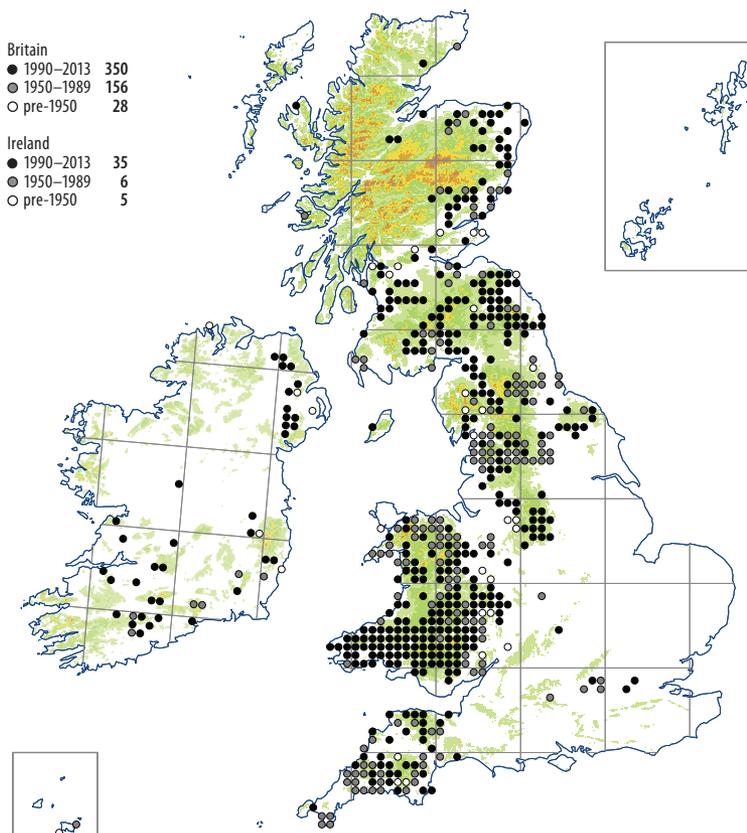


## Hygroamblystegium fluviatile



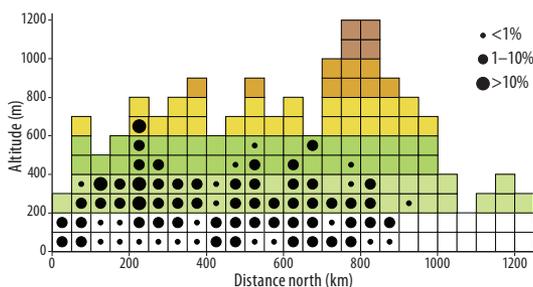
An aquatic moss, growing attached to rocks, stones and tree roots, as well as bridge bases and embankment walls, in fast-flowing streams and rivers, especially around the fringes of upland areas. It is commonly submerged but often becomes exposed as water levels recede in summer. It occurs in mildly acid to calcareous waters, being frequent on sandstone, limestone and many other rock types. Frequent associates include *Chiloscyphus polyanthos*, *Scapania undulata*, *Fontinalis antipyretica*, *F. squamosa*, *Platyhypnidium riparioides*, *Sciuro-hypnum plumosum* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum*. On limestone it may occur with *Cinclidotus riparioides* and riparian species of *Schistidium*, though usually at lower levels in the water than these species. It is tolerant of light to moderate shade, often growing in wooded valleys and ravines. Altitudinal range: 0–445 m.

Records have shown an upward trend since 1990, largely explained by systematic recording in S Wales and S Scotland.

Autoicous; capsules are occasional, mature in summer.

*Hygroamblystegium fluviatile* is very close to *H. tenax* and intermediate forms cause confusion, with consequent inconsistencies in recording. Vanderpoorten (2004) found that the morphological characters of this and other *Hygroamblystegium* species were very unstable and concluded that *H. fluviatile*, *H. tenax* and *H. varium* were best regarded as a single species. There is supporting evidence for this view from molecular data (Vanderpoorten, Cox & Shaw, 2004).

European Boreo-temperate. In much of Europe north to Iceland, C Scandinavia, the Baltic States and adjacent parts of Russia, east to the southern Urals, south to the mountains on the northern fringe of Mediterranean region. Madeira, N Africa. Turkey, Iran, Kazakhstan. Temperate N America south to Mexico and the Caribbean.



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