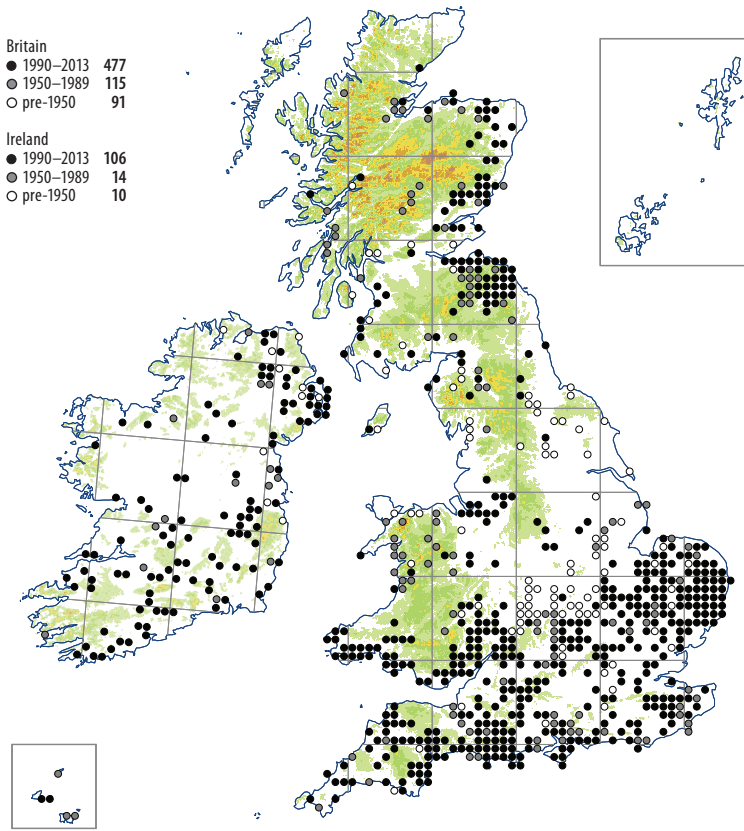


# Syntrichia papillosa



Most often growing on the boles of mature trees, but also on smaller trees and bushes. It is often found by roads in town and villages, and is abundant to dominant on urban trees in most of the cities and larger towns of S Wales (e.g. Bosanquet, 2010). In some western areas it is also characteristic of riverside trees, and is widespread in other open places such as large gardens, parks and hedgerows. Common host species are ash, elm, sycamore and willow, and among the smaller trees elder, but it has been recorded on many other species including exotics and ornamentals. *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria* spp., *Orthotrichum* spp. and *Syntrichia laevipila* are regular associates. More rarely it occurs on walls, stones, concrete and tarred surfaces. Though sometimes found in pure patches, it is often found in small quantity with other bryophytes. Altitudinal range: 0–250 m.

In spite of its occurrence on urban trees, it declined over much of central and northern England when levels of SO<sub>2</sub> pollution were high. It is now recovering in these areas, but it remains sparse there and has been slow to spread back compared with many other epiphytes. In other areas the recovery has been much stronger, as in East Anglia, and there have been many new records from previously under-recorded regions. In general the records have shown a strong upward trend since 1990, though it is probably still under-recorded.

Dioicous; capsules and inflorescences are unknown in Britain and Ireland. Foliar gemmae are constantly present.

European Temperate. S, W and C Europe north to S Scandinavia, Latvia and Ukraine, rare in the Mediterranean lowlands. Canary Islands. N Africa (Morocco). Turkey, Caucasus. N America, Mexico, S America. Widespread in the temperate Southern Hemisphere.

T.L. Blockeel

