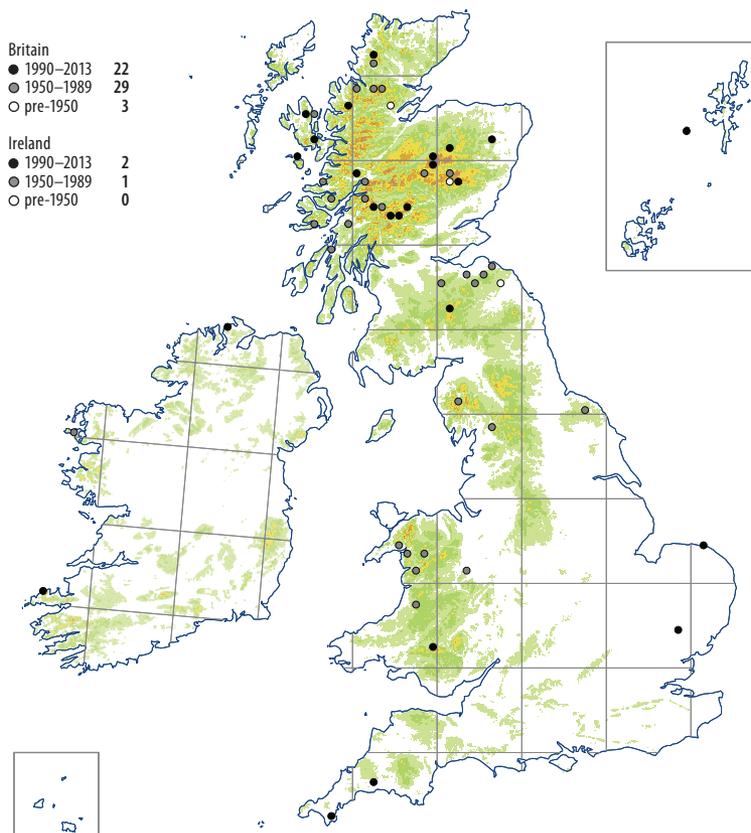


Plagiothecium cavifolium



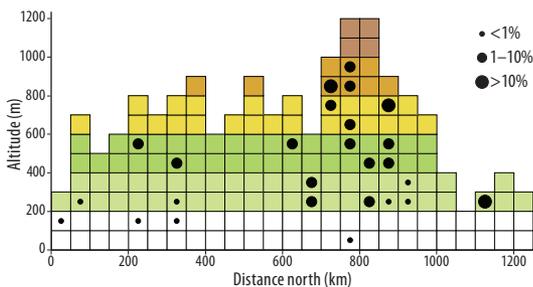
Many records of *Plagiothecium cavifolium* are from moist, base-rich mountain rocks (as on mica-schist in Scotland), growing in crevices, on ledges, on mossy boulders, and in rocky summit turf. In these places it may be associated with a wide variety of other calcicoles, including *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Encalypta ciliata*, *Fissidens adianthoides*, *Hypnum callichroum*, *Isopterygiopsis pulchella* and *Plagiobryum zieri*. Elsewhere it occurs in widely scattered and varied habitats where there may be little or no basic influence. These include sandstone rock ledges on moorland and in stream valleys, and limestone rocks in woodland. Its southern English sites are in low-lying woodland; in Cornwall it is recorded from damp soil and low granitic rock, and in East Anglia from a damp hollow in a clearing, and on a north facing bank of organically rich sandy soil with *Dicranella heteromalla* and *Mnium hornum*. The East Anglian sites appear to be similar to

those in which it occurs in the Netherlands. Altitudinal range: 75–1100 m.

It has been sporadically recorded and the records show no clear trend.

Dioicous; capsules are rare. Fusiform axillary gemmae are sometimes present.

Plagiothecium cavifolium belongs to the critical *P. succulentum-nemorale* complex and intermediate forms occur. Strongly concave-leaved plants grow close to typical *P. succulentum* in stream valleys in Wales (and probably elsewhere) and seem unconvincingly distinct. It is unclear whether the British and Irish plants referred to *P. cavifolium* all belong to the same taxon; the complex is in need of molecular study.



Circumpolar Boreal-montane. Widespread in N Europe, from Iceland, N Fennoscandia and Arctic Russia, south to the mountains of the northern Mediterranean region. Reported from Tunisia in N Africa. Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan. Widespread across the Northern Hemisphere. Asia, north to the Arctic, south to the Himalaya and southern China, east to Japan. N America (south to California and Georgia), Greenland. Material from the Falkland Islands is now considered a distinct species, *P. falklandicum* (Cardot & Broth.) M.E. Newton.

N.G. Hodgetts, rev. T.L. Blockeel