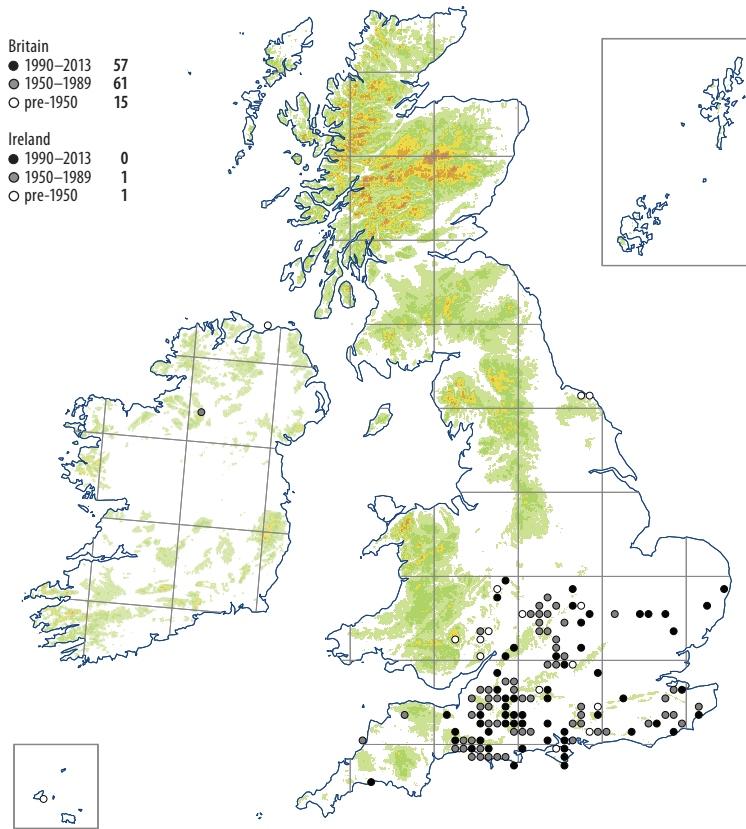


Rhynchostegiella curviseta



A moss of damp stones, rocks and tree roots, occurring in similar habitats to *Rhynchostegiella teneriffae*, in shaded, base-rich and sometimes rather eutrophic habitats, but tolerant of slightly drier conditions. Natural substrates include sandstone, chalk and limestone, but it is also frequent on man-made structures such as brickwork and concrete. Many records are from streams in woodland, including chalk streams, growing near (but sometimes well above) normal water levels, but it also colonises bridge supports, culverts, and the embankments of rivers, canals and lakes. Drier habitats include shaded tombstones, damp stonework and masonry, gutters, shaded road cuttings, greensand rocks by sunken lanes, and (unusually) gravel at the base of a church wall. Altitudinal range: 5–250 m.

The records show a fluctuating trend, probably reflecting periods of recording in counties within its core range (many of which were worked at different times between the 1960s and the 1990s). There is no evidence of significant decline in recent years.

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

Occasional collections are difficult to separate from *R. teneriffae* and the map may contain a few errors.

Mediterranean-Atlantic. Common in S Europe, north to Belgium, western and southern Germany and Romania. Macaronesia (Azores, Madeira), N Africa. SW Asia, Caucasus, Iraq, Tajikistan.

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