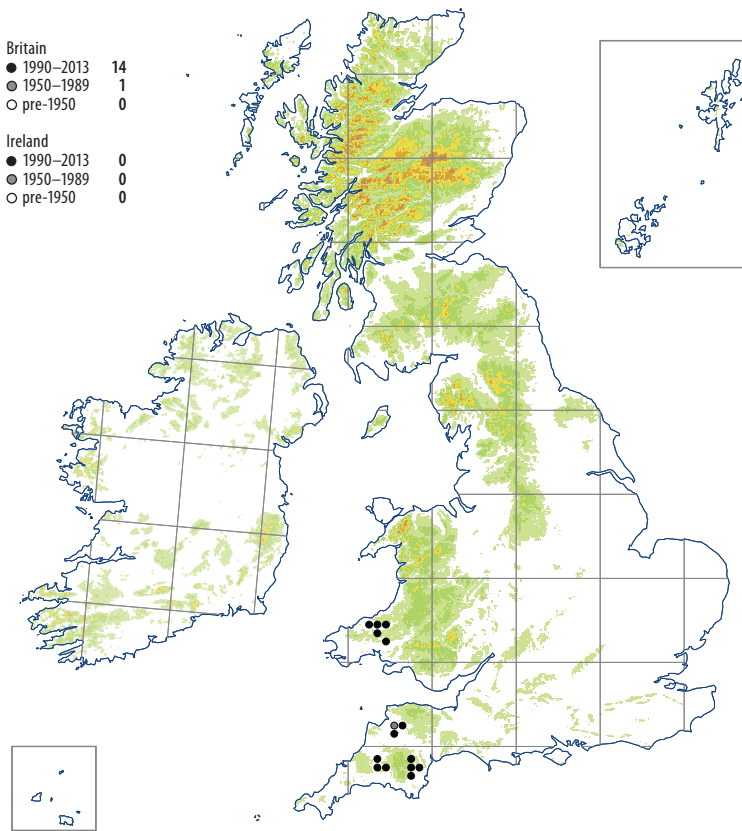


# Dendrocryphaea lamyana



Found by a few major rivers, growing in a zone which is just above the normal summer water level but is frequently flooded. At the majority of sites it grows as an epiphyte, but its two strongest populations – where patches cover many square metres – are on sunny rocks on the north bank of the River Teifi. As an epiphyte it apparently favours alder, ash and sycamore but is also recorded on blackthorn, elm, hazel, oak and willow. It tends to grow in light shade where there is limited competition from other bryophytes, and is often associated with *Orthotrichum rivulare*, but it also occurs in mixed bryophyte mats. Other epiphytic associates include *Metzgeria furcata*, *Radula complanata*, *Homalia trichomanoides*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Leskea*

*polycarpa*, *Neckera pumila*, *Orthotrichum affine*, *Sciurohypnum plumosum* and *Syntrichia latifolia*. The saxicolous populations grow above a zone with *Fontinalis antipyretica* and *Schistidium rivulare* but below a mix of *Grimmia lisae*, *Pterogonium gracile*, *Racomitrium aciculare* and *S. plumosum*. Some patches are mixed with *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, which seems to replace *Dendrocryphaea lamyana* on heavily shaded rocks. Altitudinal range: 10–80 m.

*Dendrocryphaea lamyana* has been the subject of several targeted surveys in recent years but only small extensions to its known range have been discovered. However it is locally plentiful on some river systems.

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in spring. Gemmae have not been recorded in nature, but are produced in abundance on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

Oceanic Southern-temperate. A probable European endemic, first discovered in England beside the River Dart above Hood Bridge, S Devon, by J.S. Tozer (who was drowned in 1836). Confined to W Europe and the W Mediterranean region: Portugal, Spain, France and Italy (Tuscany). Reports from N Africa are unconfirmed.

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◀ Afon Teifi, Cenarth, Cardiganshire, 2007. Clive Hurford