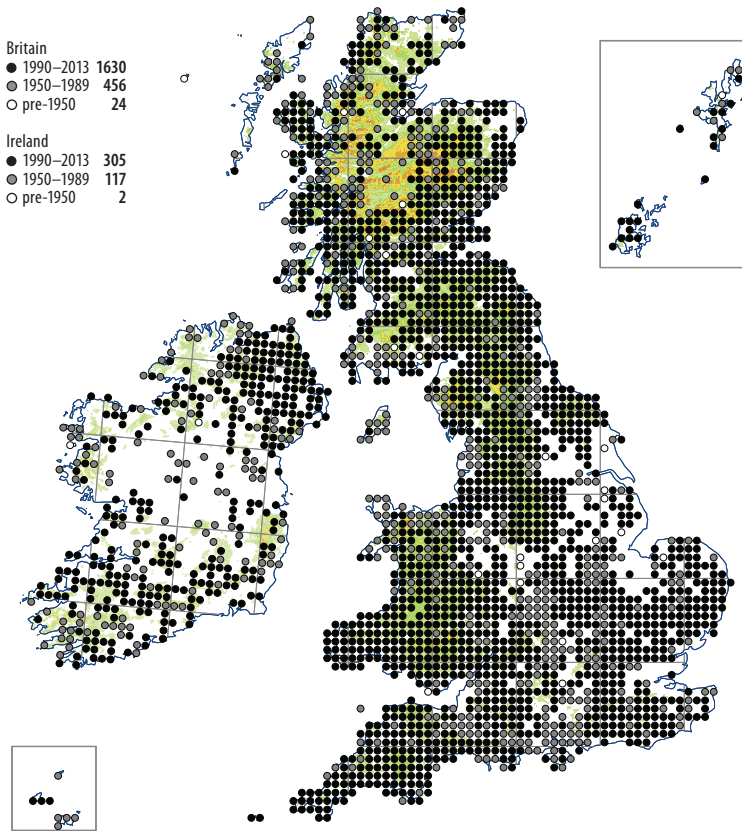


Platyhypnidium riparioides



An aquatic or subaquatic moss of slightly acid to base-rich waters, favoured by eutrophication. It is common in the lowlands both by larger rivers and in smaller streams, growing on rocks and stones, tree roots, concrete and brickwork. It is often abundant in swiftly flowing calcareous water on weirs and in sluices and locks. It is also common where there is only a trickle of water or the flow is intermittent, in rivulets, ditches, culverts and drains, even in water troughs. Less frequently it occurs in calcareous springs, in sewage beds, and in wet places on cliffs (including sea cliffs) and rock faces. In upland regions it grows in rocky, clear streams, but avoids the more acid watercourses. It occurs in moderate shade as well as in the open, and is often found in wooded streams. In the lowlands it may be accompanied by *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Fissidens crassipes* and *Fontinalis antipyretica*; by upland streams and rivers

associates are more numerous and include *Chiloscyphus polyanthos*, *Cinclidotus fontinaloides*, *Hygroamblystegium fluviatile*, *Hygrohypnum luridum* and *Sciuro-hypnum plumosum*. Altitudinal range: 0–1100 m.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent in exposed plants, mature in late summer to winter.

Circumpolar Southern-temperate. Common in most of Europe north to Iceland, southern Scandinavia and the northern Urals. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia. Widespread in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, and in C America and northern S America; C Africa. Results from DNA analysis have indicated that populations from Europe, W Asia and Africa are genetically distinct from other populations worldwide (Huttunen *et al.*, 2006).

N.G. Hodgetts, rev. T.L. Blockeel

