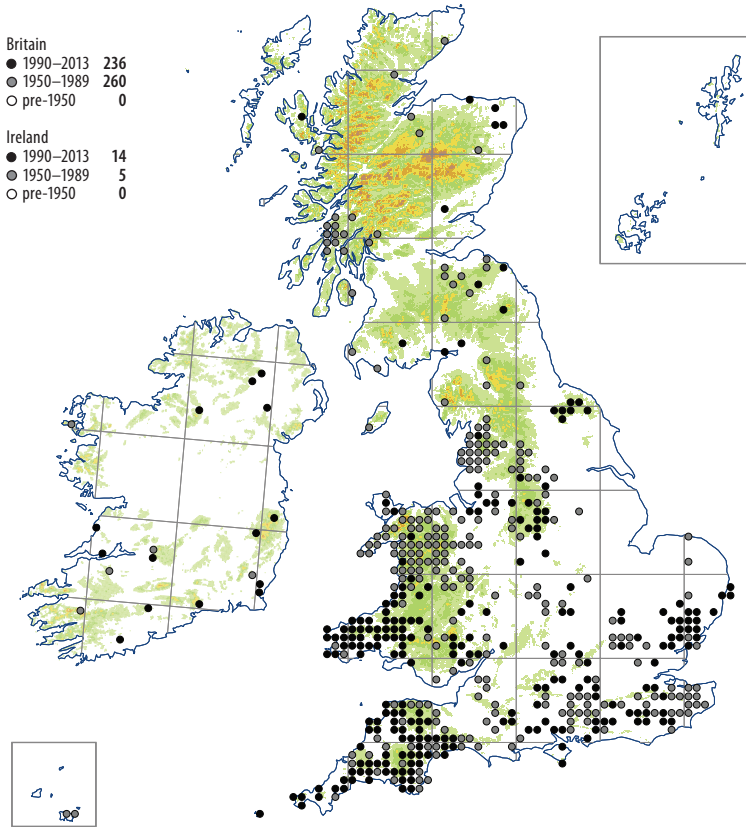


Pohlia lutescens



This species is characteristic of friable, neutral to mildly acid clay-loam and sandy-loam soils, in rather open to moderately shaded habitats by paths, ditches and streams, at the entrance of rabbit burrows, on banks in pastures and woodland, and on lanesides and hedgebanks. Although typically found on relatively stable substrates, it has been recorded occasionally in arable fields. A common associate on the more freely draining acid soils is *Dicranella heteromalla*, often accompanied by *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Mnium hornum* and *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. Sometimes just a few individual stems of *Pohlia lutescens* occur in a mat of *D. heteromalla*. On loamy banks, the species is a member of a characteristic assemblage, which may include *Atrichum undulatum*, *Bryum rubens*, *Dicranella schreberiana*, *D. staphylina*, *Pseudophemerum nitidum* and *Trichodon cylindricus*. It has very rarely been recorded

growing directly on soft sandstone rock. Altitudinal range: 5–500 m.

Dioicous; female plants predominate in Britain and Ireland, male plants are apparently rare, and capsules are unknown. Vegetative propagation is by rhizoidal tubers.

It is probably under-recorded, as it often occurs in small quantity and its best diagnostic character (the shape of the rhizoidal tubers) requires microscopic examination. It was first recorded from Britain and Ireland by Watson (1968), but identification presented difficulties until Whitehouse (1973) described the tubers.

European Temperate. C Europe, north to southern Sweden, Poland and the Czech Republic, south to France, Corsica and Bulgaria; N Urals (Perm). Russian Far East, and reported also from China.

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