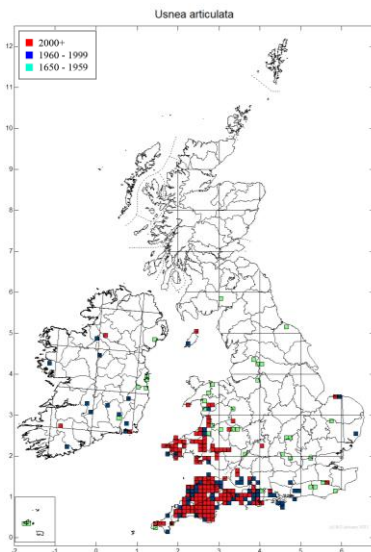


Near threatened

Usnea articulata



Identification: Thallus grey-green, often without a distinct attachment, draped over the substratum, up to 1m in length. Main branches 3 mm or more in diameter, generally smooth but may have delicate short branchlets and scattered comma-like breaks in the outer surface. The branches can be sharply constricted down to the central core to give the appearance of an uneven 'string of sausages'. The cortex is very thin, the medulla wide, lax and cottony. Not fertile in the UK.

Chemistry: Medulla K-, KC-, Pd+ red.

Similar species: No other *Usnea* species have the characteristic 'string of sausages'. Young thalli resemble *Usnea flamma* which is K+ yellow changing to red.

Habitat: *Usnea articulata* festoons well-lit hedges, tree canopies and more rarely dunes (Norfolk) and rocks.

Distribution: Locally common in the extreme south and west.