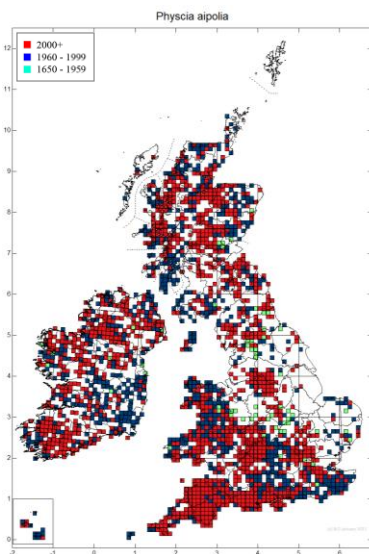


Physcia aipolia



Identification: Thallus to 8cm diameter, white, pale grey or blue-grey. Lobes to 2mm wide with pale mottling best seen through a hand lens and more obvious when wet. Under surface white to tan with simple or forked rhizines. Apothecia usually abundant, large (to 3mm), prominent with a thick margin. Discs dark brown to black, sometimes white pruinose.

Chemistry: Cortex and medulla K+ yellow.

Similar species: *Physcia stellaris* is a creamy white, colour and has a smooth surface without mottling. *Physcia leptalea* has abundant marginal cilia.

Habitat: Common on well-lit, nutrient rich fences, trees, shrubs and hedges. Rarely on nutrient enriched walls and rocks.

Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland.