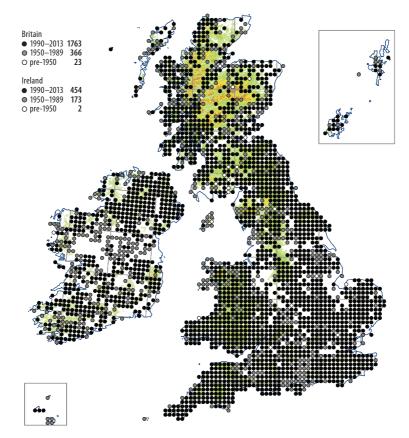
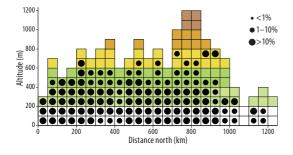
Eurhynchium striatum



Most frequent on neutral and basic soil and rocks. It is a common, sometimes abundant, species of woodland on calcareous substrates (chalk, limestone and calcareous clay), growing in lax, often extensive patches on soil and earth-covered rocks. It is also common in sheltered places outside woodland, on calcareous cliff ledges and at the base of crags, among boulders and on old walls, in sheltered grassland over basalt, chalk and limestone, in turf on sea cliffs and in hedges, and on roadside and streamside banks. It occurs only rarely on sand dunes and in dune slacks. Although most abundant in base-rich habitats it is not confined to these and occurs in moderately acid woodland, in Ireland even colonising plantations on cut-over bog. Although some authors regard it as characteristic of old woodland and slow to colonise new habitats, it has been found widely in young secondary woodland (both natural



and planted) on post-industrial sites in the Midlands and Yorkshire, for example on areas of old coal spoil and along disused railways. Characteristic associates in woodland include Plagiochila asplenioides, Atrichum undulatum, Plagiomnium undulatum, Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus, Thamnobryum alopecurum and Thuidium tamariscinum. Altitudinal range: 0–775 m.

Dioicous; capsules are uncommon in SE England but more frequent in the west, mature in winter and early spring.

European Temperate. Widespread in Europe, extending north almost as far as the Arctic Circle in coastal Norway, east to the Baltic States, Ukraine and Caucasus; rare in S Europe, where it is restricted to mountainous areas. Macaronesia, N Africa (Algeria). Turkey and the Near East, Iran to Kazakhstan. Commonly replaced by *Eurhynchium angustirete* (Broth.) T.J. Kop. in many continental parts of Eurasia.

C.D. Preston, rev. T.L. Blockeel