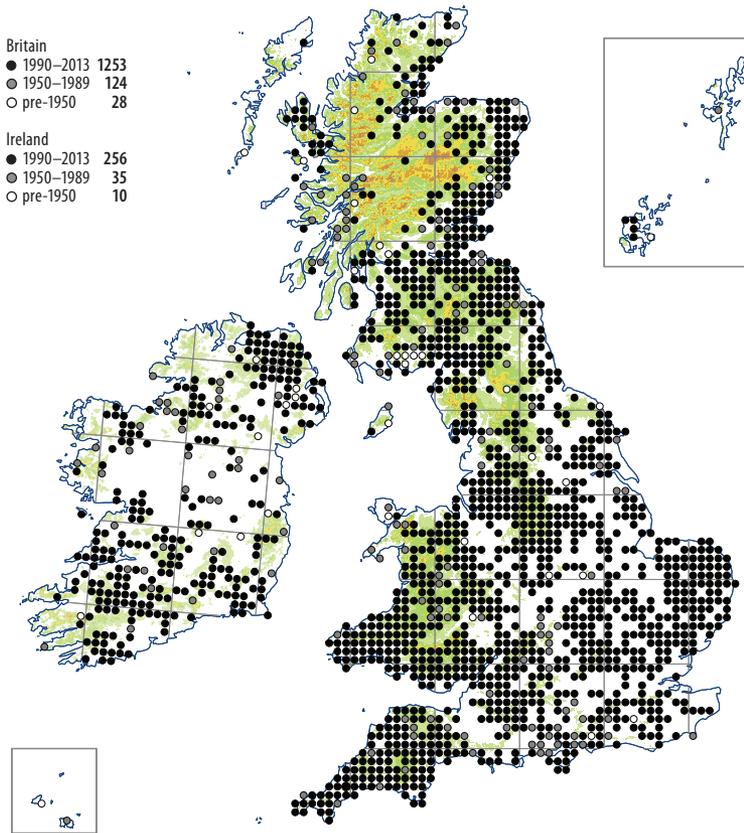


Orthotrichum pulchellum



An epiphyte which grows on the trunks and branches of trees and shrubs in sheltered but not heavily shaded situations, including open woodland and woodland rides, patches of scrub, fen carr, quarries and streambanks. It is much more frequent on elder and willows than on other hosts, but is found on many other species, including alder, ash, beech, hawthorn, hazel, oak, rowan and sycamore. It only rarely colonises wooden palings and rotting logs or inorganic substrates such as boulders, stone walls and gravestones. Associated species include *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria furcata*, *M. violacea*, *Radula complanata*, *Amblystegium serpens*, *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Orthotrichum affine*, *Rhynchostegium confertum*, *Ulota bruchii*, *U. crispata*, *U. phyllantha* and *Zygodon viridissimus*. Altitudinal range: 0–445 m.

Orthotrichum pulchellum has increased markedly during the past three decades. It has colonised or recolonised areas formerly subject to high atmospheric pollution, but has also become much more common in western and northern regions where pollution had not been a limiting factor. Climate change and increased nutrient deposition may be among the causes.

Autoicous; capsules are abundant, mature in spring and early summer. Gemmae are not recorded.

Oceanic Temperate. NW Europe from Spain to Norway and Sweden, eastwards to Poland, the Czech Republic and Serbia; rare in Mediterranean Europe (Sicily, ?Crete). Turkey. Western N America, in wet forests from Oregon to SE Alaska and Kodiak Island; disjunct in Idaho. Since 1990, as in Britain and Ireland, it has extended its range in Europe, including Germany (Frahm, 2002) and the Czech Republic (Kučera *et al.*, 2012).

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