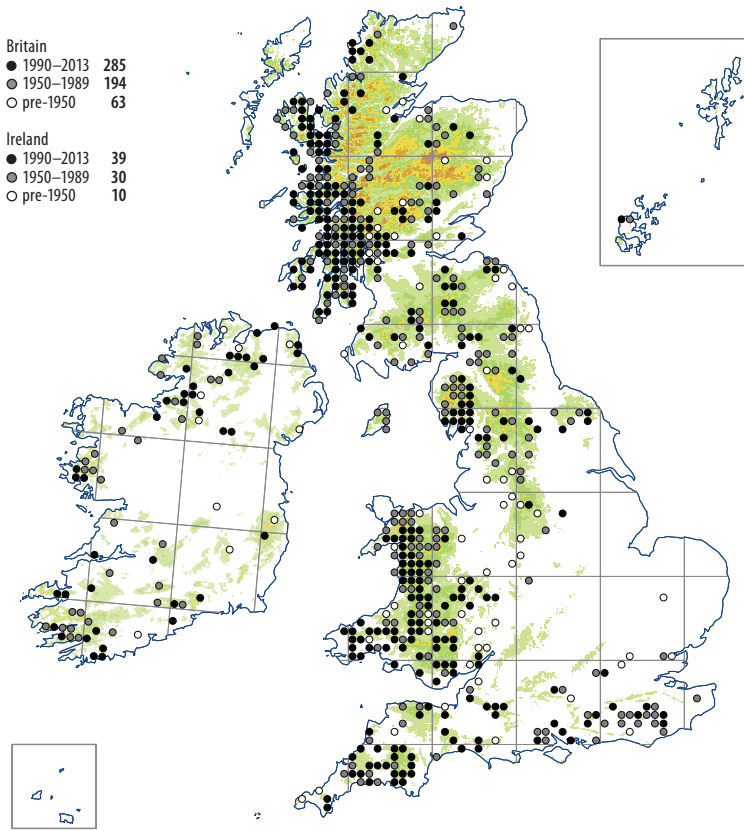


Trichocolea tomentella



This species is most widely distributed in damp woodlands and shaded ravines, and less frequently in wooded swamps. In favourable conditions it forms extensive patches amongst and over other bryophytes, such as *Hookeria lucens*, *Plagiochila asplenioides* and *Rhizomnium punctatum* in seepage zones, oozes and wet stream banks, and *Hycomium armoricum*, *Loeskeobryum brevirostre* and *Saccogyna viticulosa* on rock faces by waterfalls and in other humid situations. It also occurs occasionally in more open mesotrophic flushes, mostly on hillsides in the north and west, where associates may include *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Campylium stellatum* and *Sphagnum warnstorffii*. Altitudinal range: 10–390 m.

Pohjamo *et al.* (2008) have highlighted the vulnerability of this attractive species. Although plants are apparently

long-lived and have high competitive ability, colonies are small and increasingly fragmented and their reproduction is predominantly clonal. The map suggests a progressive loss of marginal populations in Britain. In southern Norway *Trichocolea tomentella* is thriving in the west but declining in the east as a result of urbanisation and modern forestry practices (Rydgren *et al.*, 2012).

Dioicous; sporophytes are very rare, April.

European Temperate. Much of W and C Europe, but southern in Fennoscandia and very scarce in the extreme east and in the Mediterranean region. Southern Siberia (Altai), China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Himalaya, SE Asia; Fiji, Samoa; eastern N America from Newfoundland to Florida.

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