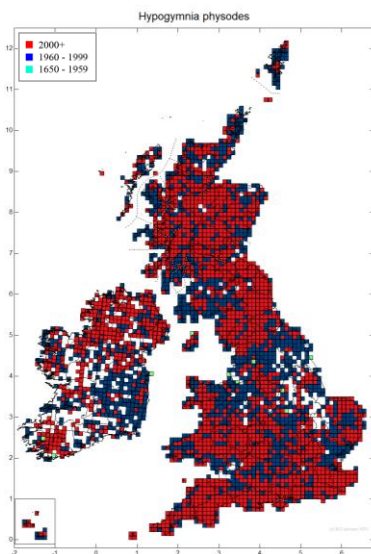


Hypogymnia physodes



Identification: Thallus grey to green-grey, roughly circular with inflated, hollow lobes which often lift at the tips and burst open to display the floury soredia that develop from the inner surface. There are often black dots (pycnidia) towards the lobe tips. Lower surface without rhizines, wrinkled and light brown at the margin, darkening to black at the centre. Apothecia on short stalks with a red-brown disc and thin margin occur on unpolluted sites.

Chemistry: Cortex: K+ yellow, UV+ purplish, medulla and soralia; KC+ red, P+ orange-red, UV+ violet-blue

Similar species: *Hypogymnia tubulosa* has finger-like lobe tips that become covered in soredia.

Habitat: Common on trees, rocks, moss, heather stems etc. Preferring acidic substrates and sensitive to nitrogen pollution.

Distribution: Throughout Britain and Ireland.