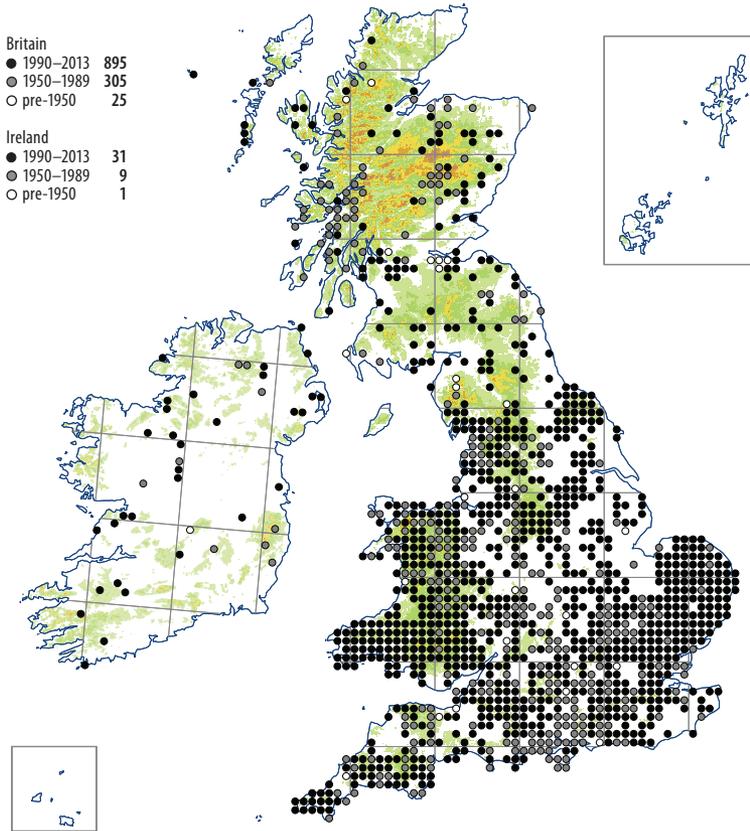


Plagiomnium affine



Growing in loose green patches or as isolated stems on ground that varies from base-rich to slightly acid, this species is commonly found with other bryophytes or among grass on well-drained soil, earth-covered rocks and stones, and less often on logs. Habitats include lightly shaded woodland, often at the edge of rides and tracks, hedges and lane banks, old mossy walls, and ledges on and at the base of rock outcrops. It is a component of thin or short turf in grasslands, including unimproved pastures, river banks, road verges and churchyards. It occurs in coastal turf, even extending into the upper saltmarsh zone. Records from wet woodland and fens are unusual and some of them may be errors for related species. Altitudinal range: 0–660 m.

Before the 1960s *Plagiomnium affine* was usually understood in an aggregate sense that included *P. elatum* and *P. ellipticum*

as varieties. The distribution of *P. affine* s.s. in the 1991–1994 Atlas was therefore patchy and reflected recent recording at that time. Coverage is now more even but it is probably still under-recorded in N Britain and Ireland.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare, mature in spring.

Although unconfirmed old records have not been mapped, there is still sometimes confusion with other species of the genus, including immature forms of *P. undulatum*. Weakly developed plants can be particularly difficult to name, and there are likely to be some inaccuracies on the map.

European Temperate. Widespread in Europe from the mountains of the Mediterranean region north to C Scandinavia and N Russia, east to the Urals. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Caucasus, Iran to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and reported from W Himalaya.

T.L. Blockeel

