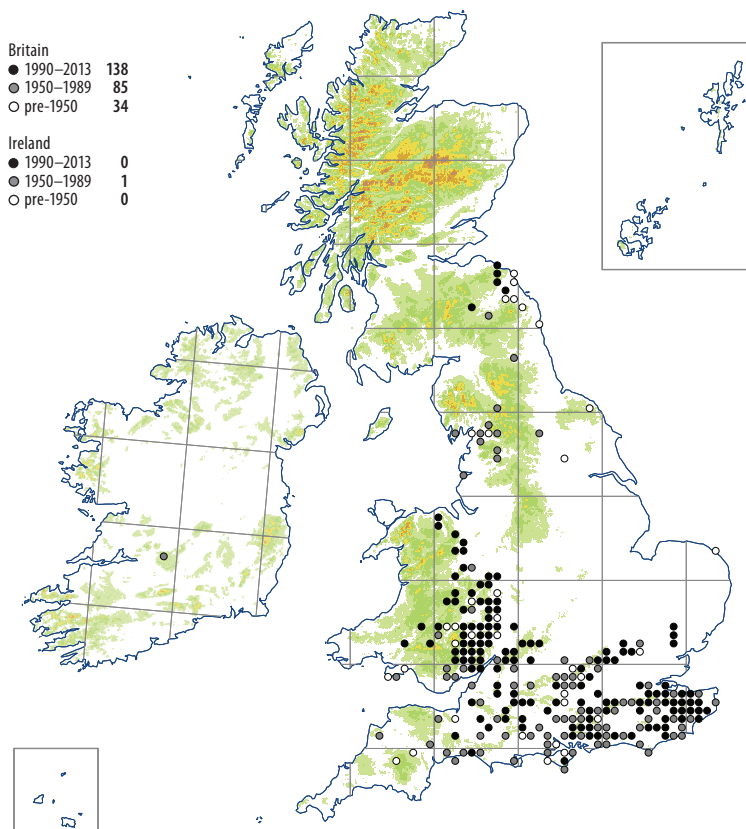


Oxyrrhynchium schleicheri



Often in pure mats, on friable, well-drained, basic or slightly acid soil on shaded banks in woodland and by roads and sunken lanes, occasionally on streamsides and river banks. It is found on soil derived from limestone and chalk, on loamy soils in woodland, and sandy soils over substrates such as Greensand and Eocene sands. In some areas it apparently grows directly over chalk, but more often it avoids such soils, occurring where a chalk pit or road has been dug through an acid soil layer, so that the chalk is amended with acid soil. As a result it typically grows with a mixture of calcicoles and calcifuges such as *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Dicranella heteromalla* and *Tortula subulata*. Its sole Irish record was slightly unusual, being from loamy soil in dark wet forest of willow, birch and ash. Altitudinal range: 15–380 m.

Dioicous; capsules are infrequent, maturing from December to March.

Its apparent absence from well-worked areas in E England is striking, but its occurrence is genuinely patchy for reasons that are not fully understood, and may relate somehow to soils or local climate. However it is perhaps overlooked in parts of C and N England because of its similarity to *Oxyrrhynchium hians*.

Submediterranean-Subatlantic. Widespread in W, C and S Europe, north to southern Scandinavia and the Baltic States. Macaronesia, N Africa (Morocco). Turkey and the Near East, Azerbaijan, Iran.

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

