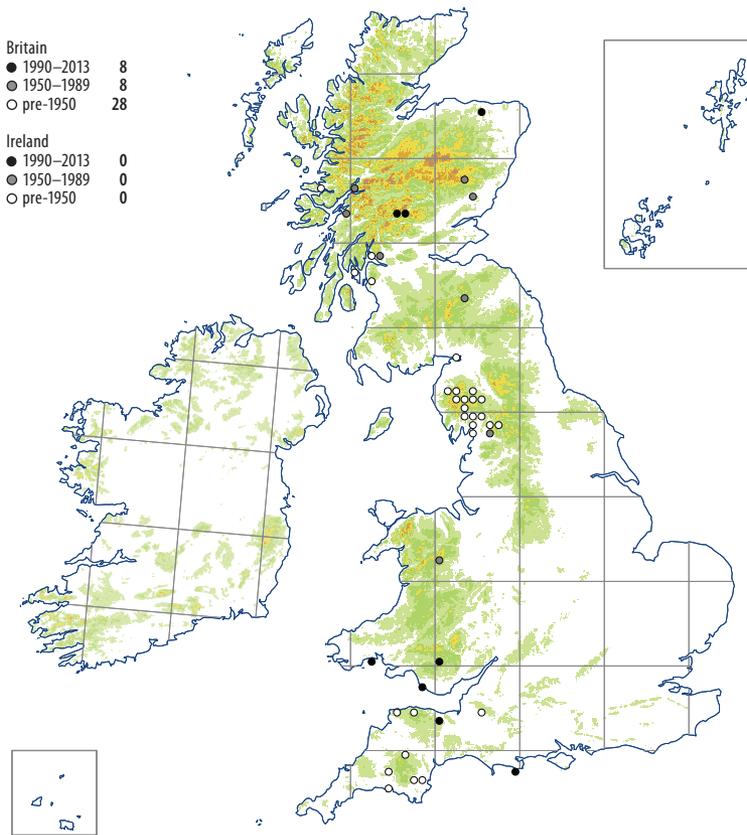


# Habrodon perpusillus



A slender epiphyte, found in tightly appressed patches or occasionally creeping through other bryophytes on well-illuminated trunks or branches of trees and shrubs, free-standing or at the edge of woodland. It usually grows on basic bark: sycamore is the most frequent host (perhaps surprisingly, as it is an introduction) and there are several records from ash and elm. It has also been recorded on aspen, birch, blackthorn, elder, hawthorn, lime, oak and willow. Among its many recorded associates are *Frullania dilatata*, *Metzgeria furcata*, *Radula complanata*, *Cryphaea heteromalla*, *Leptodon smithii*, *Neckera pumila*, *Orthotrichum affine*, *O. lyellii*, *O. stramineum*, *O. tenellum*, *Syntrichia laevipila*, *S. papillosa*, *Zygodon rupestris* and *Z. viridissimus*. Altitudinal range: 10–245 m.

The decline of *Habrodon* in the English Lake District is difficult to explain but is of long-standing. It is tempting to assume that it was brought about by air pollution, but this cannot be a full explanation as the species was present on an elm tree in nearby North Lancashire in the 1980s, until the tree succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease. It is, however, an inconspicuous species and is easily overlooked, though it is clearly rare.

Dioicous; capsules are very rare. Effective reproduction is by gemmae, which are frequent on the stems; similar gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987) and in nature (Pressel & Duckett, unpublished).

Mediterranean-Atlantic. A common species in the Mediterranean region, except in the drier lowlands, and extending north in W Europe to SW Norway and SW Germany (Rheinland-Pfalz). Macaronesia (Canary Islands, Madeira), N Africa. Turkey, Cyprus, Lebanon, Caucasus.

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