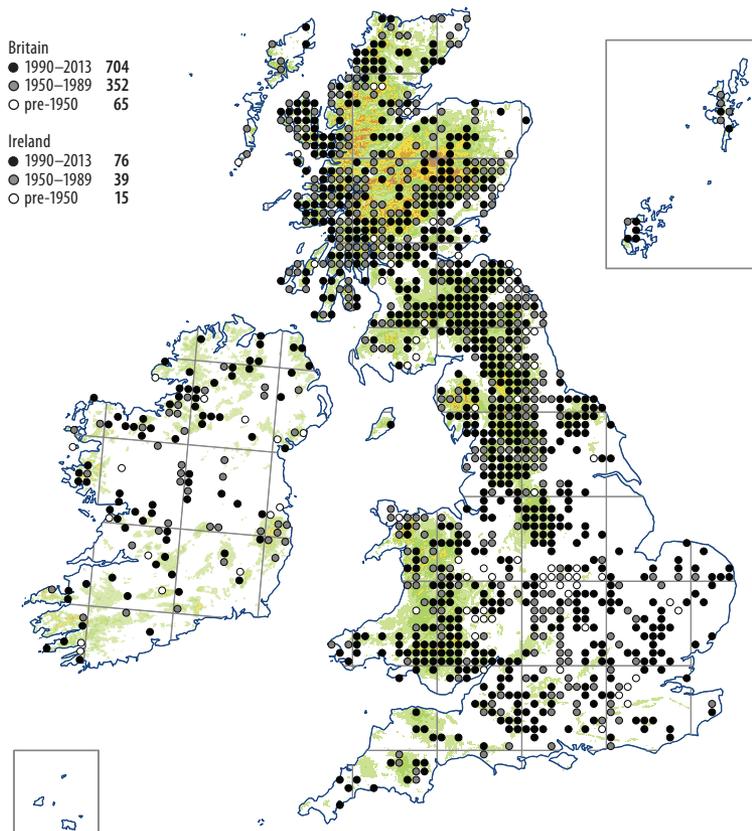


Hygrohypnum luridum



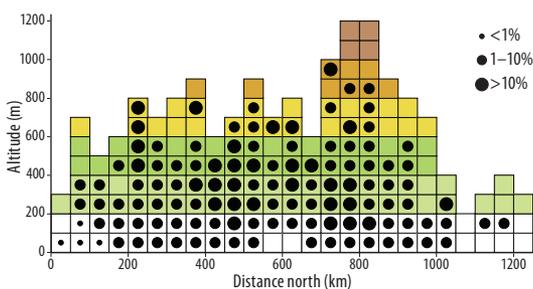
Forming green or brownish mats on moist or wet, hard surfaces, and only rarely on alluvium and soil. It is a very characteristic as a subaquatic moss of boulders, rocks and tree roots by limestone streams, growing at or above normal water levels, often where subject to flooding and then frequently denuded below. It is also common on moist boulders well above the flood zone in damp woodland and sheltered valleys and gills. Though particularly characteristic of limestone, it is found on a wide range of other calcareous and base-rich rocks, occasionally extending to mildly acid habitats; in upland and montane areas it often grows on crags and rock faces where water occasionally seeps or trickles. It colonises artificial surfaces, including concrete and masonry, being recorded from canal embankments, sluices and culverts. In damp places that are shaded from direct sunlight it may occupy substrates where water flows only

during periods of rain, for example on shaded stonework, on old tarmac, in gutters by churches, and on flat tombstones at ground level. Indeed these are its principal habitats in lowland districts that lack natural rock outcrops. Altitudinal range: 0–1030 m.

It was somewhat neglected in artificial habitats in the past and recording in villages and churchyards has significantly expanded its known distribution in lowland regions.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent in the uplands, rare in the lowlands, mature from spring to summer.

A very variable species; robust forms have sometimes been separated as var. *subsphaericarpon* but this variety is not currently recognised.



Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. In Europe from Iceland, Svalbard and Arctic Russia south to the mountains of the Mediterranean region; Caucasus. Azores. Turkey, Iran. Circumboreal, with a wide distribution in the Northern Hemisphere, south to the Himalaya, Papua New Guinea, and southern USA (Arizona); also in C America (Guatemala) and S America (Colombia, Bolivia).

G.P. Rothero, rev. T.L. Blockeel