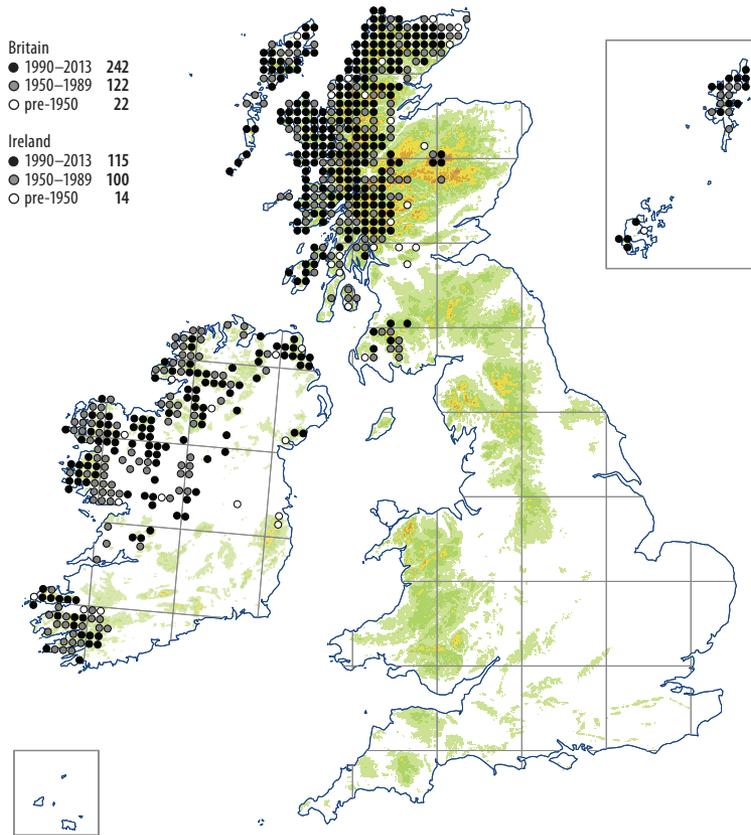


Pleurozia purpurea



Locally abundant in two main habitats. In the lowlands (below 450 m) it occurs frequently on wet, ombrotrophic blanket bogs with *Myliia taylorii*, *Campylopus atrovirens* and *Sphagnum compactum*, especially in areas where sphagnum growth is poor or unhealthy and sometimes where considerable disturbance has taken place leaving little other than wet peat. It also occurs on drier, more disturbed blanket bogs and in wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, *Campylopus flexuosus* and *Racomitrium lanuginosum*. In the uplands, up to about 1000 m, it occurs frequently as a larger, paler plant than in the lowlands, growing in oligotrophic dwarf-shrub dominated heaths, grasslands, and moss, scree and cliff-ledge communities of steep, shaded north- or east-facing mountain slopes in corries, below cliffs and in stable block litters. It can be an abundant and constant component of the distinctive mixed leafy liverwort assemblage of

dwarf-shrub heaths on steep, block-strewn slopes, with *Anastrepta orcadensis*, *Bazzania tricrenata*, *Herbertus hutchinsiae*, *Mastigophora woodsii* and *Scapania gracilis*. In the Cairngorms, this type of community is confined to areas of prolonged snow cover. The substrate is mainly peat or raw humus of low base content. Altitudinal range: 5–1035 m.

There appears to have been a decline in records of *Pleurozia*, notwithstanding vagaries of recording, although it remains widespread and often abundant in much of the north-west.

Apparently dioicous, although autoicous in other parts of its range; rarely fertile, and only female inflorescences are known in Britain and Ireland (Paton, 1999).

Hess *et al.* (2005) have demonstrated that Scottish *Pleurozia* is zoophagous, as it catches small animals in its water sacs in the wild and in laboratory feeding experiments; whether it makes use of the nutrients released by their decomposition and is therefore carnivorous is not yet known.

Oceanic Boreal-montane. It has a highly disjunct world distribution, with records from SW Norway, Faeroes, Jan Mayen, Alaska, British Columbia, Japan, Taiwan, Himalaya and Guadeloupe. Its absence from England and Wales is unaccountable in terms of present day habitats.

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