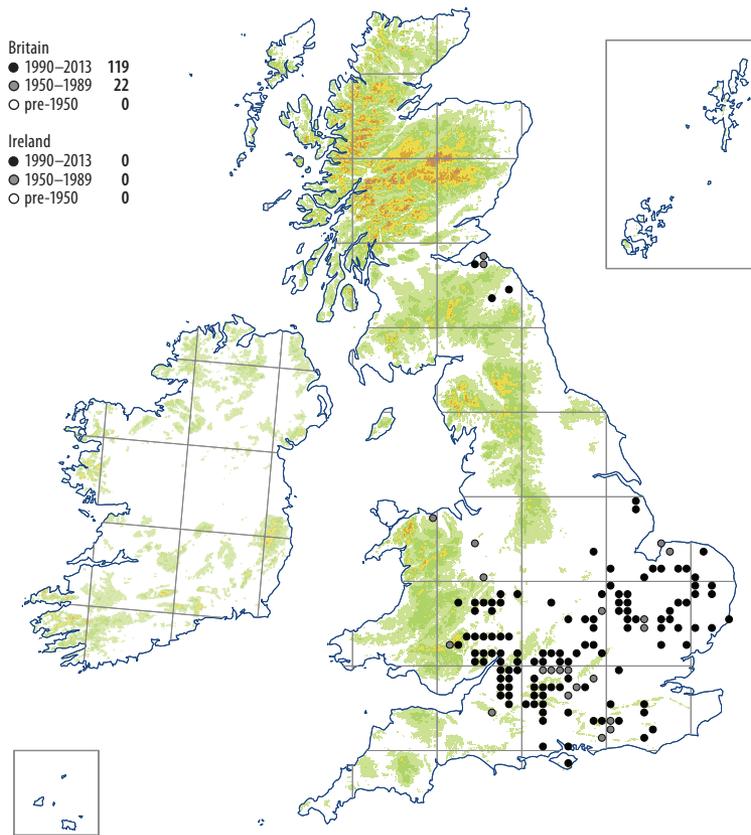


# Platygyrium repens



An epiphyte on the trunks and branches of a wide range of deciduous trees and shrubs, with a mild preference for less acid bark types and an inclined surface. It is also frequently found on fallen branches and logs. It occurs in and at the edge semi-natural broadleaved woodland, in wet woods (especially alder and willow carr), and on wooded stream banks, more rarely in hedgerows and orchards. Host trees are varied and include alder, apple, ash, birch, blackthorn, damson, elder, elm, hazel, hawthorn, hornbeam, maple, oak, poplar, willow and willow. It has even been recorded on traveller's joy (*Clematis vitalba*). Altitudinal range: 0–280 m.

It was first collected near Oxford in 1945 but not recognised as a British species until 1962 (Warburg & Perry, 1963). There was a marked increase until about 1990, with fewer

extensions of range since then. It is easily overlooked as *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *resupinatum*, but is unlikely to be significantly under-recorded. At some woodland sites it is abundant, but in many localities it persists for some time as a single colony before disappearing. Its scattered occurrences and frequently casual status support the view that it is an invading species, spreading from a small number of widely dispersed introductions (possibly by natural means). The species appears also to be spreading in N France and Belgium (Jones, 1991) and The Netherlands (BLWG, 2013).

Dioicous, mostly vegetative or occasionally male; capsules are very rare but found at several sites in recent years, in winter. Tiny shootlets are produced abundantly in the leaf axils at the tips of shoots, and are presumably dispersed on the bellies of birds and squirrels.

Circumpolar Temperate. In Europe it is commoner towards the east, reaching its SW limit in N Spain, northwards to N Fennoscandia and Arctic Russia, absent from most of the Mediterranean region but reaching S Italy. N Africa (reported from Algeria). Turkey, Caucasus, Iran. Widely distributed across the North temperate zone, south in Asia to N India, Sichuan (China) and Japan. Ubiquitous in eastern N America, west to British Columbia and North-west Territories.

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