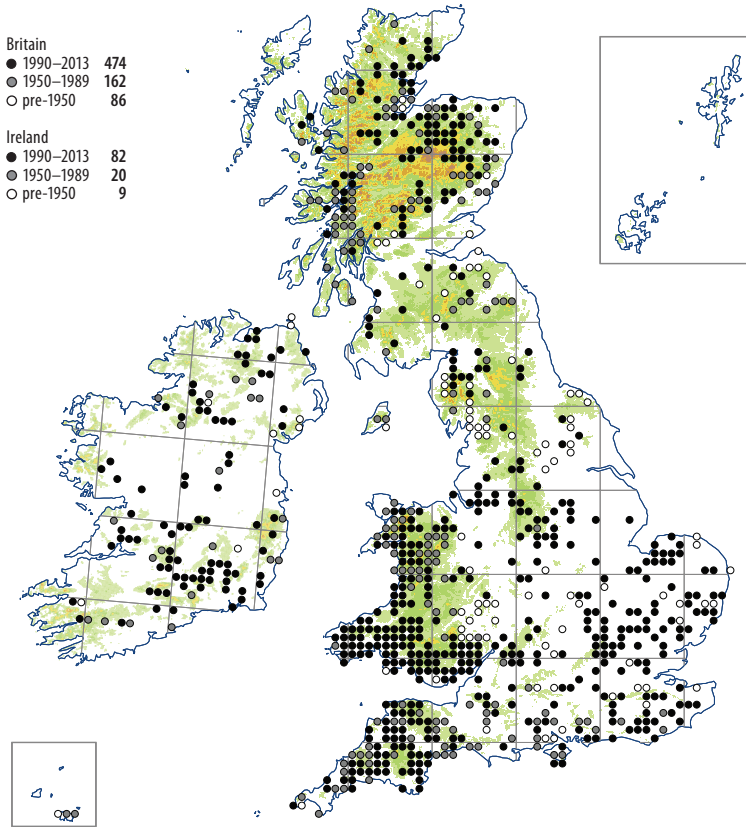


# Orthotrichum striatum



An epiphyte that usually grows as isolated tufts on the base-rich bark of trees and shrubs such as ash, elder, elm, hazel, poplar, sycamore and willow, but it also occurs on alder, aspen, beech, rowan and oak and is recorded from exotics such as buddleia. It is found on the trunks of trees in open sites by roads, streams and rivers and on the trunks, branches and twigs of shrubs, often but not always in sheltered valleys. Characteristic associates include *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria furcata*, *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Neckera pumila*, *Orthotrichum affine*, *O. lyellii*, *Ulota bruchii*, *U. crista*, *U. phyllantha* and *Zygodon viridissimus*. *O. striatum* also grows occasionally on rocks and concrete in humid situations, as on a serpentine rock outcrop on the Lizard Peninsula. Altitudinal range: 0–450 m.

The distribution of *O. striatum* was severely limited by SO<sub>2</sub> pollution in the 20th century, and it had almost disappeared from C and E England when the 1991–1994 Atlas was published. It has now spread back widely into these areas, though less abundantly than some other epiphytic species, often occurring only as solitary tufts. Recording coverage in unpolluted regions is also much improved.

Autoicous; capsules are abundant, mature from late winter to summer.

European Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe north to Iceland and N Scandinavia, the Baltic States and Ukraine. A very common and characteristic species of mountains in S Europe, Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey and Near East to Pakistan, India, S Siberia and China. Pacific N America.

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