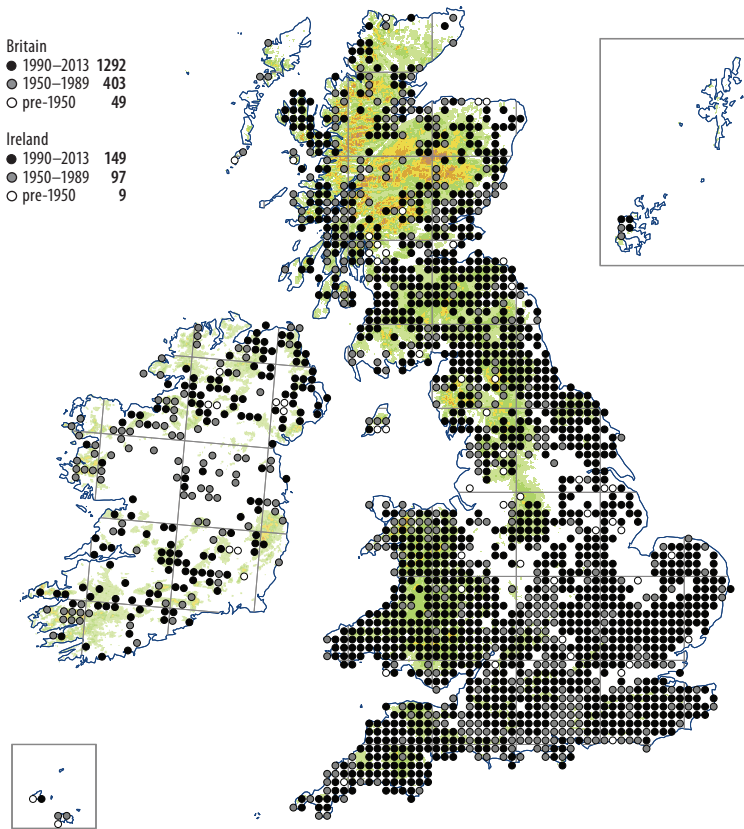


Cirriphyllum piliferum



A moss of mesic, lightly to moderately shaded situations on basic or neutral soils. It is often found in a matrix of thin grass and herbage or with other bryophytes, and is characteristic of the ground flora in woodland, also in seepages and by tracks and rides, often associated with one or more of *Plagiochila asplenioides*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Thamnobryum alopecurum* and *Thuidium tamariscinum*. It grows frequently in other sheltered habitats, including hedgebanks, lanesides, at the base of old walls, by disused railways, and on the banks of streams and rivers. It is also recorded from shady churchyards, mesotrophic fens, and, rarely, basic mountain ravines and cliffs. Altitudinal range: 0–1010 m.

Coverage is now much more complete than in the 1991–1994 Atlas. Its absence in the fenlands of E England is real. The other conspicuous gaps in parts of C and N England are in urban and cultivated areas where occurrences are genuinely sparse.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. Widespread in Europe, from Iceland and the boreal zone south in the mountains to N Spain, S Italy and N Greece. Azores, N Africa. Turkey, Caucasus, Iran. Widespread in Siberia and E Asia, south to Guizhou and Hunan in China; Japan. Eastern N America, Alaska, NW Canada, Greenland.

J.W. Bates, rev. T.L. Blockeel

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature autumn and winter.

