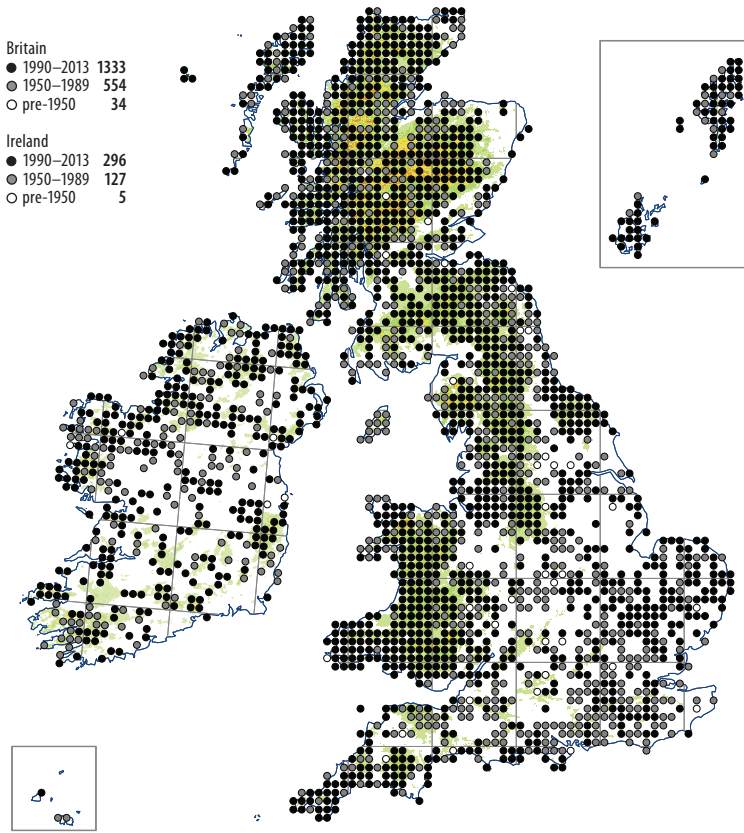


# Aneura pinguis



Britain  
 ● 1990–2013 1333  
 ◐ 1950–1989 554  
 ○ pre-1950 34

Ireland  
 ● 1990–2013 296  
 ◐ 1950–1989 127  
 ○ pre-1950 5

A species found in a variety of mire communities, generally creeping among other bryophytes. It is most characteristic of circumneutral or base-rich conditions but also occurs (although usually in small quantity) in base-poor situations such as seepage lines in acid bogs. Associates range from *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Campylium stellatum* and *Scorpidium revolvens* in fens and calcareous flushes to *Sphagnum* spp. under more acid conditions. It also occurs in various other damp or wet habitats, including dripping tufa deposits, flushed rocks, lake and stream margins (where it sometimes grows submerged), dune slacks, stony flushes in woodland, and fallen wood in streams. It is a ready colonist of recently exposed base-rich soil, for example in road cuttings, and it may be locally abundant on steep, north-facing slopes in calcicolous grassland. Altitudinal range: 0–850 m.

Most of the areas of lowland Britain in which *Aneura pinguis* appears to have declined have been relatively under-surveyed in recent years; thorough recording in Cambridgeshire indicates its continued presence there.

Dioicous; capsules are frequent, February to October. Gemmae are absent.

The tropical SE Asian species *A. maxima* (Schiffn.) Stephani was first reported in Europe by Andriessen *et al.* (1995) and has been published subsequently from many countries from Spain to Finland and Poland. The European taxon grows in Britain, primarily in flushes in woodland (e.g. Bosanquet, 2010), but *A. maxima* has not been published as a British species because the taxonomy of *Aneura* is more complicated than a simple split of *A. pinguis* from *A. maxima* suggests. DNA Barcoding has revealed seven genetically distinct *Aneura* lineages in Britain, one of which is *A. mirabilis*, and the large plants reported elsewhere as *A. maxima* are referable to two of these taxa (D.G. Long, *in litt.*). All *Aneura* records except for those of *A. mirabilis* have been mapped together.

Circumpolar Wide-boreal. *Aneura pinguis* s.l. is sub-cosmopolitan.

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