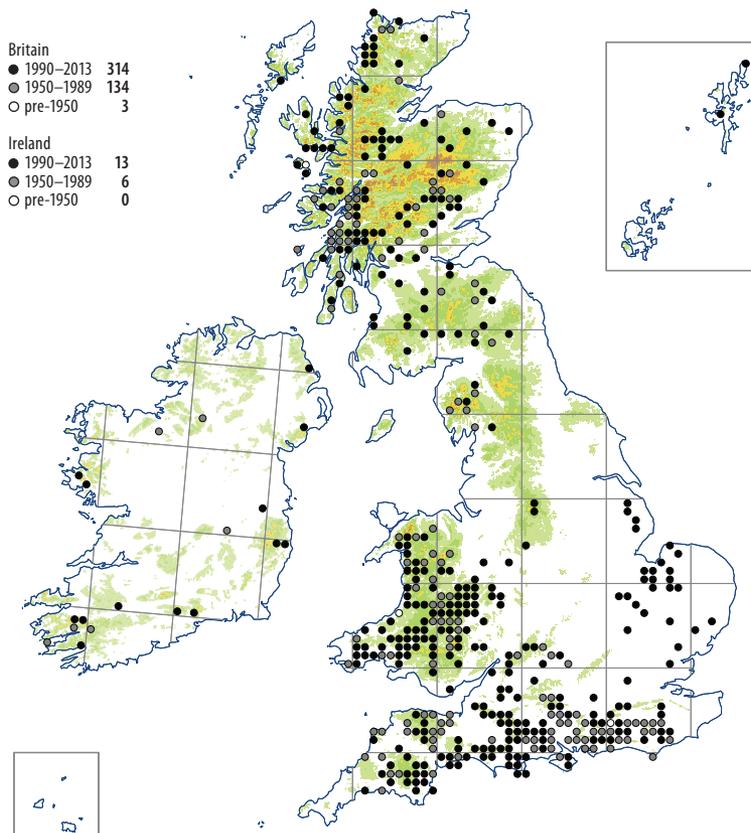


Zygodon rupestris



An occasional epiphyte on oak, beech, ash, sycamore and other trees, in similar habitats to *Zygodon viridissimus* and sometimes associated with that species, but much less common in most districts, especially towards the east. It has a distinct preference for old trees in long-established parks and at the edge of ancient woodland, conditions favoured by some other uncommon epiphytes, e.g. *Leucodon sciuroides*, *Pterogonium gracile* and the lichen *Lobaria pulmonaria*. Associates include *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria furcata*, *Homalothecium sericeum*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *resupinatum*, *Neckera complanata* and at some of its more upland sites, *Frullania tamarisci*. Occasionally it occurs on sheltered or shady base-rich rocks, for example on igneous rock outcrops and the sides of sandstone boulders. Altitudinal range: 0–530 m.

Records have increased substantially in Scotland, S Wales and E England, and while the increase in E England may be partly due to better air quality, elsewhere it can be attributed to more effective recording.

Diocious; capsules are rare to occasional, mature in spring. Vegetative propagation is by gemmae, which are almost always present on the stems and are produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

Zygodon rupestris is often confused with *Z. conoideus*, and a significant number of the mapped records probably belong to the latter species.

Circumpolar Southern-temperate. Europe north to C Fennoscandia and Latvia, east to Ukraine and Caucasus; it replaces *Z. viridissimus* in much of the Mediterranean region, although the recently described *Z. catarinoi* C.A. Garcia, F. Lara, Sérgio & Sim-Sim also occurs there. Macaronesia, N Africa, Turkey. Much, if not all, material from C Asia and perhaps Japan apparently belongs to the closely related *Z. sibiricus* Ignatov, Ignatova, Z. Iwats. & B.C. Tan. N and C America.

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