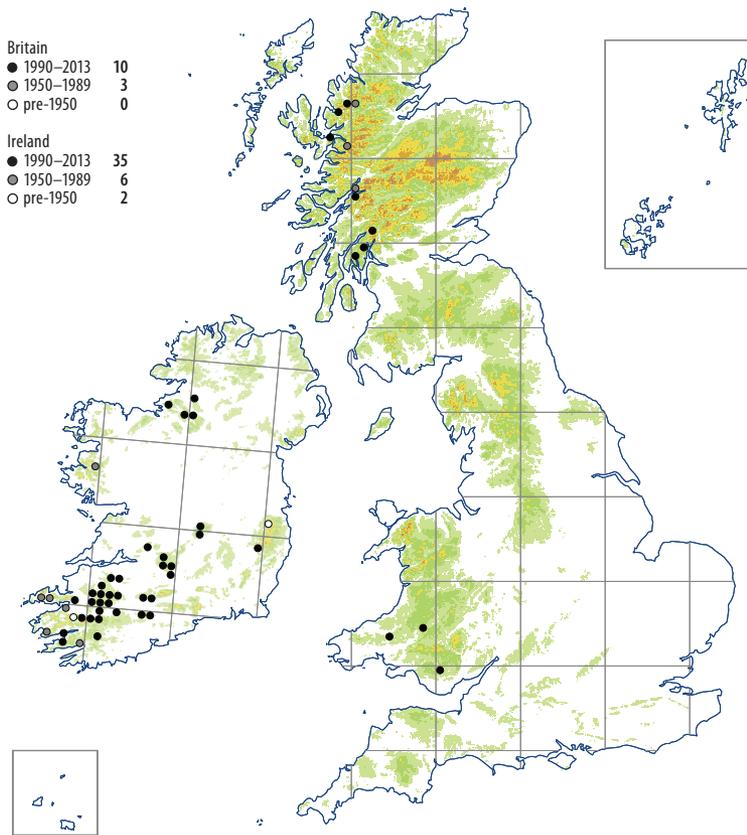


# Daltonia splachnoides



Primarily an epiphytic species, growing on a variety of small trees and shrubs in very humid sites, often by watercourses but also occurring on dead wood and on rocks in ravines. At its best site in Scotland it grows on *Salix aurita* and *Calluna vulgaris* overhanging a series of small watercourses on a steep slope facing north-west, and at another site in Argyll there are hundreds of small cushions on young ash and rowan in a ravine. A survey of five Scottish localities in 1996 gave the following common associates: *Aphanolejeunea microscopica*, *Lejeunea patens*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *cupressiforme*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Ulota crispa* and *Zygodon viridissimus* var. *viridissimus*; most sites had a covering, sometimes copious, of an algal 'slime'. In Ireland and Wales there have been many records recently from humid sites within plantation woodland (Bosanquet *et al.*, 2010), where *Salix* is a common host species, but

*Daltonia* also colonises conifers, especially spruce (*Picea*), on which it may occur more than 10 m above the ground. Old gorse bushes are another substrate, and it has been recorded on *Eucalyptus* in a woodland garden. In the mildest areas of SW Ireland it sometimes colonises trees in open habitats, as on roadsides. Altitudinal range: 5–610 m.

The large number of recent records in SW Ireland probably represents a genuine increase in frequency, aided partly by the shelter and humidity of maturing conifer plantations. However, it has not been found in some apparently suitable areas that have been searched in western Ireland, and northwards its occurrence remains sporadic. The three Welsh colonies are small and are assumed to result from spores drifting from Ireland.

Autoicous and dioicous; capsules are usually present, mature in spring and summer. Gemmae are occasionally produced in the leaf axils (Holyoak & Lockhart, 2009b).

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. Unknown on the European mainland. Madeira, W Africa (Bioko), C Africa, China, Vietnam, SE Asia. Australia, New Zealand. Records from the Azores are said to belong to *D. stenophylla* Mitt. *D. splachnoides* is also widely recorded from the Americas, though often under the name *D. gracilis* Mitt., which is probably synonymous.

G.P. Rothero & S.D.S. Bosanquet

