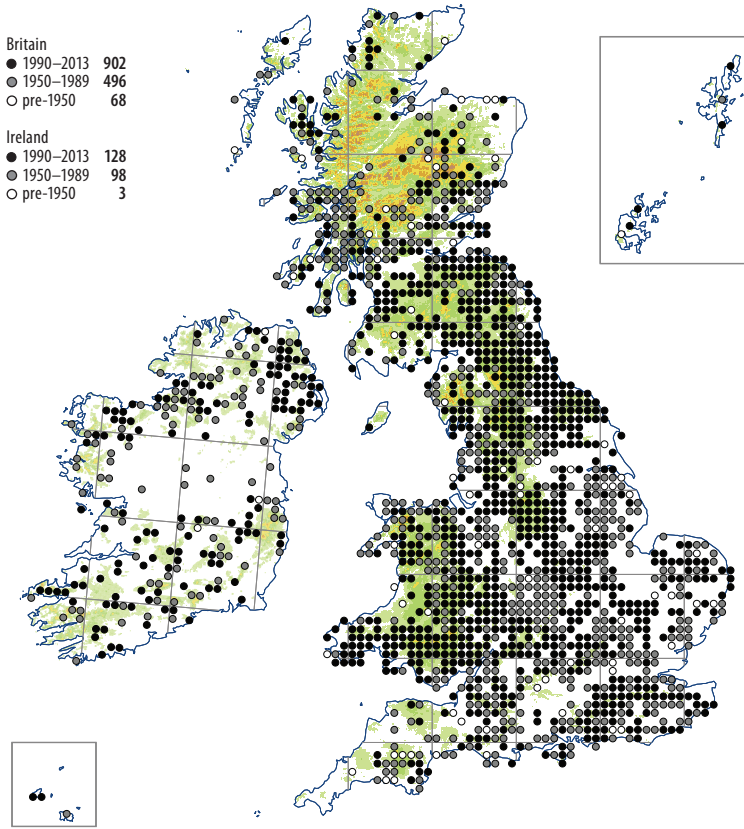


Plagiomnium rostratum



Growing in glossy, prostrate patches on shaded basic rocks and base-rich soil, this moss is particularly characteristic of river banks, occurring on tree roots, rock slabs, stones and sandy alluvium under trees in places that are occasionally flooded. Common associates by limestone streams include *Dichodontium pellucidum* s.l., *Didymodon insulanus* and *Rhizomnium punctatum*. It is not confined to river banks, and occurs also in woodland and on shaded banks on soil-covered stones and boulders, well-rotted logs and stony or compacted soil, often taking advantage of bare ground by paths. It is also found on ledges of sheltered rock outcrops and on and at the base of old walls, less commonly in thin moist grassland. It sometimes colonises embankment walls and concrete by shaded culverts and streams, and occasionally damp tarmac. It is characteristic of limestone districts, but occurs widely on other substrates

where there is sufficient base enrichment. Altitudinal range: 0–650 m.

Synocous; capsules are frequent, mature in spring.

There may be some confusion with small forms of *Plagiomnium affine*, but there are probably few significant errors on the map.

European Boreo-temperate. Most of Europe, rather scarce in Fennoscandia but reaching Iceland and N Norway, N Russia, southwards to the Mediterranean region, but mainly in the mountains there. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Caucasus, Iran. Temperate Asia south to the Himalaya and China; New Guinea (but most records from subtropical regions refer to the closely related *P. rhynchophorum* (Harv.) T.J. Kop.). Temperate N America, south to Mexico.

T.L. Blockeel

