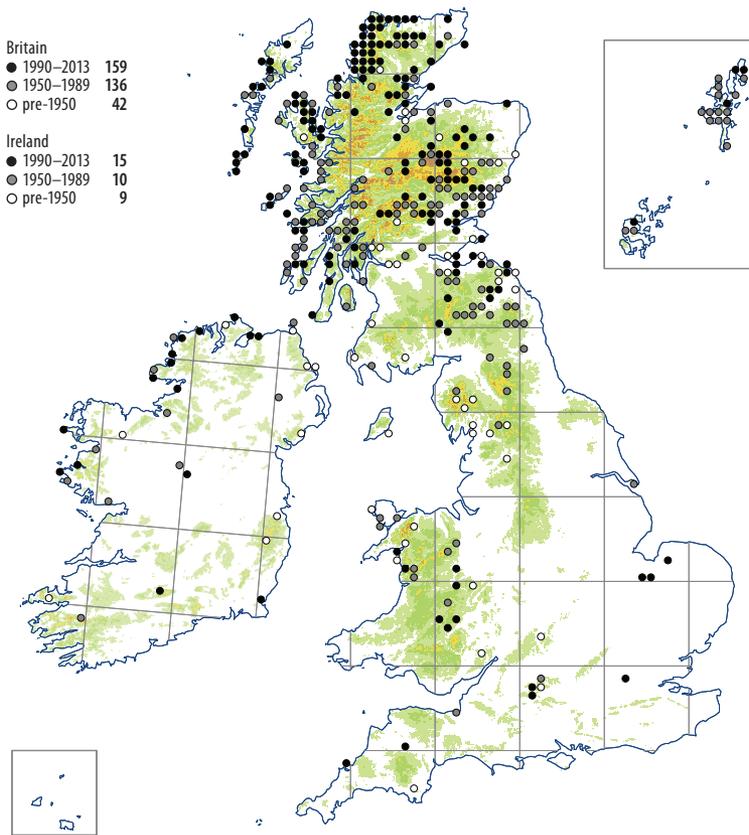


Orthotrichum rupestre



A plant of well-illuminated rocks and boulders, growing by lakes and rivers, on coastal outcrops, on boulders in scree, on Sarsen stones and on walls and bridges. It is most frequent on basic igneous rocks including basalt, dolerite and tuff, but it also occurs on acid rocks affected by calcareous sand and has been found on a concrete dam. In many areas it is absent from limestone, but in Skye it grows on limestone pavement and rock outcrops (Birks & Birks, 1974). *Grimmia trichophylla* and *Schistidium* spp. are recorded as associates. In many parts of its world range *Orthotrichum rupestre* is a common epiphyte, but such occurrences are relatively rare in Britain and Ireland; it is occasionally found on exposed tree roots by streams and on the trunks of trees such as ash and elm. In East Anglia it has been recorded recently from apple trees in orchards. Epiphytic colonies in the south-east probably originate

with spores from continental Europe. Altitudinal range: 0–730 m.

Autoicous; capsules are abundant, maturing from June to August. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

European Boreo-temperate. One of the most widespread of *Orthotrichum* species, found through most of Europe north to Iceland and N Scandinavia (but not Svalbard), NW Russia and S Urals, common in the Mediterranean region. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey and the Near East. Mountainous regions of the Northern Hemisphere, in Asia east to S Siberia, China and the Russian Far East, and in N America. In the tropics in the Andes and C Africa. Widespread in the temperate Southern Hemisphere, including Antarctica.

C.D. Preston, rev. T.L. Blockeel

