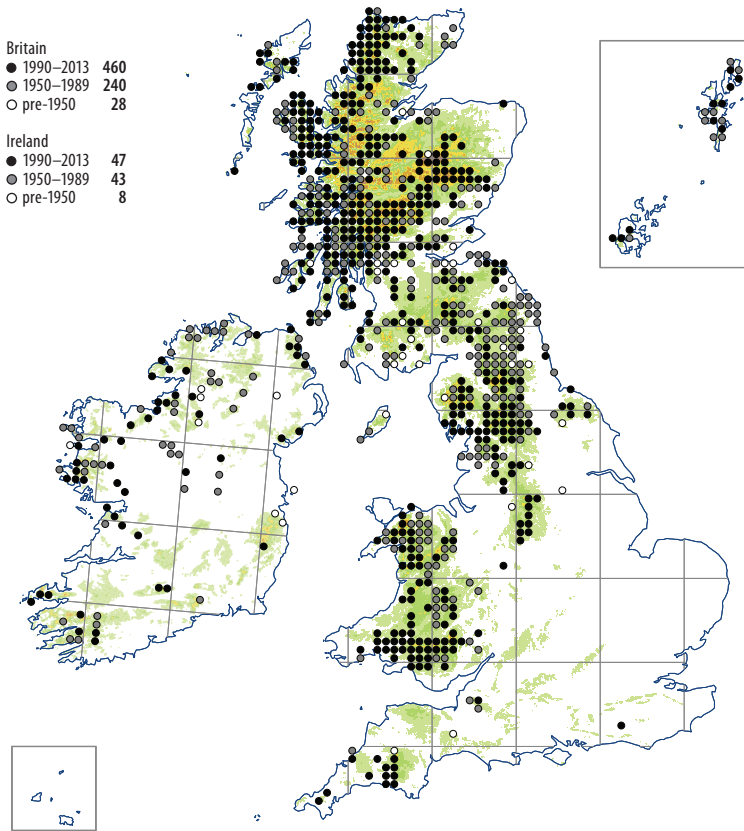


Gymnostomum aeruginosum



A species of moist or wet base-rich rocks, occurring in a wide range of habitats, especially in upland and montane districts. Although common on limestone, it is not a particularly strong calcicole and occurs on a wide range of rock types, including those with relatively low base content such as shale. It is characteristic of places where water seeps or drips on inclined or vertical rock faces, growing wedged in crevices on crags and in gullies and ravines, usually where sheltered from direct sunlight. It has many associates in these habitats, including *Blepharostoma trichophyllum*, *Jungermannia atrovirens*, *Leiocolea collaris*, *Amphidium mougeotii*, *Anoetangium aestivum* and *Blindia acuta*. Another frequent habitat is on stones and tufaceous hummocks in flushes with *Palustriella* spp., and it may colonise tracks surfaced with calcareous rubble, and old damp walls, where it often follows the mortar lines. It becomes rare in

the lowlands, being found mainly in deep wooded stream valleys, and on coastal banks and cliffs. Altitudinal range: 10–700 m.

Overall the records show an upward trend, and many new localities have been mapped since the 1991–1994 Atlas, e.g. in N Scotland and S Wales.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional, mature in late summer through to winter. Protonemal gemmae are produced in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Almost throughout Europe, north to Iceland and the Faeroes, east to the Ural mountains and Caucasus, but rare in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia. Widespread in boreal and temperate zones of the Northern Hemisphere, and reported from many countries in the tropics and the Southern Hemisphere, but at least some of these reports (as in Australia and New Zealand) belong to *Gymnostomum calcareum* or other related species.

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