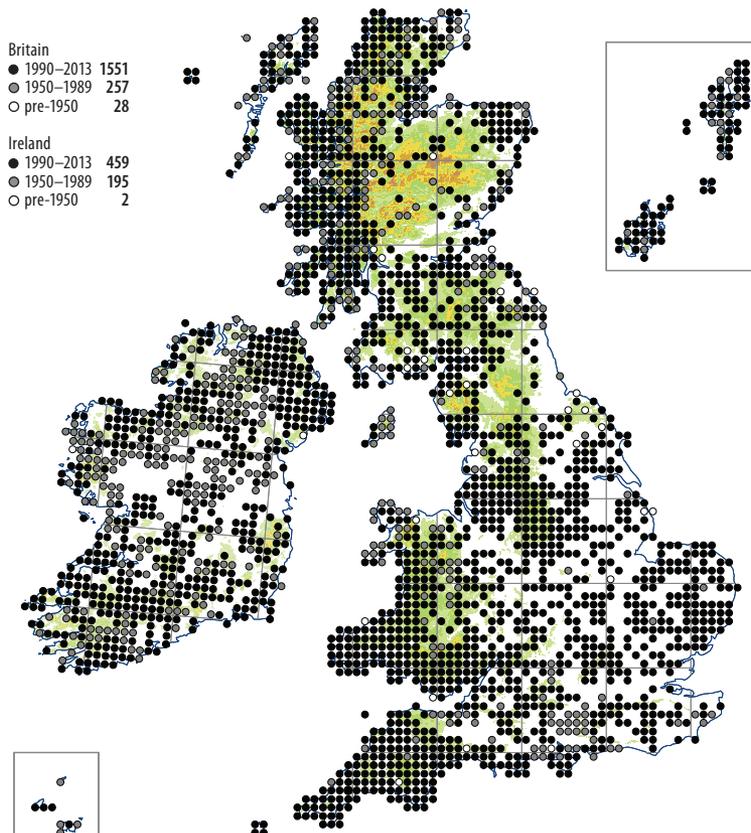


Ulota phyllantha

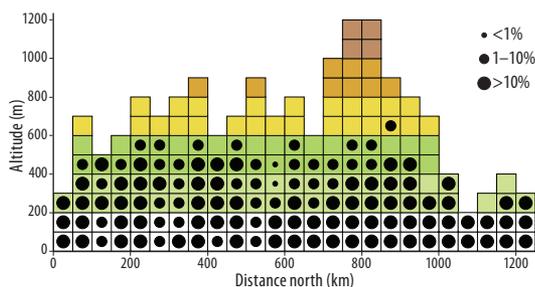


Saxicolous or epiphytic, forming small to large cushions, sometimes coalescing into large patches, on rocks and walls, and on the trunks and branches of a wide variety of trees and shrubs. Inland it is almost exclusively epiphytic, growing on trees on stream banks, in hedgerows, open woodland and wet *Salix* carr, on a wide range of hosts, but especially willow, ash, elder, hazel and sycamore. It is often abundant near western coasts where it may grow freely on maritime rocks and is usually the commonest epiphytic *Ulota* in exposed situations within 1–2 km of the sea. Frequent associates on trees are *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria violacea*, *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Orthotrichum* spp. and *Ulota bruchii*, and in southern and western regions *Cololejeunea minutissima* and *Microlejeunea ulicina*. *Schistidium maritimum* is a common associate on coastal rocks. Altitudinal range: 0–460 m.

It has undergone a dramatic increase since the 1980s. At one time its distribution was primarily coastal. It is now almost ubiquitous at the hectad scale in the lowlands inland, though rarely as frequent as it is by the coast. This is undoubtedly a real change, and may be due to increased nutrient deposition as well as to reductions in SO₂ pollution.

Diocious; capsules are very rare. Conspicuous brown clusters of gemmae are almost always present on the tips of the upper leaves; gemmae are also produced on the protonema in culture (Duckett & Ligrone, 1992).

Oceanic Boreo-temperate. Atlantic coasts of Europe from northern Spain to Iceland, the Faeroes, N Norway and NW Russia, and more rarely along the Baltic coast of Fennoscandia, also in N Germany and Poland. Western and eastern coasts of N America. Fuegian region of S America, Macquarie Island.



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