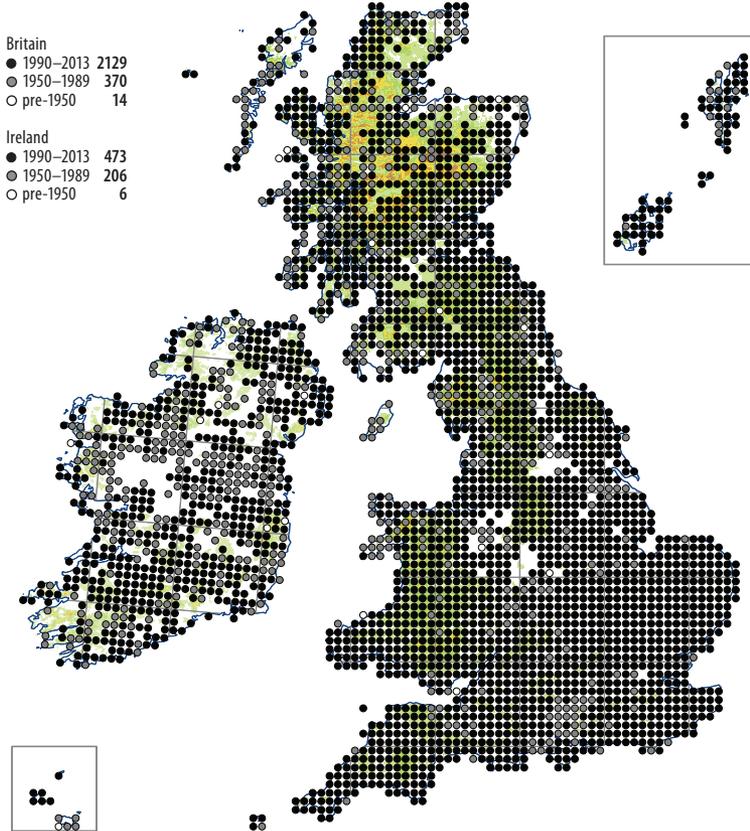


# Homalothecium sericeum



Britain	
● 1990–2013	2129
● 1950–1989	370
○ pre-1950	14
Ireland	
● 1990–2013	473
● 1950–1989	206
○ pre-1950	6

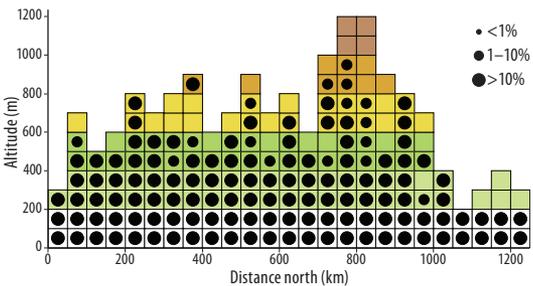
This species grows on vertical, horizontal and sloping surfaces, often fully exposed to sun and wind, but best in humid, lightly shaded sites. It occurs on stone or mortared walls, on tiled, thatched or asbestos roofs, on concrete, and on outcrops of many different rock types, especially limestone but also igneous and siliceous. It is also common on living bases, boles and main branches of many tree species, mostly on less acid bark types (but recorded from birch and conifers). It is not a pioneer and grows mostly on mature trees. It occurs on the ground in beech woods on chalk, in quarries, on hard-packed soil, and, rarely, on sand dunes and sea-cliff turf. Susceptible to aerial pollution and tolerating mean aerial SO<sub>2</sub> contents of only up to 22 ppm (Gilbert, 1970), *Homalothecium sericeum* declined around industrial areas during the 20th century, especially as an epiphyte, but its recovery in recent years is reflected in

the increased number of records in C England since the 1991–1994 Atlas. Altitudinal range: 0–650 m.

Diocious; capsules are occasional, especially in sheltered sites, mature in winter and spring; Bosanquet *et al.* (2005) consider them to be much more frequent on epiphytic colonies than saxicolous ones in Carmarthenshire.

Some coastal populations appear intermediate between *H. lutescens* and *H. sericeum* and may have been recorded inconsistently, but with little impact on the overall accuracy of the map.

Eurosiberian Southern-temperate. Throughout Europe north to Iceland, the Faeroes and N Fennoscandia. Macaronesia, N Africa. Turkey and the Near East, and eastwards to Afghanistan and the Himalaya; Newfoundland.



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