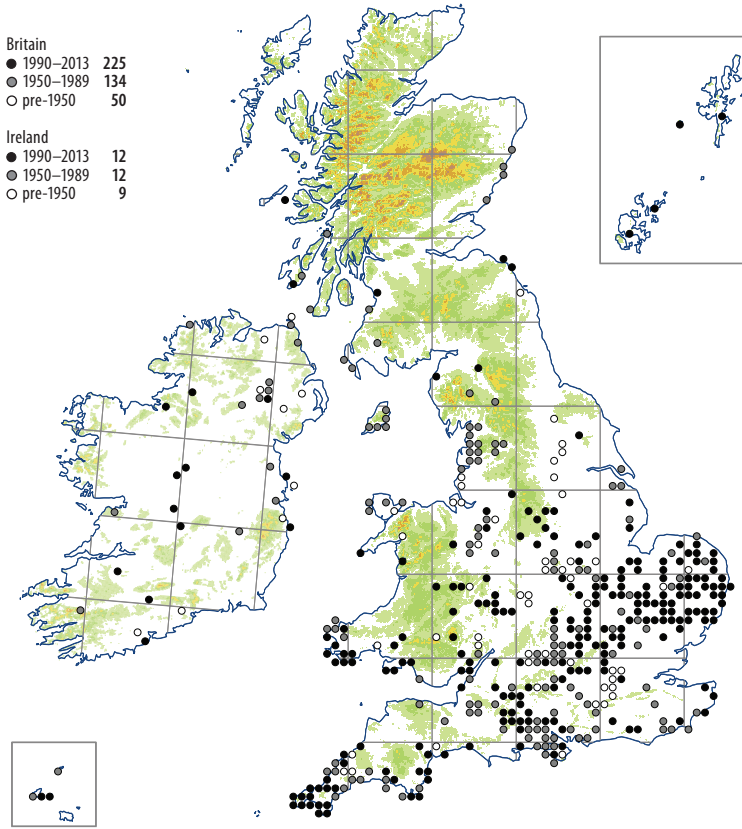


Oxyrrhynchium speciosum



In wet, mesotrophic or eutrophic, often shaded habitats. It grows on soil, stones, exposed tree roots and tree bases in wet woodland and fen carr, in fens, flushes and marshy ground, in reed beds and turf by ponds and turloughs, on the sides of canals, streams and ditches, on wet rocks, banks and paths, damp ground at the base of cliffs and damp walls by water. In northern and western areas it has a coastal tendency and in Scotland is largely confined to sea cliffs, occurring in damp hollows, in wet rock crevices, on wet rocks and on the dripping walls of caves. It often grows with or close to *Oxyrrhynchium hians*. Altitudinal range: 0–200 m.

Because it is tolerant of and probably benefits from eutrophication, it may have increased in some areas.

Oxyrrhynchium speciosum often occurs in unattractive and species-poor habitats, and it is under-recorded; it closely resembles *O. hians* (from which it is thought to have evolved by autopolyploidy) and can also be passed over as *Brachythecium rutabulum*. It is almost certainly commoner in SE England and Ireland than shown on the map, but in SW England and Wales its near restriction to coastal sites appears to be genuine.

European Temperate. S, W and C Europe, north to Scotland and southern Scandinavia, east to Belarus, Ukraine and the southern Urals. Macaronesia. N Africa. SW Asia, including Saudi Arabia, to Iraq, Iran, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

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Autoicous or synoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in winter.

