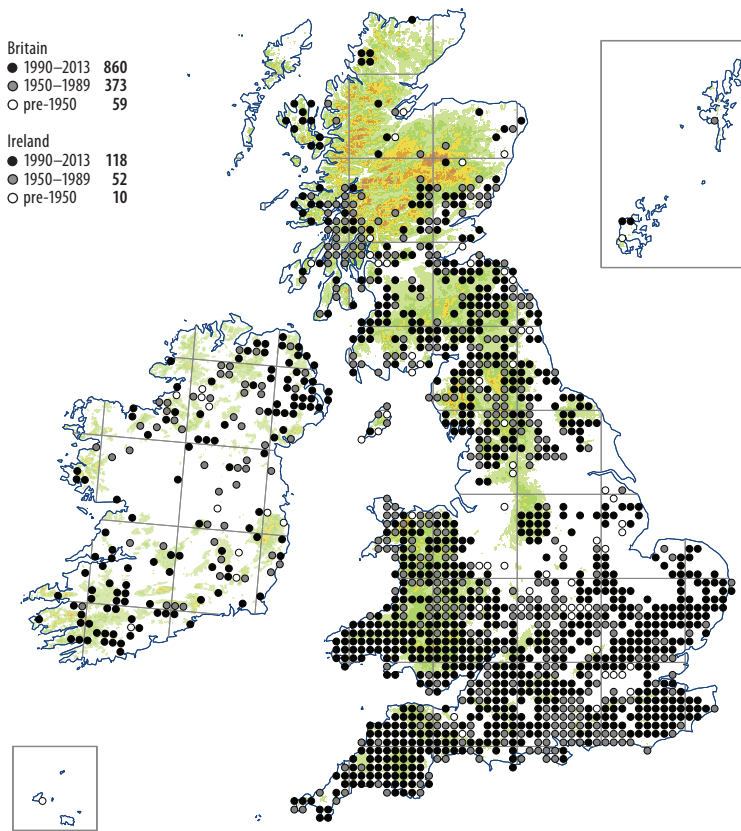


Homalia trichomanoides



Forming glossy mats on shaded, stable substrates, especially where vertical or inclined. It grows on the exposed roots, bases, gnarled coppice-stumps and, rarely, branches of trees and shrubs, especially species with basic bark such as ash and maple. It is particularly frequent on trees by rivers, streams and ditches, growing above the water level but in a zone liable to occasional flooding, associated with *Leskea polycarpa* and other riparian species; it also occurs away from water in damp woodland, wooded ravines, hedgerows and shaded lanes. *Homalia* is also found on a range of moist, shaded rocks, including limestone, basic igneous rock and sandstone, on streamside boulders, earthy banks, walls and stonework near the ground. *Thamnobryum alopecurum* is a common associate in these places, and it sometimes occurs with *Neckera complanata* (particularly on limestone rocks) but it tends to occur in more shaded niches

that that species. It is commonest in areas of basic soil over chalk, limestone and calcareous boulder clay, but it is not confined to them. Altitudinal range: 0–480 m.

Homalia has declined in some areas of lowland England because of hedgerow clearance and drainage (Adams, 1974).

Autoicous; capsules are frequent, mature in winter. Gemmae are produced on the protonema in culture (Whitehouse, 1987).

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. W, C and N Europe, as far north as Iceland, N Scandinavia and the N Urals, south to N Spain and Portugal, S Italy and Greece, but absent from most of the Mediterranean region, where *H. lusitanica* Schimp. tends to replace it. N Africa (Algeria). Turkey, Caucasus and Iran. Widespread in the temperate Northern Hemisphere, mainly in the broadleaved forest zone, south to India and China in Asia and to Mexico in N America.

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