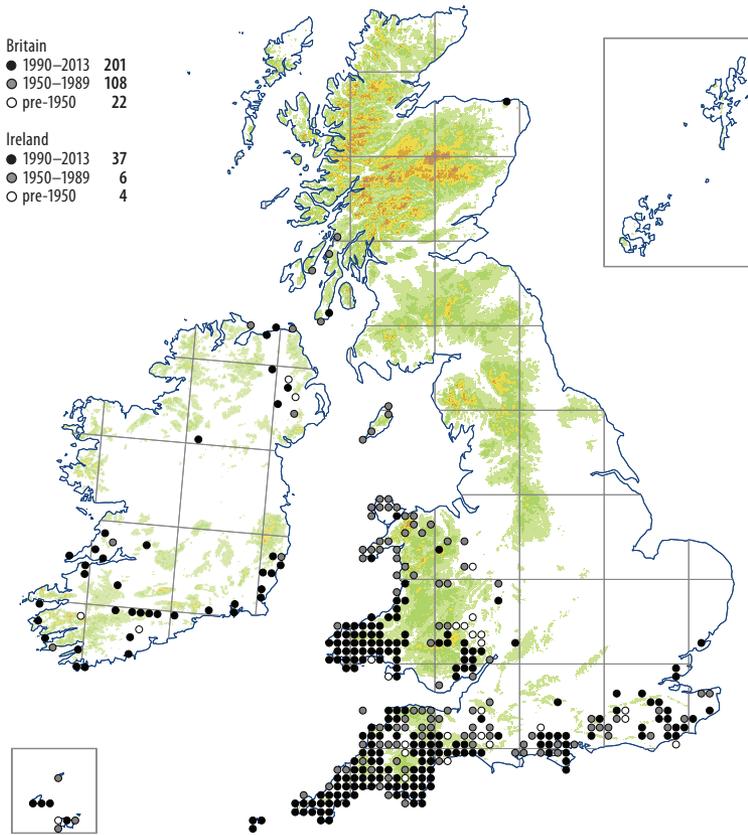


Epipterygium tozeri



A species of warm, sheltered, often humid, partly bare but stable, loamy or clayey, non-calcareous soil. It is found primarily on stream and river banks, but also bare ground in woodland (including the root plates of fallen trees), on lane banks, in crevices of Cornish hedges and on sea cliffs and coastal undercliffs. It may occur occasionally in a wide range of other habitats where there is bare or disturbed ground, such as old quarries, gardens and graveyards, banks in grassland, and rather rarely in arable fields. Its isolated site in Aberdeenshire is in the crevices of a coastal sandstone cliff. Frequent associates include *Calypogeia arguta*, *Fossombronia pusilla*, *Phaeoceros laevis*, *Bryum sauteri*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *F. viridulus*, *Pleuridium acuminatum*, *Pohlia lutescens*, *P. melanodon* and *Weissia controversa*. Altitudinal range: 0–175 m.

Systematic recording has greatly increased its mapped distribution in S Wales and to some extent in S Ireland. Otherwise its distribution is fairly stable, although its discovery in NE Scotland in 2004 was very unexpected.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, maturing from spring to early summer. Rhizoidal tubers are known to occur and are probably frequent, especially in shaded conditions (Arts & Nordhorn-Richter, 1986); protonemal gemmae are produced in culture and in nature (Pressel & Duckett, unpublished). Bulbiform stem bases with large attached axillary bulbils probably act as organs of perennation during summer drought.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. SW and Mediterranean Europe north to northern France and Switzerland, east to the southern Balkans. Macaronesia, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Lebanon, Caucasus, Iran. SW Himalaya, China and SE Asia, SW Japan. Western N America. Its world distribution, which is similar to that of xerophilous Mediterranean vegetation communities, has been mapped by Arts & Nordhorn-Richter (1986). They suggest that it is a Tertiary relict, from a southern coastal Laurasian origin.

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