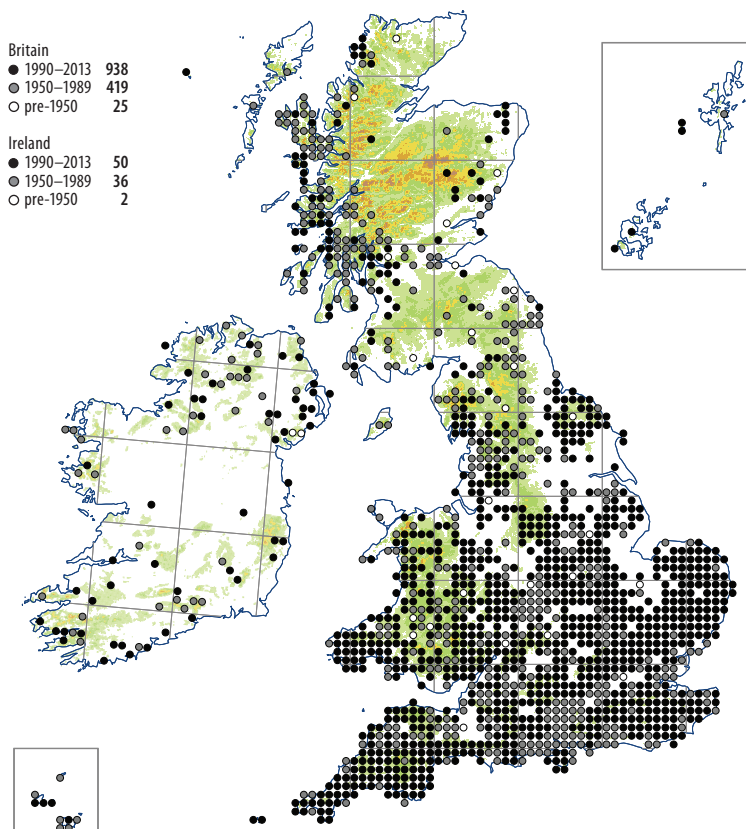


Plagiothecium nemorale



Primarily a woodland species of mildly basic to acid soils. A characteristic habitat is around the bases of trees, commonly ash and oak, where it tends to grow in a zone above that of *Mnium hornum*, but it is also found widely on earthy banks, on ledges, about stones, on decaying stumps and logs, and on coppice stools. It is associated with many common lowland woodland bryophytes such as *Lophocolea heterophylla*, *Hypnum cupressiforme* and *Kindbergia praelonga*. It favours deciduous rather than coniferous woods, and occurs in other sheltered habitats, as on the banks of streams and rivers, by hedgerows, on lane banks, and on sea cliffs. It is more frequent in lowland districts than *Plagiothecium succulentum*, especially on slightly leached, calcareous soils, including chalk and basic clay. In the uplands it is rare, occurring in ravines, on

rock ledges and in recesses among boulders in block scree and on steep slopes. Altitudinal range: 0–490 m.

Diocious; capsules are occasional, maturing from summer to autumn. Fusiform axillary gemmae are occasionally present in leaf axils and less often on leaf tips.

Plagiothecium nemorale is very close to *P. succulentum*; their separation can be very difficult and plants are occasionally found in which leaves from different parts of the same plant show characters of both species. Their status as separate species remains uncertain pending molecular study. There have undoubtedly been inconsistencies in recording.

European Temperate. Widespread in Europe north to C Scandinavia, and commoner in the Mediterranean region than *P. succulentum*. Macaronesia, N Africa (Algeria), Turkey, Caucasus, Georgia to Azerbaijan, Iran, Himalaya, E Asia, Japan.

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