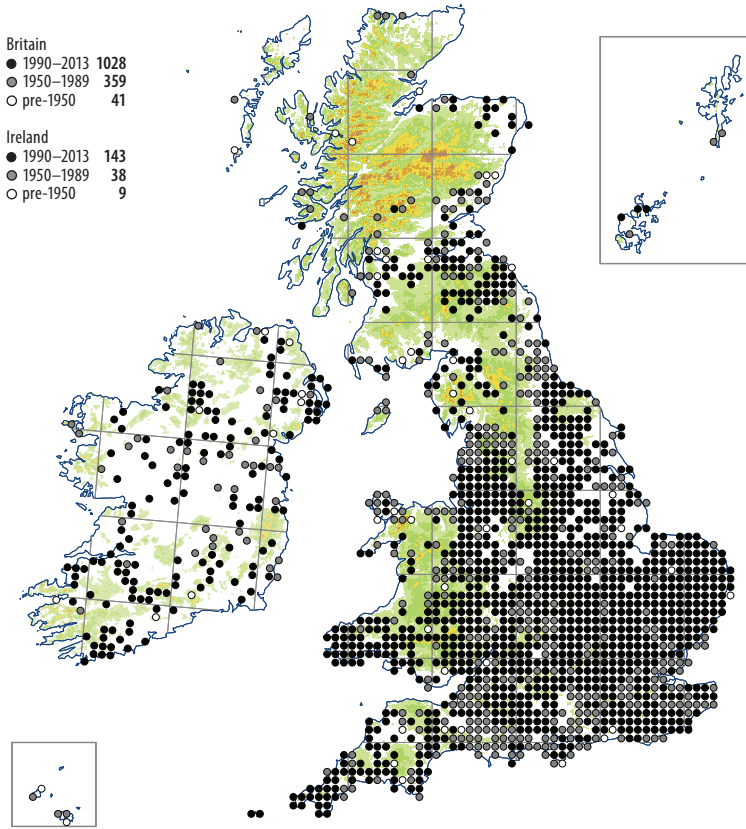


# Leptodictyum riparium



Forming loose, thin mats on substrates that are at least periodically wet and favouring eutrophic conditions. It is particularly common on decaying vegetation and wood, including tree roots and fallen branches, on the banks of sluggish streams, by ponds, ditches and canals, and in wet woodland. In these places it is also common on stones, masonry, concrete and occasionally on soil. In carr woodland it sometimes grows on the sides of old sedge tussocks. Its preference for eutrophic sites rich in organic matter is evident from its conspicuous presence in the filter-beds of sewage treatment works, and it has been known to luxuriate in the effluent channels of a brewery (Kelly & Huntley, 1987). It is tolerant of other forms of water pollution and sometimes grows in squalid ground, growing over rubbish and debris. Common associates are *Amblystegium serpens*, *Fontinalis antipyretica* and *Platyhypnidium riparioides*. Less often it has

been recorded as an aquatic species attached to stones submerged in lowland streams, and there are a few records from wet soil in arable fields and on damp tarmac lanes. Altitudinal range: 0–305 m.

Autoicous; capsules are usually present, maturing from summer to early winter.

Circumpolar Temperate. Widespread in Europe, north to Iceland and northern Scandinavia. Macaronesia, N Africa, SW Asia. Widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere, including subtropical areas. C and S America, tropical and southern Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Kerguelen Island.

T.L. Blockeel

