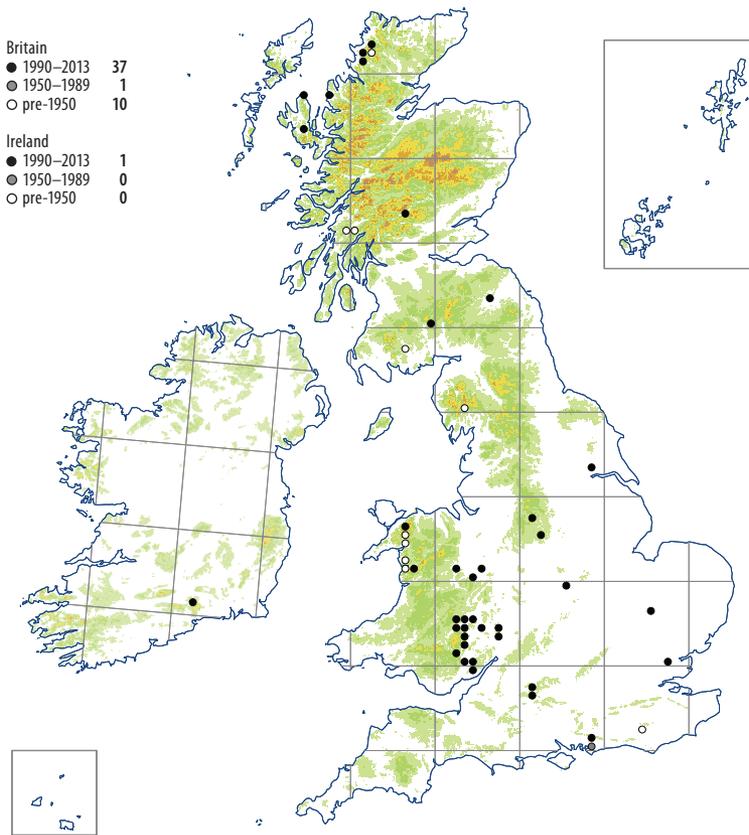


Hedwigia ciliata



Like *Hedwigia stellata*, this species is most often found on hard, non-calcareous rocks in open habitats. In hill districts and the mountains it occurs on igneous and siliceous crags and rock outcrops, sometime on dry-stone walls, but with a particular preference for boulders on the margins of lakes and lochs. In the lowlands there are many records from churches and other structures of long-standing, notably on roof tiles, but also on stone wall copings. The roof tiles on which it occurs in the Welsh Marches are made of Old Red Sandstone and also support *Grimmia ovalis*. In Wiltshire it is recorded from Sarsen stones with *G. trichophylla*. It extends to slightly basic rocks, as on schist on Ben Lawers, and there is an unusual record from an old gravel path with *Syntrichia ruralis*. It has been recorded more frequently than *H. stellata* as a chance epiphyte, with willows and elder as host trees (on the latter in association with *Amblystegium*

serpens, *Orthotrichum affine* and *O. diaphanum*). Altitudinal range: 0–580 m.

Although the records suggest some subtle differences in the ecological preferences of *H. ciliata* compared with *H. stellata*, these may simply be an artefact of the limited number of records that have accumulated since the separation of the two taxa. The reasons for the relative rarity of *H. ciliata* remain unclear.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in spring and summer.

Two varieties are recognised. Var. *leucophaea* appears to be very rare, recent records being from stone roof tiles (Callaghan, 2006), and it is not mapped separately. There are two older collections from rocks, including one from a boulder by a lake in Sutherland.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Prior to the recognition of *H. stellata*, *H. ciliata* was regarded as having a near cosmopolitan distribution. In Europe it is widespread in Fennoscandia, including the Faeroes, and there are confirmed occurrences southwards to the Mediterranean region and Turkey. The distribution of *H. ciliata* s.s. elsewhere remains to be confirmed but includes N America and Asia (Sino-Himalaya).

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