

19 Liverworts

Pallavicinia lyellii veilwort

Regionally extinct

Current status Vulnerable RDB (GB, Eur.).

Found on all continents except Antarctica. Rare in Europe. Recorded from 26 British sites during the last 200 years, but only seen at 17 sites since 1950, in the south of England and west Wales. Has declined in the north and is now considered extinct in this region. Last recorded in 1949 from the Yorkshire Dales. A thalloid liverwort growing mainly on bare acid, peaty soils in lowland bogs and damp woodland. Often associated with *Molinia* and *Juncus* tussocks. Capsules are rarely produced.

Riccia huebeneriana violet crystalwort

Current status Vulnerable RDB (GB, Eur.).

Widespread throughout most of Europe, world distribution uncertain. Currently recorded from twelve 10 km squares widely spread across England and Wales, three of which are in this region. Though the most recent regional record is from 1986, it varies widely in occurrence from year to year and is normally only found in late summer and autumn. Small, thalloid liverwort, essentially a colonist growing on nutrient poor sandy/muddy soil at the edge of large ponds, lakes, reservoirs and rivers. Appears to favour sites that are exposed following dry summers but submerged during winter. A distinct calcifuge. Abundant capsules are produced in late summer and autumn, and the spores appear to be capable of lying dormant in the mud for several years until the right growing conditions return. Most plentiful during periods of drought.

Threats Loss of seasonal water fluctuations due to stabilisation of water levels for recreation/amenity purposes; possibly nitrate and phosphate pollution.