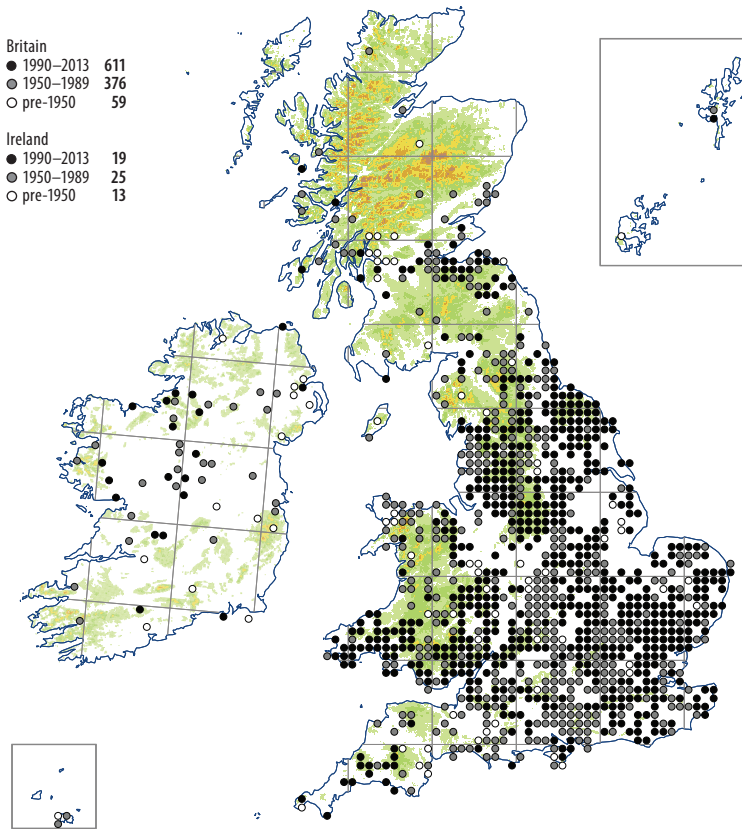


Rhynchostegium murale



A calcicole, characteristic of lightly to moderately shaded rocks and walls, especially on limestone. A common habitat is on stones and small boulders on the ground under trees, and on tree roots and bases, but it also grows on larger boulders and rocky outcrops. Less often it occurs higher on tree boles and on bare calcareous soil. It occurs widely on old walls and ruined buildings, including those built from siliceous materials where mortar provides sufficiently basic conditions, and on damp brickwork, concrete, old tarmac and other artificial structures. There are many records from walls and graves in churchyards. On natural limestone it occurs with many other calcicoles such as *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Fissidens dubius*. On walls and buildings its associates include *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*, *Bryum capillare*, *Homalothecium sericeum*, *Rhynchostegiella tenella* and

Rhynchostegium confertum. Although widespread it is rather patchy in its occurrence and may be absent from apparently suitable ground. Altitudinal range: 0–510 m.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in winter and spring.

European Temperate. Widespread in temperate parts of Europe north to Iceland and southern Scandinavia (rarely northwards to Nordland in Norway), absent from most of the Mediterranean region. Madeira (doubtfully), N Africa. Turkey and the Near East, to Azerbaijan and Afghanistan, and reported from Japan.

T.L. Blockeel

