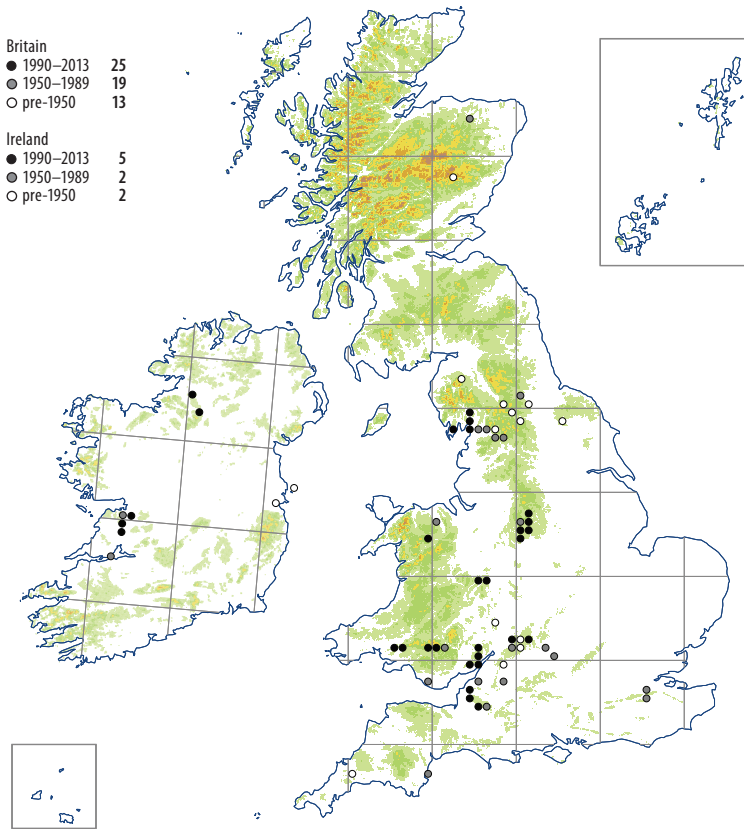


Amblystegium confervoides



A calcicolous species typically occurring on limestone rock in shaded sites, usually in woodland, sometimes on rock outcrops on open hillsides and on limestone pavement. It is found in deep clefts in rock faces, or on vertical faces of rock scars or boulders, often among or shaded by robust bryophytes such as *Anomodon viticulosus*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Isoetecium alopecuroides*, *Neckera complanata*, *Sciuro-hypnum populeum* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, and sometimes associated with *Lejeunea cavifolia* and *Metzgeria furcata*. Another characteristic habitat is on lumps of chalk and limestone on the ground in woodland, especially where the ground is kept open by shade, as under yew and holly trees, and where the rock lumps are partly embedded in soil. In Ireland it has also been found in hazel scrub. Most sites are on Carboniferous and Oolitic Limestone,

but it is recorded from coral ragstone in Berkshire. Altitudinal range: 20–290 m.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in summer.

Because of its small size this species is easily overlooked. It may be more frequent than the map suggests, particularly in the limestone regions of the Pennines. It has been found in many new sites in Ireland during recent surveys.

European Temperate. Widespread in Europe, from NW Norway and N Russia, south to Spain, C Italy and N Greece, east to the Caucasus and S Urals. Azores. Turkey, Iran, east to Kyrgyzstan; S Siberia. N America, south to Tennessee.

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