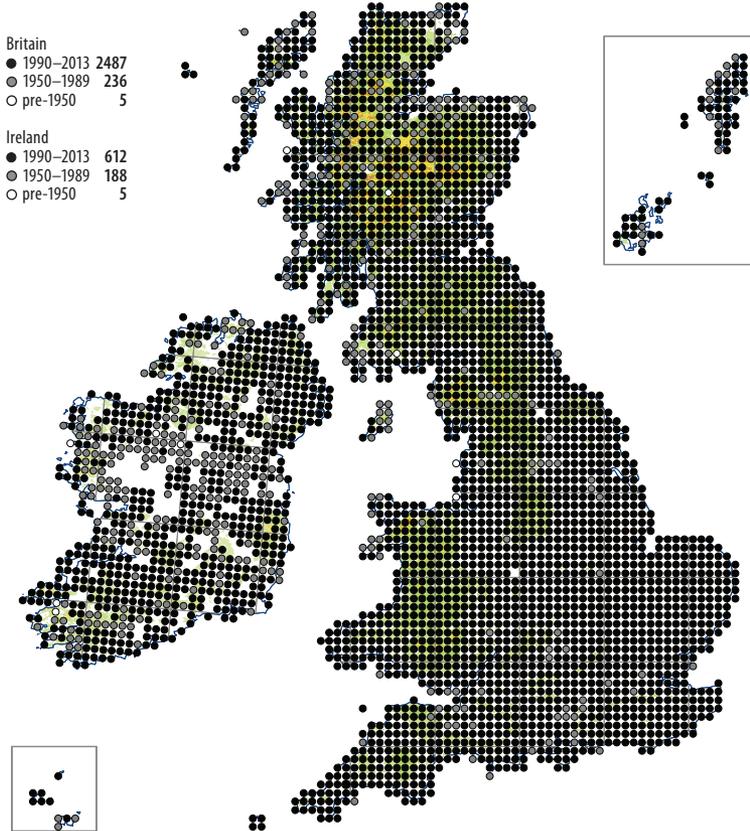


Hypnum cupressiforme

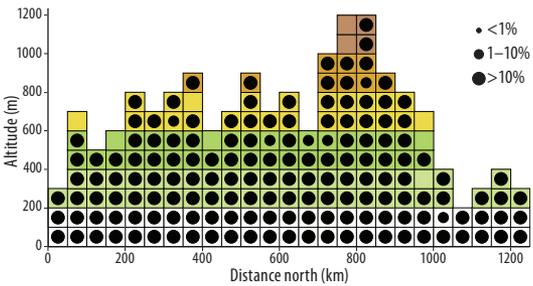


In its more typical forms (vars. *cupressiforme* and *tectorum*) this common moss is usually found on wood and rock. As an epiphyte it forms mats on the trunks and larger branches of trees and hedgerow shrubs, including those with acid bark such as oak, and is equally common on fallen logs and stumps. It occurs on calcareous to moderately acid rocks, both exposed and lightly shaded, tending to be replaced by other pleurocarps in deeper shade. It is often abundant on built structures, including walls, roofs, bridges and tombstones. Occasional habitats include coastal slopes and heath, old concrete and tarmac, but only rarely earthy substrates. Var. *resupinatum* is frequent on trees and rocks, but is most abundant and distinctive on coastal rocks. Robust forms (var. *lacunosum*) are characteristic of calcareous turf and scree, dune grassland and blown sand, often associated with other large mosses such as *Homalothecium*

lutescens, *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and on the coast *Syntrichia ruralis* var. *ruraliformis*. Altitudinal range: 0–1000 m (var. *lacunosum*: 0–790 m; var. *resupinatum*: 0–530 m).

Dioicous; capsules are frequent to common in the north and west, rare to occasional elsewhere, mature from late autumn to winter. *Hypnum cupressiforme* was one of the species found by Heinken *et al.* (2001) to be transported in the fur and hooves of deer and wild boar in forests in Germany.

The map shows all records of the *H. cupressiforme* complex except those assigned to var. *heseleri*, *H. andoi* and *H. jutlandicum*. The varieties are poorly defined morphologically. Var. *tectorum* is not currently recognised and encompasses forms intermediate between var. *cupressiforme* and var. *lacunosum*. Many plants recorded as var. *resupinatum* are probably not the true variety, which has erect capsules but rarely produces them. From a study of a mixed population of var. *cupressiforme* and var. *lacunosum* on Gotland (Sweden), Hedenäs (2012b) found evidence of genetic differences, but there was much overlap in the morphology.



Circumpolar Wide-temperate. Almost throughout Europe, north to Iceland and northern Scandinavia. Macaronesia, N Africa. SW Asia. Widespread in both Northern and Southern Hemispheres, from subarctic to subantarctic zones, montane in the tropics.

T.L. Blockeel