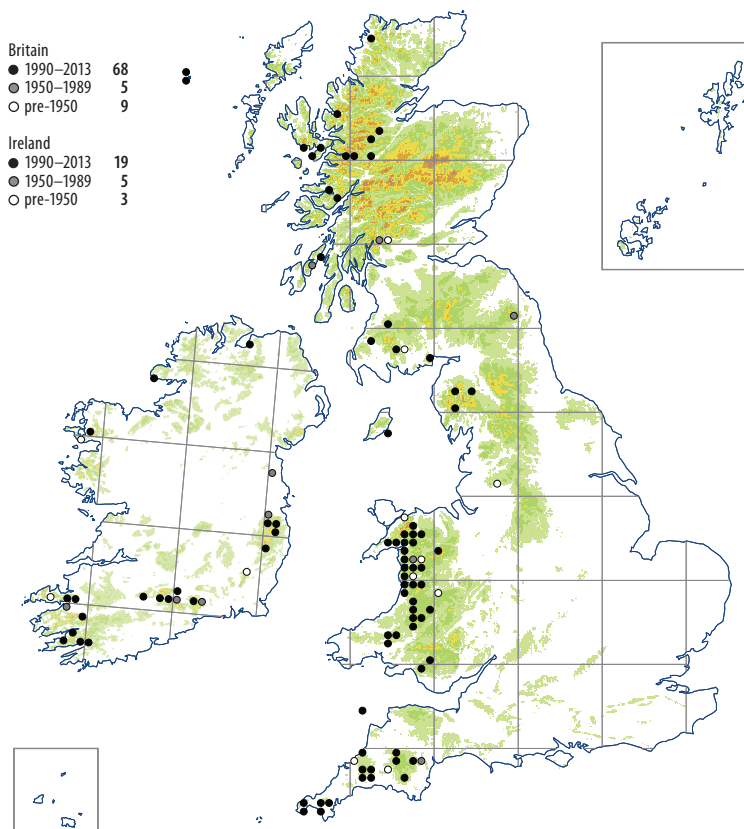


Heterocladium wulfsbergii



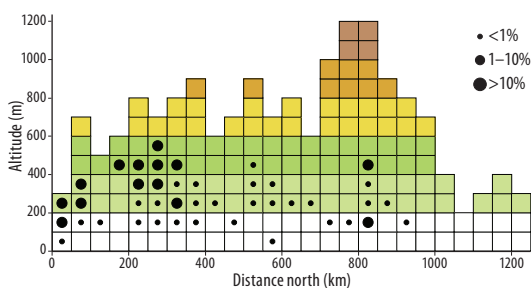
A dark-green or blackish moss forming patches on rocks close to fast-flowing water. It favours shade and occurs in wooded valleys, ravines, and steep-sided gullies, growing on boulders, inclined or vertical rock faces, and rarely on tree roots, typically just above normal water level but within the inundation zone. Many of its sites are in or near waterfalls and chutes, or in their splash-zone. Other habitats include recesses on coastal cliffs, the walls of a sea cave, rocks around a corrie lake, and the margins of a reservoir. It is calcifuge, occurring on sandstone, slates, granite and other base-poor rocks. Associates include *Lejeunea lamacerina*, *Hygrohypnum ochraceum*, *Hyocomium armoricum*, *Platyhypnidium lusitanicum*, *Sciuro-hypnum plumosum* and *Trichostomum tenuirostre*, and it has been recorded with *Fissidens polyphyllus* in Cornwall and Wales. Although its habitats are similar to those of *Heterocladium heteropterum*

var. *heteropterum*, *H. wulfsbergii* appears to be more strictly confined to wetter sites, and when the two share a site, *H. wulfsbergii* is usually closer to the watercourse. Altitudinal range: 10–390 m.

Dioicous; capsules are rare, mature in spring.

Although mentioned by Dixon (1924) and discussed by Wallace (1953), *H. wulfsbergii* was generally disregarded in Britain and Ireland until Crundwell & Smith (2000) accepted it as a good species. Records have accumulated steadily since then, but it is still under-recorded and somewhat neglected because it normally requires microscopic examination for confirmation.

Oceanic Temperate. W Europe (Portugal, Spain, France, Luxembourg, western Norway). Azores, Canary Islands, Madeira.



T.L. Blockeel