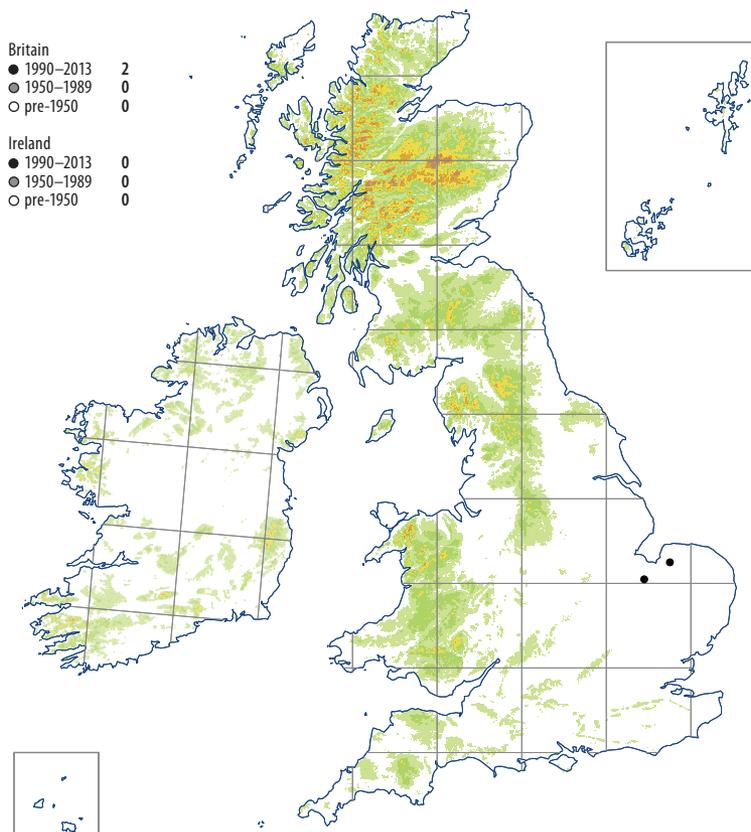


## *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *heseleri*



Morphologically well defined, this variety has been recorded only as an epiphyte. It was first found in 2005 on the branch of a Cox's Orange Pippin tree in an orchard in Norfolk, growing as a single patch of about 18×12 cm in extent. Its close associates there were *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Orthotrichum diaphanum* and *Ulota bruchii* (Blockeel & Stevenson, 2006). Subsequently a further single tuft was found on a Bramley apple tree in an orchard in Cambridgeshire. At the Norfolk site relatively high humidity levels were maintained by spraying every 10 days during the growing season. In continental Europe a much

wider range of host trees has been reported, including elder, oak, poplars, spindle-tree, walnut and willows. Altitudinal range: 0–65 m.

Apparently dioicous. Capsules have been found in continental Europe, but are not known in Britain.

This variety was first described as a species by Ando & Higuchi (1994) from continental Europe. Van Zanten & Hofman (1994) cultivated its spores and found that the progeny were about 50% *Hypnum heseleri* and 50% *H. cupressiforme*. Data from allozyme-electrophoresis provided further evidence that *H. heseleri* is a locally derived mutant of *H. cupressiforme*, and it is currently treated as a variety.

Oceanic Temperate. Known only from a few scattered sites in Europe, in France, Holland, Germany and the Czech Republic.

T.L. Blockeel



◀ Royal Orchards, Flitcham, West Norfolk, 2006. Ron Porley