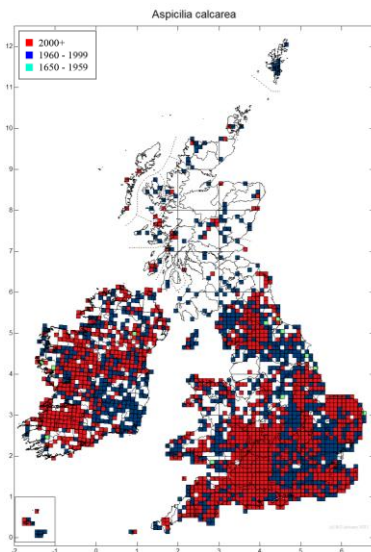


# *Aspicilia calcarea*



**Identification:** Also known as *Circinarea calcarea*. The thallus is large (up to 40 cm) chalk white to pale grey, smooth and usually divided by radial cracks. The margins are flat, almost lobed and often surrounded by a zoned, grey prothallus. One or more, small, black apothecia form in each cracked island.

**Chemistry:** Reactions are negative.

**Similar species:** *Aspicilia contorta* is more greenish and is the common lichen on mortar and cement.

**Habitat:** Common on hard limestone, walls and tombstones, often covering large areas. Not on cement or mortar. Intolerant of nitrogen enrichment.

**Distribution:** Throughout Britain and Ireland but much less frequent in Scotland.