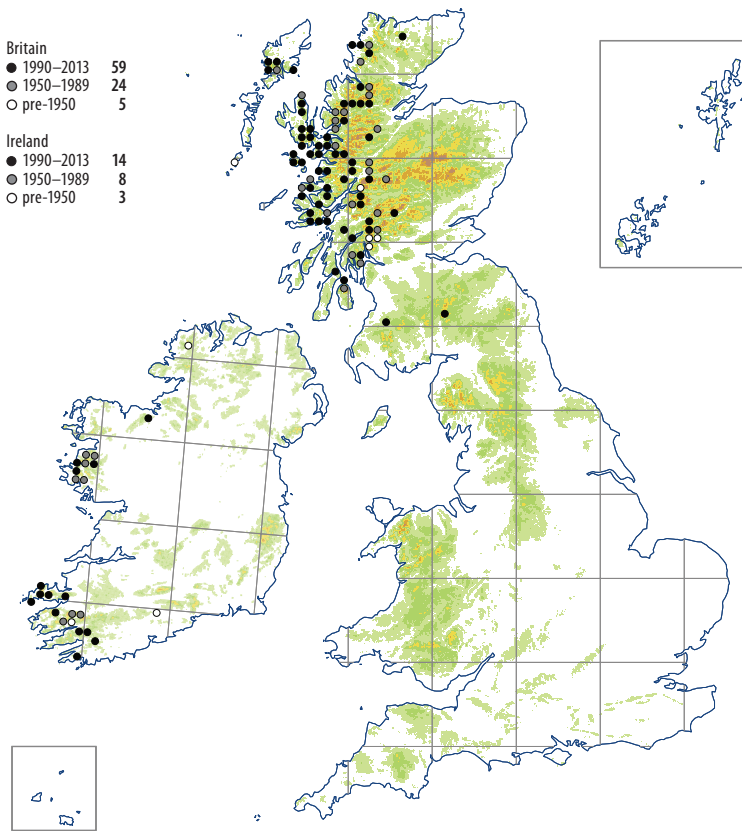


Trichostomum hibernicum (*Oxystegus hibernicus*)



In the lowlands this species grows as scattered stems or small tufts among other bryophytes on wet ledges in humid ravines, on stream banks, among block litter and, rarely, in sea caves. It is most frequent in the vicinity of waterfalls, and associates include *Marsupella emarginata*, *Campylopus atrovirens*, and in slightly basic conditions *Blindia acuta*. At higher altitudes it occurs on damp, often dripping base-rich ledges on north or east-facing crags and in gullies. A less frequent habitat is intermittently flushed turf. Altitudinal range: 45–900 m.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare.

Köckinger *et al.* (2010) treated *Trichostomum hibernicum* as a member of the genus *Oxystegus* and described a new species, *O. minor*, which is similar to *O. hibernicum* and is

known from southern Scotland. It is described as differing in its scarcely expanded leaf base and some other details, but examination of a range of British and Irish material suggests that it cannot be separated consistently from *O. hibernicum* on morphological grounds (Blockeel, 2013). Some populations resembling *O. minor* may appear intermediate between *O. hibernicum* and *O. tenuirostris*, and there may be some inconsistencies in the map.

Hyperoceanic Temperate. Although previously believed to be endemic to Britain and Ireland, very similar and possibly identical plants are reported from the Himalayas (Nepal) by Köckinger *et al.* (2010). Records from the Vosges mountains in France are erroneous.

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