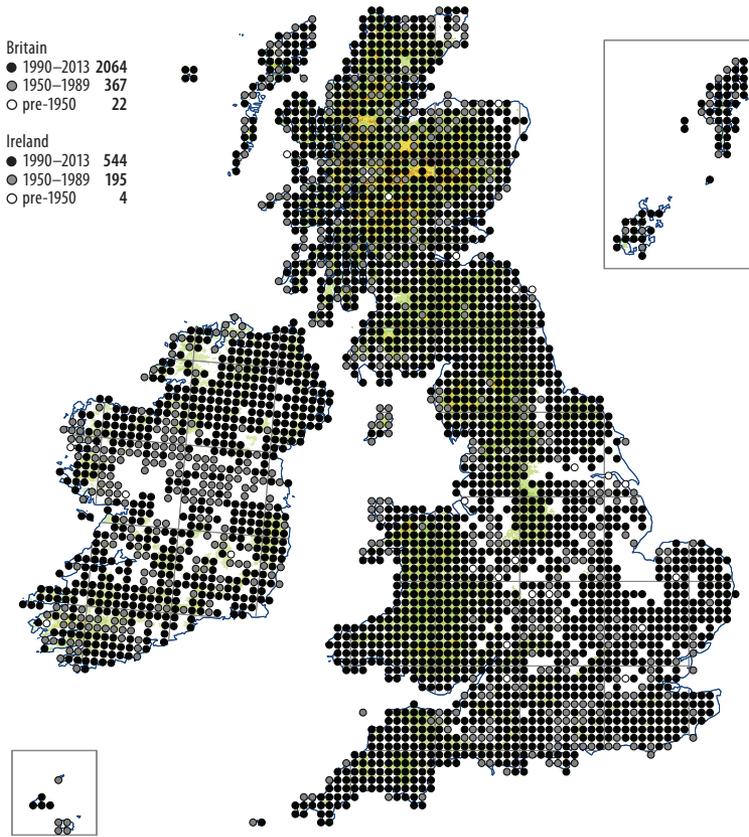


Thuidium tamariscinum



This large and beautiful species occurs in a wide range of dry to moist lowland and montane habitats, preferring a base-rich to mildly acid substrate and avoiding very wet, very acid, very exposed or very nutrient-rich conditions. It is common on the ground in woods, on shaded woodland boulders, on tree stumps and rotting logs, and is sometimes an abundant moss in secondary scrub and in conifer plantations. In Berkshire it is recorded as “luxuriating in wet alder gullies” (Bates, 1995). Although it often ascends up the bases of trees, it cannot be considered a true epiphyte. Other habitats include a wide range of lowland and montane grasslands, sand dunes, limestone pavements, lowland and montane dwarf-shrub heaths, montane cliffs, boulder fields, scree and ledges, and on concrete and masonry. It may also occur on flushed ground and in seepages on moorland. Churchyards and gardens can be important refuges for this

species in areas where semi-natural vegetation has been more or less eliminated. It is often associated with other robust bryophytes such as *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Plagiochila asplenioides*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Cirriphyllum piliferum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Mnium hornum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum* and *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*. Altitudinal range: 0–850 m.

Dioicous; capsules are occasional in the north and west, very rare elsewhere, mature in winter and spring.

European temperate. Europe north to Iceland and southern Scandinavia, but not present in Svalbard and becoming increasingly scarce eastwards and towards the Mediterranean. Macaronesia. Turkey, Caucasus, Russian Far East (Sakhalin), Japan. Newfoundland (probably introduced), E Africa (possibly also introduced).

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