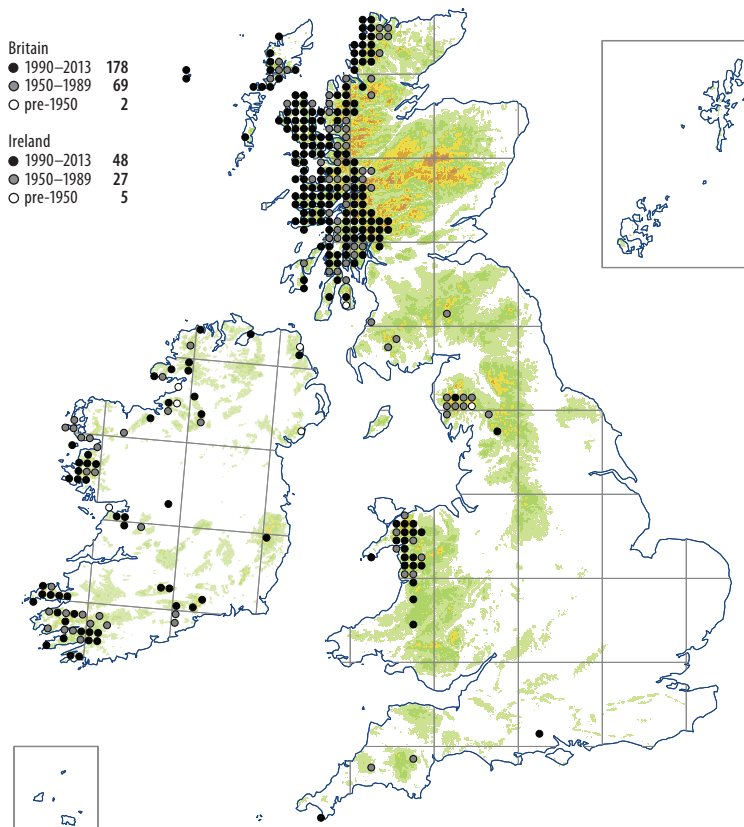


Harpalejeunea molleri



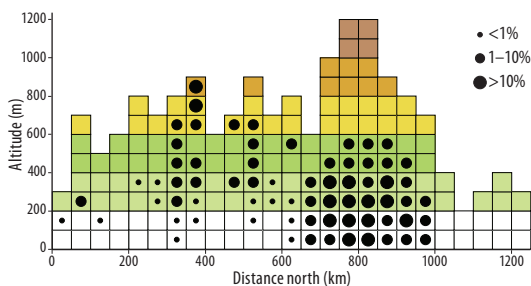
Occurs on damp, lightly shaded, often vertical rock walls of low-lying wooded ravines, either as pure patches growing directly on the rock or as scattered stems growing amidst *Frullania tamarisci*, *F. teneriffae*, *Lejeunea cavifolia*, *L. patens*, *Metzgeria* spp. or *Plagiochila exigua*. Also occurs on damp but not wet boulders in ravines, by waterfalls, and in and near wooded streams, on rocks in stable block litters on steep north- or east-facing slopes, on shaded walls of sea caves and sheltered rocks by the sea, on damp north- or east-facing montane cliffs and crags, and in shaded gullies in montane cliffs. It tends to favour mildly basic substrates. As an epiphyte it is rare on birch, oak, ash, hazel, heather, and, in the New Forest, beech. It can grow in drier and less shaded situations than *Aphanolejeunea microscopica* and *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*, but is usually then on more basic substrates

with *Cololejeunea calcarea* and *Lejeunea cavifolia*. Altitudinal range: 10–700 m.

There is less evidence that *Harpalejeunea* is spreading as an epiphyte than there is for *Colura calyptrifolia*, *A. microscopica* or *D. hamatifolia*, which is perhaps unsurprising given the rarity of asexual propagules and lack of sporophytes.

Dioicous; female plants are frequent, male plants and sporophytes are unknown; caducous branches are occasional.

Hyperoceanic Southern-temperate. SW Norway, Faeroes, France, Switzerland, Italy, Corsica, Spain, Portugal; Macaronesia. An allied plant from eastern N America, described as *H. ovata* subsp. *integra* R.M. Schust., may be referable to this species or the neotropical *H. subacuta* A. Evans (Schuster, 1999).



H.J.B. Birks