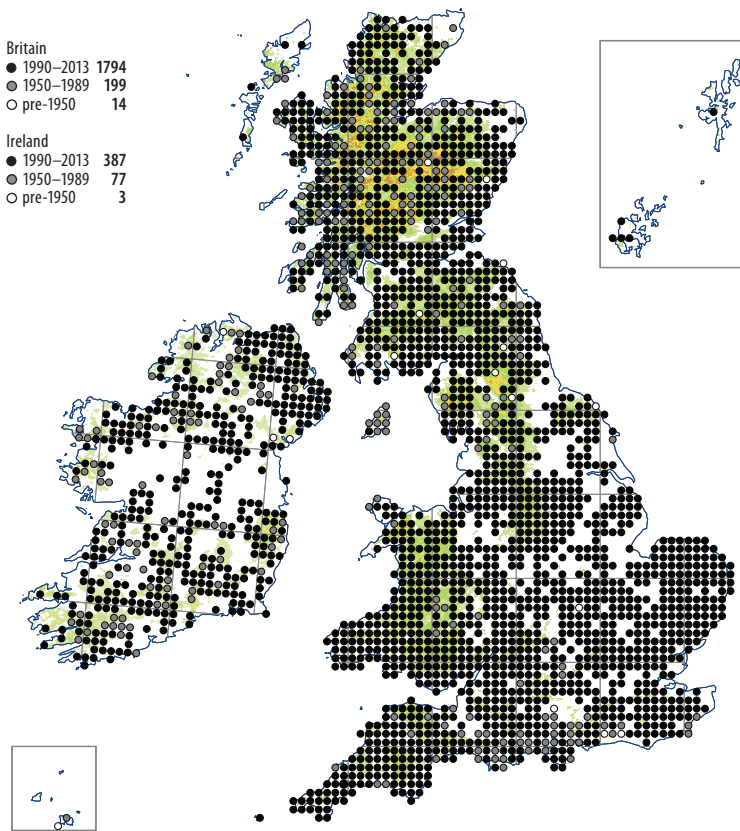


Uloa bruchii



A common epiphyte forming tufts on the twigs and branches, but also the trunks, of a wide range of trees and shrubs. Unlike most *Orthotrichum* species, it is abundant in oceanic regions on host species that include oak, hazel, rowan and willow – though often limited by the growth of pleurocarps – and occasionally on dwarf shrubs such as heather and bilberry. It is also widespread in eastern and lowland regions, especially in sheltered places such as light woodland, scrub, streamsides and sheltered valleys, and is often prominent on the branches of willows in wet woodland. It is rare in mature closed woodland but occurs on trunks beneath the tree canopy where it is not too deeply shaded, especially on smooth-barked trees such as ash, and on coppice shoots of hazel and oak. It occurs only rarely on acid rocks, for example on gritstone walls in light shade. Common associates include *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria*

furcata, *M. violacea*, *Hypnum andoi*, *H. cupressiforme*, *Orthotrichum affine*, *Uloa crispa* and *U. phyllantha*. Altitudinal range: 0–470 m.

Sensitive to atmospheric pollution and largely absent until recently from much of the Midlands, eastern England and the industrial north, but now frequent to common in these areas, and indeed throughout Britain and Ireland.

Autoicous; capsules are abundant, mature mainly from autumn to spring. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

Recording has been inconsistent because of confusion with *U. crispa*, and there are probably some errors on the map, but not of any great significance.

European Temperate. W, C and N Europe, reaching the Faeroes, NW Norway, the Baltic States and Ukraine, south to Portugal, the Alps and Bulgaria.

M.C.F. Proctor, rev. T.L. Blockeel

